



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

REC DAY ON THE HILL

In March, over 200 rural electric cooperative (REC) employees and directors from all over Iowa traveled to the Iowa State Capitol for the annual “REC Day on the Hill” event to advocate for important issues related to safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for their members. North West REC employees Rob Driesen and James Vondrak and District 1 director Steve Abma were among those who attended.

After being briefed on state and federal legislative issues, co-op representatives met with their local elected officials on the first floor rotunda of the Capitol. North West REC representatives were able to meet with most of the local state legislators who were very supportive of policies that are in the best interest of North West REC and its members.

Some of the issues co-ops educated legislators on include:

- Line personnel safety
- Rural economic development
- Utility-owned solar



Rep. Skyler Wheeler and Rep. Chuck Holz with James Vondrak and Rob Driesen of NWREC.

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The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives received a standing ovation from the Iowa House for its 75 years of service. Co-op representatives personally witnessed Governor Branstad sign into law a bill related to energy efficiency reporting that was passed unanimously by the legislature. They were able to thank him and the legislators for passing a bill that will make North West REC and other co-ops in the state operate more efficiently by streamlining required energy efficiency reporting.



OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the first quarter of 2017 totaled \$5,600. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$383,955. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$2,650 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries
- \$ 700 Zestos Inc, Then Feed Just One and Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County – program support for the needy
- \$1,050 Hospice of Siouxland, Family Crisis Center, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society – program support
- \$ 450 Camp Autumn, We Rock the Spectrum and S.T.A.R.S. – support programs for children, children with disabilities or disadvantaged children
- \$ 400 County 4-H Foundations
- \$ 350 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland – program support



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 # _____

PRAIRIE WINDS PROGRAM UPDATE

Members of North West REC can support renewable energy through the Prairie Winds program. This program allows individual members to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities.

Persons who choose to participate in Prairie Winds will pay 20 cents per 100 kilowatt-hour block per month. This is reduced from 50 cents in 2010.

Through this program, members will not be directly purchasing alternate energy, but the extra fee does go to support several wind turbines in the Dakotas, which feed wind-generated electricity into the transmission system that powers North West REC.

If you would like to support the renewable wind energy program, fill out the accompanying form and return it to your cooperative office.



WIND POWER AGREEMENT

Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt-hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Remember, each block is an additional \$.20 investment in not only the environment, but in the future of renewable energy.

Number of blocks at \$.20 per month _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

I understand my commitment is for one year and will continue on an annual basis until I notify you in writing to end my participation in the Prairie Winds program.

SPRING INTO SAFE PLAY

Sunny spring days beckon the child in all to head out into the warm weather to play. As springtime activities are resumed, families should review electrical safety rules with their children to encourage safe and enjoyable outdoor play.

Remember to fly kites in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that is near a power line, don't climb to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires and electrocute you. Contact your electric utility for assistance.

Stay safe this spring and enjoy your time outdoors!





Lyle D. Korver

“These meetings are great member engagement opportunities for the directors and employees, and we appreciate the excellent attendance we had this year.”

MANAGER’S REPORT

Report on Annual District Meetings

March is a busy and important month for your Cooperative as we hold our four annual district meetings. The last of the four meetings is our Annual Meeting, and we conduct the annual business meeting and ratify the election of directors.

I’m pleased to report that the meetings went very well with excellent attendance. We served over 2,000 meals to members and guests, and this was an increase of over 200 meals compared to last year. These meetings are great member engagement opportunities for the directors and employees, and we appreciate the excellent attendance we had this year.

The following are a few highlights from the meetings:

- Two directors were re-elected and one new director was elected.
 - Steve Abma in District 1 and Doug Becker in District 3 were re-elected. Raymond Drey retired from the Board in District 4. We thank Ray for his seven years of service and welcome Dale Ullrich who was elected to fill this position.
- Board President Jeff Rehder and I reviewed some of the highlights of 2017.
- Entertainment was provided by Reza the Illusionist in Districts 1 and 3. The South O’Brien Jazz Band performed in District 2 and Jill Miller in District 4.

