

A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter



Albert Einstein once said, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” This is one of my favorite quotes. In fact, a copy of this quote hangs on my office door. It serves, in my opinion, as an admonishment of the concept of “we’ve always done it this way.” Einstein’s words also serve to drive me to contemplate things from a new perspective or another point of view. It is always easiest to recycle ideas and to continually try the same thing that worked before or maybe just kind of worked before. Or we can all tend to be a little insane, you know, doing the same thing repeatedly but expecting different results. We see this in politics, the two-party system that has served to do little but divide people. We see this in sports where each program tries to copy what worked for last year’s most successful teams. We also see this in the power industry because the power industry is full of people and without fail, people do people things.

When faced with a problem, it is important to contemplate if there are any events in the past that were similar or the same as the current problem and if so, if there are lessons learned that might be applied to the current problem. This is just common sense. However, if the lesson learned is that what was done last time was

not very effective, that is when it is time to start looking for new solutions. The effort afoot is to stay on the leading edge of thought and the leading edge of technology to ensure that CCPPD is always providing the best value possible for our customers. These are worthy efforts because they provide us with a view of a hopeful and bright future.

While we contemplate the future, the work of today is still at hand. We will see the completion of the new substation in Bancroft early in 2021. This station will provide Bancroft with adequate capacity for growth into the foreseeable future. We will also be rebuilding and upgrading several line sections in 2021. Again, these new sections of feeder lines will be able to handle additional loads and growth well into the future. We continue to make strides toward greater efficiency in completing our daily work using technology. We track the service orders and work orders that the linemen complete electronically, and we also track our outages through a management system. This year we also are working towards re-launching an application that will allow our customers to see their usage, report outages, pay their bill, or contact us via their smart phone or tablet.

Also in the works are additional plans to communicate

with our customers. In the past, we made a few videos that gave folks a quick overview of what we were working on or dealing with at CCPPD. Look for more of these videos going forward. They are, and will continue to be, available on our website at www.ccppd.com. As you have probably noted, our magazine has undergone a facelift and we are hopeful that it will continue to be a magazine that you look forward to receiving and that benefits you and maybe provides some good ideas. We also engage in social media on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

When writing these articles, I am often reminded of another Einstein quote. He said, “If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.” While not trying to be over-simplistic I aim to provide content and information that is valuable to your understanding of what your power district is up to. It is all about balance between the past and the present and the future and what has been and what could be but at the end of the day I am also reminded of another thought that has been attributed to Einstein; life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance you must keep moving. If you have any questions, comments, ideas, or just want to chat, give me a call. I hope you enjoy the new year!

Happy Valentine’s Day!

CCPPD's Operation Round-Up® Fund

Round Up Your Electric Bill

People helping others is a rural way of life. Cuming County Public Power District has found a unique way to help others.

It's called Operation Round-Up®. The program lets customers round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar amount, with the spare change going to a host of individuals and organizations that apply for funding.

The program was started in 1989 by South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative. It quickly spread across the country as an inexpensive way for customers to make a difference.

It's a small price to pay. The most it can cost in a given month is 99 cents, though it could be as little as a penny. The average amount is 45 cents, and most customers will pay around \$6 a year.

These nickels and dimes make a huge difference. A five-member board volunteers their time and decides where the money is distributed. Our current Operation Round-Up® board members are Cindi Peters (Bancroft area), Brooke Fullner (Beemer area), Brenda Duhsmann (West Point area), Kay Raabe (Wisner area) and Danielle Ortmeier (Dodge area).

CCPPD started our Operation Round-Up® program in 1999. Since then many area organizations and individuals have received funding. Since the program was founded, over \$240,000 has been awarded.

Thank you to all of our customers that are part of this great program that helps so many in our area!

Next meeting is Wednesday,
March 31, 2021.



Authorization Form



Choose one Option:

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to contribute \$_____ per month to the Operation Round-Up® Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 Account Number: _____

Please return to:

CCPPD • PO Box 256 • West Point NE 68788
 Please call with any questions: 402-372-2463

2021 INCENTIVES

ENERGYWISE
Save. Spend. Succeed.

WWW.CCPPD.COM

- lighting
- high efficiency heat pump
- heat pump water heater
- commercial hvac
- cooling system tune-up
- attic insulation
- prescriptive irrigation
- smart thermostat
- EV charging station
- & more



CCPPD's Board of Directors

Elected by the customers they represent

Cuming County Public Power District's service territory is divided into two subdivisions, with 2-3 board members represented in each area. In order to be eligible for a seat on the board, a person must be a customer of CCPPD and live within the subdivision in which they are running. A total of six members sit on the CCPPD board: Greg Strehle, President (SD II); Leroy Mostek, Vice President (SD I); Brad Petersen, Secretary (SD I); Ed Kaup, Treasurer (SD II); Danny Kluthe (SD II) and Dennis Weiler (SD I).

