



# NEWS *Lines*

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

## OCTOBER 2020

IN THIS *Issue*

Member Appreciation  
Day Thank You  
2

Operation  
Round Up Report  
3

Manager's Report  
4-5

Keeping Safety in Mind  
During Harvest Season  
6

Fall into a New Habit  
6

Iowa Home Energy  
Assistance Program  
7

Power Quiz  
8

## OCTOBER IS

# *Cooperative Month*

Cooperative Month celebrates the many ways people work together to create better businesses for their communities. They are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members.

North West REC is a local business, owned by the people it serves. That means conducting business through a locally elected board of directors and at the annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by members. It's the "people" part – the personal involvement, the grass roots activities – that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

As we observe National Cooperative Month, North West Rural Electric Cooperative reaffirms its commitment to you, the member-owner, through the seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and open membership without discrimination
- Democratic member control
- Members' economic participation
- Cooperative autonomy and independence
- Member education, training and information to the general public
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

We are driven by service, not profit. We are owned by the members we serve, and we pride ourselves on providing you with at-cost electric service. That is the cooperative difference!



# MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS *Thank You*

## Member Appreciation Events a Success (From Lyle Korver CEO's Manager Report)

It was great to see so many of our members at our four Member Appreciation events this fall. Since we weren't able to have our March District Meetings due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we wanted to make every effort to have some fall member engagement events when we could hold them for the most part, outside and in a socially-distanced environment.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members who attended. It was exciting to see many young families attending and enjoying the food, activities and entertainment. We served around 1,500 meals to our members and their family members. NWREC is fortunate to have a very loyal and supportive membership and the directors and employees thank you for participating in these types of member engagement events and for your continuing support. We have some pictures from the events of the prize winners below.

### Ida County Winners

Leaf Blower: Robert McMillen  
 Mixer: Pam Cobb  
 Bike: Whitney Ernst  
 Bike: Stratton Stoppel



Robert McMillen

### Plymouth County Winners

Leaf Blower: Samantha Schlichte  
 Mixer: Zach Holtgrewe  
 Bike: Filipe Cunha  
 Bike: Riley Schlichte



Samantha Schlichte

### O'Brien County Winners

Leaf Blower: Bobby Back  
 Mixer: Richard & Carolyn Smidt  
 Bike: Gracie Vander Werff  
 Bike: Owen Halverson

### Sioux County Winners

Leaf Blower: Robert Van Ruler  
 Mixer: Dennis Dekker  
 Bike: Dakota Bomgaars  
 Bike: Lauren Van Der Waal



Gracie Vander Werff and her 3 big sisters



Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Back



Mrs. Dennis Dekker



Robert Van Ruler

## MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN



It's that simple, and it's the law in Iowa. By following these two rules of the road, you can help save lives and avoid receiving a traffic ticket – or even losing your driver's license. It's necessary to move over or slow down when approaching stationary emergency, maintenance, and utility vehicles with flashing lights activated.

# OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT



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.

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 or fill out the registration form below and return to us. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

One of the recipients in September was the Midwest Honor Flight Program. Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit, 100% volunteer organization in Northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and Southwest Minnesota dedicated to providing veterans with honor, respect, and closure with an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. The operation round up check will go to support their program. Presenting the check to the Midwest Honor Flight Volunteers is NWREC CEO, Lyle Korver.



*Pictured above are veterans who attended the golf tournament benefiting Midwest Honor Flight.*



*Pictured (left to right): Greg Miner, Elaine Leusink, NWREC CEO/ General Manager Lyle Korver, Carole Kleinhesselink, Chad Kleinhessilink. Not pictured Gretchen Vande Poppe*

## SIGN UP TODAY!

**YES** – add my name to the hundreds of North West REC members already contributing to the Operation Round Up Trust. I am not currently signed up to donate but wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar and make a meaningful difference in my community.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"Our crews witnessed unbelievable destruction to their electric system, crops, buildings, and storage equipment.."

## CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

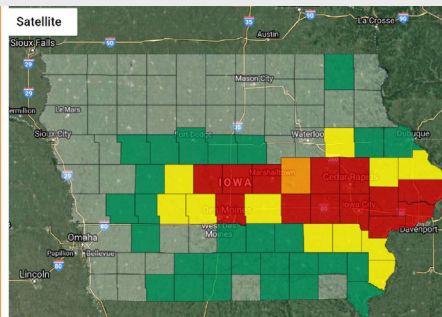
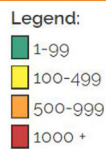
As a rural electric cooperative organization, we operate in accordance with the 7 cooperative principles. One of those principles is "Cooperation among Cooperatives". When significant storm damage occurs, like what large portions of central and eastern Iowa experienced on August 10 from the recent derecho, our Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) coordinates a mutual aid support system and cooperatives respond.

North West REC (NWREC) was contacted by the IAEC on the evening of August 10 to find out if we could send crew members and equipment to assist East-Central Iowa REC (ECI REC) with their storm restoration efforts. The next morning, we sent six linemen and four trucks to help in the Vinton area. This outage map shows the hardest hit areas in east central Iowa.

### 7 Cooperative Principles

- 1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
- 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
- 3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
- 4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
- 5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION
- 6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
- 7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives maintains an outage map ([www.iowarec.org](http://www.iowarec.org)), which automatically updates every 15 minutes and shows outages by meter. The map shows the destructive path of the storm.



The linemen worked 16-hour days alongside the ECI REC linemen and other crews who were brought to restore electric service to their members. Many of their members were out of power for over a week.

Our crews witnessed unbelievable destruction to their electric system, crops, buildings, and storage equipment as you can see from these pictures. We were pleased that our six linemen were able to return home safely Saturday evening, August 15.

Many other REC's from around Iowa and other states also sent help. As co-operatives, that is what we do and is a great example of how we operate by that important principle of co-operation among co-operatives.

While it was our turn to help another REC this time, there will come a time again when we need help and it is reassuring to know that we can count on the same type of mutual aid assistance for our co-op and our members.



## STORM DAMAGE ACROSS IOWA FROM THE DERECHO'S HURRICANE FORCE WINDS THIS PAST AUGUST.



## SUMMARY

The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the August board meeting:

- Received monthly safety and operations reports from staff.
  - Derald Philips, Safety & Loss Control Director, shared that our employees reached a four-year milestone in August without a lost-time accident.
- Manager Korver provided an update on the procedures that have been implemented relating to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Heard a report about the first Member Appreciation event held at Ida County on August 25 and reviewed plans for the next three.
- Manager Korver gave a report on the mutual aid assistance we provided East-Central Iowa REC following the derecho storm.
- Curt Ahrenholz, Finance Director, reviewed the monthly and year-to-date financial reports. Even though kWh sales are down for the y-t-d, margins are above budget.
- Received an update on the new Primghar service center building project. The project should be complete later this fall.
- Approved a \$2,500 donation to the NRECA International Program.
- James Vondrak, IT Administrator, shared a technology update.
- Discussed rollout plans for the automatic standby generator pilot program. This will initially be made available for hog building services.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board meetings.
- Manager Korver reported on a few economic development projects that the staff has been working on.
  - Approved donations to several local economic development organizations that we partner with.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- The next board meeting date is Thursday, September 24.

# Keep Safety in Mind



## DURING HARVEST SEASON

It's that time of year again when combines are plugging through fields and tractors with wagons are busy carrying loads to and from the grain elevator. It's time for harvest and time for safety, especially overhead power line safety.

Farmers need to be alert when working with farm equipment. Many pieces of farm equipment, such as grain augers or elevators, can reach heights that exceed power lines. Before harvest even starts, it is a good idea to walk around your farm to see where overhead lines are located and check the height of farm equipment.

### Other tips to remember this harvest season:

- Be alert to power lines when you reach the end of your field.
- Inform family members and hired hands about safety procedures.
- Keep all objects at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Contact your local REC before you build or move a grain bin.

