



NEWS *Lines*

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

Plan Now to Attend

DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

MARCH 2019

The Browns



District 1 Sioux County

Tuesday, March 19

Unity Christian High School
Orange City
Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm
Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Browns

District 2 O'Brien County

Thursday, March 21

South O'Brien School
Primghar
Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm
Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Browns

District 3 Plymouth County

Tuesday, March 26

Le Mars Community High School
Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm
Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Special Speaker – Chuck Long

District 4 Ida County

Monday, March 25

Skate Palace in Ida Grove
Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm
Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Special Speaker – Chuck Long



Chuck Long

MARCH 2019

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COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SELECTS

Director Nominees

The Committee on Nominations met Wednesday, January 16, to select nominees for election of the Board of Directors of North West REC. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual/District Meetings of the Cooperative in March.

Members of the Committee on Nominations: (l-r) Bruce Schafer, Sheldon; Keith Boer, Rock Valley; Adam Schmidt, Le Mars; Derek Ten Napel, Kingsley ; Brad Harvey, Akron; Chad Negus, Paullina; James Dennison, Akron; and Dennis Heemstra, Primghar.



DISTRICT 1 – SIOUX COUNTY



DAVE BOSMA, HOSPERS

- Married to Deets, five children
- Graduate of Iowa State University
- Was co-owner/operator of Two B Hog, Hospers
- Member Hospers CRC, currently president of church council
- Currently on board of directors at American State Bank, Sioux Center
- Past board of director Sheldon Christian retirement home
- Past board member Unity Christian High School & Hospers Christian School
- Hobbies include any outdoor activity, mainly golfing & hunting



SHANE SIEGE, MAURICE

- Four children, seven grandchildren
- Truck driver – owner operator
- Farms with father & partner, raising corn & soybeans
- Member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ireton, also elder for the church

DISTRICT 2 – O'BRIEN COUNTY



CHAD DAU, PAULLINA

- Married to Becky, three children
- Owner of Country Crushers, LLC which crushes concrete
- Farms raising corn, beans and cattle
- Current board member of North West REC
- Current board member of the O'Brien Co. Fair Board
- Hobbies include hunting and fishing
- Loves to go to his children's different sporting events



DANIEL VAN BEEK, PAULLINA

- Married to Janice, three children & eight grandchildren
- Previous owner/operator of Dan's Electric for 35 years, currently employed for Dan's Electric
- Farms with brother Jon; raises corn, beans & hogs
- Past Farmers Elevator board member
- Current trustee and former elder, St John Lutheran Church
- REC member since 1981

DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY



SHIRLEY BENSON, REMSEN

- Married to Robert for 43 years
- Currently resides on farm on which she was born and raised
- Served as a teacher and school administrator for 25 years
- Currently serves on NWREC Board and serves as Board Secretary
- Earned a Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates

- Past board member of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Currently serves on Plymouth Co. Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Past Union Township Trustee Clerk
- Past Life Skills Training Center Board Member
- Past Plymouth Co. Farm Bureau Board Member and Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator



CURT HINKELMAN, SIOUX CITY

- Married for 35 years to Sherri – have 3 children and 2 grandchildren
- Born and raised on a farm in NE South Dakota
- Graduated from USD with a business degree
- Past President and General Manager of Load King Manufacturing in Elk Point, SD

- After 20 years with Ritchie Bros Auctioneers (RBA-NYX), retired as a Senior Vice President
- During career in the equipment industry, served on multiple advisory boards of industry associations



Reminder About Mailing...

Watch your mail for your Annual District Meeting mailing which will include your registration card. Please bring this card with you when coming to the meeting. It will be used for the drawing of door prizes.

You will also receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing if you are a member in Districts 1, 2 and 3. Be sure to vote and mail your ballot to the cooperative in the envelope included in the mailing. Note to District 4 members: There will not be an election for directors in District 4.

RECYCLING PROGRAM TO CHANGE

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.

Effective March 31, 2019, North West REC will no longer contract with a third-party vendor to remove inefficient appliances from your home. As an added incentive, we have increased our rebate amount from \$25 to \$50. Up to three (3) appliances may be recycled 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





Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

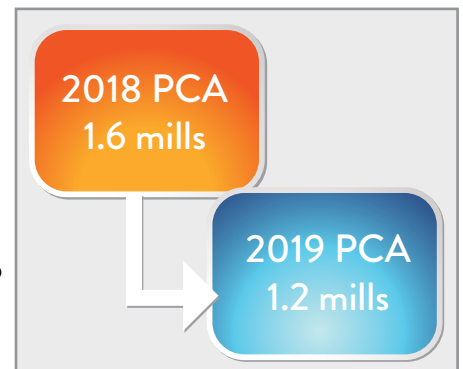
"We set high goals for the reliability and accessibility of the power we provide to you."

Board Approves a Reduced Power Cost Adjustment for 2019

At the January Board Meeting, the board approved management's recommendation to apply a 1.2 mill (\$0.0012/kWh) power cost adjustment to member bills in 2019. This is good news for our members as it is actually lower than the PCA in 2018, which was 1.6 mills. All base rates will remain the same. As a reminder, the PCA is a method of either collecting from or returning to the members the difference in wholesale power costs compared to the base wholesale rate that was used to establish the current electric rate.

Two months ago, I shared the positive news that the Board had decided to keep our rates stable for the next two years and that the PCA would also be kept the same at 1.6 mills. In December, we received a \$245,000 bill credit from our power supplier, NIPCO, and we are passing that through to our members by reducing the PCA.

Your Cooperative had a very good year in 2018, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide excellent service to our members in 2019 at the lowest possible costs.



