

# Cuming County Public Power District

West Point, Nebraska  
402-372-2463

September 2020

## A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter

To quote Jim Morrison, “this is the strangest life I’ve ever known”. The past several months has been a test to all of us. We’ve had the pandemic, the racial strife, excessive drought, a confused economy, and now a divisive election coming. We are as divided as a nation as we may have ever been. The sad thing is that if we were really willing to hear each other out, I believe we’d be surprised by how much we agree upon.

“It’s easy to find reasons for division between people. Finding common ground is harder, but a step towards happiness.” This quote has no attribution. I don’t know who said it or wrote it, but I have to whole heartedly agree. We are all different. Every single one of us is different to one another. There are no two people exactly the same, not even twins or triplets. We all have our own experiences, personalities, likes and dislikes, biases and preferences. So, it is very easy to find reasons to be divided. The best of friends, spouses, siblings, etc. all have to go along to get along at some point because there’s always going to be a disagreement that will allow for a division in any relationship. Now take that to a grander scale, say a county, state, or a nation and it’s easy to see that division is the path of least resistance. It’s always easiest to say that I’m right and you’re wrong because I have already decided what I think. It’s always easiest to say that my ideas are brilliant and that yours aren’t because my

ideas are mine. The good work, the hard work starts when we choose to work toward the parts and pieces of the ideas that we can find agreement on and build new ideas from these parts. Then we create new ideas that are “ours”, that’s the sweet spot.

According to Beth Moore, “Differences will always exist, but division doesn’t always have to result.” The big question is, how? How do we allow for our differences and not become divided over them? I think it starts and probably ends with respect. If we can learn to respect others regardless of their beliefs and ideas, we will go along ways toward unity. There is absolutely nothing wrong with disagreement. It doesn’t have to equal hate. It doesn’t mean that one is smart and the other is dumb. It means only what it means; we all see things differently. As stated earlier, we are all different. This in no way should make anyone feel greater than or less than. Emanuel Cleaver said it best; “There is more power in unity than division.”

A final thought, as we head through the next few months of the election war and the mud slinging that ensues; don’t take it personal.



If it’s not directed at you personally, only at your preferred candidate or party, it’s not personal. Politics and religion are two subjects that will always cause debate and recently caused division. Politics are necessary but at the end of the day they aren’t worth losing a good friend over. Religion is people trying to commune with God. How is that a bad thing even if the person that you’re talking to does it differently than you? I’ll leave with a thought from Geoffrey S. Fletcher. “In these times of stress, snark, division and despair, I still suspect that two of the most important features we possess are imagination and a capacity for goodness. Those are qualities for which we will be remembered most fondly.” Thank you for taking the time to read and have a great Autumn!



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Make your voice count**

Remember to vote this election year.

**NOVEMBER 3RD, 2020**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**RURAL VOTES COUNT**

# Helping OPPD

## *Putting Mutual Aid to Work*

On Monday, August 10th, a storm moved through the area. Cuming County finally received some welcomed rain, but Omaha and the state of Iowa received wind. The derecho, as they call it, brought with it hurricane-type winds and caused damage in many areas. OPPD had over 54,000 customers without power.

CCPPD linemen, Jess, Tristan and Brian loaded up and left for Omaha the following day. They

climbed poles and repaired lines later into that evening. They assisted OPPD and other Nebraska Districts restore power to many people in the metro area.

We want to thank these dedicated linemen for helping when needed. We are glad OPPD has power restored and we are thinking of those in Iowa still recovering from the damage from the storm!



## Breakers

*2020 Testing is complete*

Every three years breakers at Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) are tested. Automate Controls & Engineering out of Salina, KS comes and tests each breaker to make sure all the components are working correctly and the oil levels are sufficient.

CCPPD breakers are on a three year rotation. Every three years the linemen remove certain breakers, replace them with the tested breakers and store them until the next rotation.

It's essential to test each breaker before they are put back into service. The breaker in the top picture has just finished being tested. The other picture is a picture of the linemen changing out breakers on a power pole west of West Point.

Breakers are important components that help bring you, our customer, reliable electricity. They trip when there is an animal on the line, a power surge or a malfunction with an electrical component. The breaker trips three times before it locks out completely and you lose electricity.

The first two trips can cause a slight dimming of the lights in your home, but breakers are there to save you from completely losing power each time. It trips just like a breaker in your home. On the third one is when the linemen have to come and reset the breaker or fix whatever triggered it.

Please contact us if you have any questions. CCPPD strives to bring you safe, equitable and reliable electrical service.



## Board Member Selected *meet Brad Petersen*



Our new board member, Brad Petersen was sworn into office at the board meeting on August 12, 2020. He was voted in to replace Fred Schneider's

position. Fred passed away unexpectedly earlier this year.

Brad is from Bancroft, Nebraska and owns Ideal Wheels. He owns and operates the business and also works there as a collision tech.

His greatest joy is spending time with his family camping. He also enjoys time with friends and working on vehicles. His wife's name is Shay and they have two small girls: Millie & Mabel.

Brad said he is really interested in learning more about the electrical industry and will enjoy helping with community events.

Please help us welcome Brad Petersen to the Cuming County Public Power District Board.



Brad Petersen was sworn into office for the CCPPD Board by Tisha Wilson, CCPPD Support Services Supervisor and Public Notary.

## Annual Linemen Safety Training *Pole Top Rescue, Bucket Rescue & Bucket Repelling*



PUBLIC  
POWER  
MONTH

## HOW ABOUT A CONTEST?

Due to Covid-19, we will no longer have our annual Chamber Coffee for Public Power Month in October. Instead, we are going to have a contest! Send us a picture of anywhere in the CCPPD service territory (a pretty landscape, a neat tree, a fun playground, etc.) and you will automatically be entered in a drawing for \$25 off your electric bill. Deadline to submit a picture is October 20th.



Contact CCPPD for more info: 402-372-2463

# CCPPD Outreach

*Education and Community*

**Loan Program:** Cuming County Public Power District offers an interest free loan to qualified students. The purpose of the program is to offer interested students an opportunity to pursue a career in the utility industry. The loan amount is maximum \$1000 per academic year.

**Safety Demonstrations:** Our experienced safety team delivers life-saving lessons in an engaging and entertaining way. Electricity is vital to our demonstrations, however, it can also pose risks. Our demonstrations, available to any fire & rescue team, school, or camp ensures that everyone knows those risks.

**Youth Energy Leadership Camp:** Every summer, we are proud to offer young men and women the chance to attend Youth Energy Leadership Camp, hosted by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA). This is an amazing, all-expenses paid opportunity open to all students who are currently in grades 9-11 and whose parents are Cuming County Public Power District customers. Students can apply anytime before May 1, 2021.

**Youth Tour:** A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a week in Washington D.C. for local students that have attended the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp. Join nearly 2,000 students from all over the country to experience an all-expenses paid tour of the nation's capital.

**In-Class Presentations:** Are you a teacher planning your events for the new year? We would love to come talk to you about electricity safety, generation & more. If you would prefer virtual, we can plan that as well. Just give us a call.

**Community Outreach:** We support 4H, the Cuming County Fair, Beemer Community Club, Bancroft Community Club, Dodge Chamber, and West Point Chamber. We volunteer at many community events and love serving our area. Our Operation Round-Up Fund also supports many community events, fire & rescue departments, local schools and hospitals with funds. We do what we can to support our communities.

We love our communities and the customers we serve!



*School Safety Presentations*



*Youth Energy Leadership Camp*



*Youth Tour*



*Safety Demo for Fire Department*