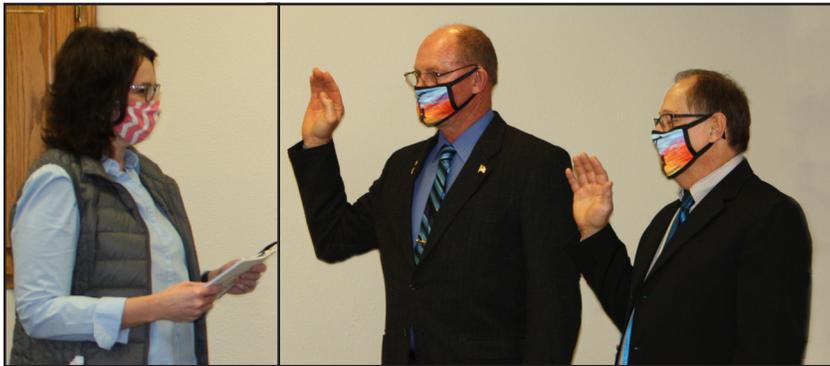
The board members job is to represent the customer and keep CCPPD strong financially. The board meets monthly with CCPPD's General Manager Chet McWhorter and other staff to review the financial status of CCPPD and to address new topics and concerns.

Aside from attending monthly meetings, directors often take part in regular meetings of associations to which the District belongs or is affiliated with including Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

In addition, directors are asked to lobby and remain informed on legislative issues that affect the industry. A great deal of reading and studying is necessary to keep on top of current industry news and regulations and how the District may be affected.

An important quality required of directors is the ability to respond to member's concerns and questions. Directors need to be available to the customers and they must have a genuine spirit of wanting to help at all times.

Thank you to each of our directors for doing such a great job and always thinking about our customers by doing what they can to keep rates low.

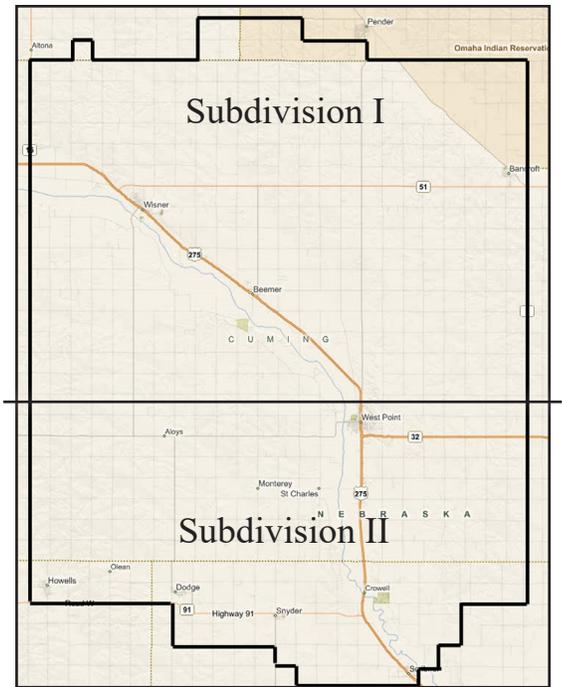


Leroy Mostek (far right) and Danny Kluthe (center) took their oath of office at the CCPPD January Board Meeting. Tisha Wilson (far left), Public Notary & CCPPD Support Services Supervisor/Engineer, administered the oath.

Director Gold Certificates Awarded



Leroy Mostek (far left) and Greg Strehle received their Certificates and Pins for completing their Director Gold Status. This status is the highest level that a board member can receive. They have to complete the first two levels which includes 5 courses and 10 credits within 8 specialty areas and then 3 additional credits. Congratulations to Leroy & Greg! We are proud of our board members who take their role seriously and learn everything they need to know about the industry.



This is a map of the CCPPD service territory. The District is split by subdivision to ensure that all customers are represented equally.

CCPPD Board of Directors



Greg Strehle
President
Subdivision II



Leroy Mostek
Vice-President
Subdivision I



Brad Petersen
Secretary
Subdivision I



Ed Kaup
Treasurer
Subdivision II



Dennis Weiler
Director
Subdivision I



Danny Kluthe
Director
Subdivision II

Top 10 Home Electrical

Safety Tips

Make sure your family is safe from electrical dangers. Here is a checklist of basic safety essentials to help you keep your home safe from electrical fire and shock hazards:

1. Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs.

Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install tamper resistant outlets (TROs) or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

2. Never force plugs into outlets. Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two prong outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.



3. Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas.



4. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis - not as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect children from shock and burns

5. Check wattage to ensure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage rating than recommended. Screw them in securely so they do not overheat.

6. Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage, outdoors, or any area with water are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Test them monthly to ensure they work properly.



7. Make sure fuses are properly sized for the circuit they are protecting. Know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing.

8. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and



be safe. 

connectors. Use surge protectors to protect electronics.

9. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches hot to the touch, as well as lights that spark or flicker.

10. As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances, and electronics, your home's service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, have a professional determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.



We want everyone to stay as safe as possible. Please contact us at CCPPD if you have any questions: 402-372-2463 or toll free 877-572-2463.

Cuming County Public Power District
Est. 1937

CUMING COUNTY PPD
500 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WEST POINT NE 68788
402-372-2463
TOLL FREE 877-572-2463

CCPPD BOARD
Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board of Directors are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCPPD office

GREG STREHLE, PRESIDENT
402-380-3659
LEROY MOSTEK, VICE PRESIDENT
402-528-3872
BRAD PETERSEN, SECRETARY
402-404-0588
ED KAUP, TREASURER
402-372-2966
DANNY KLUTHE
402-693-2833
DENNIS WEILER
402-372-2713