

Travel is Part of The Job

A Few Words From CCPPD GM, Chet McWhorter

June 2022

Throughout my career I have often been asked why it is that I travel to so many meetings as a part of my job as a manager of a local public power district. While I'd rather be at home with my family, travel has always been a part of this role. Probably the main reason is in the job title, GM, which could stand for General Manager, but more aptly it stands for "Gone to Meeting".

As you may have seen in last month's Nebraska magazine, there was a really nice article on CCPPD Board President Greg Strehle and his duties with the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA). As an extension of that article, I thought you all might be interested in the value that these organizations provide to CCPPD and to you as our customers.

NREA offers services for public power in our state that we need, and they can provide them at a much greater value in terms of time and money for the group than we could each provide individually. There are 34 rural public power districts that make up the membership of NREA stretching from Chadron to Tekamah. NREA publishes this magazine along with social media content and other communications tools. Further, NREA manages our job training and safety program through a partnership with Northeast Community College. This program provides our employees, specifically our Linemen with the necessary training to safely keep the power flowing and the necessary continuing education on trends in the industry regarding best practices in safety. Additionally, NREA provides CCPPD with access to the Nebraska and US legislatures through their grassroots and outreach programs in the political realm. This is extremely important because again, NREA membership stretches across the entirety of Nebraska and NREA can speak with a common voice for all of us to make sure that we are heard and that our needs are addressed. NREA also provides legal and regulatory services that keep CCPPD and its

other members in compliance and aware of the various laws and regulations specific to our industry. Additionally, NREA has a credit union that all PPD employees, directors, and families can join.

NRECA is a nationwide extension of the services provided by NREA. There are about 900 utilities, mostly Electric Cooperatives and Public Power Districts that comprise the membership of NRECA from all 50 states in the USA. NRECA offers excellent training opportunities for both employees and directors. The education provided by NRECA gives the directors the necessary understanding of the complex inner workings of an electric utility. Each of your elected directors at CCPPD has participated in NRECA training with most having achieved credentialing. For employees, NRECA provides safety services that help ensure that we at CCPPD are following the best practices in our industry. NRECA also has programs & training that all supervisors and managers at CCPPD have completed that help us make sure that we are doing the best work possible to give you all great service. NRECA is also a strong advocate and voice for rural America on Capitol Hill. As you can imagine, when rural folks are represented from every state in the USA by one organization Congress listens. As you know, politicians can hear very clearly when there are a lot of votes on the line!

Ultimately, the time spent pursuing excellence is time well spent. I don't love to travel and be gone from home, but I'm always excited to learn more and meet new people. I strongly believe that between the training, advocacy, and the colleagues and friends that we have all over the US based on our membership and engagement in NREA and NRECA has provided value to CCPPD and will continue to provide this value for years to come.



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CCPPD Operation Round-Up Fun Run Was a Success



Over 40 Entries!
\$200 to give back to the ORU Fund!

We had a great turn out for our 3rd annual Fun Run (even in the windy conditions). Thank you to all who came and supported a great cause! All proceeds go to the CCPPD Operation Round-Up® program.

Operation Round-Up® is a program built to help give back to community events, area schools, churches, youth groups, etc. Funds come from CCPPD customers rounding up their electric bill to the next dollar. Area schools have received over \$40,000 and area fire & rescue departments have received over \$17,000 since the program began in 1999. Five people volunteer their time to serve on the Operation Round-Up® Board. Current members are Cindi Peters, Bancroft area; Brooke Fullner, Beemer area; Danielle Ortmeier, Dodge area; Brenda Duhsman, West Point area; and Kay Raabe, Wisner area.

The Fun Run proceeds will be given to the Operation Round-Up® Fund. We are happy with the turn out for the Fun Run with over 40 entries. We had many runners from right here in West Point. We had one runner from Malcom, NE and one from Sioux City, IA. Thank you so much for all your support. It was a fun day!

Thank you to all who support this great program.

The Winners!



1 Mile: Emerson Meiergerd, 1st place; Keith Meiergerd, 2nd place; Karter Kampschneider, 3rd place.



5K Run: Elizabeth Barry, 1st place; Kelsey Engelbart, 2nd place; Derick Engelbart, 3rd place.

Howells-Dodge Elementary Egg Drop



CCPPD lineman, Brian Throener helped the Howells-Dodge 3rd & 4th graders drop their eggs for the Egg Drop STEM challenge. We love helping out in our communities!

