



# NEWS *Lines*

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

**JANUARY 2025**

IN THIS *Issue*

---

Scholarship Application  
2

---

Committee on Nominations Selected  
3

---

Managers Report  
4-5

---

2025 Energy Efficiency Rebates  
6-7

---

Youth Tour Contest  
7

---

Power Quiz  
8

---

Switch Smart?  
8



## Scholarships Available



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2025. Last year we awarded \$27,000 in scholarships to 62 students!

**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.

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. All applicants will receive at least a \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire 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 in our service territory for the 2024-2025 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 Friday, February 14, 2025.

**You can apply online by visiting our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail the scholarship committee at [scholarship@nwrec.coop](mailto:scholarship@nwrec.coop) and they will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call us at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 14, 2025!**

Happy New Year from North West REC!

We hope you had a healthy and successful 2024. As we enter 2025, we wish you continued health, success, and prosperity.

Thank you for your loyalty and support, which makes our work possible. We're committed to providing you with reliable, affordable electric service in the year ahead.

Here's to a bright 2025!





North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
**2025 Scholarship Application**



Scholarship applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a dependent of a current North West REC member, a **senior** in high school in our service area for the 2024-2025 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/guardians must be active members of North West REC or have a current electric account with North West REC. In order to verify, please provide account number from a North West REC electric bill (you may need to get this from your parents/guardians 😊): \_\_\_\_\_

***Please put the name and address of the high school which you will graduate from 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, if available.
4. Please make a list of all your high school honors, school activities, community involvement, and employment history. Then compose a short essay on 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: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 435  
Orange City, IA 51041

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire will be communicated at a later date.

**DEADLINE: Friday, February 14, 2025**

# Committee on Nominations are Selected

The Board of Directors has selected the Committee on Nominations, and they will be meeting in January to select nominees for election to the Board of Directors of North West REC. There will be a director election in Districts 1, 3, and 4 this year. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

Contact one of the nominating committee members in your district if you have any interest in running for the Board of Directors or you know of any member that would be interested. For your information, please review the director qualifications listed below.

## Your Current Board of Directors

### District 1

Steve Abma, Rock Valley\*  
Dave Bosma, Hospers  
Jeff Rehder, Hawarden

### District 3

Doug Becker, Hinton\*  
Shirley Schroeder, Le Mars  
Steve Brown, Merrill  
Scott Feuerhelm, Merrill

### District 2

Daniel Van Beek, Paullina  
Tom Wagner, Primghar

### District 4

Dan Hoffman, Ida Grove  
Dale Ullrich, Arthur\*

\*Director whose term is up for re-election in 2025.



Left to Right: Shirley Schroeder, Steve Brown, Doug Becker, Jeff Rehder, Scott Feuerhelm, Steve Abma, Dale Ullrich, Daniel Van Beek, Dave Bosma, Dan Hoffman, Tom Wagner.

## Committee on Nominations

Contact a committee member in your district if interested in running for the Board of Directors!

### District 1 Sioux County

**Nick Van Oort**  
120 Pleasant View Dr  
Ireton, IA 51027  
712-441-6991

**Ken Van Donslear**  
4350 400th st  
Hospers, IA 51238  
712-470-2548

**Gail Van Berkum**  
2699 Fir Ave  
Doon, IA 51235  
712-470-2548

### District 3 Plymouth County

**Greg Roepke**  
38724 C70  
Kingsley, IA 51028  
712-540-5971

**Jason Marienau**  
14634 K42  
Le Mars, IA 51031  
712-548-8333

### District 4 Ida County

**Virdene Otto**  
5929 120th st  
Galva, IA 51020  
712-282-4247

**Ron Rice**  
1856 Hwy 59  
Holstein, IA 51025  
641-485-3368

**Adam Schmidt**  
17743 Jade Ave  
Le Mars, IA 51031  
712-540-2588

**Dick Homan**  
19552 L22  
Remsen, IA 51050  
712-540-0050

## Director Qualifications:

The Cooperative's by-laws establish that a director must be a member, individually, and a bona-fide resident of the district from which they are elected to represent.

**To do a competent job, a director is expected to:**

- Attend all regular monthly board meetings. The Board holds daytime meetings usually scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. Meetings last approximately six hours.
- Attend the annual meeting of the Cooperative.
- Attend meetings of related organizations such as Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Federated Insurance, and others, when necessary.
- Read and be familiar with information, data and reports received from cooperative management, national, state and other local associations.
- Establish and maintain contact with members of the Cooperative in his or her locale.
- Work in harmony with the other members of the Board and employees for the good of all members of the Cooperative.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, or of committees to which assigned by the president.



