



NEWS *Lines*

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

ELECTRIC CO-OPS ADVOCATE FOR RURAL IOWA DURING *REC Day on the Hill*



Pictured with Rep. Randy Feenstra are (l-r): Rob Driesen, Shirley Benson, Rep. Feenstra, James Vondrak and Youth Tour Alumni, Jacob Holck.

More than 200 employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives (RECs), traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol.

This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development.

Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three priorities important to Iowa's electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management
- Supporting cost-effective energy efficiency programs for homes and farms
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all member-owners and utilization of advanced technology

Many electric cooperatives also displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including energy efficiency programs, rural broadband efforts, investments in technology and rural economic development.

MAY 2019

IN THIS *Issue*

North West REC
Honored with Award
2

Operation
Round Up
3

Manager's Report
4-5

Prairie Winds
Program Update
6

Revolving
Loan Fund
6

Statement of
Non-Discrimination
7

RECare - Consumer
Contribution Fund
7

Power Quiz
8

NORTH WEST REC HONORED WITH *Economic Development Impact Award*

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities commitment goes far beyond ensuring safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy. They actively create strategic partnerships and provide technical and financial assistance to support growth and community vitality. Annually, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) presents Impact Awards to utility partners who are involved in significant economic development initiatives the prior year.

At Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative's annual meeting in Sioux City, North West REC was recognized for their extraordinary economic development accomplishments and commitment to the community.

North West REC was presented with an IADG Impact Award for project development. Recent examples of project support took place in Rock Valley. The first is the new \$5.5 million GrandStay Hotel which will soon open in the Rock Ridge Business Park. North West REC supported a hotel feasibility study, rebates and an electric car charging station. The second project is the new River View Ridge Senior Living complex. North West REC provided a loan from their Revolving Loan Fund, as well as rebates for a geothermal system and lighting. North West REC also provides electric power to these facilities.

"We commend North West REC for their strong leadership and support of business and community development," said IADG President, Rand Fisher. "They provide important technical and financial assistance that many times is a key component in successfully securing projects that create jobs and support community vitality."

The Iowa Area Development Group is the marketing and business development office for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives, select municipal electric utilities and independent telecommunication companies. IADG has assisted with over 2,100 successful business expansions and start-up projects. This growth represents capital investment of more than \$12 billion and 53,000 jobs for Iowa. The Iowa Area Development Group was established in 1985 to promote and strengthen rural Iowa development opportunities. Stay connected with IADG news at www.facebook.com/IADG.IA and www.twitter.com/IADGIOWA.



Accepting the award from Rand Fisher (left), President of IADG, are Rob Driesen, Member Services Director; Lyle Korver, NWREC General Manager; and Jeff Rehder, NWREC Board President.



It Pays To Read

We want to congratulate Mark Skarhus of rural Sioux City for winning four Wi-Fi enabled smart plugs in the "Editor's Choice Contest" from the Living with Energy in Iowa.

For your chance to win, go to www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and complete the entry form each month.

OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the first quarter of 2019 totaled \$10,400. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$449,555. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$4,100 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries
- \$2,300 American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Siouxland, Family Crisis Center – program support
- \$1,100 Zestos Inc, Then Feed Just One, and Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County – program support for the needy
- \$1,400 Camp Autumn, Valero Benefit for Children, S.T.A.R.S., Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Great Iowa, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland – support programs for children, children with disabilities, or disadvantaged children
- \$1,000 County 4-H Foundations
- \$ 500 Community Development Projects – community support for events/projects

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 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.

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 # _____



MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN

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.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

"We served 2,135 members and guests at the four meetings, and this was the highest attendance in the last 10 years."

REPORT ON ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

We always look forward to the month of March when we hold our four annual district meetings throughout our service area. These are great member engagement opportunities, and we were really pleased to have an excellent turnout. We served 2,135 members and guests at the four meetings, and this was the highest attendance in the last 10 years.

Here are a few highlights from the meetings:

- Del Beyer was thanked for his 16 years of service as a District 1 director. Dave Bosma was elected to a four-year term to replace Del.
- Chad Dau was re-elected in District 2 and Shirley Benson was re-elected to the board in District 3.
- Board President Jeff Rehder and myself reviewed some of the highlights of 2018 using the theme "80 years of progress together".
- Information was shared and a straw poll was taken regarding the director term limit issue. The Board will use this information to further study this issue and potentially recommend some changes to the Articles of Incorporation at next year's annual meeting.
- We had a scholarship drawing at all four districts for the first time. Twenty high school seniors were selected and will receive scholarships towards their college education. We had great participation and congratulate all of the winners and wish them continued success as they begin their college careers in the fall. The winners were:
 - District 1: Emma Zwart, Ivan De Vries, Breanna Oolman, Zachery Oolman and Justin Schmit
 - District 2: Jason Konz, Colton Meyer, Jacob Van Dyke, Hannah Van Meeteren and Allyson Wieringa
 - District 3: Katelyn Langel, Max Lindgren, Olivia Schroeder, Adam Schuch and Abby Van Otterloo
 - District 4: Kara Richard, Bailey Cobb, Sarah Cotton, Madeline Else, Dylan Hemer and Austin Degen (not pictured)



District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4



- Entertainment was provided by The Brown's in Districts 1 and 2 and by former Hawkeye Quarterback, Chuck Long, in Districts 3 and 4.

