



NEWS *Lines*

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

JULY 2022

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\$2,044,000 Patronage Retirement Approved

I'm pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved a significant deferred patronage dividends retirement to the members again this year. The total amount of the retirement will be \$2,044,000, which is just slightly less than the record amount that was returned to the members last year of \$2,050,000. These patronage retirement funds will be distributed to the members at the fall Member Appreciation Day events.

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 represent equity for the organization until the point in time when they are returned to the members. We are currently using a combination First In, First Out (FIFO) and Last In, First Out (LIFO) method. This gives an opportunity for both our long time and our newer members to see the benefits of being a member of the Cooperative.

What year of business will this year's retirement be based on?

This year's retirement will cover the remaining assignment of the year 2009, a portion of 2010 and a portion of 2021.

How will I receive my patronage refund?

We will be handing out patronage checks at our four Member Appreciation/Patronage Day events in August and September. (The dates are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.) If you aren't able to attend one of these events, your check will be mailed out later in September. 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 September 20.

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

With this \$2,044,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 83 years to over **\$31 million!** We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about



Managers Report Continues on page 4

Energy Trail Tour Winners Announced

The response was great again this year from our members who want to join the fun on the Energy Trail Tour sponsored by North West REC and NIPCO. We want to thank everyone for their interest and for sending in their coupon. The following names were drawn for the two trips:

- Wilmer & Diane Wynia - Ireton
- Nate & Rhoda Van Ravenswaay - Rock Valley
- Ray & Randi Anstine - Kingsley
- Kim & Paula Wiltman - Le Mars
- John & Dean Lohberger - Paullina
- Jay & Juanita Anliker - Primghar
- Ken & Sherri Van Donslear - Hospers
- Garret & Betty Visser - Sioux Center
- Richard & Ashley Ruba - Remsen
- Roger & Dani Oetken - Akron
- Jim & Cathy McDonough - Schaller
- Dennis & Deanna Roeder - Ida Grove

What's it all about?



Tour the **Oahe Dam and Powerhouse** in Pierre, SD. One of the world's largest earth-rolled dams, Oahe Dam and Lake provides more than \$371 million in annual benefits to the American people. Other authorized benefits include flood control, power generation, recreation, navigation support and fish & wildlife enhancement. Seven turbine generators at the Oahe Powerhouse generate a maximum capacity of 118.2 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to power the annual electric needs of 259,000 homes.



Learn about the **Great Plains Synfuels Dakota Gasification Company Plant**, the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the country that manufactures natural gas using the Lurgi gasification technology. Located NW of Beulah, ND, it is capable of producing 13 products, including: synthetic natural gas (SNG), ammonium sulfate, anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, acrylic acid, krypton and xenon gases, liquid nitrogen, naphtha, phenol, tar oil, and urea.



Tour the **Dakota Coal Company Freedom Mine**, which delivers approximately 16 million tons of lignite coal per year, making it the largest mine in the US in deliveries. The mine reclaims about 600 acres of land annually. Here you'll learn how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is reclaimed according to strict high environmental preservation standards. A guided drive-through tour will bring you into active mining areas where you can see giant earth moving equipment in action.



Tour the **Antelope Valley Station**, the newest coal-based power plant in North Dakota. Its two units, each rated at 450 megawatts, are designed to be environmentally sound. Basin Electric consistently invests in environmental control technologies for all of its facilities. At the Antelope Valley Station, you'll learn how electricity is made. The tour includes an overview in the model room, guided walking tour of the power plant with stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler and observation deck on the 17th floor!

The tour will include stops at coal mines, power plants and hydro-electric dams producing the electricity used by us daily. Congratulations! We hope you enjoy your trip! Watch the newsletter early next spring for the next chance to participate.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

at the **COUNTY**

Fairs

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Sioux County July 11-14</p> <p>O'Brien County July 23-28</p> | <p>Plymouth County July 27-31</p> <p>Ida County July 20-25</p> |
|---|--|

Save the Date!

2022 Member Appreciation Days

★ 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.★
Meal, Inflatables, Prize Drawings, and More!

