



NEWS *Lines*

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

OCTOBER IS *Cooperative Month*

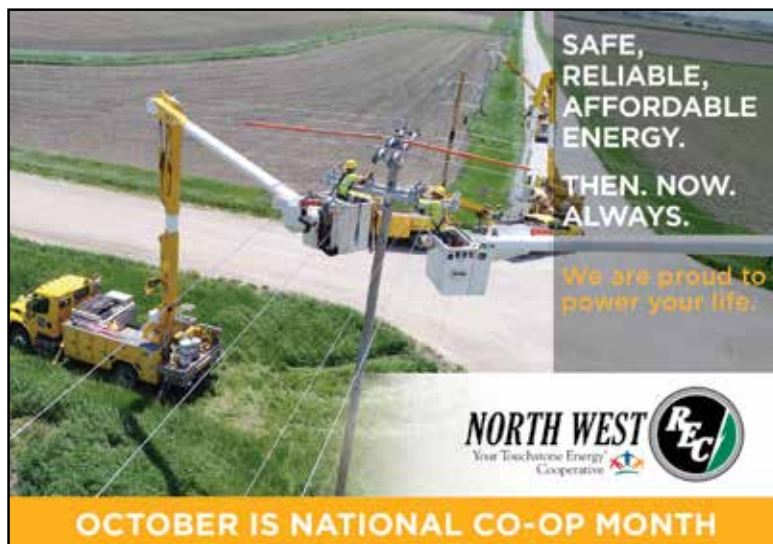
Cooperative Month celebrates the many ways people work together to create better businesses for their communities. They are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members.

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 in the annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by members. It's the "people" part – the personal involvement, the grassroots 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!



OCTOBER 2019

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IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Need help with your heating bill?

The 2019-2020 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, 2019 through April 30, 2020. 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 2018 or 2019 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.	\$21,858
2.	\$29,593
3.	\$37,328
4.	\$45,063
5.	\$52,798

For families with more than five members, add \$7,735 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, 2018 or 2019.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your 2018 or 2019 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

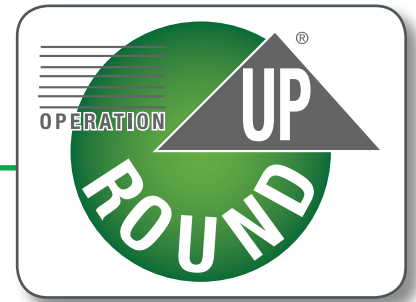
Central Office 800-859-2025
418 S Marion St • Remsen 712-786-2001
Mon -- Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Fax: 712-786-3250

Visit us on the web at: www.midsioux.org
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

OPERATION ROUND UP

20 Years of Giving



The Operation Round Up program was introduced to our membership in 1999. Twenty years later, it is providing the same benefits to individuals, organizations and communities in our service area as it did back then.

Being a member-owned electric cooperative, we have always felt a responsibility to the people we serve. The Operation Round Up program is a way for cooperative members to reach out to help others in their communities. Those generous donations given by our members have touched the lives of thousands of people in the communities served by North West REC. The average cost of a participating member is only \$5 to \$6 per year.

After the second quarter of 2019, the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up was \$459,455. The \$100,000 mark was passed after five years and disbursements went over \$200,000 in 2009.

This program has been such a blessing to so many people. We have received many "thank you" notes from the people and organizations receiving assistance from this program. Many even said they thought they would never be on the receiving end of the program, but they were so thankful for the program when an accident or serious medical condition put them in a situation where they needed help.

On behalf of all those who have received assistance from Operation Round Up, we would like to offer a great big "THANK YOU" to all our caring members who have made this program possible by their generosity. It is really heart warming to see how much good can be done by the pooling of many small contributions from the members participating in Operation Round Up. Small change truly does make a difference!

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 our office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

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*

"With this \$1,353,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 80 years to over \$26 million!"

Board Approves \$1.35 Million Patronage Retirement

I'm pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved the retirement of deferred patronage dividends again this year, and the total amount of the retirement will be \$1,353,000. This will be distributed to the members in December.

What are deferred patronage dividends?

One of the benefits our members realize from being a member-owner of North West REC (NWREC) is to share in the net income or margins of the Cooperative. Following the closing of the Cooperative's books each year, the margins are assigned to the members based on the dollar amount of electricity they have purchased during the year. These assignments are referred to as deferred patronage dividends, and they are part of NWREC's equity and are retained for a period of years to enable NWREC to finance construction projects and other operating expenditures.

How long do I need to wait to receive the patronage dividends that have been assigned to me?

These deferred patronage dividends are retained by the Cooperative for a period of years and represents equity for the organization until the point in time when they are returned to the members. This year's retirement will be for the year 2007's assignment. Our goal is to retire the patronage on a 15-years or less cycle and this keeps us on a very current 12-year cycle.

How will I receive my patronage refund?

