

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2016

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 25, Number 5

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT SAFETY AFFIRMATION

ATTITUDES THAT SUPPORT A SAFETY FEEDBACK CULTURE

These statements represent attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that provide a positive foundation for a safety culture where it is acceptable to give and receive safety feedback.

- ◆ I feel respected and cared for when someone gives me feedback about something I am doing that may harm myself or others.
- ◆ I realize that it takes courage to speak up and give safety feedback. I will give that feedback in a sincere and respectful manner.
- ◆ I appreciate the action and am grateful to anyone who takes the initiative to tell me he/she is concerned about my unsafe actions.
- ◆ I will focus on the safety message and learn from my actions when receiving feedback, even if the other person is gruff or hard in the way he/she says it as long as he/she is sincerely concerned for my (or other's) safety.
- ◆ I will not react emotionally when I get feedback so I do not interfere with our efforts to strengthen our safety culture.
- ◆ I will listen carefully and ask questions to make sure I understand the feedback I am getting. Then, I will make a genuine commitment to change my behavior in the future.
- ◆ I will actively care for my fellow co-workers and reach out to my community when it comes to safety.
- ◆ I believe everyone at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, regardless of position or title, must actively participate in giving and receiving feedback on safety.

ANYONE—AT ANY LEVEL, AND AT ANY TIME—MUST SPEAK UP IN UNSAFE SITUATIONS.

As we celebrate National Electrical Safety Month, it is with great excitement that we announce our commitment to safety to our staff and to you our customer!

Speak Up! Listen Up! safety communication program was presented at ERPPD's monthly safety meeting in March. Speak Up! Listen Up! is a program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to enhance safety awareness at member systems.

This teaches that each employee is responsible for safety in the workplace and community. It is their obligation to Speak Up! if there is a safety issue and not let unsafe practices continue.

It is also their obligation to Listen Up! if someone let's them know that they have a concern about an unsafe behavior.

By signing the affirmation to the left, all ERPPD staff and the Board of Directors made the commitment to safety for each other and our customers.

We encourage you to make a commitment to safety too.

IRRIGATION NEWS

Tips for Irrigators

Irrigation season is upon us! Here are some great tips for irrigators as the irrigation season starts. ERPPD wants to partner with you to make sure you have the most productive irrigation season ever!

- **Check Fuses:** Perform a system check before the irrigation season begins to make sure you have power. There may be fuses that need replaced.
- **Motor Savers:** Have your electrician install a motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors detect a blink on only one phase, which can allow the motor to continue to operate on two phases which may result in motor damage. A motor saver monitors all three phases and shuts down the system if any one of the phases blinks.
- **Power Factor Corrective Capacitors:** Capacitors installed at the pump panel will lead to several important customer benefits, such as:
 - Guarding against low voltages on startup,
 - Assisting in keeping your system's voltage at a proper level while running,
 - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor,
 - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts,
 - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment,
 - Reducing the demand (measured horsepower) of your well,
 - Reducing consumption of kilowatt-hours by utilizing more efficient practices,
 - Maximizing the output of the electricity purchased.
- **Autostart:** An autostart component installed on your system can maximize the amount of pumping by automatically starting your system following a period of control, or following a blink on the electrical system.
- **Text or Email Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or email when the radio signal has been sent to control your individual well. Another notification will be sent when the radio signal has been sent to restore the individual system at the end of the control period.



If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau. You can also find valuable energy information by logging on to our website (www.erppd.com) and clicking on the Energy tab.



Director Recognized

Larry Lindahl, board secretary, has earned the Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Pictured left from left to right, Rod Zohner, board president, presents Larry with his certificate at the board meeting in April.

Larry joins Greg Weidner, ERPPD director, and over 800 other directors across the nation who have earned the certificate since it launched in January.

The certificate program is designed to strengthen board leadership through continuing education. It demonstrates to customers, regulators and elected officials a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Directors Serve in Leadership Positions

Greg Weidner, director of ERPPD, was elected as treasurer for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) board of directors. Greg will serve 6 years on the NREA Board. Greg said, "I am honored and excited to represent ERPPD and its customers at this level."