We want to thank all of the members who took time from their busy schedules to attend one of the meetings. Thank you for your loyalty and support!



Continued Focus on Member Engagement

In our last newsletter, we shared the results of our recent member survey and our customer satisfaction index score and also shared our appreciation for the loyalty and support we receive from our members. We don't take this for granted, and we also know that continued improvement in our member engagement opportunities is one of the keys to maintaining and improving member loyalty and support.

Through our recent discussions about ideas for increasing member engagement, we decided to start a new contest in our newsletter. It is called **Power Quiz** and will include a few questions every month that members can try to find the answers to in the newsletter or on our Facebook page. Members who accurately answer the questions will be included in a drawing for a \$10 bill credit. We will give out 10 of the \$10 bill credits each month through a random drawing from the correct responses. Responses can be returned to us by e-mail or through the mail.

To encourage ongoing participation from members, we will do a drawing at the end of the year for a \$500 bill credit for the member whose name is drawn. Members who accurately answer the questions and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible to have their name randomly selected.

The Power Quiz will be on the back of the newsletter each month. We hope you will participate and learn more about your Cooperative, safety and energy efficiency in the process.

Your Trusted Energy Source NWREC Becomes Member of Iowa Choice Renewables


Whether our members are looking for answers to their safety, energy efficiency, renewables or other power related questions, NWREC works hard to be the trusted energy source for our members.

Two years ago, we installed a solar array as part of our solar demonstration project. We have information on our web site on how the solar array is performing and other general information about this project and renewables. In an effort to become an even better resource for our members on energy issues, we recently became a member of Iowa Choice Renewables. Along with eight other REC's in Iowa, we will partner together to provide information and services in the area of renewable energy and other alternative energy options.

Whether you have some general questions about solar or other renewables or if you are interested in purchasing a solar system, we encourage you to call us. One of our member service staff would be happy to answer your questions and explain the various programs that we offer. We will continue to work hard to be your trusted energy partner.



IOWA CHOICE
RENEWABLES
your trusted energy partner



The experience will *BLOW* you away!

Energy Trail Tour

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 NWREC. Twelve lucky couples from NWREC will be selected at random from those who sign up.

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 12-14	1st	2nd	(please circle)
Aug 2-4	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 26, 2017

Director Profile: DEL BEYER

Here's a chance for you to get to know your Board of Directors a little better.

Family: Wife Lola; Children - 2 Daughters: Tasha, husband Jared, & children Jaxon (7) and Levi (2); and Kirsti, husband Nick, & children Knox (6) and Skye (3)

Occupation: Auctioneer & Real Estate Broker/Owner of Beyer Auction & Realty in Sioux Center, IA, and also operate a small grain farm.

Interests: Love farming and related occupation of auctioning/selling farmland; also enjoy working with public in the real estate & auction businesses. Favorite hobby is golfing.

What I enjoy about serving as an NWREC Director: I enjoy the professionalism of the board and all that it represents, as well as meeting many interesting people involved in the energy industries. I also enjoy the many learning experiences, and enjoy the varied travel, conventions, meetings, political exposure, etc.



RECare - CONSUMER CONTRIBUTION FUND

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added into your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

You care, we care, RECare.

Please return form along with your monthly bill.

CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare.
- I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is _____ (an active matching fund must be designated).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

