

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Northwestern Electric Cooperative was incorporated July 10, 1940, after farmers and ranchers in the northwestern part of Oklahoma were unable to secure electrical service from any other source. The Cooperative was organized to perform a service and not as a profit making organization.

Northwestern Electric encountered many problems in the early years. In 1941, World War II broke out causing an extreme shortage of materials and equipment. Since the farmers were unable to finance the operation themselves, the first loan from the Rural Electrification Administration, REA, in the amount of \$234,000 was secured to construct the first lines from Woodward to the town of Quinlan, serving several farms along the way. By late 1941, the Cooperative was serving a total of 82 members.

Progress was slow until the war was over in 1945. Construction materials were still scarce, but with the rapid expansion of farms and farming methods, the year 1945 recorded 439 miles of line serving 1,756 consumers with an average monthly bill of \$5.82. By the end of 2011, more than 4,900 miles of line were energized, serving approximately 11,350 meters with an average bill of \$210.97. Northwestern Electric paid over \$570,000 in gross receipts taxes which aided the school districts in the area.

From the meager start of serving in only one small area in Woodward County, the Cooperative has grown and branched out to serve in Woodward, Ellis, Harper, Beaver, Major, Woods and Dewey Counties. Today, Northwestern Electric has a workforce of 55 employees, and provides the electrical needs of industrial, commercial, and residential consumers throughout northwest Oklahoma. The headquarter facilities are located in Woodward with a district office and warehouse in Buffalo. The Cooperative also has work crews and a warehouse located in Arnett. Northwestern Electric's annual payroll is over \$3,000,000 which contributes greatly to the economy of northwest Oklahoma.

Nine directors elected from the membership determine major policies of the Cooperative and hire a manager to conduct the day-to-day business and carry out board policies. Northwestern Electric's board of directors is as follows:

CEO.....Tyson Littau	Lee HuckabySelman
PresidentKenny Knowles, Arnett	Wayne Hall..... Mooreland
Vice-President Ray Smith, Taloga	Duane Henderson Mooreland
Sec.-Treas..... John Bruce, Jr. Sharon	Clair Craighead Woodward
Gil Perkins.....Gate	Dean Stone.....Buffalo

The Cooperative also belongs to the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

OAEC ties all of the 28 local electric cooperatives in Oklahoma together. OAEC was organized to collectively perform services which would not be economical or practical for each cooperative to perform individually. The organization offers training courses for directors, managers and employees of member systems; an intensive job training and safety program; plus coordinates and sponsors many other education programs pertaining to the electric cooperatives in Oklahoma. OAEC serves as a liaison with state and national legislative and executive branches of government. Representing NWEC on the OAEC board is John Bruce, Jr. of Sharon.

NRECA is best known to the public for its legislative activities. NRECA provides services in research, engineering publications, member education, retirement, safety and insurance, public relations, management training, coordination of meeting and such other services as its members' request.