

PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT





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Time to say farewell

When Joanna agreed to marry me forty years ago, I was working as an activities director at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City. We had a decision to make. We could either live in Sioux City, and Joanna could try to get a home economics teaching job like she had in Fairmont at the time, or I could move home and find a job. We chose the latter. I knew that I could always work for my dad in the construction business if I wanted to. But I had a desire to

explore something different. and there were a couple of companies in York that I felt might be a good place to work at. One was the REA, as we were referred to back then. I knew very little about the company, but I thought that it would certainly provide longterm stable employment. After all, everyone needs electricity, right? But the fact is I didn't know much about electricity, other than when you flip the switch the light should come on. I like to joke that I only know slightly more today.

Starting out as a warehouseman was a great way to learn the business. Building meter loops and pulling material daily that our crews needed to construct services and build line allowed me to learn how an electric transmission and distribution system works. In my view, beginning my career as a lineman would have been the only better job that would have provided me this knowledge. But because I learned what materials were needed to build and operate an electric



The Board of Directors that promoted Jamey to General Manager. Back row: Jamey Pankoke, Gordon Fillman, Paul O'Connor, Ray Siebert. Front row: Winton Wright, H.P. Hirschfeld, Dean Due, Bob Nunns, Norm Odgen.

So, I filled out the REA job application, moved home in May of 1981, and went to work for my dad. I got married in June, and a couple of months later, I received a phone call that changed my life. Gene Goodrich, the operations manager 'at the REA', called me and said he wanted to interview me for the warehouseman's job. Well, I was fortunate enough to get the job, and start a career, ironically on my dad's birthday, that I have thoroughly enjoyed for the past four decades.

system, it resulted in my being promoted to the newly created position of purchasing agent. It was there that I was exposed to the District's accounting systems, which led me to be elevated to the finance manager position. Serving in that role is what gave me a well-rounded understanding of the company's overall operations. I now had a good grasp on both field and office operations.

continued on pg. 3



USDA check presentation, Jamey Pankoke, Scot Blehm USDA State Director, Dean Due, and H.P. Hirschfeld.

In 1990, while continuing to fulfill my accounting and finance responsibilities, the board of directors appointed me to assistant general manager. Then in April of 1995, I was hired as general manager. I will always be grateful that the board had enough trust in me to lead the District.

As you can imagine, things have changed drastically at Perennial over the last forty years. I could fill this magazine with interesting stories about how we used to operate. Younger folks probably wouldn't believe them. Keep in mind that when I came to work for the District, residential customers were essentially reading their own meters and calculating their own bills. Of course, like all businesses, the improvement of equipment and technology is what has changed everything. When I started my employment, the District had only had bucket trucks for three years. Prior to that, our linemen climbed every pole. In the office, we didn't have computers. Believe me. I remember those hours of doing accounting by hand. But hey, we did have a couple of IBM typewriters! The point is that the way we operated in the 80's is like night and day compared to today. By the way, we now read meters from our office.

People ask me if I'm going to miss the job. The answer is No. Oh sure, there are parts of it that I really enjoy and will miss. But after I retire from Perennial on January 3rd, I can easily fill that void. However, what I'm really going to miss is the people. I'm going to miss the many customers that I've come to know and talk to over the years. I can't tell you how gratifying it is to know how much customers appreciate

the work we do, such as when we get their power restored after a storm. I'm going to miss my colleagues from other power districts, who have been a source of information and become good friends. I'm going to miss the board of directors, and I can never thank them enough for the support they have given me and the other employees. Most of all, I'm going to miss our employees. They aren't just like family. They are my family! Like all families, we have had challenges and even at times disagreements. But we have also shared a lot of laughter. Challenges, disagreements, and laughter? Sounds like a family to me. I'm sure that leaving them will feel like sending a kid off to college, knowing that life will never be the same in the family again.



Jamey Pankoke and Evie Barrett

It's been an honor and a privilege to have served our customers for the past forty years, and it's been a pleasure working with a fantastic team of employees, and a progressive board of directors. I will leave Perennial knowing it's in great hands. It's time to say farewell and thank you for the opportunity I was given.

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Jamey Pankoke's electric utility career is coming to a close with his upcoming retirement after forty years of dedicated service to Perennial Public Power District.

During his four-decade career at Perennial, Pankoke has been an integral part of the staff. He started his employment in September of 1981 as the warehouseman. He held that position until November of 1984 when he became Perennial's first Purchasing Agent. As Purchasing Agent, he was involved in with the procurement of operating materials, supplies, vehicles, tools, and equipment, as well as inventory control and management of regulated materials.

Jamey changed positions again in March of 1986 to yet another important role within the company when he was named Finance Manager for the District. As Finance

Manager, he was responsible for managing all general accounting and investment activities, the preparation of annual budgets and financial forecasts, securing loan funds for capital projects, and development of financial reports.

Pankoke changed jobs again in January of 1991 when he was promoted to Assistant General Manager. This position, along with all his other experiences as he advanced throughout the years, helped prepare him for the role of General Manager, which he has held at the District since April of 1995.

