

Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2017
Vol. 18
No. 6



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Energy for Generations
PERENNIALTM
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Photo by Benny Hankel with Snapshots Photography

Planning today for the future

Every year at this time, we take a break to celebrate the holiday season and to count our blessings, as we have so much to be thankful for. We also evaluate the activities from the past and begin to plan for the future. It helps us to realize that the decisions made today will determine how successful we are in years to come.

While reviewing everything that the board of directors and employees accomplished this past year, it reminded me that we are in a constant state of planning. We continually make plans to strengthen the District's electric system so that we can maintain a reliable supply of electricity for you. This is never clearer than it is when our crews replace and upgrade distribution lines to increase capacity and to provide backup service, such as they did this year on line projects in the areas of Grafton, Henderson and York. These planned additions, along with the replacement of older poles, will increase the reliability of service to customers for many years.

We make plans in determining how best to provide power to new customers, like the planning that led up to our line technicians making the necessary improvements this year to a transmission line and construction of a substation to provide service to Fortigen, the new anhydrous ammonia plant outside of Geneva. Or the planning that will be required to provide power to Flint Hills Resources for their high protein animal and fish feed ingredient expansion project. Annually, it also takes a lot of preparation and scheduling to assure our

irrigation customers that they will have their new services built and ready for use in the upcoming irrigation season.

From a financial standpoint, we prepare forecasts, budgets, and long-term financial plans. As an example, this year your board of directors gave the go ahead to refund an outstanding bond issue, which resulted in lowering the District's average cost of debt to 2.24 percent and raising equity to 75 percent, the highest level it has been since 2006. This financial planning, in addition to always being cognizant of the fact that we need to use your money wisely when operating the business, is what allows us to keep the price of electricity economical. On that front, I'm happy to report that there will be no rate increase in 2018, making it the 5th consecutive year that our retail rates have remained the same.

In the customer service area, we evaluate and plan for the implementation of innovative programs to streamline our billing process, to offer incentives to help you become more energy efficient, and to give you more options for doing business with us. We also develop strategies for improving communications with you. As an example, the idea of changing our print communications from a four-page newsletter to this new eight-page magazine was initiated from a recent strategic planning session that was held by the board and staff. We certainly hope that you enjoy the magazine.



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

Published Bi-Monthly by

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Postmasters send notices and returns to:

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Utility Line Scholarship

Perennial Public Power District is offering a \$1,000 per year scholarship to a student planning to enroll in an accredited utility line program. Applicants must reside within Perennial's service area to be eligible.

This scholarship program is aimed at highly-motivated and safety-conscious individuals who want to become a line technician. Perennial does not guarantee future employment through this program.

The deadline for applying for the scholarship is December 31, 2017. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney VanSkiver at courtneyv@perennialpower.com.

No rate increase for 2018

The District's power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), is planning to implement changes to wholesale rates on February 1, 2018. NPPD intends to decrease power production rates, but increase transmission rates. Overall, the wholesale rate changes will result in a slight increase in the cost that the District pays for purchased power. However, this cost will be absorbed and not increase rates for Perennial's customers. This action is possible due to an expected increase in retail energy sales in 2018, as well the District being financially fit and having an excellent equity ratio.

2018 RATES\$

Educating the Next Generation

To celebrate Public Power Month Steve Gerken and Courtney VanSkiver did electrical safety education presentations at the following schools: Exeter/Milligan Elementary, Heartland Community Schools, and McCool Junction Elementary, all of which are served by Perennial. Gerken and VanSkiver visited with the students about public power in Nebraska and importance of electrical safety.

It is important to educate the next generation about electrical safety so they know how stay safe around electricity and help keep their loved ones safe. Students learned to not overload extension cords, to look up before flying a kite, climbing a trees or carrying long objects. They also learned to not play in or around substations, pad-mounted transformers and what to do in the event of an accident involving power poles or lines. Additionally, students also got to see and try on some of the personal protective equipment that Perennial's linemen use to protect themselves while on the job, which helped the students have a better understanding of how dangerous electricity can be. Steve and Courtney also answered questions about careers in the electrical industry.

Each school received *The Next Greatest Thing: 50 Years of Rural Electrification in America* by Richard Pence and *Local Lights: America's Electric Cooperatives* by Frank Gallant, both published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. These books teach the history and value of public power and cooperatives. In addition, Perennial provided safety videos, *Safe on the Bus* and *Recognize, Respect, Report*, both produced by Safe Electricity.