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| O'Brien County August 23 | Ida County August 30 | Sioux County September 1 | Plymouth County September 8 |
| O'Brien County Fairgrounds 555 3rd St. Primghar | Ida County Fairgrounds 2332 Hwy 59 Ida Grove | Terrace View Event Center 230 St. Andrews Way Sioux Center | Plymouth County Fairgrounds 500 4th Ave NE Le Mars |

2021 Patronage Dividend Assignment

Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member of North West REC. Your cooperative had an excellent year of financial operations in 2021, and as a result, the board of directors assigned \$3,200,000.00 in patronage dividends to the member-owners. North West REC members who received electric service during the year 2021 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2021.

Shown here is an example of the patronage dividend allocation notice as printed on your electric bill that you received in June. The patronage has no cash value and cannot be used in payment of electric bills.

Patronage dividends are retained by the cooperative until the board of directors approves them to be paid. Upon approval, a certain percentage of past allocations are retired to the members.

If a member becomes deceased, patronage dividends can be refunded. The member's estate then needs to fill out the required paper work to have the past patronage dividends refunded.

If you have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed of your new address. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to your correct address.

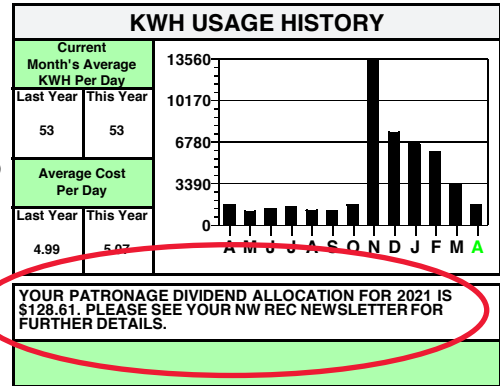
NORTH WEST REC
Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

PO Box 435 1505 Albany PI SE
Orange City, IA 51041
www.nwrec.coop

Phone: (800) 766-2099 or 712-707-4935
Office Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday
Le Mars 2496 Lincoln Ave SW 712-546-4149 (Closed 12:00 -12:30pm)
Ida Grove 5975 Hwy 175 East 712-364-3341 (Open Wednesdays 9am - 2pm)

Before reporting an outage, check your fuses, breakers, and equipment first.
To report an outage, please call the (800) number listed above.

NORTH WEST REC MEMBER



A late payment charge of 1.5% per month on the unpaid balance will be charged if payment is not received in our office by due date.

| Account Number | Map Location | Service From | Service To | Due Date | Amount Due |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 123456 | 84-01-01-1234 | 05/01/2022 | 05/31/2022 | 07/10/2022 | 204.00 |

| Meter Number | Rate Description | Present Reading | Previous Reading | Difference | Multiplier | Kwh Used | Kwh Charge |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| 3000001 | 1 - RESIDENTIAL SINGLE P | 10124 | 10061 | 63 | 40 | 860 | 113.76 |
| 3500001 | 338 - 338 SUB INT HP WH AC | 9261 | 9178 | 83 | 20 | 1660 | 83.84 |

| OTHER CHARGES | | AMOUNT | BILLING INFORMATION | | AMOUNT |
|---------------------|--|---------|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| Previous Bill | | 200.00 | Current Electric Charge | | 197.60 |
| Balance Forward | | -200.00 | Power Cost Adjustment .0016000 | | 4.03 |
| Balance Forward | | 0.00 | Local Option Tax | | 2.01 |
| Operation Roundup | | 0.36 | Total Current Billing | | 203.64 |
| Total Other Charges | | 0.36 | Net Amount Due | | 204.00 |
| | | | Gross Amount Due After 07/10/22 | | 204.00 |

PLEASE DETACH BOTTOM PORTION AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Account Number | 123456 |
| Name: | NORTH WEST REC MEMBER |
| Amount Due on 07/10/2022: | 204.00 |
| Amount Paid: | |

Amount After Due Date: 204.00

NORTH WEST REC
PO BOX 435
ORANGE CITY, IA 51041-0435

Primary phone number: 712-123-4567.
If not correct, please update. _____
Thank you.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Reliability is Paramount to Our Cooperative

In early May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining their 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment. In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and their challenges related to electric generation and transmission this summer. This month, I wanted to take this space to discuss what it all means and how North West REC (NWREC) is working with its industry partners to address these issues.

