

# Women in Rural Electrification

## 2024 WIRE Officers

- President - Gwen Vitosh (Norris PPD)
- President - Elect, - Judith Woods (South Central PPD)
- Secretary - Treasurer - Carol Oertwich (Stanton County PPD)



## Message From the WIRE President

Happy Fall y'all! It is here and probably, like every year, short lived! Winter is right around the corner. But, with that brings on some of the best holidays of the year! We can eat too much and spend too much, and it does not matter.

Our WIRE Annual Meeting & Craft time will get you in the holiday spirit! Our meeting will be Thursday morning, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney during the NREA Annual Meeting. We will start the day at 8:00 a.m. sharp with breakfast; followed by our annual business meeting.

After the meeting, at approximately 9:30 a.m., we will have a lot of fun making holiday Reindeer (something like the photo)! The Rustic Patch in Kearney will bring all supplies and all the helpers we need. No one needs to be artistic. It will be relaxing and fun.

We are encouraging WIRE attendees to wear Christmas attire on December 5<sup>th</sup> to our event! DIY or anything would get us all in the holiday spirit! There will be an award for the 'best dressed'!

The meeting and craft time will end by 12:00 p.m. This will give the attendees time for lunch, shopping, and

other activities in Kearney during the afternoon.

For planning purposes (space, supplies, etc.), NREA will need an accurate count on the registration form for those planning to attend the business session and the craft session. There is a \$35.00 fee for the craft that will be billed for each WIRE member that registers for the craft project. This is a great networking opportunity for the attendees. There will be no credit or refund issued for anyone who signs up for the craft event and then cancels or is a no-show. All supplies will be purchased by the vendor prior to the event based on the number of people registered to attend the event. Last year we had 40 participants! It was so much fun!

Hopefully, you all received your Spring WIRE newsletter. There was a lot of information in that letter that explained what we as a group do, what our purpose is, and how we raise funds for youth in Nebraska to become more knowledgeable about the electric industry near and far.

Please review that newsletter again and ask any questions you may have on Thursday at our meeting. If you would like another

copy of it, please let a WIRE officer know, or you can contact Rachael at the NREA office at [rblack@nrea.org](mailto:rblack@nrea.org).

Membership in WIRE (Women In Rural Electrification) is for all spouses of general managers and directors and also employees of all NREA member-systems.

Our annual fundraising events will be on Thursday. There are three:

- Pay \$5.00 annual dues, if not done previously.
- WIRE Silent Auction. Bidding on items will be Thursday. Results Thursday evening at the banquet.
- WIRE Raffle. Tickets sold Wednesday during the reception and Thursday. Drawing will be Thursday evening at the banquet.



# WIRE Update - Annual Meeting

If you didn't send your \$5.00 annual dues to NREA prior to the annual meeting, you can pay it at this meeting. We are hopeful you all encourage your district/cooperative to become a 100 percent member if not already. We love to display our 100 percent - member certificate in the district's main office. We are proud of the award.

You can send your dues or dues for your whole district/cooperative to NREA now if you want. Mail to:



Rachael Black, NREA,  
P.O. Box 82048, Lincoln, NE 68501.

If you have a new manager's spouse, director's spouse or district employee that may not know about WIRE and what we do, please inform them about how important this group is. They will be welcomed with open arms at this event and always.

In 2024, as of meeting time in December of 2023, we had 14 districts out of 34 that achieved 100 percent membership! They were Burt County PPD, Butler PPD, Cedar-Knox PPD, Cuming County PPD, Dawson PPD, Elkhorn RPPD, KBR RPPD, Norris PPD, Perennial PPD, Polk County RPPD, Roosevelt PPD, South Central PPD, Stanton County PPD, and NREA. Congratulations to these districts/cooperatives and thank you for all your support! We currently have 119 members for 2024. There are approximately 175 others who are eligible to become WIRE members.

Even if you did not sign up to bring a WIRE Silent Auction or WIRE Raffle item at last year's meeting, you are more than welcome and encouraged to bring an item in December.

These member-systems volunteered to bring **WIRE Silent Auction items: Norris PPD, Stanton County PPD, Burt County PPD, South Central PPD, Perennial PPD, Dawson PPD, and Elkhorn RPPD.**

These member-systems volunteered to bring **WIRE Raffle items are Norris PPD, KBR RPPD, Dawson PPD, Loup Valleys RPPD, South Central PPD, and Perennial PPD, and two \$100 cash prizes from WIRE.** The prizes can be for men too as they do purchase a BUNCH of tickets for the raffle and do a lot of bidding on the silent auction. Tables will be set up in the main lobby area near the registration table on Thursday all day to display the WIRE Raffle items and the WIRE Silent Auction items. Please clearly label your item "WIRE SILENT AUCTION" or "WIRE RAFFLE" and who donated.

Your 2024 WIRE officers are: President, Gwen Vitosh, Norris PPD; Vice President, Judy Woods, South Central PPD, and Secretary/Treasurer, Carol Oertwich, Stanton County PPD. For 2025 your WIRE president will be Judy Woods, and Vice President Carol Oertwich. We will need a nomination for the 2025 WIRE secretary/treasurer. Please consider volunteering for this. There is only one meeting per year. It is such a fun experience and quite a big honor to lead this wonderful group in our effort to support the youth in Nebraska to learn and grow in their knowledge and interest in the public power system and learn about our connections right here in Nebraska and nationwide.

Check out the new WIRE tab on the NREA website (under Services). It has information about our group.

Thank you all for all your support in what Women In Rural Electrification – "WIRE" does! We need to stay passionate about what we do, which is to help our youth become interested and invested in the electric industry.

The 2024 officers would like to thank the NREA team for all the support they have given to WIRE. Rachael and Tina and others help all year long and can answer any questions that come up. Thank you, ladies!

## YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

WIRE did not receive any applicants for scholarships to the 2024 Youth Energy Leadership Camp this summer at Camp Comeca, near Cozad.

WIRE scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of managers, employees, and directors. They are not required to reside in a system territory and need to be either a sophomore or junior in high school. The leadership camp is educational, and it gives the youth a chance to explore outdoors. We encourage you to plan ahead for next year and make sure that the employees at your PPD/cooperative that handle camp applications are aware of the scholarship opportunity and promote it to the eligible students.

### 100% WIRE Membership 2024

- Burt County PPD
- Butler PPD
- Cuming County PPD
- KBR RPPD
- Norris PPD
- South Central PPD
- Stanton County PPD
- NREA