**Perennial's office will be closed on
Monday, December 25, 2017 & Monday, January 1, 2017.
Have a very Merry Christmas & a blessed New Year!**

**For service after hours please call
402-362-3357 or 800-289-0288**

Here Comes Local Family Spreads the Joy of

Every holiday season, the eyes of young and old alike light up with joy at the sight of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Perennial Public Power District has its very own Mrs. Claus and she is often the customer's first point of contact when you call our office. You may know her as Evie Barrett.



Perennial Employee Evie Barrett poses for a "family photo" with her sons, Tyler and Jason, and her husband, Dan.

Evie and her husband, Dan Barrett, spend most of the holiday season volunteering for Christmas events at preschools, nursing homes, and community centers throughout Perennial's service territory. Additionally, they also visit

the homes of their friends dressed as the jolly couple spreading joy everywhere they go. The

Christmas season is brighter for many area children thanks to Evie and Dan Barrett.

This merry adventure began when a different Santa and Mrs. Claus asked Dan and Evie to be replacements for them to visit their grandchildren to keep the illusion alive. Gradually, the Barretts took over the responsibility of being Santa and Mrs. Clause from the other couple. Dan and Evie made it a family affair by having their sons, Tyler and Jason, dress up as elves.

Being Santa and Mrs. Claus isn't the only way the couple gives back to the community; every year they hold a memorial trap shoot to fund a scholarship program in honor of their late son, Jason. They also

Evie and Dan have been dressing as Mrs. and Mr. Claus for 33 years. They volunteer at local events to spread the Joy of Christmas with others.



Santa Claus

Christmas portraying Jolly Couple.

volunteer for several organizations in the community; Evie jokes that Dan is a professional volunteer. Their volunteering has enhanced some organizations such as, Hunter's Safety Education, York Ag Committee, 4-H, York County Fair Board, and being a member of the York Chamber. Many area organizations can help serve area residents with the additional efforts contributed by this local twosome.

Evie has been an integral part of Perennial for over 36 years. Evie's career began in 1981 when she began working part time in the accounting department. Then in 1986, Evie became a full time employee of the District. Today, Evie continues to provide



Evie and Dan spend time with a local family at their home.

wonderful customer service to customers and assists her coworkers when needed.

This time of year is a great time to thank ALL area volunteers for the work that they do to make life better for area citizens of all ages. Take time to thank a volunteer. Volunteers MAKE A VERY REAL DIFFERENCE. Perennial would like to give a "tip of the hat" to all people who give their time, skills, and efforts to help others. Volunteers make the "GOOD LIFE" possible all year long!

Operations Report

December 2017

Distribution Projects:

The pole replacement program is moving forward in York County. Perennial and Windstream are working together replacing aging poles in several towns in the service area. Thank you all for your cooperation during the needed outages while doing this work. OSMOSE pole inspection crews are scheduled to be testing poles in the Bradshaw area and south of Waco during the month of December. Crews will continue to clear right of way in the villages that Perennial serves as well as rural areas.

Perennial PPD has started to build a 69kv Sub Transmission line south of Grafton. This line is being built together with South Central PPD to better serve the customer's in the Grafton and Sutton areas. This project will give both Districts a backup source to supply power to substations in the event there is a major failure to an existing power line.

Reminder:

If you are considering a new service whether it is a house, business, irrigation service, etc. please keep Perennial in mind when considering your project. It is very helpful if we are involved from the onset to plan the work and to have time to order special materials that may be needed to complete your project.

Randy Martin
Manager of Operations



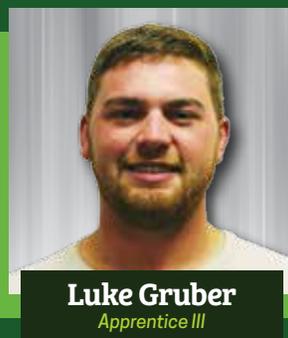
Perennial annual awards banquet held in October

Each year employees, directors, retirees and their spouses come together to recognize their co-workers for their achievements. This year the following directors and employees were recognized:

