

# Locally Owned & Operated

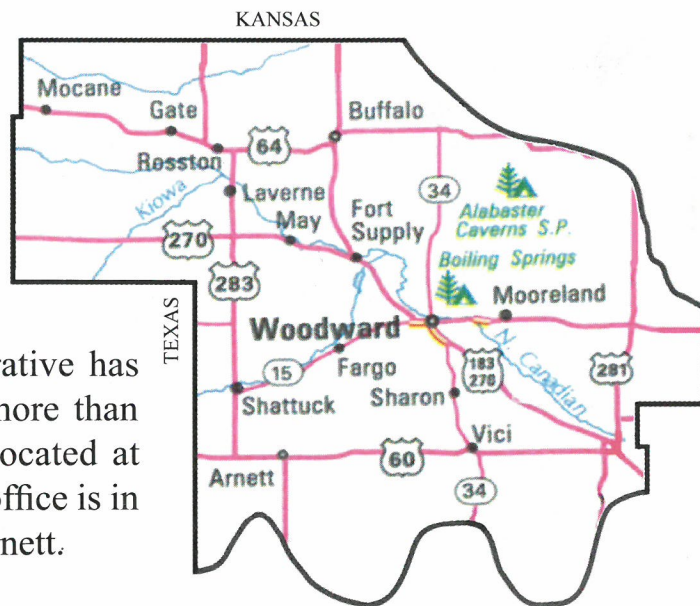
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## Service Area

Northwestern Electric Cooperative serves rural, residential, and commercial loads in all of Woodward, Harper, and Ellis Counties, and part of Beaver, Dewey, Major, and Woods Counties. In these seven counties, the Cooperative has constructed over 4,800 miles of line to serve more than 11,000 meters. The headquarters building is located at 2925 Williams Avenue in Woodward. A district office is in Buffalo, and a service warehouse is located in Arnett.



**Northwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
*Corporate Profile*



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## Mission Statement

**N**orthwestern Electric exists to serve the changing needs of its members by improving their quality of life and by providing reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.





## CEO Message



Tyson Littau

**A**s CEO of Northwestern Electric Cooperative, I am always mindful of our Cooperative's history and our proud tradition of responsibility to the people we serve. Through the years, our members have benefited from the personal philosophy and style of service that is Northwestern Electric.

Cooperative businesses are special because they are owned by the members they serve and because they are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of those members. Northwestern Electric was founded on the cooperative principles that guide our company and provide our members with distinct advantages—service/products at cost; members earn financial return; democratic control of operations and local ownership.

Our 50-plus employees pledge daily to provide our members with the best, most reliable service and are committed to working each and every day toward this goal. We are proud of our accomplishments and our significant contributions to the local economy and understand we can make a difference. Northwestern Electric Cooperative's service is not just in the past. Today we are looking toward the future by preparing for economic growth and challenges that lie ahead for our area. This involves providing the best service, at the lowest rate we possibly can, while having a system and resources in place to serve new residents, new businesses, and the growing needs of our community.

Northwestern Electric is committed to providing the service and electrical capacity our members need today and in the future. Our message is very simply about the availability, reliability, and affordability of electricity for you, me, our children, and grandchildren.

