



# NEWS *Lines*

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

**JANUARY 2021**  
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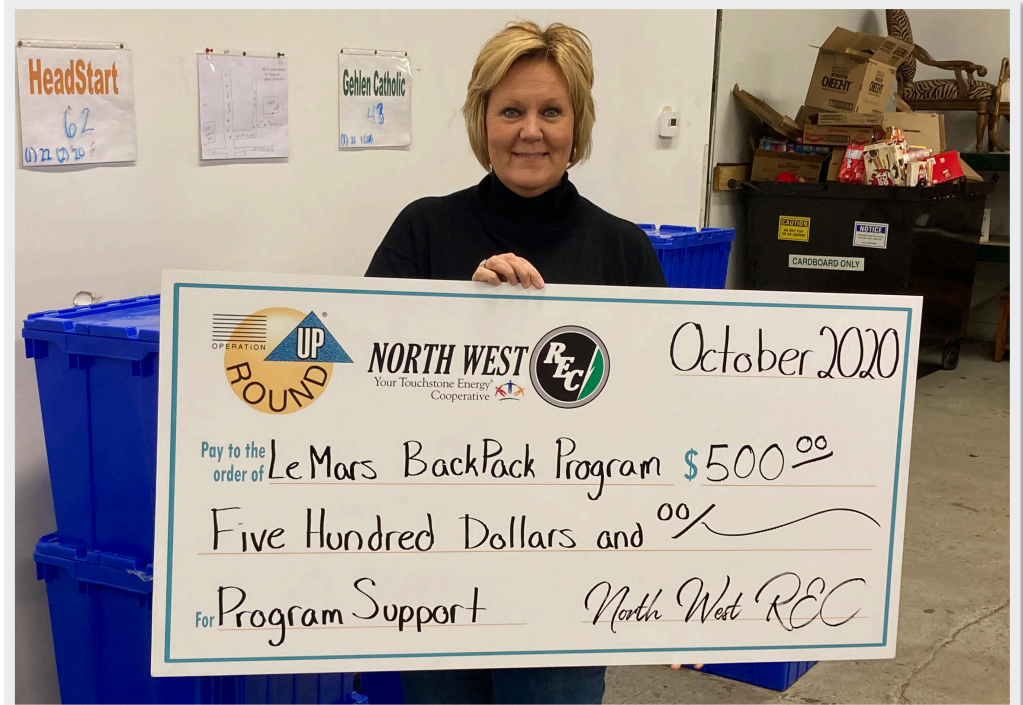
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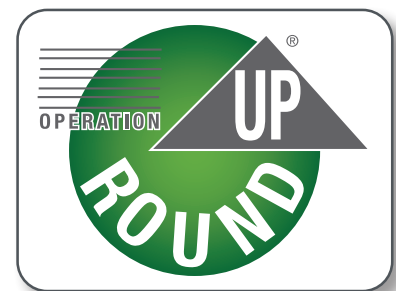
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## OPERATION ROUND-UP *Donation*



The Operation Round Up program is designed to provide benefits to individuals, organizations and communities in our service area. These funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, to assist worthy causes right in your local county area.



One of the recipients this fall was the Le Mars Backpack Program - Feeding Hungry Children in our Community, who will use the funds to purchase food for the children participating in the program. Brenda Nohava from the Le Mars Backpack program received the Operation Round Up check (pictured above).

BackPack food programs provide nutritious, non-perishable, easy to prepare food to children to ensure that they get enough food on weekends and holidays to avoid hunger when they can't depend on school meals. Contact your local food bank to find out how to help out or start a program in your community.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call our office for more information. To receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

# SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2021.

**There will be two \$1,000 scholarship winners from each of the four districts of North West REC** (Ida, O'Brien, Plymouth, and Sioux). The selection process for the \$1,000 scholarship winners will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores, overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written reference or appraisal by a third party.

**In addition, there will be several \$500 and \$250 scholarships awarded to scholarship applicants.** Several \$500 scholarship winners will be randomly drawn in each of the four districts with all remaining scholarship applicants receiving a \$250 scholarship.

Scholarship applicants will be asked to participate in a virtual conference call, likely via ZOOM, this spring where North West REC staff will share the vision, mission, and values of our cooperative. During this call, the \$1,000 winners will be announced and the random drawing for the \$500 scholarships will take place. Details of this virtual conference call will be communicated at a later date.

North West REC members may qualify if their dependent meets the following criteria:

- must be a U.S. citizen.
- are current North West REC members.
- must be a senior in high school for the 2020-2021 school year and planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.
- submit an application as provided by North West REC.
- return all completed forms no later than February 26, 2021.