We want to thank all of the members who took the time from their busy schedules to attend one of the meetings. As we shared at the meeting, it takes all of us working together – the members, directors and employees – to be successful and to continue to grow and progress. Thank you for your loyalty and support!

BOARD ROOM SUMMARY

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

- During the reorganization portion of the meeting, the following were elected as officers:
 - o Jeff Rehder, President
 - o Doug Becker, Vice President
 - o Shirley Benson, Secretary
 - o Tom Wagner, Treasurer
 - o Steve Brown, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
 - o Lyle Korver, Chief Executive Officer
- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff.
- Received and accepted the annual CPA audit report as presented by Derrick Larson from Eide Bailly.
- Heard a report about the recent challenges we faced with the flooding conditions. There were 19 broken poles and other damages that caused outages.
- kWh sales were at a record level for the month of February and also for the first two months of the year. Sales are up 2.5% for the year-to-date.
- The patronage assignment of 2018 margins were approved for a record \$5,850,000.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are nearing completion or are underway.
- Approved membership applications for 18 new members.
- The board approved the acceptance of low bids for a new truck that was included in the capital outlay budget.
- A report was shared on the status of the load management trial project that will be starting in April.
- A ten-year contract for service was approved for the new Sioux County Nature Center project.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Heard a report from Director Rehder on the recent NRECA and CFC Annual Meetings.
- An update was shared on the REC Day on the Hill that was held at the State Capitol in March.
- Approved recommendations from the Operations Round Up Committee on \$4,800 in contributions to charities or families who have experienced medical or emergency hardships.

North West REC and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, 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. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to 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 REC. Twelve lucky couples from NWREC will be selected at random from those who sign up.

A Powerful Experience!

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:

July 10-12	1st	2nd	(please circle)
July 24-26	1st	2nd	

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

First Person _____
 Second Person _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Phone _____

Clip coupon and return to REC office by May 24, 2019

Prairie Winds PROGRAM UPDATE




Members of North West REC can support renewable energy through the Prairie Winds program. This program allows individual members to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities.

Persons who choose to participate in Prairie Winds will pay 20 cents per 100 kilowatt-hour block per month. This is reduced from 50 cents in 2010.

Through this program, members will not be directly purchasing alternate energy, but the extra fee does go to support several wind turbines in the Dakotas, which feed wind-generated electricity into the transmission system that powers North West REC.

If you would like to support the renewable wind energy program, fill out the accompanying form and return it to your cooperative office.

	<p align="center">WIND POWER AGREEMENT</p> <p align="center">Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt-hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Remember, each block is an additional \$.20 investment in not only the environment, but in the future of renewable energy.</p>	
Name _____	Number of blocks at \$.20 per month _____	
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Email (optional) _____		
Signature _____	Date _____	
<p align="center"><i>I understand my commitment is for one year and will continue on an annual basis until I notify you in writing to end my participation in the Prairie Winds program.</i></p>		

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

North West REC created the Community/Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long term improvement in the local economy.

The RLF is a local funding source with a goal of providing low interest loans to assist local economic and community development projects. Our priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the local economy, improving the skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and/or medical care of rural residents. This fund is administered by the North West REC Board of Directors.

Eligible applicants include organizations involved in community or economic development projects such as: new or expanding private business, local governments and nonprofit community development organizations.

For more information on eligible and ineligible uses of funds, loan terms, interest rates and other loan requirements, contact the REC office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program

information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

North West REC is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

RECARE - CONSUMER CONTRIBUTION FUND

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added into your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!



You care, we care, RECare.

Please return form along with your monthly bill.

CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare.

I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

My gift is a matching fund gift.
The matching fund is _____
(an active matching fund must be designated).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____

THE POWER QUIZ


NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. Who was elected to the board of directors in District 1? _____
2. The patronage assignment of 2018 margins were approved for a record _____.
3. Name an organization who received an Operation Round Up donation: _____.

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 June 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.

Winners



FEBRUARY

Leisha Kragel – Schleswig
 Matthew Hansen – Alton
 Robert Van Veldhuizen – Rock Valley
 Dudley McDowell – Sheldon
 Brent Koops – Orange City
 Irma Jacobsma – Hartley
 Mikayla Westhoff – Le Mars
 Lyle Koehlmoos – Granville
 Pat Pridie – Hinton
 Steve Schau – Battle Creek

MARCH

Vicki Mullen – Sioux City
 Cindy Hansen – Alton
 Doug Lacey – Sioux City
 Barry Carlson – Aurelia
 Brothers LLC – Sioux Center
 Dan Varenhorst – Le Mars
 Harold Van Ginkel – Rock Valley
 Duane Bajema – Sioux Center
 Barb Walter – Alton
 John Evans - Remsen

Winners



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