



# NEWS *Lines*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## MARCH 2022

IN THIS *Issue*

Director Nominees  
are Selected  
2-3

Official Notice of  
Annual Meeting  
3

Manager's Report  
4-6

What does an Electric  
Lineworker Do?  
6

Truck for sale  
7

Power Quiz  
8

Are you  
Switch Smart?  
8



## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE **ANNUAL MEETING**

ATTEND IN PERSON OR WATCH VIRTUALLY

**6:30PM THURSDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2022**

SKATE PALACE, 203 SUSAN LAWRENCE DR, IDA GROVE, IA 51445

LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE



Turn in your ballots by  
March 18th and watch live  
to find out the results of  
all four of the Board of  
Director elections.

Turn in your ballot and  
question card by March  
18th for a chance at a  
\$100 bill credit. Watch  
live to find out how to  
enter for a chance to  
win a door prize of a  
\$100 or \$250 bill credit!



Do you have questions about  
the operations of  
North West REC?  
Turn in your question  
card and watch live  
or attend the Q & A  
session with North  
West REC personnel!



# Director Nominees are Selected

The Committee on Nominations met Tuesday, January 18, to select nominees for election of the Board of Directors of North West REC. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on Thursday, March 31.

Members of the Committee on Nominations for District 1 Sioux County, District 2 O'Brien County, District 3 Plymouth County, and District 4 Ida County, pictured to the right (L-R): Adam Schmidt (D3), Jim Holst (D4), Art Witten (D4), Ken Van Donslear (D1), Patricia Schultz (D3), Dave Heuer (D1), Fred Gaalswyk (D1), Randy Riediger (D3), Kyle Puhmann (D2), Joel Brown (D3), and Brian Fritz (D2).



## DISTRICT 1 – SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



### JEFF REHDER - HAWARDEN

- Married to Kelly, three children
- Farms near Hawarden with four partners, raising corn, beans & alfalfa, feed cattle & hogs
- Current board member of North West REC
- Board Member of Rivers Edge Bank
- President of Peace Lutheran Church, rural Sioux Center
- Director of CFC



### TIM RUS - SIOUX CENTER

- Married to Carrie, 5 children, 1 son-in-law, 1 grandchild on the way
- Farms raising corn, beans, alfalfa, and cattle
- Netherlands Reformed School Board Treasurer
- Enjoys collecting old tools and about everything else

## DISTRICT 2 – O'BRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



### TOM WAGNER - PRIMGHAR

- Married to Holly, three children: Garrett, Emily, and Grant
- Farms with brother Jim in Primghar area
- Current board member of North West REC
- Representative on NIPCO Board & Basin Electric Board
- Commissioner on O'Brien County Soil & Water District



### JEREMY ROHWER - ARCHER

- Married to Amy, son Bensen (14), and daughter Morgan (9)
- Farms in rural Archer, raises corn, soybean, sheep, cattle, and chickens
- Self-employed construction work, and hog grower for neighbor
- Member of the Primghar Church of Christ
- Has been serving on the Primghar Community Theatre Board for the past 8 years, directing Children's Theatre for the past 5 years
- Enjoys spending time with family, helping children with their 4-H projects, watching son run on South O'Brien Cross Country Team.
- Enjoys keeping honey bees and growing popcorn
- I would be honored at the opportunity to serve my neighbors as their representative on the North West REC Board of Directors.

## DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



### STEVE BROWN - MERRILL

- Wife Audrey, one son, Clint
- Farms west of Merrill, raising corn & beans, small cattle herd
- Current board member of NWREC
- Member of Le Mars Bible Church
- Past advisory committee member of Children's Care Hospital & School (currently Lifescape of Sioux Falls)
- Enjoys helping son in his vegetable production and sales business



### TODD POPKEN - AKRON

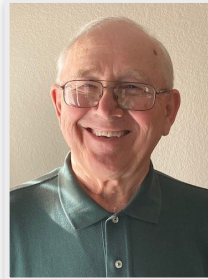
- Wife Tammy, 2 kids, 1 grandkid
- Farms between Le Mars and Akron, corn & soybeans, custom nursery hog facility
- Former director on Plymouth County Farm Bureau, Local Farmers Cooperative, Siouxland Energy, Farm Business, and Church Board.
- Has completed four phases of Iowa Institute of Cooperative Director Training.
- Enjoys riding motorcycle, going to lakes area boating

