Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation honored directors and employees at the company's annual banquet held on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The event provides an opportunity to recognize individuals for their years of service to Midwest, their dedication to safety, and to acknowledge their achievements during the past year.

A special "Employee of the Year" award is given as the Geoffrey L. Loper Memorial, with the recipient selected by a vote of the employees. This year's "Employee of the Year" recognition went to Michelle Turner who was also recognized for five years of service to Midwest.

Receiving special recognition for 35 years of service were employees Craig Clough, Bruce Geisert and Karl Dudo.

Other employees honored for their years of service to Midwest included Director Rod Clough and Director Ron Hagan who have served five years.

Employees Tim Johnson and Jayson Bishop, in addition to Turner, were recognized for five years of service.

Receiving an award for 10 years of service was Director Rod Krab.

Steve Jaques was honored as an employee with 15 years of service.

Employees received certificates of completion with congratulations on their willingness to attend the training courses and seminars that show their dedication to making Midwest Electric a safe and productive place to work.

Employees Honored—35 Years

• Craig Clough began his longtime career at Midwest on March 25, 1974 on the underground crew with only one other employee, the late Dwayne Wykert.

A year later Clough moved to Paxton where he became a lineman in training. In 1981 he was promoted to foreman there.

In May 1988, Clough moved back to Grant to fill a position as apparatus specialist following the retirement of Don Sides. He worked as apparatus specialist until 2001 when he was promoted to his current position of engineering manager. In 2005 he was promoted to assistant general manager.

• Bruce Geisert began employment at Midwest on May 12, 1974 as a member of the underground crew and construction crew.

In 1978 he worked as a serviceman on the underground crew and in 1981 he moved to the overhead construction crew as a lineman.

In 1986 Geisert was promoted to foreman of the maintenance crew for the City of Grant and Area I.

In 1993 he was promoted to assistant operations manager along with his duties as foreman for the city maintenance crew.

Geisert is Midwest's safety director and has worked very hard over the years on the RE Safety Accreditation Program for the coop. He has served as an instructor for 15 years for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Rubber Gloving School.

• Karl Dudo started with Midwest on Aug. 6, 1974 on the underground crew, working with Craig Clough and the late Dwayne Wykert.

Upon the retirement of Dwayne Wykert in November 1987, Dudo became the URD foreman and has been the foreman for the past 22 years.

Dudo has served as an instructor for 15 years for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's

Underground School.