



NEWS *Lines*

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

OPERATION ROUND-UP

Donations



The Operation Round Up program is designed to provide benefits to individuals, organizations and communities in our service area. These funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, to assist worthy causes right in your local county area.



One of the recent recipients was Mid-Sioux Opportunity for Ida, Plymouth and Sioux counties. Shown is Gina Christoffel presenting the check to Dick Sievers. This donation will go towards program support for Kits for Kidz, a program that provides kids with backpacks and back-to-school supplies, along with family development and food programs.

Another recipient was Justice for All in Rock Valley. Receiving the donation was Joe Vander Zee, Executive Director, from Rob Driesen. This donation is for program support that helps people marginalized in society by providing opportunities, building relationships and redistributing resources.



Receiving a donation in August was the American Legion Post 200 of Alton. They are celebrating 100 years in September, and they are raising funds for the Midwest Honor Flight program which assists in getting local veterans to Washington, D.C. Gaylen Schneider presented the check to Al Willet .



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 more information. To receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

SEPTEMBER 2019

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MEMBERS EXPERIENCE BIG ADVENTURE ON 2019

Energy Trail Tours

This summer, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) and its member cooperatives led 92 consumer members, including 24 from North West REC, to the Dakotas. The goal? To learn more about electric generation and to meet the people responsible for providing the electric power that is delivered to homes, farms, and businesses in western and central Iowa.

In addition to the educational portion of the tour, members enjoyed good food, great fellowship, and a few surprise stops along the journey. Memories and friendships were made while gaining a deeper and more insightful appreciation for "the story behind the light switch".

At the Oahe Powerhouse and Dam in Pierre, South Dakota, United States Army Corps of Engineers personnel provided tours of the facility and educated travelers on the process of hydroelectric generation from the Missouri River Dam system. Corps personnel also shared the many economic benefits the dam and powerhouse have provided to the area since its completion in April of 1962.



Participants on the first trip: (l-r) Doug & Susie Budden, Rick & Stacey Schroeder, Keith & Doris Boer, Jeanine & Robert Oolman, Darlene & Rod Kluis, and Pam & Randy Carpenter.



Participants on the second trip: (l-r) Duane & Nancy Stoll, Clark Tindall, Scott Pennings, Nancy Tindall, Rhonda Pennings, Mary Jane & Gaylen Tapper, Julie & Glen Leusink, and Donna & Jerry Muilenburg.

The tour then brought participants to North Dakota's Energy Trail, on which two Basin Electric Power Cooperative facilities are located, along with the coal mine that supplies them. Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant, The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine and Antelope Valley Station, a coal-fired electric generation station, were the highlights of the day.

At the Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant, Energy Trail Tour participants learned about the innovation behind the process of coal gasification. Through this process, pipeline-quality natural gas is produced from lignite coal, as well as many other useful and in-demand products, such as fertilizers and gasoline additives.

The Freedom Mine showcased some of the largest earth-moving equipment in operation in the United States. Consumer members learned of the abundance of America's coal reserves, a little more than 800 years at today's usage rates. They also witnessed the successful results of land reclamation efforts after surface mining is complete. Land that is mined is carefully restored to its original contour and reseeded to return to its original use, whether natural prairie or cropland, and monitored for several years. Often members catch a glimpse of the deer, fowl, and antelope that graze on the reclaimed acres.

Antelope Valley Station, a 900-megawatt coal-fired electric generation facility, offered an opportunity to understand how electricity is generated from coal. Members even got a chance to peek inside a coal-fired boiler. Energy Trail Tour participants also learn about wind generation and the importance of renewable energy resources in America's overall energy mix. Iowans are very familiar with the fact that their state leads the way in wind generation. As such, the tour also includes a "mobile classroom" on the process of wind generation and how a turbine works.

In addition to the tours of the facilities, members gain a deeper understanding of electric cooperative history and their ownership of the cooperative. The tours are part of North West REC's commitment to provide education for directors, employees and member-owners.

If you would like to be a part of this experience next year, watch this newsletter for the opportunity to enter the drawing.

HEATING & COOLING REBATES WITH SMART CHOICE REBATE AVAILABLE

North West REC offers energy efficiency rebates to help you save money, live more comfortably in your home and protect the environment. The **Smart Choice Bonus Rebate** for any new or replacement AAHP or GSHP installed by a member on our lines will be re-evaluated the end of 2019.

- Additional rebate for any new or replacement AAHP \$ 500 per unit
- Additional rebate for any new or replacement GSHP \$1,000 per unit
- C&I/Ag Projects – new or replacement AAHP \$ 500 per 5 ton
- C&I/Ag Projects – new or replacement GSHP \$1,000 per 5 ton
- Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump \$ 250 per unit

This rebate requires all electric backup and will be limited to two rebates per building.

