

NEWS

Lines



AUGUST 2017

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IOWA UTILITIES JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY

Iowa drivers are quick to move over for flashing red and blue lights on vehicles such as police cars, firetrucks or ambulances. Now they also need to be on the lookout for flashing amber lights on garbage, tow, and bucket trucks, and all other utility vehicles.

Effective July 1, Iowa law requires motorists to change lanes or slow down when approaching stationary utility and maintenance vehicles with flashing lights activated. Across the country, all states have "move over" laws, but only 12 states specifically protect utility service vehicles.

This expanded law is designed to protect motorists and Iowa's utility workers who are at high risk while performing their duties on Iowa's roadways. Motorists can face penalties for violating the law, such as receiving traffic tickets or having their driver's license revoked.

The utilities of Iowa have united in a public awareness effort to educate drivers of the Move Over or Slow Down law as it pertains to utility vehicles, including Alliant Energy, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, ITC Midwest and MidAmerican Energy.

To raise awareness for the campaign, they are asking Iowa motorists to sign a pledge at www.MoveOverIowa.com vowing to move over or slow down when approaching stationary emergency, maintenance, or utility vehicles that have activated flashing lights.

For more information about the campaign or to take the pledge, visit www.moveover-iowa.com.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP *Winners*



Dustin Fykstra, Tristan Verdoorn, Danika Tindall, and Riley Snyder have been selected as the \$1,000 scholarship recipients representing North West REC as dependents of consumers. Bryan Mouser, Natalie Ruba, Emily Van Otterloo, and Summit Nielsen have been selected as the \$750 scholarship winners. Zara Trigg, Adrienne Wiekamp, Colin Schroeder, and Sidney Johnson have been selected as the \$500 scholarship winners.

These scholarships are funded by North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a consumer-owned and controlled regional cooperative based in Bismarck, N.D., responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to eight Midwestern states.

The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students in the region. It is also an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

DISTRICT 1 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dustin Fykstra is the son of Jason and Misti Fykstra of rural Boyden and graduated from Boyden-Hull High School. In the fall he will be attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City.



Bryan Mouser is the son of Tim and Dawn Mouser of rural Sioux Center and graduated from Sioux Center High School. In the fall he will be attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Zara Trigg is the daughter of Todd and Dawn Trigg of rural Hawarden and she was home schooled and graduated this spring. In the fall she will be attending Baylor University in Waco, TX.



DISTRICT 2 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Tristan Verdoorn is the son of Lee and Amanda Verdoorn of rural Hospers and graduated from South O'Brien Secondary School. In the fall he will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

Natalie Ruba is the daughter of Jim Ruba and Lori Maass-Ruba of rural Granville and graduated from MMCRU High School. In the fall she will be attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD.



Adrienne Wiekamp is the daughter of Kevin and Tonya Wiekamp of rural Sanborn and graduated from Western Christian High School. In the fall she will be attending Dordt College in Sioux Center.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP *Winners*



DISTRICT 3 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Danika Tindall is the daughter of Dan and LeAnn Tindall of rural Akron and graduated from Akron-Westfield High School. In the fall she will be attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.



Emily Van Otterloo is the daughter of John and Marlys Van Otterloo of rural LeMars and graduated from LeMars Community High School. In the fall she will be attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Colin Schroeder is the son of Greg and Erin Schroeder of rural LeMars and graduated from Remsen St. Mary's High School. In the fall he will be attending Morningside College in Sioux City.



DISTRICT 4 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

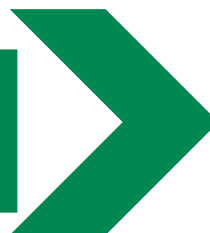
Riley Snyder is the daughter of Grant and Jeanette Snyder of rural Odebolt and graduated from OABCIG High School. In the fall she will be attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Summit Nielsen is the daughter of Jason and Andrea Nielsen of rural Battle Creek and graduated from OABCIG High School. In the fall she will be attending Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.