North West REC is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

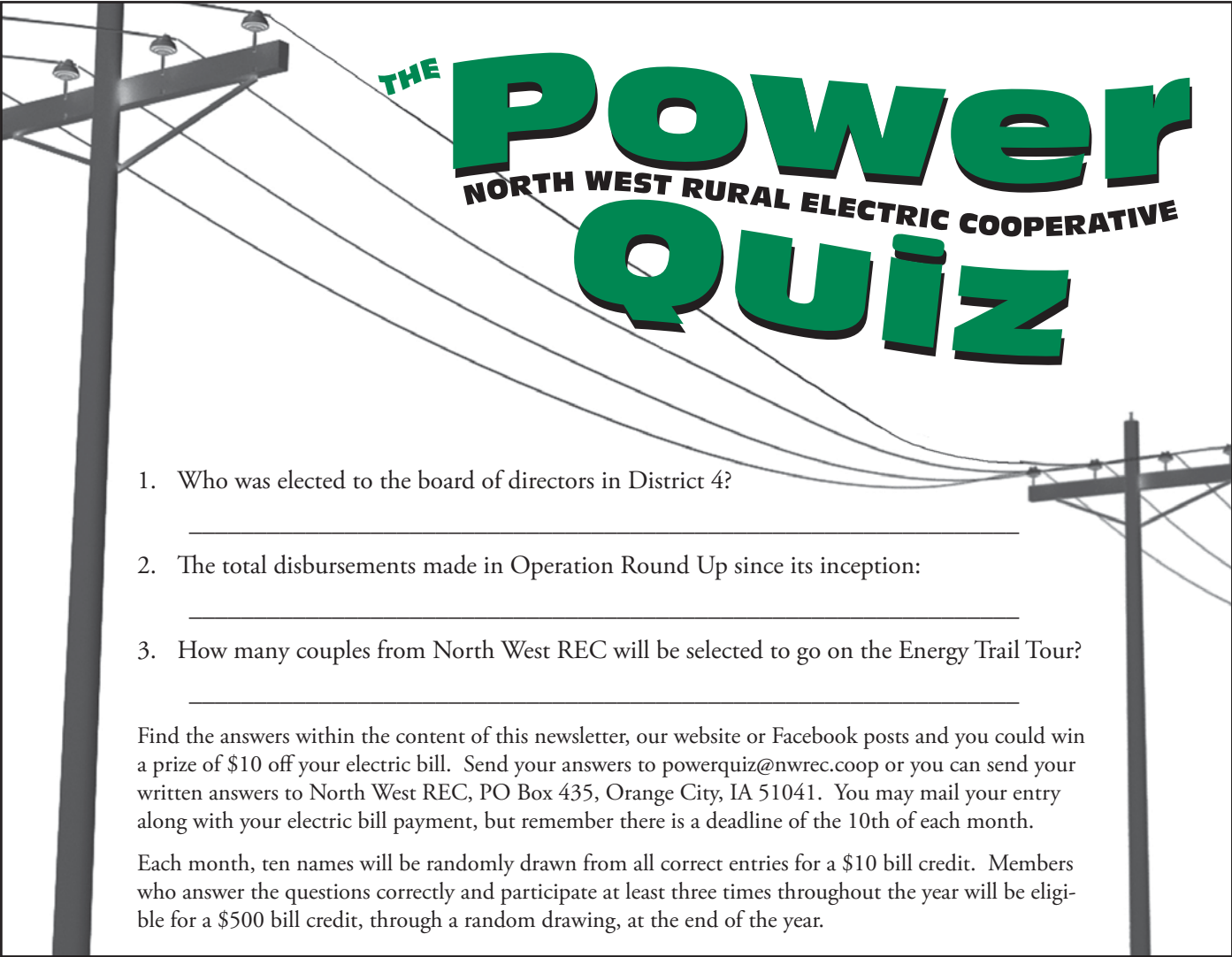
North West REC created the Community/Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long term improvement in the local economy.

The RFL is a local funding source with a goal of providing low interest loans to assist local economic and community development projects. Our priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the local economy, improving the skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and/or medical care of rural residents. This fund is administered by the North West REC Board of Directors.

Eligible applicants include organizations involved in community or economic development projects such as: new or expanding private business, local governments and nonprofit community development organizations.

For more information on eligible and ineligible uses of funds, loan terms, interest rates and other loan requirements, contact the REC office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



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

1. Who was elected to the board of directors in District 4?

2. The total disbursements made in Operation Round Up since its inception:

3. How many couples from North West REC will be selected to go 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 there is a deadline of the 10th of each month.

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 a \$500 bill credit, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.



OFFICES CLOSED

Our offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, 2017.
Please call 1-800-766-2099 in case of outage or emergency.

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
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