



NEWS Lines

Published monthly for the member-owners of North West Rural Electric Cooperative

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUES AT LEGISLATIVE *Reception*



Meeting with Governor Reynolds were Jeff Rehder, James Vondrak, Shirley Benson and Rob Driesen.

Over 150 directors, managers and staff members from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with state legislators and policy makers on January 9 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. Other guests of honor included: Governor Kim Reynolds, Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg, Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Auditor of State Mary Mosiman, Attorney General Tom Miller, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner, and Iowa Department of Economic Development Director Debi Durham.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers, and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues allowing Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will come to the state capitol in the next couple of months to visit with their legislators once again. The annual REC Day on the Hill will be held on March 14, 2018, at the capitol.

FEBRUARY 2018

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SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



Additional Scholarships Awarded

North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will again be sponsoring four individual \$1,000 scholarships to a dependent of a member of North West REC. There will be one winner from each of the four districts of North West REC.

In addition to that amount, North West REC will also sponsor four \$750 scholarships and four \$500 scholarships to the runners-up in each district. We will be able to honor a total of 12 applicants.

The scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the eight-state region where Basin Electric of Bismarck, ND, supplies wholesale electric power.

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 and planning to enroll in a full-time accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school
- Submit the application as provided by North West REC
- Return all completed forms no later than Friday, February 16, 2018

The selection will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals and a written recommendation by a third party.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, send in the registration form below, and we will then send you an application form. You can also apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Renee at rwynia@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 16!

2018 BASIN SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION

Yes, I am interested in applying for the scholarship. Please send me the application form.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PARENT'S NAME _____

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Renee • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

NORTH WEST REC OFFERS POWERLINE *Scholarships*



North West REC is again sponsoring a powerline scholarship. This program is designed to assist persons enrolled in a course of powerline training at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an individual who has met the eligibility requirements. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:


- Reside in the four county area served by North West REC (Ia, Plymouth, O'Brien and Sioux Counties)
- Be a member or the child of a member of North West REC
- Be accepted as a full time student in the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon
- File a scholarship application with North West REC by Friday, March 30, 2018

All applicants are required to submit an application form as well as their most recent academic transcript. The criteria for the award will be based upon community and school activities, potential for success and grade point average.

A check will be made out to both the recipient and Northwest Iowa Community College and will be sent to the recipient prior to the beginning of the second semester of course work.

For an application or more information, contact:

North West REC • Attn: Renee
PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041 • 800-766-2099
rwynia@nwrec.coop



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.




Photo credit: Chely Cavaratti, Earth Energy Power Cooperative

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	11-13	1st	2nd	(please circle)
Aug	1-3	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 25, 2018

MANAGER'S *Report*

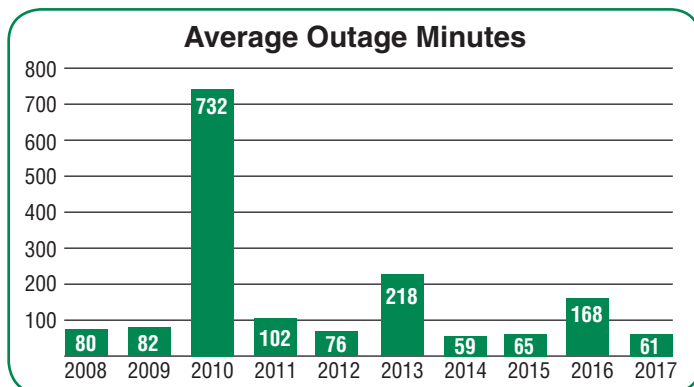


Lyle D. Korver

“By proactively clearing vegetation before it reaches power lines, North West REC will be less impacted during severe weather and we’ll avoid longer, more costly outages.”

Proactively Providing Safe and Reliable Service

When electric cooperative member-owners are asked what they value most about their electric service, two things consistently rank near the top – reliability and affordability. With an annual average reliability rate of 99.99%, we know reliability doesn’t happen by chance. It takes constant effort to maintain systems, improve where necessary, and anticipate our member-owners’ increasing needs for electric service.



During the winter months, reliability is under greater scrutiny from our member-owners. Old Man Winter’s fury of snow and ice storms, combined with strong winds, can put our systems to the test in a significant way. When outages occur, the most frequent cause is trees or other vegetation coming into contact with power lines. These types of outages are not only inconvenient for our member-owners but also costly to your cooperative’s bottom line, which impacts affordability over the long-term.

We know that vegetation – especially trees – are valued parts of our landscape. Beyond enhancing the beauty of an area, they provide important functions like cool shade, noise barriers, supplying vital oxygen to the atmosphere,

and providing a habitat for many animals. But trees also grow, which can cause problems with power lines if they are not properly planted or if volunteer trees rise in unintended areas.