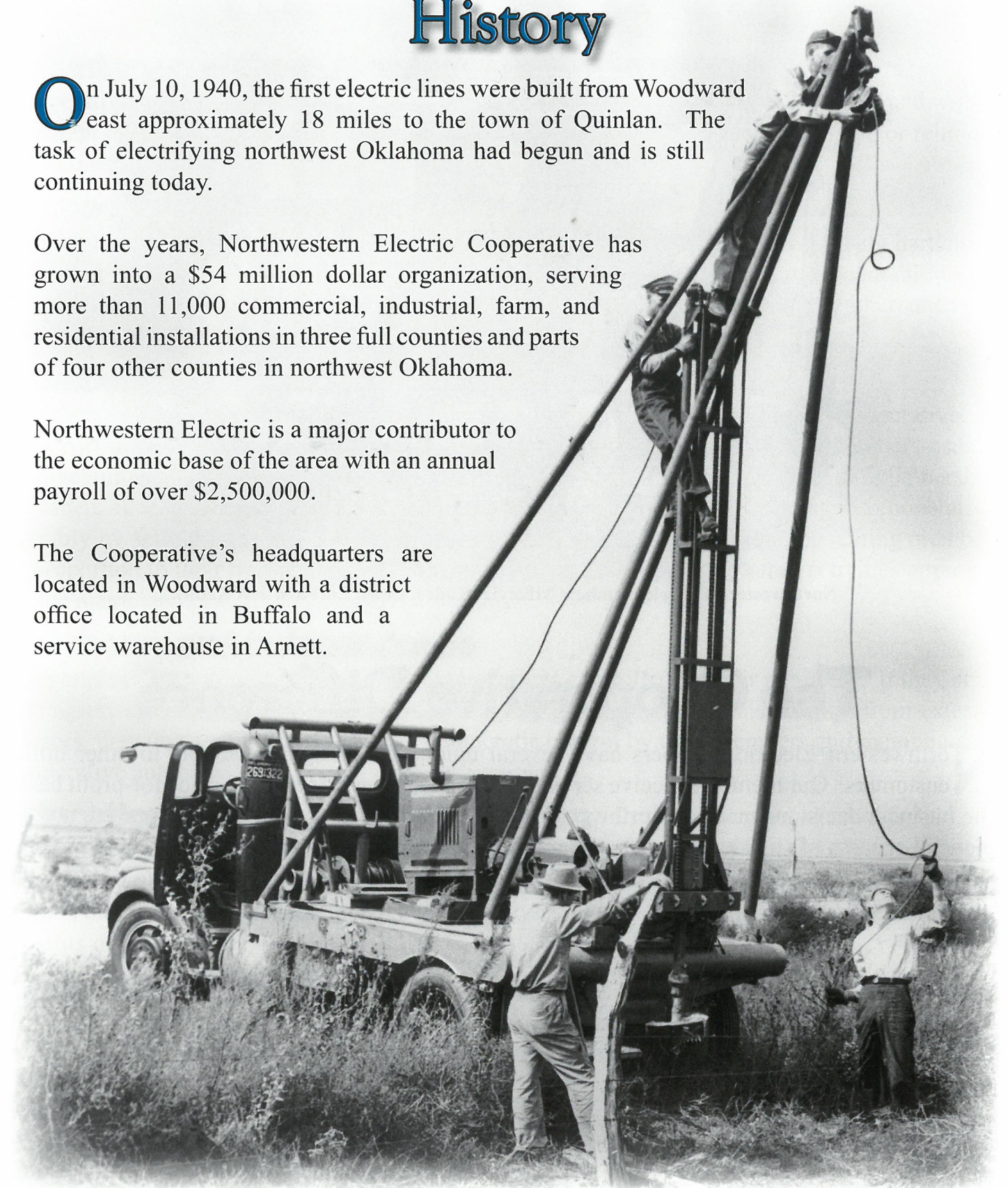
## History

**O**n July 10, 1940, the first electric lines were built from Woodward east approximately 18 miles to the town of Quinlan. The task of electrifying northwest Oklahoma had begun and is still continuing today.

Over the years, Northwestern Electric Cooperative has grown into a \$54 million dollar organization, serving more than 11,000 commercial, industrial, farm, and residential installations in three full counties and parts of four other counties in northwest Oklahoma.

Northwestern Electric is a major contributor to the economic base of the area with an annual payroll of over \$2,500,000.

The Cooperative's headquarters are located in Woodward with a district office located in Buffalo and a service warehouse in Arnett.







Northwestern Electric members Mikayla, Kadee, Cody, Lori and Jeff Kenny.