## DISTRICT 4 – IDA COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



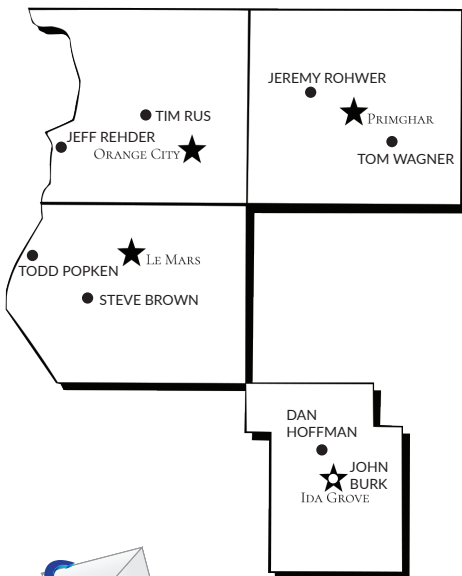
### DAN HOFFMAN - IDA GROVE

- Wife Jackie, four kids, 10 grandkids
- Lives & farms north of Ida Grove, has farmed whole life; soybeans, corn, oats, and hay, cow-calf operation with son Aaron
- Member of Ida County Farm Bureau
- Current Logan Township Trustee
- Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove
- Past 4-H leader for 25 years
- Current board member of NWREC
- Hobbies include bowling, hunting, woodworking (has own sawmill)



### JOHN BURK - IDA GROVE

- Wife Linda, 4 kids, 7 grandkids
- Farming since 1977
- Past jobs: Retired floorcare position at Horn Memorial Hospital, HS wrestling coach at Ida Grove (now OABCIG), Head MS wrestling coach, Teacher of Ag Mechanics at Audubon HS
- Former Platoon Ldr, Detachment Commander, then Commander of 1034Th S&S Co, IANG
- Enjoys spending time with family, re-purposing or repairing old furniture and appliances, fixing things
- Faith Community Church Sunday School Teacher & Overseer
- Part of the NWREC nominating committee twice
- Past member of Ida County Fair Board, 4-H leader, and Sheep Superintendent



## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Skate Palace, Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa at 6:30 P.M. on **Thursday, the 31st day of March, 2022**, to take action on the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of one director in District 1, one director in District 2, one director in District 3, and one director in District 4, each for a four-year term.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 2nd day of March, A.D., 2022.

*Stephen L. Brown*  
Steve Brown, Secretary



## REMINDER ABOUT MAILING

Watch your mail for your Annual District Meeting mailing which will include a ballot & return envelope. You will receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing. Be sure to vote and mail your ballot to the cooperative in the return envelope included in the mailing, as the return envelope you send your ballot in with will be used for a random prize drawing of \$100 bill credits. Ballots must be returned to the office, or postmarked by the 18th of March, to be counted in the Director Election!

# Board Approves Refund of \$2.27 million to Members PCA to be a Credit in 2022

By Lyle Korver, CEO/General Manager



I am pleased to share some great news with our members regarding electric rates in 2022. During this time of

higher-than-normal inflation, the Board has decided to not adjust our base rates for the 7th consecutive year, and we are actually providing lower electricity costs for our members with a credit power cost adjustment (PCA) in 2022.

Our power supplier, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) passed along three bill credits to us in the last eight months. NIPCO was able to provide these bill credits to its membership because of several factors including: 1) membership in Southwest Power Pool, 2) membership in Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and 3) prudent rate setting practices by

the NIPCO Board of Directors. We will provide more detail on this at our Annual Meeting, but I wanted to share the good news that your electric costs will be lower in 2022 than they were in 2021.

In September 2021, after one of the bill credits from NIPCO, we announced that the power cost adjustment (PCA) factor on our members electric bills would be reduced from 1.2 mills to 0 for the last four months of 2021 and all of 2022. This action will result in an approximate \$1.2 million refund to our members.

We received an additional \$2.27 million bill credit from NIPCO on our December power bill. The board has decided to refund this amount to our members as well, and we will be doing this through a credit PCA of 3.3 mills in 2022. With the reduction from 1.2 mills to 0 that went into effect in September 2021, along with this further reduction to a credit 3.3 mills, our members are receiving a **total refund of nearly \$3.5 million** through the reduced PCA factor, or approximately **5.5%**. **We believe this demonstrates the real cooperative difference our members enjoy by being a member of North West REC.**

## 2022 Annual Meeting to be Hybrid Event Again This Year

We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Skate Palace in Ida Grove. The meeting will also be live streamed for those members who aren't able to attend.