Reliability is Our Daily Priority

We know that our member-owners' satisfaction with North West REC (NWREC) is directly related to the reliability and affordability of the services we provide. The cornerstone of our business model is providing service that meets or exceeds your expectations, which is why reliability is one of our top priorities. In fact, reliability is one of the four key pillars of our overall mission to provide power that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

I'm pleased to report that we had another good year of providing reliable service for our members in 2018. We have several indices that we use to measure how we are performing with regards to reliability. Two of them that we use most often are the system average interruption index (SAIDI) and overall reliability rate. We also refer to SAIDI as average outage minutes, and for 2018 we had a very low 67 minutes of average outage time per member. Our overall reliability rate for the year was 99.99%.



As I am preparing this article, we have just experienced some severe cold weather. Last week it was 25 degrees below zero and last night it was 10 below zero with 30 below wind chill factor. Yesterday afternoon we had an outage in the Hawarden area that impacted over 400 of our members, and at times like this, we all quickly realize how important reliable electric service is. Our power supplier, NIPCO, had a transformer failure at the substation. Our crews were able to do some switching and looped in other substations so we could get our members back in service in approximately two hours.

Due to the extreme cold temperatures and amount of electric demand on the system, the decision was made to bring in a portable substation that NIPCO keeps at their Le Mars facility. We were concerned that in the event of another substation outage, the outage time could be lengthy and a large number of members would suffer from the cold. Through some outstanding coordination between our staff, the NIPCO control center and the NIPCO and NWREC line crews, the portable substation was installed and energized by 9:00 p.m. that evening. We thank NIPCO and all of their employees as well as all of our employees who were involved for doing a great job under very challenging working conditions. I'm very proud of their work ethic and the professionalism they demonstrated in carrying out this challenging outage restoration project. I'm also thankful for their dedication and the great work they do on behalf of our members every day.



This type of situation reminds us of the importance of having redundancy, both on our distribution system and also NIPCO's transmission and substation network. Reliability isn't something that happens by chance. Throughout the year, our distribution and transmission infrastructure – which includes such things as poles, wires, transformers and substations – is subject to many perils. On any given day, ice storms, high winds, tornadoes, squirrels and birds, and even errant drivers, can interrupt electric service and cause a power outage. We are constantly preparing for the things we can control on our system, such as planned and routine maintenance outages, and for unexpected outages that are often beyond our control. We set high goals for the reliability and accessibility of the power we provide to you.

Providing the reliable service our members expect and deserve takes a significant investment in new system improvements every year and this was another reminder of how necessary and important these investments are. I'm pleased that your board of directors understands this and is supportive of the Capital Outlay Budgets we prepare and ask them to approve each year.

Board Room Summary – December/January

The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the December and January board meetings:

- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff.
- Approved the 2019 Operating Budget. The budget projects \$57 million in total revenues and \$5.1 million in total margins.
- Heard a report about the Member Patronage Days in December which were very well attended by our members.
- Received an update on the services offered and number of subscribers we have with our N.E.T. Broadband partnership.
- Approved a new banking representative on our revolving loan fund review committee.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are nearing completion or are underway.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Received an update on the larger than anticipated patronage assignment from NIPCO that was included in the December financials and significantly increased total margins for the year. The board will decide on the assignment of these margins to our members at the next board meeting.
- Heard reports from the delegates who attended the IAEC and Mid West Electric Annual Meetings.
- Reviewed Sections 6 and 7 of the NRECA Governance Report.
- Approved membership applications for new members.
- Discussed the recent Strategic Planning meeting that was held the first week of January. Management will be presenting implementation plan updates to the board throughout the first half of 2019.
- Approved a 1.2 mill power cost adjustment (PCA) for 2019. This is lower than the 2018 PCA which was 1.6 mills.
- Heard a report on the Nominating Committee Meeting and approved final plans for the upcoming District and Annual Meetings.

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST 2019

*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 2019 Youth Tour Contest with two students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for June 14-20, 2019. In addition, there is a \$1,000 scholarship for the Iowa representative selected to serve 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 also 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 25, 2019.

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

2019 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

SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*

Additional Scholarships Awarded – Note Changes to Program!

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 be selecting **four \$500** scholarship winners at **each of our district meetings** in March. We will be able to honor a total of 20 young people with a scholarship. ***It will be necessary for the applicants to be in attendance at their local district meeting in order to have a chance to win one of the \$500 scholarships.***

>> Deadline has been extended to March 15, 2019! <<

NOTICE OF ANNUAL & DISTRICT MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The District Meeting of Members in **District 1** will be held at the Unity Christian High School, Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Tuesday**, the **19th day of March**, 2019; and

The District Meeting of Members in **District 2** will be held at the South O'Brien School, Primghar, O'Brien County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Thursday**, the **21st day of March**, 2019; and

The Annual and District Meeting of Members in **District 3** will be held at the Middle School Auditorium of the Le Mars Community School, Le Mars, Plymouth County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Tuesday**, the **26th day of March**, 2019; and

The District Meeting of Members in **District 4** will be held at the Skate Palace, Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Monday**, the **25th day of March**, 2019, to take action on the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of one director in District 1, one director in District 2, and one director in District 3, each for a four-year term.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 5th day of March, A.D., 2019.



Shirley Benson, Secretary

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 (Ida, 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 29, 2019

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

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. For 2018, what was the average outage minutes per member? _____ minutes

2. What date is your district meeting? _____

3. Name one of the director candidates in your district: _____

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 April 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.

JANUARY 2019

POWER QUIZ *Winners*



Douglas Nagel, Hartley
Arie Byl, Sioux Center
Harvey Van Meeteren, Hudson
Gary Meyer, Granville
Ron Lorenzen, Westfield

Roger Petersen, Merrill
Karen Goettsch, Hartley
Kenneth Sauer, Paullina
Steven Segebart, Sioux City
Jim Lansink, Ida Grove



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