## The Cooperative Difference

**N**orthwestern Electric members have several unique benefits not available to other utility customers. Our members receive service at cost because we operate on a not-for-profit basis. The business decisions made at Northwestern Electric are based on people being served, not the financial success of stockholders. Our board members are local people elected to determine the best course of action for the Cooperative. And finally, margins go back to the people who pay the bills.

## Principles We Live By

### Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

### Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

### Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.





## Touchstone Energy

*The power of human connections*

**N**orthwestern Electric is a part of Touchstone Energy, a national branding alliance of more than 600 electric cooperatives in 45 states. With more than 22 million customers collectively, the Touchstone Energy partner cooperatives make up the largest utility network in the country.

Four values—innovation, accountability, integrity and commitment to community—are the very foundation of a Touchstone Energy cooperative's service to its members. And through these values, Touchstone Energy cooperatives connect with the people they serve and earn the trust of these people, every day.



Touchstone Energy®

## Affiliates

### Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (W FEC)

Northwestern Electric is one of 19 electric distribution cooperatives, along with Altus Air Force Base and some 11 municipal electric systems, which owns W FEC, a generating and transmission cooperative based in Anadarko, Okla. W FEC serves over 500,000 members in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas through its member distribution systems.



Hugo coal-fired plant

### Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative (OAEC)

OAEC is a statewide association comprised of 30 member systems, 28 cooperatives in Oklahoma and two Arkansas systems that have a portion of their membership residing in our state. OAEC provides various programs, including government relations, economic development, safety, job training and more.

### National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

NRECA is the national service organization for more than 900 electric cooperatives. Based in Washington, D.C., the Association assists the rural electric program in developing policy positions on national issues. NRECA also offers services such as group insurance, retirement benefits, management training, conferences, consulting and safety training.

### Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

RUS is an agency in the Department of Agriculture that makes loans to finance electric and telephone facilities in rural areas. Systems built by RUS borrowers are designed to serve entire rural areas. Although RUS has made the majority of its loans to cooperatives, the agency has also provided financing to public power districts, tribal utility authorities and municipal electric systems.

### National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)

CFC is a non-profit, member-owned financing organization created especially for electric cooperatives. Through direct loans and guarantees, CFC provides its members with an assured source of private capital at competitive rates, plus a wide array of other financial services.



## Safety

Northwestern Electric believes it is our responsibility to educate our members and the general public about respecting electricity and knowing how to be careful around it. We take electrical safety very seriously and offer safety programs year round to educate our community. Northwestern Electric representatives visit schools and civic groups presenting free presentations and demonstrations about electrical safety.

We are committed to employee safety and provide ongoing training for our personnel throughout the year. In March of 1995, the Cooperative reached the “one million man hours” mark without a lost-time accident. In



2008, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association awarded Northwestern Electric a certificate of safety accreditation.

## Reliability

Affordable and reliable electricity is something most people take for granted. And with our nation’s growing dependence on information, the demand for reliable power has become a 24-hour operation.

Northwestern Electric, as well as the entire electric utility industry, faces a significant challenge in the next decade. Surplus electric generation built in the late '70s and early '80s is virtually exhausted. The Department of Energy forecasts that U.S. economic growth will drive a 17 percent increase in demand between now and 2020, requiring a capacity increase of 118,000 MW. By 2030, the needs will have increased 30 percent—or 264,000 MW.

Not only is providing enough power in years to come a major concern, electric utilities must also deal with the environmental concern of climate change. Northwestern Electric’s commitment to reliability means we will continue to look for advances in technology to help us provide our growing consumer base with affordable and reliable electricity while meeting new environmental goals and standards.



## Community Involvement

Northwestern Electric employees believe in giving back to the communities in which they live. They are involved in various organizations and activities including:

- Red Cross, United Fund, March of Dimes, Crystal Christmas
- Special Olympics
- Chamber, town boards
- Church leaders
- Volunteer firemen
- Little league coaches
- School mentors