**Why in Ida Grove?** For many years, we have been rotating the location of our Annual Meeting between our four districts. The schedule called for the Annual Meeting to be in District 4, Ida County, this year. Last year, our Annual Meeting was in District 1, Sioux County; and in 2020, it was in District 3, Plymouth County. We recognize that distance is an issue for many of our members when we rotate the meeting location, so we will once again be live streaming the meeting on our Facebook page and on our web site. We hope you will be able to either attend the meeting in person or participate on-line. We have some great prizes again this year and any member who either attends in person or on-line is eligible to win.

## Will there be District Meetings this year?

No, we are not planning to have March district meetings this year. The Board of Directors decided in 2020 to discontinue our March district meetings and to put more of our member engagement emphasis on our Member Appreciation Events in the Fall. We are able to hold those events outdoors at our County Fair locations, and we have seen increased participation from families and some of our younger members at these events. This has worked well the last two years and we plan to continue with that format again this year. In late August and early September, we will be holding a Member Appreciation Event in each district with a good meal and activities for the whole family. We will also be handing out patronage checks at those fall events.

**\$1.2 Million Refund**

**1.2 Mills PCA →**

**0 Mills PCA**

**+**

**\$2.27 Million Refund**

**0 Mills PCA →**

**credit 3.3 Mills PCA**

**=**

**Total refund of  
nearly \$3.5 million**

**Director election ballots and question cards:**

You should have recently received our annual meeting mailing that includes the ballot for director election in your district and a question card. We encourage your participation by voting on the director election, returning the question card, and either attending in person or joining online. We will be using the questions that are submitted by our members in our question and answer panel discussion during the Annual Meeting. Thank you for your cooperation and participation in this important annual meeting process.

**Board of Directors Update**

We wanted to inform our members of a recent director change. The Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Shirley Benson as a District 3 director at the December 23, 2021, board meeting. Shirley



served for 9-1/2 years and we thank her for her dedicated service. We wish Shirley and her husband Bob all the best in the years ahead.

At the January 27, 2022, board meeting, the Board of Directors took action to appoint Shirley Schroeder to fill the District 3 director position. Shirley and her husband Tony have been long-time North West REC members and farm between Le Mars and Remsen. We welcome Shirley to the NWREC Board of Directors.

**Board Officer changes:**

With the resignation of Shirley Benson, who was the Secretary of the Board, Steve Brown was elected to fill the Secretary officer position. Dale Ullrich was elected to fill the Assistant-Secretary Treasurer officer position.

The other officers of the Board of Directors are Jeff Rehder, President; Doug Becker, Vice President; Tom Wagner, Treasurer; Lyle Korver, Chief Executive Officer.

**Directors Complete Training:**

Two directors recently completed director training programs through NRECA. Dale Ullrich has completed the NRECA Board Leadership Program. Dan Hoffman has completed the Credentialed



Cooperative Director Program. Both of these programs help to prepare directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of the membership. Congratulations Dale and Dan!



L-R: Steve Brown, Dave Bosma, Chad Dau, Scott Feuerhelm, Jeff Rehder, Doug Becker, Dan Hoffman, Shirley Schroeder, Steve Abma, Dale Ullrich, Tom Wagner.

# Managers Report Continued



The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting that was held on January 27, 2022:

- Appointed Shirley Schroeder to fill the open board seat in District 3 following the resignation of Shirley Benson in December.
- Manager Korver provided an update on 2021's operations. In spite of the ongoing COVID challenges we faced throughout the year, North West REC had a very successful year overall.
- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff. Derald Philips reported that we had another safe year of operations and that the employees have now worked six years since our last lost-time accident and there has only been one in the last ten years.
- Approved the work order summary for 2021. The total of all work orders completed for 2021 construction projects was \$4,795,973.
- Reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting which will be held on March 31 at the Skate Palace in Ida Grove. It will be livestreamed online and members will also have the option of attending.
- The Board approved refunding the year-end bill credit from NIPCO to our members through a credit power cost adjustment (PCA). The December bill credit was \$2.27 million and this will be refunded to our members through the 12 months of 2022 by reducing our PCA from 0 to a credit 3.3 mills per kWh.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations, our County 4-H groups, and medical emergency situations.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.
- Board Committee assignments for 2022 were approved.