### What you should do if you're inside a tractor that touches a power line:

- Try to back away from the line.
- If you can, stay put and have someone call NWREC.
- If you must leave your tractor, jump clear (putting both feet forward) so you won't make contact with the ground and the vehicle at the same time.

### Safety tips for handling loose grain:

- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Never work alone. If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone assist you.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Be especially careful when working with old grain.

Being aware of the dangers could mean the difference between a safe harvest season and a disaster. Take that extra minute for safety – the life you save may be your own! Stay alert and stay alive!

## FALL INTO A *New Habit*

With daylight savings time coming this fall (November 1), you should remember to change something other than your clock. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you change the batteries in your smoke detector. According to the NFPA, smoke detectors have reduced the number of home fire deaths by half since they were installed in homes during the 1970s. Ninety five percent of the homes have at least one smoke detector.

Unfortunately, a third of those smoke alarms won't sound due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries according to NFPA.

While changing your batteries this fall, keep these other smoke alarm tips from NFPA in mind:

- Don't paint the smoke alarm or place decoration near it, which might cause it not to work properly.
- Test smoke alarms monthly by using the alarm's "test button".
- Replace the batteries for your smoke alarms every fall or when the alarm "chirps".
- Regularly clean your smoke alarm to keep it in proper working order.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.

There are many steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances of an electrical fire. We encourage

all members to conduct a basic assessment of their electrical systems, including all electrical cords, extension cords, power plugs and outlets.

Be aware of warning signals, such as:

- Flickering lights
- Unusual buzzing sounds
- Circuit breakers that trip repeatedly
- Mild shock or tingle when touching an appliance
- Warm or hot ceiling light fixtures
- Light switches or electrical outlets not working
- Burning odor from outlets or switches

Have an electrician check the wiring in your house if you are experiencing any of these things. Also remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family. Prevent electrical fires and stay safe around electricity!



# IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Need help with your heating bill?*

The 2020-2021 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (4 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or 2019 or 2020 tax return.

Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for the help will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

## INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1.	\$22,330
2.	\$30,170
3.	\$38,010
4.	\$45,850
5.	\$53,690
6.	\$61,530
7.	\$69,370
8.	\$77,210

For families with more than eight members, add \$7,840 annually for each additional family member.

## APPLICATION

**Social Security Card or I-94 Card** – We require a copy of the original card for each household member.

**Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill** – This may be two separate bills.

**Proof of Income** – This includes total household gross income from all sources (for all household members age 19 and over). We must have complete proof of income to process your application.

- **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
- **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for 30 days preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year federal income tax return, 2019 or 2020.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return.
- **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

**Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LIHEAP:**

### Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.

Ida County - Ida County Courthouse 712-364-2175  
401 Moorehead • Ida Grove  
Thursday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Cherokee County 712-225-3322  
921 So 2nd St • Cherokee  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lyon County 712-472-3746  
302 S Lincoln • Rock Rapids  
Wednesday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Plymouth County 712-546-6603  
180 10th St SE • Le Mars  
Tues & Thurs 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sioux County 712-722-3611  
618 14th St NE • Sioux Center  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Central Office 800-859-2025  
418 S Marion St • Remsen 712-786-2001  
Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Fax: 712-786-3250

Visit us on the web at: [www.midsioux.org](http://www.midsioux.org)  
Hearing Impaired Call 711

Upper Des Moines Opportunity  
O'Brien County Outreach Center  
712-957-1023  
140 2nd St SE • Primghar  
Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Wed – open until 6:30 pm

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. What is one of the seven cooperative principles? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What program received an Operation Round-Up check? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many people did we serve at our Appreciation Day Events? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account. # \_\_\_\_\_

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 November 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*

JUNE 2020



Steven Schau - Battle Creek  
 Allan Bolkema - Sioux Center  
 Robert Book - Akron  
 Nina Negus - Sutherland  
 Brad Roepke - Kingsley

Irma Jacobsma - Hartley  
 Esther Jalas - Sutherland  
 Terry Kratz - Westfield  
 Glenda Van Meeteren - Hull  
 Bruce Spence - Sioux City



### 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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