NERC's Summer Reliability Assessment

NERC placed Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in a "high risk" category for electric generation/capacity shortfalls this summer. The following RTOs were identified as "elevated risks": Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the Western Interconnection, and ERCOT (Texas). (We are in the SPP RTO)

NERC outlined the following factors leading to these risk levels:

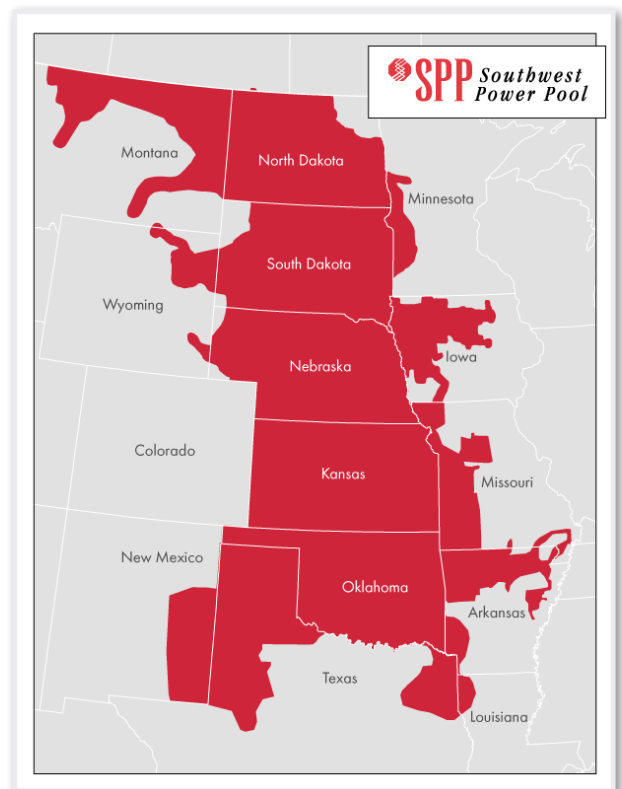
- Storm damage to a key SPP transmission line.
- Above-average temperatures and drought contributing to high demand and lower than average output from hydro generators.
- Supply chain challenges leading to difficulty securing fuels and other key resources.
- Cyber security threats.

What does this mean for NWREC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. NWREC believes and advocates for an "all-of-the-above" energy approach. "All-of-the-above" promotes the idea that the U.S. depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation that includes biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and coal.

In May, SPP (NWREC's RTO) reported that they project enough generation to meet summer peak demand. However, that doesn't eliminate the risk of an isolated energy emergency alert (EEA) that could be prompted by a weather event, as we encountered in February 2021. Winter Storm Uri produced prolonged arctic cold that negatively impacted generation resources in the SPP footprint. SPP mandated WAPA, NIPCO's Transmission Operator, to curtail load in our service territory.

It's important to remember that the electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions of miles of line. A power plant outage or natural disaster could have an impact on SPP's projections. **NWREC, NIPCO, and NIPCO's primary power provider Basin Electric Power Cooperative are well-positioned to meet this summer's peak demand. As we have always done, we will communicate potential issues with you as they arise.**



What is NWREC doing?

We continue to work with policy makers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible “all-of-the-above” generation approach.

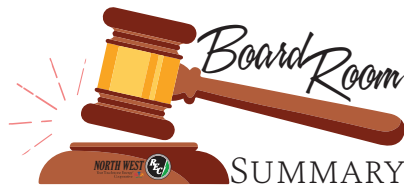
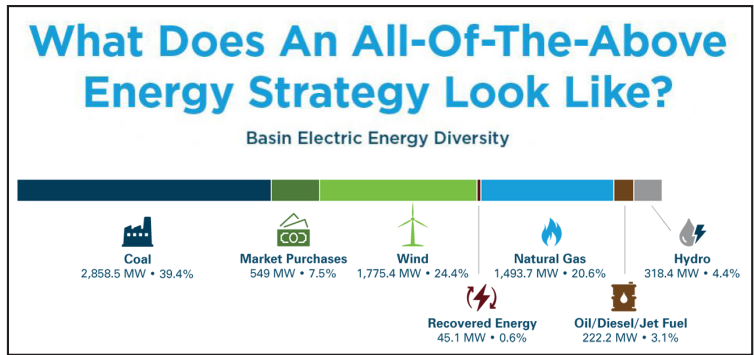
The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time and technology development, while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that keeps the lights on is not only paramount to what we do but serves as the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an “all-of-the-above” strategy that includes renewable energy as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting those expectations day in and day out.