Sidney Johnson is the daughter of Alan and Denise Johnson of rural Holstein and graduated from Ridge View High School. In the fall she will be attending the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa display in the 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair, August 10-20. Mark your electric co-op on the map and register to win a Nest Learning Thermostat.



MANAGER'S *Report*



Lyle D. Korver

“It takes a balanced approach to integrate new technology in a way that is financially responsible and makes good business sense.”

COOPERATIVE TECHNOLOGY HAS A STATEWIDE STAGE

Everywhere we look, technology continues to change our lives. From the industrial revolution to the digital revolution, technology and innovation continue to improve our quality of life. The same is true for the electric industry. Some of the changes are clearly visible while others are happening behind the scenes. Every advancement centers around our member-owners' expectations for electricity that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

In June, one of Iowa's electric cooperatives had the pleasure of hosting Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg to showcase the many progressive ways technology is being implemented in all of Iowa's 99 counties that we collectively serve.

One of the ways electric cooperatives are investing in technology can be seen in the transportation and infrastructure area. This area has always been a priority for North West Rural Electric Cooperative (NWREC), and it's also a core pillar of Iowa's Energy Plan, which was released in 2016. The Iowa Energy Plan is an ongoing collaborative effort among stakeholders from around the state, including state agencies, industry organizations and members of the public. The plan builds on Iowa's energy successes and sets the framework to reaffirm Iowa's energy leadership into the future by collaborating locally, growing sustainably and leading nationally.

We're hard at work on many of the transportation and infrastructure goals within the plan, which are to:

- Enhance the reliability and safety of Iowa's energy systems.
- Utilize smart grid and other technologies to modernize Iowa's electricity systems.
- Encourage the prudent maintenance and development of energy delivery infrastructure.
- Expand the use of alternative fuel vehicles in Iowa.
- Optimize the movement of freight and people in Iowa to reduce energy use.

Operationally, we're implementing technology solutions to save money and to be more efficient, which ultimately impacts system reliability and in many cases, safety. It takes a balanced approach to integrate new technology in a way that is financially responsible and makes good business sense.



Here are three examples of how cooperative technology is at work for you:

Managing Outages. Outage management has come a long way in recent years. Today, with the help of our Outage Management System (OMS), we can discover, locate and resolve power outages in a more informed, orderly and timely manner. This means your power is restored sooner and more efficiently than ever before. It also results in a safer working environment for cooperative employees when we have more information about the type of outage that needs to be managed.

Tracking Co-op Vehicles. Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) helps to determine the geographic location of our trucks and equipment by transmitting this information to co-op dispatchers and supervisors. With AVL, we can increase the safety of our personnel on remote sites by identifying first responders quickly during an emergency, alerting drivers of hazardous areas, and improving response times during power outages.

Electrifying the Transportation System. Through the Iowa Energy Plan and other state and federal initiatives, we are likely to see more electric vehicle charging stations in Iowa. Iowa's electric cooperatives will continue to work with various stakeholders to make alternative fuel vehicles more accessible and viable in rural regions of the state.

Rest assured that while implementing new technology is an essential business function, your electric cooperative is conscious of making changes at a responsible pace. We will never lose sight of your expectations for reliable and safe service at an affordable price.



Governor Kim Reynolds (center) and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (right of Governor Reynolds) learn more about how Iowa's electric co-ops utilize technology during a June 16 visit to MiEnergy Cooperative in north central Iowa. (Photo courtesy of MiEnergy Cooperative)

Reminder OFFICES CLOSED

September 4, 2017 for Labor Day

Call 800-766-2099 in Case of Emergency

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS FOR HOMEOWNERS

An energy-efficiency loan from North West REC can be an effective way to improve your home and save energy. The loan may be made for qualifying energy efficient home improvements such as new electric heating systems, an electric water heater, or energy efficient windows and doors.

Approved, good-credit-risk members may apply, and must provide a complete itemized bill. This bill may include electric heat equipment, wiring, labor, electric water heater, and electric space conditioning equipment for cooling. Insulation expense, to improve the integrity of the building and the space to be conditioned, may be included in a loan.