## WHAT DOES A LINEMAN DO?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, linemen install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems.

We entrust our linemen with your safety, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

### SAFETY COMES FIRST

Linemen must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves. They spend thousands of hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

### THEY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.



 Safe  
Electricity.org®

# Bid Form - Truck For Sale



## FOR SALE

- 2005 Ford F550 XLT V10 gas Extended Cap Super Duty with Hydraulic 8FT covered dump box 4x4
- Dump Box has a removable cover
- Manual locking hubs and 4-wheel drive
- Automatic
- Cloth Interior
- AM/FM CD player
- Yellow in color
- Front tires 80%, rear tires 70% tread
- Rear receiver hitch
- Odometer's last reading was at 151,415 miles, it has not worked in 3 years

This vehicle will be sold on a bid basis and "as is". Bids can be mailed to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041, or bids can be dropped off at any of the three cooperative offices. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Thursday, March 31, 2022. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sales will be on a cash basis only. The pick-up can be seen at the Orange City office located at 1505 Albany Place SE. Please call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to set up a time to see it.

Name of individual submitting bid: \_\_\_\_\_ Bid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Peak demand determines, in part, the cost of electricity purchased by our wholesale power provider, NIPCO. As peak demand grows, power suppliers must provide more electric generation to keep up with the load demand.

Energy consumption is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Power demand is measured in watts (W) or kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb "consumes" a certain number of watts: let's say 100 watts per hour. If that light bulb stays on for 10 hours, it "demands" a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on 10, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kW. However, you are placing a greater demand on the co-op to have those kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of ten. This requires the generation plant to produce more power in less time to meet the energy demands of all members at the same time. It also requires expanded infrastructure (similar to a 4-lane interstate expanding to 8 lanes to meet the demands of rush hour traffic).

Our co-op purchases kilowatt hours from our G&T (NIPCO) based on the demand for our members. **Peak demand** refers to the moment in time when the demand for electricity is the highest. If there isn't enough electric generation produced to keep up with peak demand, more generation facilities may need to be built which means a higher price per kilowatt and more cost to you, our member-owner. By helping to reduce peak demand, you can help keep power cost lower and conserve energy.

Sign up for  
**smart choices**

### Don't receive Smart Choices?

Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:  
[www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up](http://www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up)



Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code below in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win a SunJoe Electric Pressure Washer in March.

**MNO33721MAR**

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. When is North West REC's Annual Meeting?
2. When is the deadline to return your ballot & question card?
3. Name someone who is running for director:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize of \$10 off your electric bill. Send your answers to [powerquiz@nwrec.coop](mailto:powerquiz@nwrec.coop) or you can send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is April 10. Each month, ten names will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$10 bill credit. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for 2 - \$250 bill credits, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

## POWER QUIZ *Winners*

JANUARY 2022

Jeff Kramer - Le Mars  
 Steve Van Beek - Sheldon  
 Evelyn Bakker - Hull  
 Roger Brinkert - Primghar  
 Carlene Hamann - Danbury

Dennis Dekker - Sioux Center  
 Thomas Konz - Le Mars  
 Loren Oetken - Akron  
 Ken Sauer - Paullina  
 Robert Otto - Mapleton



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What does peak demand mean?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

What do you know about the Switch Makes Cents program? Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize. Send your answers to [switchsmart@nwrec.coop](mailto:switchsmart@nwrec.coop), fill out the question form online, or send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is March 31. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. With a new question every month, you can participate up to 3 times each quarter!

## North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435  
 1505 Albany Place SE  
 Orange City, IA 51041-0435

OFFICE HOURS:  
 Monday through Friday  
 7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Orange City office open during noon hour

Le Mars office closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Ida Grove office open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays only

### PHONE:

ORANGE CITY  
 (712) 707-4935  
 (800) 766-2099

IDA GROVE  
 (712) 364-3341

LE MARS  
 (712) 546-4149

Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Lyle D. Korver  
 CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz  
 Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde  
 Editor



Like us on Facebook & Follow us on Instagram!