Greg Weidner, ERPPD Board Director

The NREA is the private non-profit trade association for 34 rural electric systems that provide electric service to consumers in most of the rural areas and many of the small towns in the great State of Nebraska.

Together, the more than 950 dedicated employees of the NREA member-systems serve approximately 231,000 meters across more than 87,000 miles of line. Over the years, NREA's mission has evolved to include a broad range of activities to assist member-systems with the many challenges of providing low-cost, reliable electric service to the sparsely populated regions of Nebraska.



Rod Zohner, ERPPD Board President

Rod Zohner, President of the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board of Directors, was recently re-elected as President of the Nebraska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative (NE G&T) Board of Directors.

The NE G&T is an organization of 20 public power districts and electric cooperatives in Nebraska. One of the main focal points of the NE G&T today is to administer, for its members, the contractual requirements for wholesale power supply/delivery and related issues. To that end, the NE G&T negotiated the long term agreement with Nebraska Public Power District, helping to keep rates cost effective and organizations accountable to the consumers. (See [The Wire](#) - Dec. 2015 article *Wholesale Contract*)

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
May 2016**

Summer Internships Start in May

A cooperative internship program between the state's public power districts and the Utility Line program of the Northeast Community College (NECC) of Norfolk allows the following students to gain practical, on-the-job training at Elkhorn Rural PPD during the summer.



CinJin Faber of Kearney

Starting in mid-May, CinJin Faber of Kearney and Mark Steiner of Norfolk, Utility Line students at NECC, will spend their summer days working with ERPPD line crews. They will be doing a variety of utility functions, gaining valuable experience in the utility line industry. CinJin will be assisting crews from the Battle Creek headquarters, and Mark will be assisting crews based in Neligh.



Mark Steiner of Norfolk

Both CinJin and Mark are looking forward to their internships. Hands on learning and doing the things that they are learning in class, and maybe even some things they haven't seen in class yet, are exciting prospects to these future linemen. They like to be outside and work with their hands. CinJin has experience in road construction - working on crews around the Kearney area. Mark has help his grandfather on the farm and likes to fix cars.

The internship gives the students a chance before graduation to find out if they really want to make a career out of utility line work, and the district benefits from the added labor force. The program is part of the curriculum of NECC, and is a requirement for graduation.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

Source: energystar.gov

Ticket Give Away for Agriculture Appreciation Banquet to be held June 23

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be a sponsor of the Northeast Nebraska Ag Appreciation Banquet and will be giving away four tickets to our customers for the banquet. Winners for two of the tickets will be randomly drawn from our customer database. Two of the tickets will be drawn from customers who “like” the ERPPD Facebook page by **June 3**. Drawings for the tickets will be June 6, and the winners will be contacted by phone.

The Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce and the Madison Chamber of Commerce are hosting the 2nd Annual Agriculture Appreciation Banquet on Thursday, June 23, at the Madison County Fairgrounds. The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the steak dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

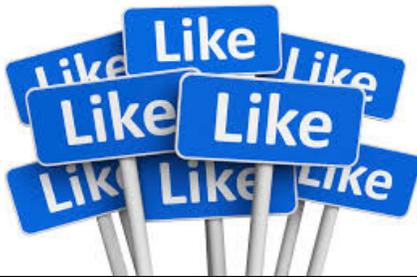
A special speaker and recognition of the Farm Family and Agri-business of the year will be announced after dinner. Customers are encouraged to submit nominations by **May 13**, for Farm Family of the Year and Agri-Business of the Year. Go to www.erppd.com for more information.

Proceeds from the banquet also go toward \$750 scholarships for four seniors that have agricultural ties.

ERPPD is proud to be a sponsor in order to appreciate our ag customers and celebrate Nebraska’s #1 industry.



“Like” us on Facebook by June 3, for the chance to win two tickets to the Northeast Nebraska Ag Appreciation Banquet on Thursday, June 23.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
Director II
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefer
DirectorIII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.

• Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District offices **will be closed** Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.