



APRIL 2021

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION



THANK A LINEWORKER ON APRIL 12

By Anne Price - NRECA's Straight Talk

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Wheat Belt PPD, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Wheat Belt, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise

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Editor - Yolanda Hruska

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LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Randy and Terri Faessler, our February "Lucky Winners"!

The Faesslers have been long-time customers of Wheat Belt. They moved from Bridgeport to Sidney in 1975 and declare "Sidney has been good to them!" Randy and Terri have three daughters, one son and several grandchildren. Their family has a diversified farming and ranching operation. Randy, Terri and son John keep the business thriving and love what they do!

The Faesslers have received a \$50.00 credit on their account. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 15th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please contact us, 308-254-5871/800-261-7114, or visit wheatbelt.com and select the Customer Engagement page for details on payment options.

P.O. BOX 177, 11306 RD 32, SIDNEY, NE 69162

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We are proud of our Lineworkers!



Chase Armstrong



Cole Birkel



Mark Cape



Kevin Coss



Dean Gipfert



Greg Jenkins



Tom Mathine



Jordan Peters



Travis Secrest



Rollie Waite



Dan Westman

Not pictured Tyson Long. Tyson joined our team December 2020 and was featured in our January Wheat Belt Connection Employee Spotlight. Tyson's picture is not yet available.

Thank A Lineworker continued from 12-A

and guidance on the operations side. Customer Engagement representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Wheat Belt, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

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Brian (Moe) Moffat

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YEAR OF CHANGE

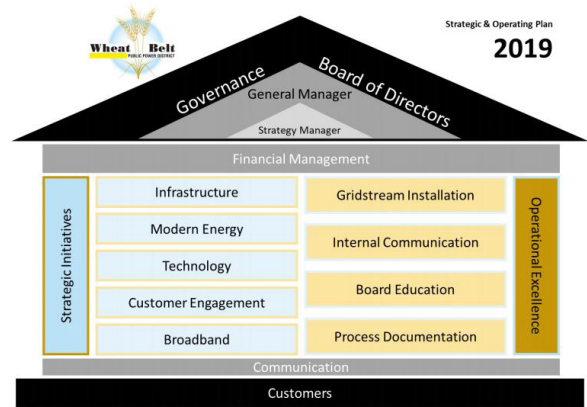
A recent new year's resolution trend is to have a "word of the year". I have done this a few years with words such as "joy" or "laugh" and even "family". However, this year I didn't have a word...it wasn't that I intentionally chose not to pick a word it just didn't happen. Since then, it has become obvious what the 2021 word for Wheat Belt is: **CHANGE**.

We started off the first of the year with a new employee, Jason Weigle, which you may have read about in a previous edition of the magazine. At the heels of welcoming Jason, we said so-long (not goodbye) to two members of the Board of Directors: John Gortemaker, Oshkosh and Mike Blomenkamp,

Broadwater. Additionally, we welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors: Marcus Milanuk, Oshkosh and Toni Blomenkamp, Broadwater. A few days later, our then General Manager, Tim Lindahl, announced his resignation where we would have a couple of weeks to transition. Furthermore, the Board of Directors continues down the process of appointing two new board members to fill the seats of the late Bernard Fehringer, Sidney and retired board member Doug Smith, previously of Chappell.

In this season of change, we are pressing into our Strategic Plan: Financial Management, Infrastructure,

Continued on 12-D



SAVE THE DATE

for our
Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY | JUNE 5, 2021

Details to follow in our May 2021 WB Connection



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Continued from 12-C

Modern Energy, Technology, Customer Engagement and Broadband. We are working with the Board of Directors to help determine which/if any pieces of the strategy take a back burner and which ones press forward. A component of the Strategic Plan that we previously had not spent much effort on, with one exception, is the Operational Excellence side of the “house” (see image): Gridstream Installation*, Internal Communication, Board Education and Process Documentation. We have already shifted focus and efforts of the District to make forward progress in these areas. And I look forward to seeing the development and outcomes.

Our employees and Board Members are the glue that will hold us together in this time. If you see one (or many) of them out and about thank them for the extra work/effort they are putting in during this time of **CHANGE**.

**The AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) project is the exception as we are half way through the five-year project of replacing current meters with greatly improved technology. Not only are we halfway through from a time perspective, but also over half of the meters have been replaced.*



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