These Smart Choice Rebates are in addition to our regular heat pump rebates:

Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate

- Residential – new or replacement New units installed on our system \$3,000 per unit
- Commercial/Industrial/Ag Projects \$1,000 per ton (new)
Replacements: \$20,000 cap max rebate \$ 500 per ton (replacement)

Air Source Heat Pump Rebate

- Residential, new or replacement, new units installed on our system
- If no back up heat or if back up heat is propane or natural gas:
 - Energy Star Rating 14.5 – 14.99 SEER \$ 400 per unit
 - Energy Star Rating 15.0 – 15.99 SEER \$ 500 per unit
 - Energy Star Rating 16.0 or greater SEER \$ 600 per unit
- If back up heat is electric:
 - Energy Star Rating 14.5 – 14.99 SEER \$ 600 per unit
 - Energy Star Rating 15.0 – 15.99 SEER \$ 700 per unit
 - Energy Star Rating 16.0 or greater SEER \$ 800 per unit
- Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump \$ 200 per unit
 - New unit, must have a SEER rating of 14.5 or greater
- Commercial/Industrial/Ag Projects

	<u>NEW</u>	<u>REPLACEMENT</u>
- If back up heat is electric	\$600 per ton	\$300 per ton
- If no back up heat or if back up heat is propane or gas	\$400 per ton	\$200 per ton
- Replacements: \$20,000 cap max rebate		



Building a new home in 2019?

Build your new home with all electric heat and save money **NOW!** With our all-electric 4.9¢ heat rate, you will save money on your heating, cooling and water heating for years to come!!

Members who install electric heat as their primary heat source in a new home qualify for a

FREE

85 Gallon Marathon Water Heater





Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

"We continue to work hard to provide reliable electric service for our members at the lowest possible cost."

First Half of 2019 Update

It's hard to believe, but we are already past the first half of 2019. We say it all the time – but this year is flying! I'm pleased to report that 2019 has been a good year so far for your Cooperative. I want to give a brief update on a few areas of our operation.

Safety: We always begin with safety as that continues to be our number one priority. Our employees have worked safely so far this year, and I'm very pleased to report that we reached a three-year milestone on August 15 of no lost time accidents. We have also had a safe year with no serious public accidents involving our lines. This is great news, and we encourage everyone to stay safe around electric lines.



System upgrades & new services: The challenging spring weather that we experienced this year delayed many of our system improvement projects, but I'm pleased to report that our crews and contractors have accomplished a lot the last couple of months. Through June 30, we replaced eight miles of old, long-spanned overhead line, with new underground line. We have also rebuilt four miles of overhead with new overhead line.

In addition, our crews have built in 31 new services and upgraded 47 services that required larger transformers or other upgrades.

Our underground contractor has been doing some line relocations that are necessary due to the Highway 75 road project near Hinton. Once that project is complete, they will start on the replacement of 26 miles of overhead single-phase line, with new underground line. The capital outlay budget this year included over \$5 million in system improvement projects, and we are making good progress. One of our strategic goals that is included in our strategic plan is:

{ Develop and recommend a plan to accelerate the rebuilding of the cooperative's original electric distribution plant. }

These improvements should lead to continued enhancements to the service reliability we provide for our members.

Service reliability: As a result of the flooding in March and the ice storm in April, our service reliability for our members has not been as good as we would like to see. We had 72 broken poles during those two months, which is much more than we would typically see. The result is that our average outage minutes are higher than normal – 88 minutes for the first six months. For the first six months of last year, our average outage minutes were only 28.

We have made an application to FEMA requesting reimbursement for some of our storm related expenses. Total damages exceeded \$150,000 from the broken poles and other storm related issues.

kWh sales: Kilowatthour (kWh) sales have been good this year, but are down slightly compared to last year. For the first six months of 2019, kWh sales are down 1.3% compared to the first six months of 2018. This is the second highest level of sales we have ever had for the first half of the year. One of the main reasons that your Cooperative has been able to maintain very competitive electric rates is the strong usage of our members and our ability to spread our fixed costs over a high volume of kWh sales. A recent statistical support from our lender, CFC, indicated that NWREC had the highest level of kWh sales of any of the 31 REC's in Iowa and more than double the medium level of sales that the 800 REC's in the U.S. have. We will share more statistics from this report in a future newsletter.

Financial update: NWREC is also having a good year financially. Total margins through the first six months are \$1,041,000. Budgeted margins for the first half of the year were \$888,199. We will be starting to work on our 2020 capital outlay and operating budgets soon, but I'm pleased to remind our members that the Board has already decided that it will not be necessary to adjust rates next year. We continue to work hard to provide reliable electric service for our members at the lowest possible cost.

