

# Midwest Reporter

August 2023

The Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative 

P.O. Box 970, Grant, NE 69140-0970

Phone 308-352-4356

Office Hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. MT

Monday through Friday



## Board of Directors

Shawn Turner - Pres. Dist. 6  
Nick Hanson - V-Pres. Dist. 8  
Gavin McClintock - Sec. Dist. 9  
Vance McCoy - Treas. Dist. 4  
Brad Harms - Dist. 1  
Dale Schroeder - Dist. 2  
Mark McConnell - Dist. 3  
Chris Corneluis - Dist. 5  
Dennis Hutt - Dist. 7

## Staff

**Jayson Bishop**  
General Manager

**Kraig Wykert**  
Operations Manager

**Karl Lake**  
Engineering Manager

**Riley Kennedy**  
Financial Manager

## After Hour Calls

Phone 308-352-4356. We have an answering service that answers these calls on a 24-hour basis, after hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. If you have an outage please state legal description, account number or meter number, where the outage is and your phone number when you call.

**Website:** [www.midwestecc.com](http://www.midwestecc.com)

**E-mail:** [mecc@midwestecc.com](mailto:mecc@midwestecc.com)



## *Your Manager's Comments*

*By Jayson Bishop*

From time to time we get questions about the Facility Charge on each monthly bill. Other organizations may refer to it as a Customer Charge or a Connection Charge. They all describe the same thing – a way to recover some of the fixed costs of an operation regardless of the usage.

People are sometimes unsure about having to pay for something that they don't think they are "using". Especially if it is a service they only use at certain times of the year, such as a cabin, stockwell or bin service. But that is the situation that makes a Facility Charge necessary: to recover the costs of having power available to an account 365 days per year regardless of how much or when it is used. We are constantly doing maintenance on existing line, replacing damaged poles, and rebuilding stretches of line that are aging. That and many other kinds of maintenance are required to continue to provide reliable and high-quality electric service to all our member accounts.

Another example I have often cited is that we don't send out a separate bill for outage calls. If you have a fuse out on one of your accounts or if a storm breaks off a pole, our guys get out there and get the lights back on. Those are examples of things that have to be done whether the service is being used right then or not. So they are costs that need to be recovered through a Facility Charge.

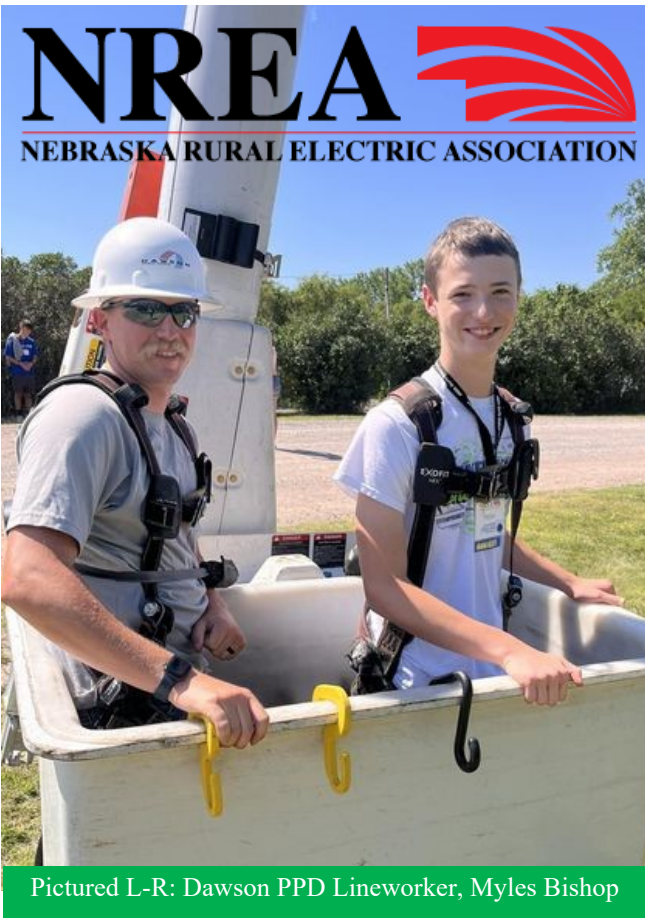
And it is not just electric utilities that now use this type of cost recovery. Almost every service you have now employs this model. For many years you have gotten a cable or satellite bill regardless of how much TV you watched that month. Cell phones used to be more usage-based but now are often a set access charge. And any subscription or streaming service you have is just a flat fee per month.

Even though it might not always seem that way, a Facility Charge is actually the most fair way to recover fixed costs. It ensures that everyone is contributing their share to having power available when they need it. It helps ensure that accounts using more electricity are not covering costs for the ones that use less. And it helps make sure Midwest is recovering our costs in low-usage times while not over-collecting in high-usage periods.

*Midwest Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### Mission Statement

*To safely provide reliable power and high-quality service to our cooperative members in an efficient and cost-effective manner.*



Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation sponsored one local student to attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp. The camp was held at Camp Comeca near Cozad July 9-13.

Student selected: **Myles Bishop**, Grant. Son of Jayson and Deanne Bishop of Grant.

The camp is set up to give young people a better understanding of the legislative process, electric power generation and the rural electric program. Youth can choose to run to be a Director representing their selected group. The Board of Directors then hires a General Manager, **Myles Bishop** was selected to be the General Manager at this years leadership camp. They learn “hands-on” about how a rural electric system is operated, what power is about, how electricity is generated, electrical safety and how producing and using electricity impacts the environment.

High school students who attend the leadership camp have the opportunity to compete for a chance to participate as state ambassadors in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Tour in Washington D.C. in June of the following year. All ambassador expenses are paid by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and through a scholarship provided by the Cooperative Finance Corporation. Three students are selected by their peers to serve as ambassadors. **Myles Bishop** was selected by his peers to be one of the Youth Ambassadors.

On behalf of Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation, we would like to congratulate **Myles Bishop** on his excellent representation at the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp.



It’s that time of year again, so for your safety, and the safety of Midwest Electric linemen, please post signs to clearly mark any area that has been treated with pesticides or call 308-352-4356 and keep us informed. Midwest Electric linemen will not enter a field if they are concerned that it may have been recently treated. Thank you!