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10 IDEAS

for summer energy savings

By: Miranda Boutelle

Summer fun is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to start preparing your home for warmer weather. Consider fol

lowing these 10 tips to help keep your house cool and save on your energy bills this summer.

1. Service your air conditioner.

Air conditioning (AC) units work by moving air over fins or coils that contain refrigerant. When the fins or coils get dirty, the unit doesn't work as well and uses more energy.

Whether you have a portable unit, central AC or a ductless/mini-split, cleaning the filter, coils and fins is a great way to get your system ready for summertime. If you are tackling this yourself, always disconnect power to the unit. Central AC systems have two sets of coils, one inside and one outside. Both coils should be cleaned annually. If you hire a professional, they can check refrigerant levels during the process.

2. Seal your window AC unit.

If you have a window or portable AC unit that vents through a window, seal the area between the window sashes. Water heater pipe insulation is a great way to seal this spot. It's available at your local hardware store and is easy to cut for a snug fit.

3. Thermostat settings.

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save you money. If you aren't home during the day or have vacation



plans, increase the thermostat by 8 to 10 degrees F. There's no need to cool an empty house!

4. Keep your cool.

Before heading to the thermostat to turn down the temperature, try using a fan, changing into lighter clothing and drinking something cool. These simple steps may be enough to make you comfortable without spending more money to cool your home. Finding the balance between comfort and savings is key.

5. Lock windows.

After opening your windows at night or in the morning to let in fresh air, ensure your windows are closed and locked. Doing so reduces gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts. If your locks don't form a tight fit, you may need to add weather-stripping.

6. Weather-stripping and curtains.

Sealing and covering windows may seem like a wintertime efficiency practice, yet these help in the summer, too. Windows are typically the least-insulated surface in a room no matter the season!

Add weather-stripping to form a tight seal around the outside of the window. These seals can be found at a hardware store and are easy to install on your own. Another easy way to cool down a room is to close the curtains during the hottest times of the day to block out the sun. Black-out curtains are a thick fabric curtain option that will keep the room cool and dark.

7. Add insulation.

While you may associate insulation with cold weather, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable by keeping cool air in and hot air out. Insulation helps your AC use less energy to cool your home. As a general rule, if you can see the joists on the floor of your attic, you need more insulation!

8. Turn off gas fireplaces.

Reducing the amount of heat entering your home can keep it cooler, especially if you don't have AC. If you have a gas fireplace, the pilot light lets off a small amount of heat into the room. Consider turning the entire fireplace off during the summer months.

9. Cook alfresco.

Take dinnertime outside to help keep your kitchen cool and your AC from working overtime to counteract kitchen appliances. Some grills have an extra side burner that makes it simple to do outdoor stovetop cooking.



10. Add shade outside.

Planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home can shade the roof, walls and pavement while reducing heat radiation to your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, tree-shaded neighborhoods can be up to 6 degrees cooler in the daytime than treeless areas.

Spring is a great time to be proactive about preparing your home for warmer temperatures. Applying a few of these ideas will help keep your energy savings all summer long!

CCPPD Reminder



CCPPD Reminder!!

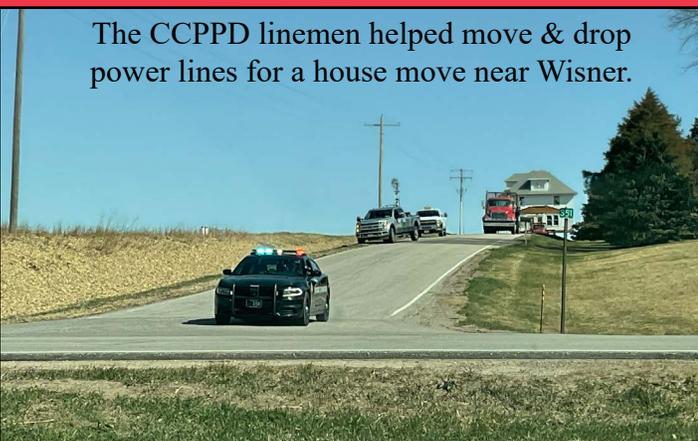
LOOK UP and LOOK OUT for overhead power lines, power poles and electrical equipment. We have seen a few accidents lately so we want to remind everyone to please stay safe! We want everyone to go home at night safe and sound. Always have safety in mind when you are working, at home, driving or moving equipment.

be safe. ❤️

House Move



The CCPPD linemen helped move & drop power lines for a house move near Wisner.



CCPPD Board of Directors

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



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