We are keenly aware that the sun doesn’t always shine, and the wind doesn’t always blow. While we support and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn’t enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That’s why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

After the February 2021 event, we worked with our power provider and regional transmission organization to refine communication processes and emergency operations procedures. We are better equipped to respond and communicate potential EEA events impacting our service area, should they arise in the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission.



The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the board meeting that was held on June 3, 2022:

- Derald Philips gave the monthly safety report. It has been a good start to the year regarding safety.
- Doug Alons, Derrick Haak, and Sheila Van Beek gave an update on our construction and maintenance projects that the crews have been working on. They also reported on the storm damage and outages we experienced in May.
- Manager Korver provided an update on operations, kWh sales, staffing, service reliability, the Youth Tour Winners for the trip to Washington, D.C. and plans for the Energy Trail Tours.
- Plans and dates for the Member Appreciation Day events were reviewed. Tentative dates are:
Aug. 23 – O’Brien County Fairgrounds;
Aug. 30 – Ida County Fairgrounds;
Sept. 1 – Terrace View Events Center;
Sept. 8 – Plymouth County Fairgrounds.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.
- Received monthly safety and financial reports from staff. Curt Ahrenholz reported that the first four months have been very good for NWREC from a financial standpoint.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- The Board approved delegates and alternates for some upcoming meetings of our associated organizations.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.

2022 REBATES



Geothermal Heat Pump

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Residential & C&I/Ag | \$1,400 per ton (new installs) \$750 per ton (replacement) |
|----------------------|---|

Air Source Heat Pump

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Residential & C&I/Ag | \$700 per ton (all electric heat) \$500 per ton (not all electric) |
|----------------------|---|

Ductless Mini Split Heating/Cooling & P-Tac Unit

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Residential all electric | \$1,000 per unit (new installs) \$500 per unit (replacement) |
| Residential not all electric | \$600 per unit (new installs) \$300 per unit (replacement) |
| C&I/Ag all electric | \$800 per ton (new installs) \$400 per ton(replacement) |
| C&I/Ag not all electric | \$400 per ton (new installs) \$200 per ton (replacement) |

Central Air Conditioner

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Residential & C&I/Ag | \$100 per unit (new install only) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|

Marathon Water Heaters - rebate applied your cost:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 50 gallon | \$300 | |
| 85 gallon | \$700 | (Call the office |
| 100 gallon | \$700 | for current prices.) |
| 105 HD gallon | \$700 | |
| Hog Building (50 gallon only) | Full Price | |
| New Home with all electric heat | —\$1000 off an 85 gal. | |

Energy Star Certified New Electric Appliances

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Clothes Washer | \$50 per unit |
| Clothes Dryer | \$25 per unit |
| Refrigerator | \$25 per unit |
| Freezer. | \$25 per unit |
| Dishwasher | \$25 per unit |



Appliance Recycling Program - max of 3 per year

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Freezer. | \$50 per unit |
| Refrigerator | \$50 per unit |

Building Insulation

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Residential | 30% of install cost up to \$800 |
| C&I/Ag | 10% of install cost up to \$2,000 |

Variable Speed Motor & Soft Start Motors

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| C&I/Ag | \$30 per horsepower |
|--------|---------------------|

Electric Vehicle Chargers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Residential/ C&I/Ag | up to \$1000 |
|---------------------|--------------|

Energy Assessments

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Residential | costs \$45 |
|-------------|------------|

Many rebates have forms, maximum limits and certain criteria that needs to be met in order to receive the rebate. For complete details on all of our rebates, and forms to apply, visit our website nwrec.coop or contact the office and we would be happy to review them with you.

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.

