

Manager's Report

By Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM



Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM

By the time you're reading this, we are already into the short month of February and at the midpoint of winter. February is a solid month as we normally have a few nice days and we start contemplating spring. At CCPPD, we work on removing trees from the right of ways, engineering our projects for the year, accounting for funds to do all our work, and planning for irrigation season and planting season. It is a busy time of year for us.

In the past few months, we have seen some big changes at CCPPD. We studied a merger, as you are very aware, and determined not to go forward with it. We completed the budgeting process for 2019. Additionally, we've dealt with a few weather events and the associated outages. We also had two long time employees retire, Jim Yosten and Gene Cihacek. They are both missed every day. They had 75+ years of experience between them and it is experience, knowledge, and wisdom that is sincerely missed. These two great men served CCPPD very well. I wish them a long and happy retirement!

With their departure, we had big shoes to fill. We hired two new Journeymen Linemen, Eric Brabec and Tyson Steskal. Eric and Tyson bring good experience to the CCPPD team. They haven't been with us long as of this writing, but they are fitting in well with the organization and I expect big things.

Gene and Jim were both Working Foremen here at CCPPD. With their departure, we had an opportunity for promotion from within our organization. Brian Throener and Willy Anderson were promoted to the Working Foreman position on January 15th. They will do a great job leading our crews in the field.

If you read my column, you know that I write about change a lot as change is the only true constant in life. I'm often blown away when I think back over the decades of my career and the rate of change that has occurred. Many changes are good, some not so much. I hope as we journey through 2019 all the changes that you experience are positive. Enjoy the rest of the winter and thanks for reading!

January Board Meeting

The Cuming County Public Power District January Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. There were a few important items covered at this meeting. Dennis Weiler and Ed Kaup took their oath of office. Both were re-elected to the CCPPD board in the 2018 election. Public Notary, Tisha Wilson, administered the oath of office to both directors.

Also on the agenda was the election of new officers. New CCPPD Board Officers for 2019: Greg Strehle, President; Leroy Mostek, Vice President; Dennis Weiler, Secretary; and Fred Schneider, Treasurer.

Cuming County PPD is governed by a 6-member board, elected during the general election. Dennis Weiler, Leroy Mostek and Fred Schneider represent subdivision one. Ed Kaup, Danny Kluthe and Greg Strehle represent subdivision two.



Dennis Weiler (left) and Ed Kaup (middle) took their oath of office at the CCPPD January Board Meeting. Tisha Wilson (right), Public Notary, administered the oath.

Retirement Celebration

Gene Cihacek



Long-time Cuming County Public Power District employee, Gene Cihacek, has retired. Gene has been with CCPPD since December of 1994. He came to us after working for Omaha Public Power District for 20 years. His last day with CCPPD was January 4, 2019.

Many customers may have seen Gene working in all areas of the District. He worked on substations, power lines, meters, and did most of our safety demonstrations. Gene has restored power in many weather conditions; such as ice storms, blizzards, floods and the Omaha tornado of 1975. He ended out his time at CCPPD as a Working Foreman.

On Friday, January 4, 2019 we celebrated Gene's retirement with his lovely family and many friends. We had such a nice turn-out and enjoyed the time we spent with everyone that stopped in. Thank you for sharing your time to honor Gene.

We want to wish Gene the very best in his retirement and hope he enjoys his time with family.



Journeyman Lineman Hired at CCPPD



Eric Brabec started at Cuming County Public Power District on January 7, 2019. He is originally from Clarkson, Nebraska and has previously worked at Watt's Electric out of Waverly, Nebraska and Cornhusker Public Power District in Columbus, Nebraska.

He and his wife, Tiffany live on an acreage north of Howells with their dog named Blaze. He said, "After finding an acreage north of Howells, the opportunity to become part of the crew at CCPPD seemed like a great option." Both Eric and Tiffany are both happy to be closer to "home".

Eric graduated from Metro Community College in Utility Line and has been a lineman for 6 1/2 years.

In his time away from work he enjoys hunting, fishing and camping.

Please help us welcome Eric to CCPPD!

CCPPD Rebates Available



- High Efficiency Heat Pump**
- Heat Pump Water Heater**
- Cooling System Tune-Up**
- Attic Insulation**
- Lighting**
- Smart Thermostat**
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station**
- VFD's**
- Hog Heat Mat**



Find more info online: ccppd.com/energywise-rebates/

CCPPD Lineman Earns Journeyman Status



Tristan Bettenhausen has earned his Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship to earn the status of Journeyman. In order to accomplish this, Tristan had to log his monthly work record for 48 months which equals about 2,080 hours of work per year. The program is through the United States Department of Labor.

Tristan began working at Cuming County Public Power District as a summer intern in 2014. He began full-time in May of 2015. He received his Utility Lineman degree from Northeast Community College in Norfolk.



We love our linemen!

CCPPD Working Foreman

We are pleased to announce that Brian Throener and Willy Anderson have been promoted to Working Foreman at Cuming County Public Power District. Brian has worked at CCPPD since 1998 and Willy since 2002 so they have a lot of experience to bring to their new positions. They possess many qualities that will set them up for success as foremen: teamwork, communication, customer focus, problem solving, decision making and project management. We look forward to having Brian & Willy lead the crews and serve our great customers.



Journeyman Lineman Hired at CCPPD



Tyson Steskal started at Cuming County Public Power District on January 14, 2019. He is originally from Clearwater, Nebraska and has previously worked at Union County Electric Cooperative in Elk Point, South Dakota and the City of Winner in South Dakota.

He and his wife, Rachael, and two year old son, Bowden, live in West Point now. He said, "My wife and I were looking to get back to Nebraska and being closer to family as our family continues to grow."

Tyson graduated from NECC in Norfolk, NE in the Utility Line Program. He has been a lineman for 7 1/2 years. He grew up on a farm and worked construction for a few years and just really liked to be outdoors. Becoming a lineman was a good fit.

In his time away from work, Tyson enjoys tinkering around the house & garage, hunting and riding motorcycles.

Please help us welcome Tyson to CCPPD!

Featured CCPPD Employee

Tristan Bettenhausen



Tristan Bettenhausen started his career at Cuming County Public Power District in 2014 as a summer intern. When he completed the Utility

Line Program at NECC in Norfolk, he became a full-time CCPPD groundman in May of 2015. He moved into an apprentice lineman position shortly after and recently completed his journeyman status.



He lives outside of West Point on a farm and helps his family with their farming operation.

Outside of work, Tristan enjoys watching Nebraska games, fishing, hunting, boating and spending time with friends and family.

Please help us thank Tristan for his dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

National Credential Earned



Cuming County Public Power District is pleased to announce that Nicki White, CCPPD Communications Manager, has earned recognition as a professional communicator in a national certification program offered by the

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Nicki has met the requirements to become a Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC), which signifies standards of professionalism in communications and competency in the electric cooperative industry. Since 1985, over 450 electric cooperative communicators have attained CCC status.

In order to become certified, Nicki submitted a portfolio of her work, which was reviewed by an independent communications professional who has earned the CCC credential. In addition to passing the portfolio review, Nicki passed a rigorous four-hour examination.

The CCC Program was created to strengthen and enrich the professional skills and abilities of electric co-op communicators, to help them successfully fill their crucial roles for the betterment and prosperity of electric cooperatives. This is done through the establishment of professional development goals, identification of a body of knowledge and skills necessary to the practice of electric co-op communication, and recognition of those individuals who have demonstrated a professional level of excellence.

NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to more than 37 million people in 47 states.

We would like to congratulate Nicki on earning this certification!