When branches and limbs break off, they often land in roadways or bring the power lines down with them – posing a safety risk to cooperative employees and the public. Because our distribution system connects thousands of people across our service territory, one tree coming in contact with a power line may impact your neighbors near and far. The Iowa Electrical Safety Code requires electric utilities, including cooperatives, to have a schedule and procedures for regular tree trimming and vegetation management, which is critical in minimizing these instances.

Both federal and state policies require that vegetation must be cleared from power lines as a safety measure for member-owners and our employees. These groups also have strict guidelines, including prohibiting trees from being planted certain distances away from power lines.

Under our vegetation management program – which means that trees and other vegetation are inspected and trimmed on a 5-year cycle – maintaining line clearance is our primary objective. We do this while ensuring we trim vegetation in an environmentally responsible manner. The tree trimming process has two purposes – to remove elements that may already be coming into contact with utility equipment, such as wires and conductors, and to create a clearance that will provide hazard-free operation of electric service.

Using the established standards as the guide, we also know that a methodical, proactive approach is important to ensure the safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible delivery of service. Like many things in life, preventative maintenance is a key to health – oil changes are vital to the longevity of a vehicle, regular dental visits are important in cavity

prevention, and annual inspections and maintenance will likely extend the life of your heating and cooling system (HVAC). Left to chance – rather than being proactive – your vehicle, teeth or HVAC would likely suffer. The same is true with your cooperative's electric system. By proactively clearing vegetation before it reaches power lines, North West REC will be less impacted during severe weather and we'll avoid longer, more costly outages.

Annual District Meeting Dates Set

It's that time of the year when we begin making plans for our four annual district meetings. We always look forward to these meetings as they give us the opportunity to engage with our members and to share information about the previous year's operations. We want to make sure you have the dates on your calendar, and we are hoping for another good turnout.

Annual District Meeting Dates

District 1 at Unity Christian High School
in Orange City – March 20

District 2 at South O'Brien School
in Primghar – March 19

District 3 at Le Mars High School –
March 26

District 4 & Annual Meeting at Skate Palace
in Ida Grove – March 27

You will receive a special mailing with the annual report, ballot for director voting and information about the meetings approximately two weeks before the meeting.

OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the fourth quarter of 2017 totaled \$7,400. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$403,155. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

\$2,600 Food Bank of Siouxland, Le Mars United Way, Orange City Community Chest, Ida County Crisis Funds, S.O.S. O'Brien County, ATLAS, Autumn's Center, Friends of the Festival, Primghar Junior Women's Club, Hope Haven, Village Northwest Unlimited, Like Skills Training Center and Ida Services Inc. – program support

\$2,400 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$1,800 Nine area hospitals

\$ 600 D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Programs

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

Youth Tour CONTEST 2018



Want to visit Washington, D.C.? Who wouldn't? It's FUN, it's FREE and you'll make lots of FRIENDS!

North West REC is sponsoring the 2018 Youth Tour Contest with two students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for June 8-15, 2018. There is a \$1,000 scholarship for the Iowa representative on the Youth Leadership Council.

All sons and daughters of North West REC member-consumers, who are presently juniors in high school, are eligible and encouraged to participate.

If you are interested in applying for the youth tour, send in the registration form below, and we will then send you an application form. The application is available on our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Renee at rwynia@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099.

The Youth Tour Contest application should be returned to the REC no later than Friday, March 30, 2018.

The Board of Directors and management encourage all who are eligible to enter the Youth Tour Contest for an exciting educational experience.

2018 YOUTH TOUR CONTEST REGISTRATION

YES, I am interested in entering the contest. Please send me the application form.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ PARENT'S NAME _____

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Renee • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

You II



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smart choices 

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Call our office to sign up, visit our website or scan this code to "plug in" to the power of

smart choices 



-28, 2018.



712-707-4935

800-766-2099

nwrec.coop

YOU NEVER KNOW *Unless You Try...*

Carlyn Bretey was selected as the Iowa representative on the Youth Leadership Council, after being selected by North West REC to attend the Youth Tour trip in 2017. She was invited to speak at the IAEC Annual Meeting in Des Moines in December.

Here's a little something she wants you to know:

“When I applied for Youth Tour, I wasn’t expecting to be selected. It was a last-minute decision, something I wasn’t sure of. After all, how many people can say that they’ve been on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C.? However, I kept in mind the phrase ‘you never know unless you try,’ and I am so glad I did!

Youth Tour has been one of the best experiences of my life this far. In D.C., you get to escape your routine, make some of your best friends (another thing I was skeptical about), explore monuments and museums, and meet people from all around the United States. You might even be selected as a Youth Leadership Council Delegate and get to return the next month!

It’s a great program. It’s worth looking in to. It’s worth applying for. After all, you never know unless you try.”