If interested in an energy efficiency loan, members must complete a loan application and 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 also be included in a loan. Once submitted, the loan application and credit check will be reviewed by the board of directors for approval.

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, weather-stripping, 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 from our board of directors.

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

Thinking of Joining SmartHub?

Save time and money with our **bank draft** and **SmartHub e-bill options** by having your monthly electric bill deducted from your bank account and receiving your bill electronically. You would no longer receive printed billing statements in the mail. **To sign up for SmartHub, please register at www.nwrec.coop. You can also sign up for bank draft online once you register for an account.**

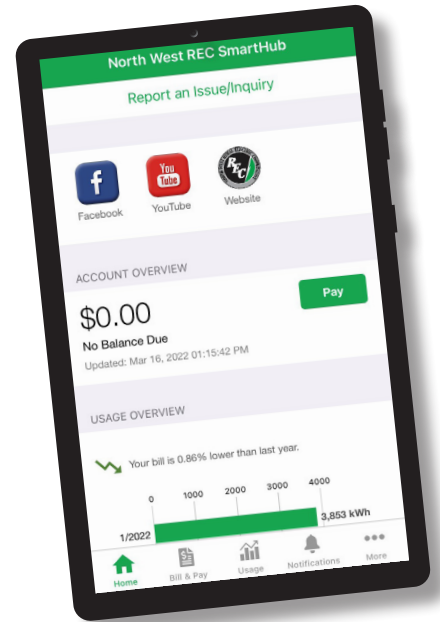


Why sign up for the automatic bank draft and SmartHub e-bill option?

- No more writing a check to North West REC for your electric bill.
- Your electric bill will be paid on the due date - no worrying about getting your check to our office on time.
- Accurate record keeping from your financial institution showing the direct payment you make to NWREC on your bank statement.
- Access to your electric information at all times online - view your billing and payment history with bill details.
- Easy sign up for SmartHub e-billing at www.nwrec.smarthub.coop or download the free app available for Android and iOS Apple devices.

What else can you do with SmartHub?

- View your electric usage and history.
- Report outages directly from your SmartHub account!
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text alerts for power outages and restorations.
- Contact our office with questions and account issues.



Your financial institution automatically transfers the amount of your monthly electric bill from your account to North West REC each month. The amount transferred will also appear on your monthly bank statement. The amount due will be transferred out of your account on the 8th of each month for payment of your electric bill. You will receive an e-mail notice on the 20th of each month that your monthly electric bill is now ready to be viewed. This will indicate the amount to be withdrawn from your account. Please call 800-766-2099 if you have any questions or check out our website: www.nwrec.coop for more information.



ARE YOU
**SWITCH
SMART?**

When does the program control appliances?

While the load management program operates year-round, connected equipment is not interrupted every day. When needed to reduce peak demand, *on the hottest or coldest days of the month*, switches will interrupt operation of your qualifying electric devices during the following times*:

- Summer operating season is June 1 through September 30. Normal summer control periods occur, as needed, usually between the hours of noon - 10:00 PM
- Winter operating season is October 1 through May 31. Normal winter control periods occur, as needed, usually between the hours of 6:00 AM - noon and 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Typically, heat is only controlled during the month of May.

*These dates and times are subject to change, on an annual basis, without notice.

Sign up for
smart choices 

Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code below in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win one of two \$25 bill credits in July.

WNS77251JUL

Don't receive Smart Choices?
Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:
www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. What is one of the 4 dates of the Member Appreciation Events this fall?
2. Name a type of heat pump that you can receive a rebate for installing:
3. How much is the 2021 Patronage Dividend Assignment?

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 August 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*

MAY 2022

Steve Schoenherr - Hinton
 Steve Schau - Battle Creek
 Howard Van Engen - Hawarden
 Delores Vondrak - Sioux City
 Barry Carslon - Aurelia

James Verrips - Sheldon
 Marvin Wynia - Maurice
 Jesse Anthony - Le Mars
 Rose Heeren - Le Mars
 Verdene Kollbaum - Ida Grove



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

When are the switches usually operated?

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, 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 September 30. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. There will be a new question every month, participate up to 3 times a quarter!

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

PHONE:
 (800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or nwrec.smarthub.coop Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online any-time 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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