

Women in Rural Electrification

2025 WIRE Officers

- Judith Woods, President (South Central PPD)
- Carol Oertwich, President-Elect (Stanton County PPD)
- Amy Lehman, Secretary-Treasurer (Perennial PPD)

A NOTE FROM YOUR WIRE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone! There are signs of spring everywhere around us. The grass is starting to get green, my neighbor has baby calves romping in the corn stalks across the road, the robins are singing by 5:00 every morning and my daughters magnolia trees are in full bloom. Yet only a couple of weeks ago we had an ice/

snowstorm that will go down in the record books as one of the worse since 1976. We can be so thankful and proud of our power districts and the linemen for their dedication and sacrifice to make sure we were back up and running within a week in most areas. They put in some very long hours in

harsh conditions working to get homes and livestock facilities the electricity we all need. It was really heartwarming to see how other districts came to the aid of the affected areas. WIRE can be proud of being a part of serving the power districts, even if it may seem a very small part, we do play a role through the Youth Energy Camp Sponsorships and the Lineman Scholarships we support.

100% WIRE

Membership 2025

- Burt County PPD
- Butler PPD
- Cuming County PPD
- Dawson PPD
- KBR RPPD
- Loup Valleys RPPD
- Midwest ECC
- Norris PPD
- PREMA
- South Central PPD
- Stanton County PPD
- NREA

WIRE MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSE

What is WIRE? Women In Rural Electrification!

Who can be a member of WIRE? Spouses of general managers and directors and also female employees of all PPDs/Coops are invited to be a member and attend the annual meeting. Dues are ONLY \$5.00 per YEAR! PLEASE help educate the spouses of new directors and managers who may not know the important financial support WIRE provides for our youth in Nebraska.

Why is WIRE a worthy organization? WIRE

promotes and assists the NREA board and managers in achieving the association's objectives through supporting the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp and offering up to eight scholarships to youth that meet the criteria.

WIRE grants a \$2000 scholarship to help one youth Ambassador attend the NREA Youth Tour in Washington D.C. WIRE grants two \$1,500 scholarships yearly to individuals training to be linemen through Northeast Community College, Western Nebraska

Community College and Metro Community College.

We strive to have 100 percent membership in all the NREA membership systems. Please urge your district manager and directors to encourage their spouses to be a part of WIRE!

How to become a member? Mail your dues (\$5.00) to Rachael Black, at NREA, P.O. Box 82048, Lincoln, NE 68501, any time before the annual meeting in December or you can pay your dues at the annual meeting.

WIRE ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 WIRE annual meeting will be December 4, 2025, at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE starting at 8:00 am with breakfast, followed by our annual meeting and ending with our now annual craft project. The last 2 years we have had The Rustic Patch assist us in a craft. You don't need to be artistic at all. Everything is in a kit, and we do it as a group. We are usually

done before noon so that you may have lunch with friends, go shopping or do



whatever on your own the rest of the day. We will have more details about

the craft and how to register in the Fall Newsletter.

In 2024 we had 43 attend the meetings with 51 registering for the craft. We made a reindeer out of a 4X4 block of wood. They turned out darling and The Rustic Patch did such a good job organizing everything into kits and helping us complete them. Doing this craft project is such a good way to get to know some gals

in some of the other districts and to see the creativity we all come up with! I personally had a little mishap when I tipped Gwen Vitosh's reindeer over and it broke an antler. Gwen was very gracious, but I still feel bad about it.

NREA YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

Camp is available to children and grandchildren of managers, directors, and employees of any NREA member-system. Participants do not need to reside in the same district territory as the manager, director, or employee. Participants need to be a freshman, sophomore or junior in high school. Camp is a five -day camp and will be held on July 21-25, 2025, at Camp Comeca in Cozad, NE. Youth are able to take

part in hands-on learning and leadership, learning about electricity, power generation, and the rural electric industry. They enjoy tours at the Kingsley Dam at Lake McConaughy and the Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland as well as activities like rock climbing, adventure course, swimming, basketball, and volleyball. After attending the camp, they may be able to come back the next year and be a volunteer camp counse-

lor. If they want to go one step further, there is an ambassador competition that could earn them a fully funded trip to Washington, D.C. Making new friends that could last a lifetime is sure to take place. If you have a child or grandchild interested in attending, they can learn more by contacting your rural electric company. Application deadline is May 9, 2025. (There is a good article about camp in the April edition of the NEBRASKA MAGAZINE.)

thank you

*Thank you
Gwen Vitosh
for serving as
President of WIRE in
2024!*

*We appreciate the
time and effort you
put into promoting
WIRE and making
this organization
stronger.*

WIRE RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

You may wonder how WIRE does grant funds to so many good causes on only \$5.00 membership dues. We conduct an annual silent auction and raffle at the annual meeting. Managers and directors, their spouses, and individuals provide items to one or both and that is where we generate most of our funding. In 2024, we took in \$1,335 for the

silent auction, and \$1,831 for the raffle. I anticipate that the 2025 events will be awesome as we had a few more people offer to furnish items at the annual business meeting. If you did not get the opportunity to sign up to bring something we will gladly take whatever you would like to donate! The more items we have the more

funds we can generate. Keep in mind that you need to label your items either Silent Auction or Raffle. The ACRE organization has a live auction as well and there are NREA door prizes. Those are NOT a part of WIRE so we can reduce confusion if your items are marked correctly. I would suggest labels be WIRE SILENT AUCTION or WIRE RAFFLE.