**If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, complete the scholarship application found on the next page. You can also apply online by visiting our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Renee at [rwynia@nwrec.coop](mailto:rwynia@nwrec.coop) and she will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 26!**



**As we step from the old year into the new, we extend wishes of health, happiness, and prosperity to our member-owners and their families. With our wishes comes our pledge that stays the same year in and year out, reliable service for you!**



North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
**2021 Scholarship Application**



Scholarship applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a dependent of a current North West REC member, a senior in high school for the 2020-2021 school year, and planning to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Please complete the form below; completeness and neatness ensure your application will be evaluated appropriately.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please put the name and address of the high school which you will graduate this spring.***

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please put the name and address of the accredited school you plan to attend in the fall.***

School\College: \_\_\_\_\_ College Town\City: \_\_\_\_\_

Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

***Signatures***

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Scholarship Submittal Requirements:***

1. Complete this form by typing or printing - your name should be on all attachments.
2. Recent academic transcript from high school.
3. Copy of your college entrance examination (ACT and/or SAT) scores.
4. Compose a short essay outlining your high school honors, school activities, community involvement, and employment history and how these experiences have shaped your character and future career goals.
5. One letter of reference from a teacher, counselor or employer.
6. Mail your complete application packet to:

North West REC  
 Attn: Renee Wynia  
 P.O. Box 435  
 Orange City, IA 51041

Scholarship applicants will be asked to participate in a virtual conference call this spring where North West REC staff will share the mission, vision, and values of our cooperative. During this call, the scholarship winners will be announced. Details of this virtual conference call will be communicated at a later date.

**DEADLINE: Friday, February 26, 2021**



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"North West REC (NWREC) has some of the most competitive electric rates in the U.S."

## UPDATE ON RATES

### RATES TO REMAIN STABLE FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS

As this very unusual and challenging year of 2020 draws to a close, I am pleased to share some very good news with our members about rates. The Board of Directors has decided to keep our current electric rates stable for two more years. The current rate structure went into effect on June 1, 2015.

#### Rate Structure from 2015 → 2021

Monthly Facility Charge - \$21.50  
First 300 kWh's – 14.5 cents  
Next 200 kWh's – 9.8 cents  
Balance over 500 – 8.1 cents

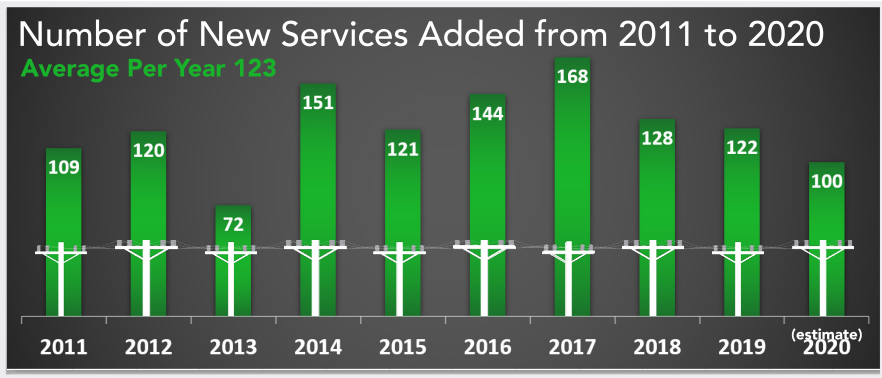


## 7 YEARS OF BASE RATE STABILITY!

We also offer a Switch Makes Cents electric heat rate for those members who have electric heat as their primary heat source. This rate has a \$2.50 monthly facility charge, and the kWh rate is 4.9 cents. It applies to the electric heating, air conditioning and water heater usage.

This is great news for our members and the Cooperative! Based on the most recent CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis, North West REC (NWREC) has some of the most competitive electric rates in the U.S. and we are pleased that this will continue.

Even though kWh sales were lower in 2020, partly due to the impact of COVID-19 on some of our commercial and industrial customers, we have enjoyed very good load growth over the course of the last twenty years. We also continue to add over 100 new services each year for new housing, commercial, industrial, and value-added ag facilities.



This enables us to spread our fixed costs over more kWh's and this is one of the key factors contributing to stable rates.

One of the other key factors is that our wholesale purchased power costs have stabilized in recent years. They had increased significantly during the 2007 to 2014 time, following twenty plus years of stable wholesale power costs. However, they have stabilized over the last six years and the most recent Basin Electric and NIPCO forecasts indicate that wholesale costs should be relatively stable for the next several years. Wholesale purchased power costs account for nearly 80% of NWREC's total operating expenses and obviously have a major impact on our ability to keep rates stable for our members.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope and pray that you and your family stayed healthy and enjoyed a Merry Christmas. We have all faced the challenge of dealing with COVID-19 this past year and will no doubt continue be impacted by it this year. As we begin another year, we want to wish all of our members a healthy and successful 2021. Happy New Year!

North West REC is blessed to have a very loyal and supportive group of members that has enabled your Cooperative to be successful. The directors and employees thank you for your ongoing support and we pledge to continue to work hard to provide all our members with reliable and affordable electric service.



