

February 2022 >>>



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Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming, and Colfax counties

# EnLIGHTening NEWS



## About Us >>>

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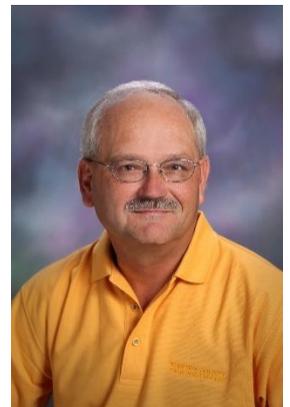
## Bruce Hoehne Retires

### A journey of 47 years in Public Power

On February 15, 2022, Bruce will leave the Stanton County Public Power District office for the last time. He began his career with the Power District on May 27, 1974 just one week after graduating from Stanton High School. There was no Utility Line program for him to attend. He learned on the job each day from the men around him. Later that summer he was promoted to Goundman, and from 1974 to 1979 he continued learning and moving from Apprentice to Journeyman Lineman. During those years he remembers training in live line work with rubber gloves and sleeves and a digger/derrick with a side mounted basket. “We were among the first crews in the state to receive this type of training.” Bruce recalls.

Bruce was promoted to Assistant Line Superintendent in 1984. He continued working on the line crew as well as fault locating. He worked with lineman from 9 other member districts covering a large part of Nebraska. Those days could include travel well over 120 miles in range and more than once he remembers sleeping in the fault van because it was too late to drive back home before heading out to the next location the next day.

In 1990, he became the Line Superintendent. This title would change to Operations Superintendent and then to Operations Manager. Bruce believes this was a opportunity of a lifetime. He said, “It was a chance to work with some of the progressive people in Stanton County, through the years one-on-one, helping upgrade the electric service and in turn helping their operations grow.



Continued on page 3

# 2022 Electric Rates>>> Rate Decrease Approved

The SCPPD Board of Directors met for their December meeting and approved an overall rate revenue decrease of 2% effective February 1, 2022. The change will be an average decrease of 2% for most of the rate classes except Seasonal-Stock wells, LP-Seasonal and LP-3. The overall impact to each rate class will vary based on the cost of service.

A Cost of Service Study is a comprehensive study that includes the overall, complete cost to serve that individual rate class. This study is done separately for each rate class due to the various impacts they may have to the District. There are several pieces of the overall pie sliced up and allocated to each rate class. For example, the irrigation rate class has different impacts to the overall cost than a residential class does. Transmission, substation, and distribution costs are allocated based on usage along with various maintenance programs. We also consider depreciation, employee wages, and the cost of our fleet for each class separately. We maintain cash levels to absorb any storm damage or emergencies we encounter. Once all this is allocated, we compare the final numbers to our current rates and determine if adjustments are necessary. Therefore, the decrease varies slightly from one class to another.

Separately, the current Production Cost Adjustment credit of nearly 10.5% will continue in 2022. This credit is a direct pass-through from our wholesale power supplier and SCPPD will therefore pass it on to most of the rate classes. This credit is based on wholesale power supply and is separate from the 2% rate decrease.

Going forward, the SCPPD management team and the Board of Directors will carefully consider each rate knowing the impacts to the farms, businesses and households in the District.

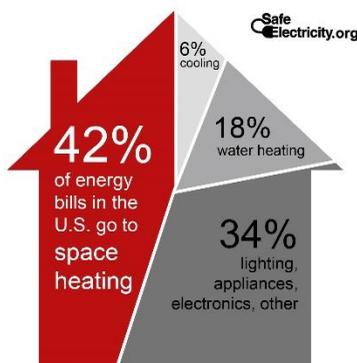
***“The 2% rate decrease combined with the PCA credit is very positive news for SCPPD’s customers. We will continue to keep our rates affordable while maintaining the reliability we all expect.”***

***Chad Waldow***

## Heat Pumps



**Updating your heating/cooling system to a high efficiency heat pump can save you energy and money! Check with your HVAC installer for more information and don't forget your EnergyWise rebate!**



research collected from the U.S. Energy Information Administration

## Retirement >>>

# Tim Kabes Retires after 40 years of service

The new year began a new adventure for one of our own. Tim Kabes retired from SCPPD on January 3, 2022. Tim was the first recipient of the Utility Lineman Scholarship offered by SCPPD. He completed an internship and then began his fulltime career on May 11, 1981.

Tim worked on many projects over the years and earned several promotions along the way to retire as Maintenance Crew Chief. His years of service and experience helped lead many younger linemen.



Tim and his wife Deb have two sons. Chris (Anne) Kabes and Cody Kabes. They will be enjoying time with their grandchildren.

Congratulations Tim! Thank you for your dedicated years of service and we wish you a happy retirement!

# Hoehne Retirement

## Continued

I have worked with a fair number of 3 generation farmers where I originally uprated a service for the grandpa, then as the operation grew, we would uprate the same service for dad, finally uprating the service into a very large service for the grandson.”

Storms and trouble calls are a large part of a lineman’s job. Bruce has many memories of these calls over the years. He admits that this is the most stressful and physically demanding aspect of the job. He said, “We have had many ice storms, blizzards, floods, tornados & car wrecks. All are very tough, especially car fatalities.” Simply being on call for these times were also very stressful.

He remembered, “In the early days, there were no cell phones and you had to be within hearing distance of your landline telephone. No mowing, no moving snow, going to the store, working in your garage or any activity where you were not able to answer the phone tethered to the wall.” After he would leave for a trouble call, his wife would often have to take messages for him while he was out and then head to the next call when she could get the message to him. He gives credit and appreciation to his wife, and all lineman’s wives, for their unsung role in this time. “Those calls would wake them up all hours of the night too. When we were out, they had to answer calls while waiting for us to return and at the same time worrying if we were ok. After all, we would be gone for 6-8 hours many nights without any communication to them. If too many calls come in, she could call the Line Superintendent or Manager if they were available.”

Bruce plans to spend more time with his family. He and his wife Deb have three children; Carrie (Brent) Arens, Chris (Brian) Scholl, and Todd (Kathy) Hoehne. They plan to follow their 8 grandchildren in their various activities and enjoy a slower lifestyle.

*“I have worked with a lot of coworkers through the years, it is amazing to me that I could have such a dedicated bunch to work with. They are dedicated to the point that through the years we would have a storm blow through and before I could get to calling lineman in, they would show up ready to go to work. This is most certainly the definition of dedication.*”

*An Operations Manager is only as good as the people that work around them. My job has been made easier by my coworkers. I have always seemed to have a great bunch that I believe in and I feel believe in me.”*

*Bruce*

*“We would like to thank Bruce for his many years of service and all the contributions he made to the District. His dedication and service to the customers was truly remarkable. We all wish him well as he moves into the next phase of his life!”*

*Chad Waldow*

## Scholarship>>>

### Attention High School Students!

The Donald D. Heller Utility Line Program Scholarship and the Dale E. Barth Electrician Program Scholarship are sponsored by the Stanton County Public Power District Office. The Donald D. Heller Utility Line Program will award up to \$6,000 and the Dale E. Barth Electrician Program will award up to \$2,000 in assistance. If you are interested, please apply online at the Northeast Community College website by March 1, 2022. Additional information can be attained at the college, the SCPPD office, or on the website at [www.scppd.com](http://www.scppd.com).

Only ONE scholarship is awarded per program.  
Please apply today! Remember, the deadline is March 1, 2022.



# Furnace Filters

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