Board Room Summary

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

- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff
- Heard a report from Youth Tour representative Valeria Uribe about the recent Youth Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Heard an update from Manager Korver on our application to FEMA for storm reimbursement funds from the March flooding and April ice storm events
- Received a report on the CFC Key Ratios Trend Analysis benchmarking report for 2018. NWREC's ratios compared favorably both on a State and national level.
- Reviewed plans for the upcoming Member Appreciation events
- Approved a member-owner electric vehicle (EV) checkout agreement that will be used when members stop in to take the new EV for a drive
- Heard an update on the pilot project for the new load management system
- Approved a Hold Harmless Agreement for a hog building that is going on the Switch Makes Cents program
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings
- Heard a report from Director Dave Bosma on the CFC Financial Forum Meeting he attended
- Approved membership applications for new members
- Following the meeting, the Board and staff toured the new Sioux County Regional Airport. NWREC is the electric service provider for this new facility.
- The next board meeting date is Thursday, August 29.



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.

You "PULL THE PLUG"

If you currently own an older, inefficient refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioning unit, North West REC will pay you \$50 to "Pull the Plug" on the unit and recycle it at any certified recycling or de-manufacturing facility, such as a county landfill.

- Participants of "You Pull the Plug" agree to self-remove and recycle qualifying appliances via an approved and certified appliance de-manufacturer or drop-off location.
- Participants will receive a \$50 rebate, per qualifying appliance, up to three (3) appliances, per calendar year.

Appliances must be clean, empty and in working order when recycled/dropped off at a certified location. A dated copy of a receipt by the certified vendor/landfill/recycler must accompany the rebate application form which is available from our office or can be found on our website.



Certified recyclers for North West REC members:

Ida County Sanitation
2078 US 59
Ida Grove, IA 51445
712-364-4234

Plymouth County Sanitary Landfill
34898 150th St
Le Mars, IA 51031
712-546-6071

Northwest Iowa Landfill Center
4540 360th St
Sheldon, IA 51201
712-324-4026

Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives have been offering cost-effective energy efficiency programs for almost four decades! North West REC provides energy efficiency rebates and incentives for a variety of qualifying energy-efficient products to our members and continues to evaluate our programs on a regular basis to ensure they remain a good value to those we serve.

BID FORM

FOR SALE

2008 Dodge Ram 1500
Big Horn Quad Cab 4x4
5.7 – Liter HEMI Gas Engine
Multi-Spd Automatic Transmission
Yellow Ext Paint w/ Grey Cloth Int
AC, Stereo w/ CD, Tilt, Cruise, Keyless entry
209,834 miles

Bid: \$ _____



This vehicle will be sold on a bid basis and "as is". Bids can be mailed to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041, or bids can be dropped off at any of the three cooperative offices. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Monday, September 30, 2019. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sales will be on a cash basis only.

The pick-up can be seen at the Orange City office located at 1505 Albany Place SE. Please call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to set up a time to see it.

Name of individual submitting bid: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

An Easier Way TO PAY

Save time and money with the automatic bank draft and e-bill payment plan 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.

Why sign up for the automatic bank draft and e-bill payment plan?

- 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 North West REC on your bank statement
- Access to your electric information at all times online – view your billing and payment history with bill details (you will need to go to our website <http://www.nwrec.coop> to register your e-mail address and password for the e-bill)

What if I am already participating in the automatic bank draft payment plan?

- You will need to sign up for e-bill online
- Check the box on the coupon to sign up for e-bill, along with your signature and date

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 1-800-766-2099 if you have any questions or check www.nwrec.coop for more information.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR BANK DRAFT AND E-BILL

Please include a voided check when sending in this form.

I authorize North West REC to initiate withdrawals and, if necessary, debit entries and adjustments for any credit entries in error to my account at the financial institution named below for payment of my monthly electric bills.

I understand that three or more payments in a 12-month period resulting in overdraft of my account may result in termination of the Direct Payment plan. This authorization will remain in effect until North West REC has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and manner as to afford North West REC and my financial institution a reasonable time to act on it.

Financial Institution: _____ Bank ID No.: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Account No.: _____ () Checking () Savings (select one)
Payments to Begin: _____ and to be made on the 8th day of each month.
Account Holder Name: _____ Electric Acct. No.: _____
Email Address: _____

- YES, sign me up for the automatic payment plan only!
- YES, sign me up for the automatic payment plan and e-bill!
- YES, I am already a bank draft customer and want to sign up for e-bill!

Remember to go to our website <http://www.nwrec.coop> to register your e-mail address and password for e-bill!

Signature: _____ Date: _____

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Name _____ Acct. # _____

1. Our employees reached a _____ safety milestone of no lost time accidents.
2. Name one of the recipients of Operation Round Up funds: _____.
3. Name a place the members toured on the Energy Trail Tour: _____.

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 October 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*

JULY 2019



Maynard Ravensborg, Sioux City
 Jeff Pilgrim, Sioux City
 Harold Vermeer, Sioux Center
 Jerry Varenhorst, Le Mars
 Cheri Streck, Schleswig

Jan Altena, Orange City
 Rick Van Roekel, Sheldon
 Wanda Gagnon, Merrill
 Teresa Whitmore, Le Mars
 Carlene Hamann, Danbury



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
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Curt Ahrenholz
 Finance & Office
 Services Director

Lorraine Egdorf
 Editor