As General Manager, Jamey has been an important link between the District's consumers, the Board of Directors, and District employees. He has also been an active member of the electric industry, serving on a variety of boards and committees at the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, and Nebraska Public Power District.

Jamey also enjoyed donating his time and efforts to local communities. He has served on several boards









and committees, including the Fairmont Village Board, Fairview Manor Board, Fairmont Housing Authority, York County Development Corporation Board, Fillmore County Development Corporation Board. He is also a past member of the York Rotary Club, and the York Sunrise Sertoma Club.

While there have been many changes to the District under Jamey's leadership, there has always been safe and reliable service, and affordable rates for Perennial's customers. The statistics in the table below show the growth the District has experienced while Jamey has served as General Manager.

Statistic	1995	Today
Total Utility Plant	\$21,900,000	\$73,300,000
Long-Term Debt	\$5,010,000	\$6,965,879
Annual Revenue	\$8,033,181	\$29,113,053
Annual kWh Sold	141,777,018	365,791,762
Number of Customers	4,651	7,745
Number of Employees	26	33

During his tenure, the District experienced a rapid growth in technology and operational capabilities. With the support of the Board of Directors, Pankoke and the other employees placed a significant focus on electric transmission and distribution system improvements, including the rebuilding of electric lines and construction of substations. The District also deployed technologies such as automated metering devices and distribution automation to improve service reliability to customers. While the District experienced notable system growth during Jamey's time as general manager, it has remained in strong financial shape.

Jamey and his wife of forty years, Joanna, reside in Fairmont. Their son, Justin, daughter-in-law, Kayla, and grandson, Jett, live in Omaha. During his retirement, he will enjoy his hobbies of going to sporting events, fishing, spending time on home improvement projects, as well as getting to spend more time with his family and friends.

Perennial wishes Jamey a happy and healthy retirement. Thank you for the many years of dedication to the District and the communities served by Perennial Public Power District.







Bluestem wind turbine groundbreaking. Dean Due, Steve Wright, Cecil Kennel, Orie Friesen, Jamey Pankoke, Mark Becker, Jon Crane, and Adam Herink.

Holiday Décor Tips for an Energy-Wise Home

Whether you've already decked the halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights, and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking--and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased at your local hardware store or other retailer. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money, and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. With a little twine, greenery clippings, extra ornaments, and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30--and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost on your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit www.perennialpower.com website for additional energy-saving tips.

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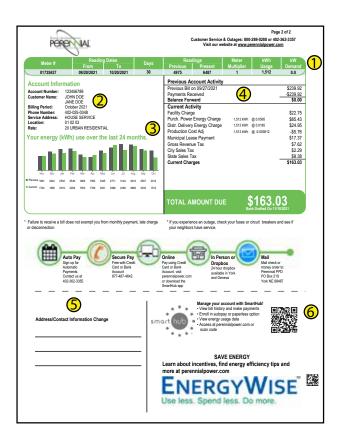
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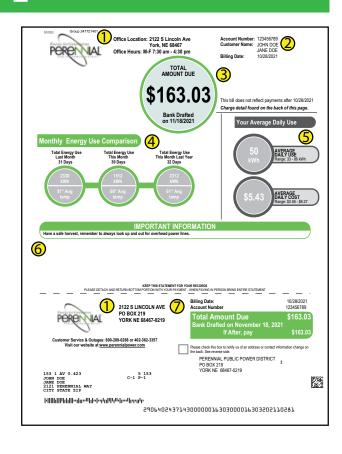
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Understanding your new bill

Information on side 1 of your bill:

- **1. Contact Information:** Our customer service contact information and office hours.
- **2. Account Information:** Account number and billing date.
- **3. Total Amount Due:** Summarizes total amount or budget amount due for service address included on this statement along with the due date. Automatic debit/credit or bank draft would be indicated, if you participate in one of these programs.
- 4. Monthly Energy Use Comparison: Current energy billed, previous billing period energy, previous year energy during the same billing period along with temperature data.
- **5. Average Daily Use:** Comparison of the average amount of kWh consumed per day and the average daily cost.
- **6. Message Center:** Read important messages about products, services, notices, and events.
- 7. Payment Stub: If mailing payment, paying in office, or via dropbox, please detach this portion to return with payment.





Information on side 2 of your bill:

- Meter Information: Meter number, reading dates, number of days on current bill, meter readings, and total energy.
- 2. Account Information: Account number, customer name, billing period, main phone number on account, service address and location along with rate scheduled.
- **3. Energy Comparison Graph:** Graph shows electric use for previous billing periods.
- 4. Account Activity: Previous balance, payments received, account balance before current charges, itemized current charges, and total amount due.
- **5.** Adress/Contact Information Change: Please fill in this portion if there are changes on the account or updated phone numbers.
- **6. QR Code for SmartHub:** Scan QR Code to download the SmartHub app.

If you have questions about billing information please contact our customer services department at 402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288.

Perennial NEWS

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. Participation in this program offered by Perennial does not guarantee future employment by Perennial.

The application deadline for this scholarship is December 31, 2021. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney Giesenhagen at cgiesenhagen@perennialpower.com.