Other specifics of our loan program for North West REC members include:

- Minimum amount of \$500 to \$999 written for one year.
- Maximum amount of \$7,000 for equipment upgrade, written for three years.
- Maximum amount of \$4,000 for house improvement of insulation, doors, windows, caulking, weatherstripping, etc.
- 5.50% simple interest
- Monthly payments included on electric bill
- No penalty for early pay-off

North West REC will deduct any rebates from the total itemized bill and will finance up to 90% of the remainder upon approval of our board of directors.

Call us to find out if your home improvement project qualifies!

Youth Tour HIGHLIGHTS

Iowa Cooperatives Sent 38 Students for a Week of Leadership Development during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Thirty-eight high school students representing Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 9-15 and joined more than 1,800 other students from around the nation for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been giving high school students the opportunity to tour Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years.

"The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students from Iowa, and we're proud to send 38 of our best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate," said Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime. We look forward to continuing the Youth Tour tradition for another 50 years."

Sponsored by North West REC, Carlyn Bretey of Le Mars and Isaac Hoftzyer of Boyden participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, learned about electric cooperatives and toured Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit www.youthtour.coop.

Carlyn was selected as Iowa's representative to the national Youth Leadership Council. As Iowa's YLC representative, Carlyn will attend a July leadership workshop in Washington, D.C., speak at IAEC's Annual Meeting in December, and attend NRECA's Annual Meeting in Nashville in February. We want to congratulate her on this honor.



DIRECTOR *Profile* CHAD DAU

Here's a chance for you to get to know your Board of Directors a little better.

NAME: Chad Dau

FAMILY: Wife Becky, son Evan 17, daughter Hannah 14, and son Logan 10

OCCUPATION: Owner of Country Crushers, concrete crushing business, and farmer

INTERESTS: spending time with family, hunting

WHAT I ENJOY ABOUT SERVING AS AN NWREC DIRECTOR: I love being on this board because of the people, NWREC is like a family!



OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the second quarter of 2017 totaled \$6,950. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$390,905. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$5,350 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries
- \$ 800 Mid-Sioux Opportunity and Upper Des Moines Opportunity – program support
- \$ 200 Bethany Christian Services – support for adoption program for orphaned children
- \$ 200 Siouxland Habitat for Humanity – program support
- \$ 200 Justice for All – program support
- \$ 100 Floyd Valley Hospital Foundation – support for children's fund
- \$ 100 Ida Grove Heritage Days – support for community event/program

Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, and dollars are used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local county area.

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 information. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

REDUCE ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS



Peak hours are the busiest times for your local electric cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more

to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. Obviously, using less electricity during peak periods can save your co-op – and you – money!!

By voluntarily cutting back on electrical usage for a few hours during peak times, our members help to reduce NWREC's power costs and will help to reduce the power cost adjustment. This benefits all of our members.

Peak usage times are typically between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm during the hottest summer days and between 7:00 am and 10:00 am during the coldest winter days.

Here are a few ideas to help reduce our peak demand and reduce power costs:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. Wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed for instance.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for the "Energy Star" labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Keep your house cooled prior to the load control period.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

By working together, we can help to "beat the peak". This teamwork is a win-win for the membership and the cooperative!

THE POWER Quiz

- 1) What is the website to take the pledge to move over or slow down when approaching vehicles with flashing lights? _____
- 2) Participants from North West REC on the Youth Tour were: _____
- 3) What is the smart choice rebate amount for installation of a geothermal heat pump? _____

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 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 September 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 a \$500 bill credit at the end of the year.

JULY • 2017 POWER QUIZ *Winners*



Clem Wessling Jr, Danbury
Ronald Riediger, Merrill
Don Koepnick, Archer
Vernon Meyer, Paullina
Doug Lacey, Sioux City

Roger Petersen, Merrill
Roger Fischer, Granville
Mark Forbes, Ida Grove
Darrell Wiener, Hinton
Jeff Kohn, Ida Grove



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 Available
for After Hours Payments

Lyle D. Korver
CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
*Finance & Office
Services Director*

Lorraine Egdorf
Editor