The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting that was held on November 25:

- Received monthly safety, operations, and financial reports from staff.
- Heard a COVID-19 update from Manager Korver.
- The 2021 Capital Outlay Budget was approved with the distribution plant portion totaling \$5.1 million and the general plant portion \$637,000, for a total budget amount of \$5.7 million. The Capital Outlay Budget has increased the last three years in accordance with one of our strategic goals of increasing the pace at which we replace the older line to help maintain good service reliability for our members.
- The Board approved the ten-year financial forecast.
- Following review of the forecast, the Board decided to keep electric rates stable for the next two years.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Approved having the Annual Meeting in March at one location and to offer a virtual format for our members.
- Heard updates from Rob Driesen on the generator pilot program and the load management program.
- The 2021 energy efficiency rebates were approved.
- Heard reports on director training courses that directors participated in and on the Basin Electric Annual Meeting that was held virtually.



Left to right: Steve Brown, Dave Bosma, Jeff Rehder Scott Feuerhelm, Dan Hoffman, Shirley Benson, Steve Abma, Doug Becker, Chad Dau, Dale Ullrich, and Tom Wagner

# Smart Choice E- NEWSLETTER

Starting January 2021, North West REC is introducing a Smart Choices e-newsletter reader engagement incentive program. Each month, your Cooperative will hide a code in one of the Smart Choices news stories. Member-owners who subscribe to the monthly Smart Choices e-newsletter will find the hidden code buried in one of our three featured news stories. Simply click on the code, complete the prize entry registration form and submit.


Winners will be chosen at random each month from all submitted entries to win a prize. Watch our monthly newsletters and social media for prize and promotion details. For the 4 months shown on the right, there will be one grand prize that month. For each of the other months, there will be 2 - \$25 bill credits given out!

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)



Smart Choices is a monthly e-newsletter covering topics such as energy efficiency and electric safety and is delivered to your email on or around the 1st of each month.





**Plug into the Power of smart choices** 

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 one of the two \$25 bill credit in January.

**147921JAN**

**Don't receive Smart Choices?**  
Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:  
[www.nwrec.coop/email-signup](http://www.nwrec.coop/email-signup)



 <p>March 1 - Hamilton Beach Food Processor</p>	 <p>June 1 - Thermopop Instant-Read Thermometer</p>	 <p>September 1 - KitchenAid 45-qt Stand Mixer</p>	 <p>December 1 - Heat Storm Infrared Space Heater</p>
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## IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES WEB-BASED POWER OUTAGE INFORMATION RESOURCE

Information about power outages effecting homes, businesses and farms served by North West REC is available online at [www.iowarec.org](http://www.iowarec.org), the website of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

This web resource, developed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provides a statewide view of power outages at electric cooperatives that deliver electricity in each of the state's 99 counties to approximately 650,000 Iowans. When you log onto the power outage tool, you will see a map of Iowa, and you can view the information from a county-by-county view of Iowa or electric co-op-by-electric co-op view, including North West REC. At the website you also will be able to obtain safety information as well as link to North West REC. In addition to going to the statewide association's website to view the maps, you can check out the information at <http://outages.iowarec.org>.

When there are widespread power outages in Iowa or isolated power outages impacting large numbers of Iowans, North West REC will enter information onto the website. The map will automatically refresh every 15 minutes, so it will reflect the most recently entered information from the electric co-ops. When only a few North West REC member-consumers are without power, the website may not necessarily reflect that information.

# WINTER INCREASES THE RISK OF POWER LINE ACCIDENTS

The winter weather brings snow, ice and wind that can bring down tree limbs and power lines. What's more, poor road conditions cause cars to lose control, slide off the road and contact utility poles. In a downed line situation, the moments after the accident can be the most dangerous because many people don't know proper safety steps.

The only real way to steer clear of trouble is to be prepared. There are specific steps to take if a power line falls on or near your car.

First, always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. Second, stay in the car.

The ground is an excellent conductor of electricity and so is your body. If you step out of a car that is in contact with a power line, the electricity will run from the car through your body and into the ground. So stay in the car, call 911 immediately and wait until help arrives. If anyone is near, caution them to stay far away from the car and the power line.

If the vehicle is on fire or there is smoke inside the car, however, you may need to leave. To avoid receiving a shock, jump away from the car so that no part of you touches the car and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together, and then shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground, or hop away on two feet, keeping both feet together.



*Stay safe out there this winter!*

## Building a New Home?

Build your new home with all electric heat and save money now! With our all electric heat rate you will save money on your heating, cooling, and water heating for years to come!

Members who install electric heat as their primary and backup heat source in a home, newly built this year, qualify for a free 85 gallon water heater! Limit of one free 85 gal water heater per home.



# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How many seniors will win a \$1000 scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years has our base rate been stable for now? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the Smart Choice E-Newsletter prize for January? \_\_\_\_\_

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 February 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*

OCTOBER 2020



Marvin Wynia - Maurice  
 Paul Dekker - Maurice  
 Wayne Kruse - Le Mars  
 Vernice Rahbusch - Sutherland  
 Tim Kunzman - Hartley

Wilbert Postma - Sanborn  
 Leo Stoll - Hospers  
 Terry Fitzgerald - Le Mars  
 Marilyn Straub - Hospers  
 David Vander Schaaf - Alton



### 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  
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Mon-Fri

#### 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

**Lyle D. Korver**  
 CEO & General Manager

**Curt Ahrenholz**  
 Finance & Office  
 Services Director

**Emily Vander Velde**  
 Editor

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