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

## Operation Round Up Disbursements Surpass \$750,000 Since the Program Was Started



In 1999 we started our Operation Round-Up Trust program for the purpose of providing assistance to charitable organizations and families in need. With the donations that were approved at the November board meeting, we have now surpassed \$750,000 in total disbursements over the last 25 years.

This program is made possible by the generosity and compassion of our participating members, who agree to round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar. The rounded-up cents are placed in the Operation Round Up Trust account that is overseen by the North West REC Board of Directors.

During this time of year, it's good to reflect on the many blessings that we all enjoy and also on the challenges and hardships that many individuals and families have faced in recent months. We want to thank all of our members who have generously supported this important program over the years', and we encourage other members to consider signing up to participate. For an average of only 50 cents per month - \$6.00 per year, you can see the significant impact it can have and the good it can do for many organizations and families throughout northwest Iowa.

## North West REC Mobile App

One of our strategic goals is to continue to enhance our member engagement opportunities with our members. At our February Strategic Planning meeting, we decided that one tool that could help with this is for North West REC (NWREC) to have a Mobile App that our members could use on their smart phones and tablets. Our staff did a great job in developing an app and I'm pleased to share that it is now available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

We are hoping that this will be your "go-to" solution for managing all your cooperative needs, right from your mobile device. With the NWREC app, you can do almost everything you would be able to do or access on our website, and more! For example, you can submit rebate requests with just a few taps, log in directly to your SmartHub account to manage your energy usage and payments, and get in touch with us by text, email or phone.

You can also read our monthly newsletter, see social media posts and find other helpful information about your cooperative. Whether you're at home, at work, or on the go, the NWREC Mobile app ensures you're always just a tap away from everything you need.

If you haven't already downloaded the app, please do that today in order to take full advantage of this new member engagement tool.



scan for Apple



scan for Android



# Switch Makes Cents Update

We continue to make good progress with our Switch Makes Cents and metering system upgrade and wanted to share an update with our members. In 2020, the Board of Directors approved a plan to replace our load management system and our metering system with a new radio frequency (RF) system that would be able to have both systems operating on the same network.

Following COVID, there were some long delays in getting delivery of the load management switches and meters. Our Member Service Department employees got started with the changeouts in 2022 and as of the end of this year, we will have most of the meters changed out to the new RF meters and approximately 50% of the load management switches. We appreciate the hard work of our employees who have been involved with this big project. We have approximately 15,000 meters and 7,000 load management switches on our system, so this is a very big undertaking to get them all changed out.

Our load management system enables us to interrupt load during peak times and results in over \$1.5 million in annual power cost savings for NWREC and our members. Having accurate meters that are programmable, and which can provide not only real time kilowatt-hour usage information but also KW demand readings is important for our billing, member service, and operations departments.

We want to thank our members for their cooperation and understanding as we complete this important project. A majority of the load management switches are installed in members basements so it takes communication and coordination to get things scheduled.

On behalf of the directors and employees of NWREC, I want to wish all of our members a healthy and successful 2025. Happy New Year!



YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
June 25-27	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 9-11	1st	2nd	3rd	

I/we  have  have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person \_\_\_\_\_

Second Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25, 2025.*

## Energy Trail Tour 2025

North West Rural Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by North West Electric Cooperative.

Twelve lucky couples from North West REC will be selected at random from those who sign up.

# 2025 Energy Efficiency Rebates

All changes to our energy efficiency rebates are effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. We want to make sure all our members are aware of the current rebates. See the full list of rebates we offer below.

Rebate forms for Building Insulation and Electric Vehicle Chargers are available at our offices and can also be found on our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) under the member services tab.

No form is needed for the other rebates, simply submit a copy of the invoice for the rebated equipment to North West REC, and a representative from North West REC will call you to set up a time to inspect the installation prior to the rebate being paid to verify that it has been installed and is operating.

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM		
	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>RESIDENTIAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$50,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON
	\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM		
	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>RESIDENTIAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC</li> <li>- IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS</li> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC</li> <li>- IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS</li> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$50,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEATING/COOLING & P-TAC UNIT - NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>RESIDENTIAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC</li> <li>- IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS</li> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 15% OF COST UP TO \$5,000</li> <li>- REBATE LIMITED TO TWO UNITS PER SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING OR OUTBUILDING</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC</li> <li>- IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS</li> <li>- MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 15% OF COST UP TO \$10,000</li> <li>- LIMIT OF ONE REBATE FOR EACH LEASABLE HOTEL ROOM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON

**MARATHON WATER HEATERS** - SOLD ONLY TO MEMBERS AND INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM. MUST HAVE LOAD MANAGEMENT SWITCH INSTALLED TO RECEIVE REBATED PRICE. SWITCH AND WH MUST BE INSTALLED WITHIN 90 DAYS. REBATE IS FOR THE MAIN WATER HEATER ONLY, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE STORAGE TANKS FOR GEOTHERMAL. SOLD AT REBATED PRICES.