(Check out the video on our website at nwrec.coop to watch an interview with Carlyn)



Plan Now to Attend

2018 DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

1

District 1 – Sioux County

Tuesday, March 20
Unity Christian High School in Orange City
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Special Speaker – Chuck Long

3

District 3 – Plymouth County

Monday, March 26
Le Mars Community High School
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Meeting held in Middle School Auditorium
Entertainment – Gary Tyson

2

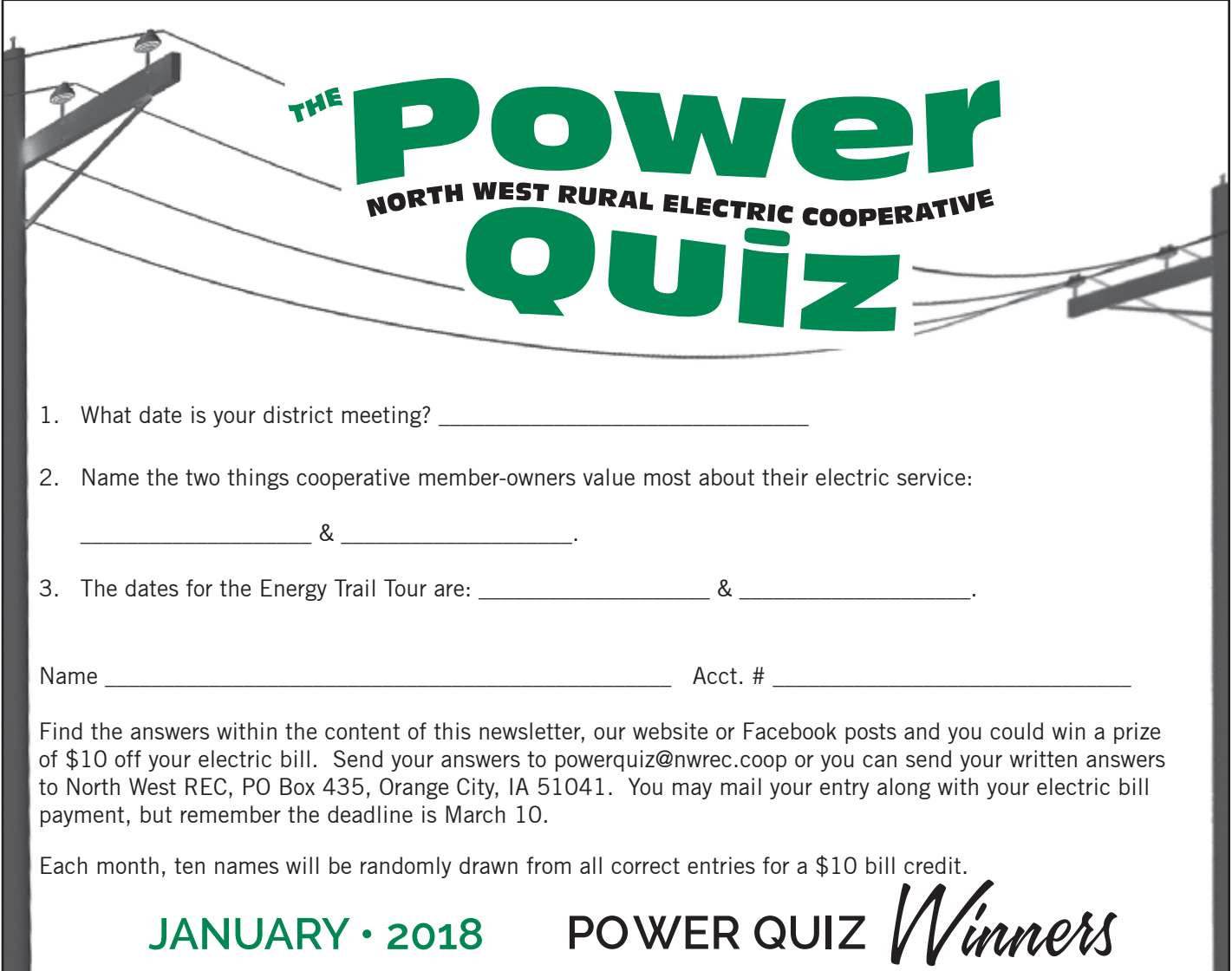
District 2 – O’Brien County

Monday, March 19
South O’Brien School in Primghar
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Special Speaker – Chuck Long

4

District 4 – Ida County

Tuesday, March 27
Skate Palace in Ida Grove
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – Gary Tyson



THE **Power** NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **Quiz**

1. What date is your district meeting? _____
2. Name the two things cooperative member-owners value most about their electric service:
_____ & _____.
3. The dates for the Energy Trail Tour are: _____ & _____.

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 March 10.

Each month, ten names will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$10 bill credit.

JANUARY • 2018

POWER QUIZ *Winners*



Don Ruba, Remsen
Bobby Back, Sutherland
John Ymker, Sioux Center
Stanley Meyer, Ireton
Tim Kunzman, Hartley

Dan Hurt, Alton
Rebecca Lampman, Arthur
Ronald Lorenzen, Westfield
Gary Meyer, Granville
Evelyn Bakker, Hull



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