



NEWS *Lines*

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

MEMBER

Patronage Days

We are pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved the retirement of deferred patronage dividends in the amount of \$1,353,000.

If you were a member in 2007, you can pick up your patronage check on whichever date or location works best for you. If it doesn't work for you to pick up your check, we will mail out the remaining checks the end of December. 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 December 20.

**Join Us for
MEMBER
PATRONAGE DAYS**

•• OPEN HOUSE ••

Tuesday, December 3
Primghar Community Center
215 1st St SE

Thursday, December 12
Le Mars Office
2496 Lincoln Ave SW

Open house from 11:30 am until 5:30 pm

Stop by to pick up your patronage check,
see safety & energy efficiency displays
and enjoy Christmas treats.

We look forward to seeing you!

NOVEMBER 2019

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ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

Available To Members

North West REC is continuing to place more and more emphasis on energy efficiency. In addition to offering energy efficiency rebates, our member service department offers energy assessments to our members.

Your Cooperative has an infrared camera to help with these energy assessments. This camera creates images of temperature and points out where cold air leaks into a home, or where electrical circuits might be dangerously hot.

When scheduling appointments, it is important to know that there needs to be at least a 20 to 30 degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures for the camera to work effectively.

There will be a charge of \$45 to the member, applied to your electric account.

One of our member service personnel will conduct a walk-through of the house, with the member present, to look for possible ways to save energy. They will review a detailed list of energy efficiency ideas for potential savings. Simple changes in both lifestyle and in the home will pay you back year after year. Some of those improvements won't cost you a lot of money to put into effect.

To help co-op members cure air leaks, North West REC also offers an insulation rebate:

- Building must have electric heat installed and be used as the primary heating source
- Must be professionally installed for blown-in, spray foam, insulating concrete forms, rigid styrofoam panels and/or structural panel type insulation
- Residential – rebate limited to 30% of installed insulation cost up to a maximum rebate of \$800 per building per calendar year



Fill out the coupon below and mail back to our office to get your name added to our list.

YES, I am interested in having an energy assessment of my home.

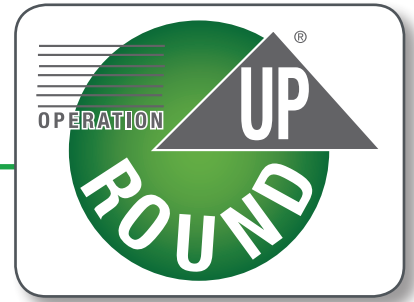
Please call me at _____ to set up an appointment.

NAME _____

Address _____

OPERATION ROUND UP

Report



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the third quarter of 2019 totaled \$11,140. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$470,595. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$6,500.....Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries
- \$2,590Le Mars United Way, Orange City Community Chest, Ida County Crisis Funds, Upper Des Moines, Hope Haven, Village Northwest Unlimited, Life Skills Training Center, Ida Services Inc, and Special Olympics – program support
- \$1,000.....School BackPack program, All Kids Can program, Noah’s Ark Daycare – support for children or kids’ programs
- \$ 600.....Midwest Honor Flight Program – support for veterans’ program
- \$ 450.....AIM (Alton in Motion), Le Mars Art Center and other community programs – support for community 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 # _____



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S Report

"To get to know your cooperative, we encourage these members, and all our members, to stop by our office, visit our website at www.nwrec.coop, follow us on Facebook and attend our member events."

Electric Cooperatives are Different

Over the course of 80 years, it's easy for us to forget why our electric cooperative was originally formed. If we could travel back in time to the 1930s, we'd see rural citizens who were frustrated and discouraged because the investor-owned utilities at that time refused to provide affordable service. These were people who worked hard every day of the year without the basic luxuries electricity provided to most city and town dwellers – including indoor plumbing, safe lighting and household appliances like cooktops, irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and radios. Refusing to give up, farmers banded together to form not-for-profit electric cooperatives. With low-interest loans from the federal government, the co-op was able to finance a local network of electric distribution lines that continues to grow today to accommodate new members who move into our service territory.

Long ago, our service territory, covering parts of Ida, O'Brien, Plymouth and Sioux Counties, was mostly farmland. In recent years, areas that were once farmland are being developed into industrial parks and residential subdivisions and new members are frequently joining the co-op. Many of these newer members don't have an agricultural background and the concept of a cooperative business model is new to them. To get to know your cooperative, we encourage these members, and all our members, to stop by our office, visit our website at www.nwrec.coop, follow us on Facebook and attend our member events. These events include our Member Patronage Days in December, Annual District Meetings in March/April and our Appreciation Days in August/September. Unlike investor-owned utilities, North West REC (NWREC) exists solely to serve our member-owners, and we follow the direction of democratically elected directors who are also member-owners of the cooperative.



Electric cooperatives are different from investor-owned utilities in another important way, too. Since our members are our owners and investors, the co-op will periodically return dividends in the form of patronage capital retirements. In December, NWREC will return \$1,353,000, which is for the allocation that was made in 2007. In the last 80 years, your Cooperative has returned more than \$26 million to our member-owners.

At NWREC, we're proud of our rural heritage and the founding principles of our incorporating members. Eight decades later, those principles continue to guide us as we make long-term decisions to ensure reliable, safe, affordable energy for our member-owners. If you have questions about our policies or our cooperative structure, please don't hesitate to contact us.