	COST	REBATE	MEMBER PRICE PLUS TAX
50 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,275	\$300 REBATE	= \$975
85 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,750	\$400 REBATE	= \$1,350
100 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,950	\$500 REBATE	= \$1,450
105 HD GALLON MARATHON	\$1,950	\$500 REBATE	= \$1,450
HOG BUILDINGS - 50 GALLON ONLY	\$1,275	FULL PRICE - NO REBATE	= \$1,275
NEW HOME WITH ALL ELECTRIC HEAT (PRIMARY HEAT & ELECTRIC BACKUP)		\$1000 REBATE ON AN 85 OR 100 GALLON WATER HEATER	

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR CURRENT PRICES



Switch Makes Cents is a load management program that our cooperative has offered to members since 1985. In fact, our co-op served as an early pioneer of this technology. It is energy efficient and curbs electric demand during peak times to prevent the need to build additional generating facilities or incur higher wholesale power costs. The Switch Makes Cents load management program reduces our system peak by as much as 20 megawatts (MW) in the summer and 12 MW in the winter...the equivalent of powering approximately 3,200 homes! This is done by reducing total demand during times of peak-use, generally between 6-10AM and 3-9PM, when people are commonly at home running washers, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners, heaters and so on.

## BUILDING INSULATION

- BUILDING MUST BE ALL ELECTRIC AS THE PRIMARY HEATING SOURCE WITH ELECTRIC BACKUP
- MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY INSTALLED FOR BLOWN-IN, AREOSHEILD, SPRAY FOAM, INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS, RIGID STYROFOAM PANELS AND/OR STRUCTURAL PANEL TYPE INSULATION
- RESIDENTIAL (HOUSE) – REBATE LIMITED TO 20% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$800 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG BUILDINGS – REBATE LIMITED TO 10% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$2,000 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS - FOR NEW LEVEL 2 CHARGERS ONLY

- RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL UP TO \$1000 TOWARD COST OF CHARGER AND INSTALLATION, REBATE CANNOT EXCEED INVOICE AMOUNT. (HYBRID VEHICLE CHARGERS \$750 MAX).
  - LEVEL 2 CHARGE 208-240 VOLT
  - MUST BE HARD WIRED AND INSTALLATION MUST MEET LOCAL CODE
  - MEMBER REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CHARGER MAKE, MODEL, S/N, SPECIFICATIONS
  - CANNOT BACK-FEED INTO THE SYSTEM
  - SUB METER AND LOAD CONTROL SWITCH ARE REQUIRED FOR REBATE
  - LIMIT OF 1 REBATE PER ELECTRIC VEHICLE

# Apply Now for the 2025 Youth Tour Trip to D.C.

**North West REC will send two high school juniors on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 15-21, 2025!**

At North West REC, one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school junior students with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

Two students will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2025 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21, with orientation June 15th in Des Moines, along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

**We are accepting Youth Tour applications now through February 14, 2025. Dependents of North West REC member-consumers are eligible to apply. The student must currently be a junior in high school. You can download our youth tour application at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop). You can also call 800-766-2099, email [nwrec@nwrec.coop](mailto:nwrec@nwrec.coop), or stop by our office and we can get you a copy. Contact our office for more info.**

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. **Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2025 by Friday, February 14, 2025!**



**Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21!**

High school students interested in public service and government are encouraged to apply! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



# THE POWER QUIZ

## NORTH WEST REC

1. If your home is all electric, how much is the rebate available for insulation?
2. What are the dates of the 2025 Iowa Youth Tour?
3. Name a director who is up for re-election this year:

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 4. 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*

Darin Green - Boyden  
 Marilyn Straub - Hospers  
 Brenda Hooyer - Sioux Center  
 Kyle Puhmann - Paullina  
 Jim Jonker - Orange City

### NOVEMBER 2024

Harlan Lammers - Orange City  
 Roger Petersen - Merrill  
 Bill Madsen - Galva  
 Cori Van Dyken - Sioux Center  
 Nathan Tentinger - Le Mars



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What is Switch Makes Cents?

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 February 4. Each month, one name will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$25 bill credit.

## 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 open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.  
 Ida Grove office

open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

PHONE:  
 (800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or [nwrec.smarthub.coop](http://nwrec.smarthub.coop) Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online anytime using SmartHub



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



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