If you were a member in 2007, you can pick up your check on the date and at the location that we have listed below. If it doesn't work for you to pick up your check, we will mail out checks that haven't been

picked up around the end of December. If your refund amount is less than \$50, your patronage refund will be made in the form of a credit on your electric bill dated December 20.

How much has the Cooperative returned to the members in patronage refunds?

With this \$1,353,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 80 years to over **\$26 million!** We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about.

Update on Member Appreciation Events

The weather cooperated, and we had a great turnout from our members for our two recent Member Appreciation events. We served a total of 975 members and guests. The first one was held on Tuesday, August 27 at Holstein and the second one was on Thursday, September 5 at Sioux Center.

We had a few goals in mind when we decided to schedule these first-time events, and we feel we accomplished all of them:

- Attract some of our younger members and families to one of our events
- Showcase our new electric vehicle
- Enhance our overall member engagement program

It was great to see a large number of young members at both of the events. The kids really seemed to enjoy the inflatables and all ages enjoyed the football and bean bag toss games, the Lineman 360 display and safety demonstrations. There was a lot of interest in our new electric vehicle.

We want to thank all the members who attended. North West REC (NWREC) is blessed to have a very loyal and supportive membership and we will continue to have these kinds of events to strengthen our member engagement opportunities. **Our next event will be our Member Patronage Days. The tentative dates are Tuesday, December 3 at Primghar and Thursday, December 12 at Le Mars. Additional information on these events will be shared in our next newsletter.**



The prize winners at these events were:

- Iowa/Iowa State football tickets: Jim Droegmiller, Cushing and Stan Oordt, Sioux Center
- Leaf Blower: Steven Schug, Ida Grove and Mark Goergen, Alton
- Mixer: Derek Leonard, Ida Grove and Tim Rus, Sioux Center
- Chairs: Marc Johnson, Battle Creek; Marc Forbes, Ida Grove; Rick Van Roekel, Alton; and Jim Gearke, Le Mars
- Bikes: Paxton Rasmus, Holstein; Elizabeth Schimmer, Galva; Laramie Bomgaars, Orange City; and Jax Dekkers, Sioux Center.

Congratulations and thanks again for attending!



NWREC Lineman to Participate in NRECA International Project in Guatemala

One of NWREC's linemen will be volunteering to assist an NRECA International Project in Guatemala from September 30 to October 18. Mike Berkenpas from Le Mars will be one of four linemen representing the Iowa REC's. There will also be four each from Illinois and Wisconsin. Mike is the leader for the Iowa group and made an earlier planning trip to Guatemala in June.

The village of Salinas 7 Cerros in north central Guatemala is where the work will be done. The project will provide power for the first time to 42 households, a school and a health post. We will provide a report and pictures from the project in our next newsletter. When he returned from his June trip, Mike reported that the people in the village were very friendly and said, "They live with so little, yet want to help with what you are giving to them." Thank you Mike for your willingness to volunteer to help with this project. We look forward to hearing more about the project when you return.



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.

Employees Recognized for Service

Five employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative at our August safety meeting.



Employees recognized: (left to right) Gaylen Schneider, Deb Herzberg, Tim Honkomp and Julee Kovarna. Not pictured: Lee Galles.

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Deb Herzberg – Accountant, Le Mars

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tim Honkomp - Lead Lineman, Primghar
Gaylen Schneider - Member Energy/Meter Advisor, Orange City

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Julee Kovarna – Billing Coordinator, Orange City

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lee Galles – Member Energy Advisor, Le Mars

Congratulations to all on their years of service!

FALL INTO A *New Habit*

With daylight savings time coming this fall (November 3), 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.
- Your smoke alarms should be replaced once 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!



Fun at the State Fair!

At our district meetings held last March, the grand prize at each meeting was an Iowa State Fair vacation package. Three of the four winners were able to attend the fair and sent us pictures while visiting the Iowa REC's booth. We hope they enjoyed all the activities associated with the state fair.



David & Cathy
Henningsen
of Ida Grove



Brad & Chris Harvey
of Akron



Harlyn & Linda Bolkema
of Boyden

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!

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. The dates for the Member Patronage Days this fall are _____ at Primghar and _____ at Le Mars.
2. Name one of the seven cooperative principles: _____
3. Name a safety tip to remember during harvest: _____

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 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.

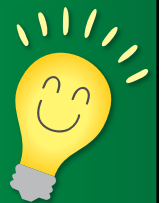
POWER QUIZ *Winners*

AUGUST 2019



Mary Chisholm – Kiron
 Susan Streck – Ida Grove
 Jim Lange – Paullina
 Patrick Scanlan – Kiron
 Donna Huls – Merrill

Jerry Buteyn – Sanborn
 Karol Holton – Le Mars
 Bruce Rohwer – Paullina
 Dannette Burrington – Maurice
 Gerald Tripp - Schaller



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

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