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES:

- Voluntary and open membership without discrimination
- Democratic member control
- Members' economic participation
- Cooperative autonomy and independence
- Member education, training and information to the general public
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

Update on Guatemala Project

Last month, we shared that one of our linemen, Mike Berkenpas, would be traveling to Guatemala with 11 other linemen from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin to assist with an NRECA International Project. They left on October 1 and will be returning on October 18. We have received several updates and pictures, and it sounds like the project is going very well.



Upon completion, they will have extended electric service for the first time to 42 households, a school and a health post in the village of Salina 7 Cerros in north central Guatemala. When Mike was asked in a recent text message exchange about whether the people were getting excited as they saw the work being done, he responded "Everyone comes to watch us wiring in the houses. Pretty sure excited isn't the word. It is an amazing feeling seeing this happen."

We will provide another update next month after Mike has returned.



Board Room Summary

The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the August and September board meetings:

- Received monthly safety report. A three-year milestone of no lost-time accidents was reached in August.
- Matt Washburn, General Manager of NIPCO, provided an update on NIPCO operations. The August meeting was held at NIPCO and the board and staff toured the NIPCO control center, which is staffed 24 hours per day to monitor and operate the NIPCO transmission system.
- Heard a report on the underground contractor project. 26 miles of older overhead line was replaced with underground in July and August.
- Received an update on the Chevy Bolt electric vehicle and the charging stations that have been installed at three hotel locations that are served by NWREC. The EV was in five parades this summer.
- Heard a FEMA update. We are requesting reimbursement of approximately \$130,000 in storm damage costs from earlier this spring.
- Approved a \$1,353,000 patronage retirement for the year 2007's allocation. This retirement will be made in December.
- Received an update on the wireless Internet services that North West REC and Evertek are offering through our N.E.T. Broadband partnership.
- Heard a report on the two Member Appreciation events that were held in Holstein and Sioux Center. Nearly 1,000 members and guests were served a picnic supper, and we had a great turnout of our newer and younger members.
- Approved the audit engagement letter for the next three years with Eide Bailly.
- Received an economic development update. A \$360,000 loan was made on Sept. 3 for the new Sioux County Nature Center. This is a 0% interest loan that is made possible through the USDA REDLG program.
- Approved membership applications for new members.
- Following the August meeting, the board and staff toured the new Perry Creek Dairy that is located approximately 10 miles west of Le Mars.
- Discussed plans for the Member Patronage Days that will be held in December.
- The next board meeting date is Thursday, October 31.

NIPCO, MEMBER CO-OPS HOST

20th Annual Golf Event

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives sponsored 142 golfers at the 20th Annual Golf Invitational in August. The 2019 event raised nearly \$10,000, with each cooperative receiving over \$1,300 to designate to local community and non-profit organizations within their service territory.

North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust has matched that donation. Checks from both organizations were delivered to Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Life Skills Training Center in Le Mars and Ida Services Inc in Battle Creek.

Over the past 20 years of the golf tournament, NIPCO and its members have raised close to \$390,000 to benefit local charitable organizations in western Iowa.

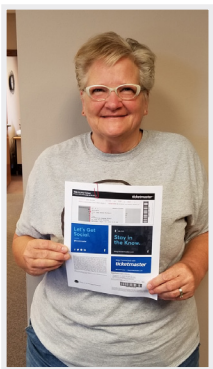


CONGRATULATIONS

to a few of our prize winners at the Appreciation Days:



Mrs. Mark Goergen



Mrs. Stan Oordt



Tim & Carie Rus



Elizabeth Schimmer



Paxton Rasmus

MAKE YOUR HARVEST A *Safe Harvest*



The fall season brings excitement, fatigue and stress as farmers are trying to maximize their harvest with uncooperative weather, limited workers and shorter days. With the urgency felt by farm families during this season, here are a few safety reminders.

- The majority of roadway accidents involving farm equipment happen at dawn and at dusk. Check to make sure you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and wagons. Use an escort vehicle when necessary.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with the line.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level before moving or transporting. Use care when raising them back up.
- Always turn off the tractor BEFORE you get off the tractor to check or unplug any piece of equipment.
- Do not sacrifice your rest and nutrition. Take short breaks to get out and stretch, stay hydrated and pack nutritious snacks to eat throughout the day.

It is very important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line. It is always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the REC arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If there is fire or imminent risk of fire, JUMP – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together while leaving the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.

Do your part to make this a safe and healthy harvest season!

Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed

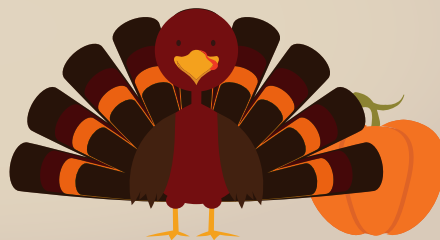
Thursday, November 28

and

Friday, November 29

Please call 1-800-766-2099
in case of an outage or emergency.

Have a Safe Holiday!



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. The dates for the Member Patronage Days are December ____ & ____.
2. Name one of the "7 Cooperative Principles": _____.
3. In the last 80 years, your Cooperative has returned more than \$_____ of patronage capital retirements to our member-owners.

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 December 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* SEPTEMBER 2019



Don Luksan – Le Mars
 Geri Van Ruler – Sioux Center
 David Recker – Granville
 Dan Noteboom – Archer
 Carol Bowen – Sanborn

Robert Eisma – Ireton
 Randall Daum – Alton
 Justin Wissink – Hull
 Greg Gerber – Rock Valley
 Bruce Spence – Sioux City



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
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 Services Director

Lorraine Egdorf
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