SERVICE AWARDS



APPRENTICE PROGRAM AWARDS



Planning

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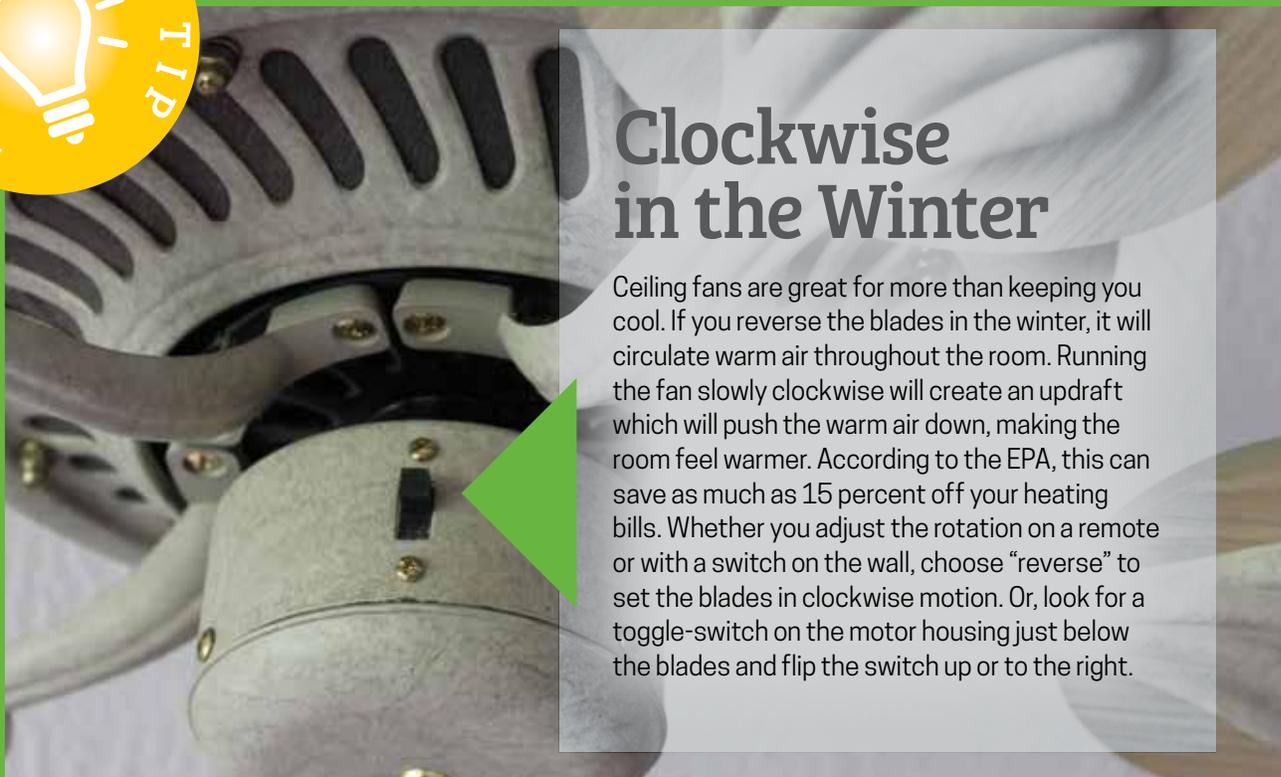
In our line of business, the most important planning that we do is the planning for the safety of our employees and the public. I'm very proud of our employees for the ongoing safety record in which they have set. At the writing of this report, they had worked over 1,700 days without a lost time accident, besting the previous record of 604 days by a long way. However, as I tell our employees, it isn't the record that is important. It's their focus on working safely that makes the difference. And this involves planning.

With about seventy cents of every dollar that we collect from you being used to pay for the wholesale power that we purchase on your behalf, we develop plans of action to keep these costs as low as possible. Of course, this includes controlling irrigation wells during peak periods to keep the charges from the District's wholesale power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, much lower than they would be otherwise. We disconnect power to irrigation wells when power costs are the highest, so that we can save our irrigators money by not having to raise their electric rates.

Speaking of wholesale power supply, we are in the initial stages of planning for the purchase of energy from Bluestem Energy's 6.9 MW wind generation facility, which will be built west of Fairmont. This will be our first venture into a large scale renewable energy project, and we'll need a plan for integrating it into the District's electric system.

Our future can always be altered, and we might not always be successful at everything we do. But our chances for success will be much greater if we continue to plan today for the future that we want tomorrow. It reminds me of a quote that I once read, "Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now."

We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday! I'm sure that you are planning on it.



Clockwise in the Winter

Ceiling fans are great for more than keeping you cool. If you reverse the blades in the winter, it will circulate warm air throughout the room. Running the fan slowly clockwise will create an updraft which will push the warm air down, making the room feel warmer. According to the EPA, this can save as much as 15 percent off your heating bills. Whether you adjust the rotation on a remote or with a switch on the wall, choose "reverse" to set the blades in clockwise motion. Or, look for a toggle-switch on the motor housing just below the blades and flip the switch up or to the right.