



NEWS *Lines*

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

GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES HONORED WITH *Venture Award*



Pictured left to right: Mike Naig, IA Secretary of Agriculture; Steve Abma, Board Director, North West REC; Jeff Rehder, Board President, North West REC; Lyle Korver, CEO, North West REC; Todd Van Tol, GrandStay Hotel; David Miller, Development Director, City of Rock Valley; Doug Becker, Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, North West REC; Steve Brown, Board Director, North West REC; Rob Driesen, Member Services Director, North West REC; and Rand Fisher, President, IADG.

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives’ annual meeting.

The new GrandStay Hotel & Suites in Rock Valley is a product of local leaders and investors who saw a need and desire for a high-quality hotel with multi-amenities. This 46-room \$5.5 million hotel offers standard and extended-stay rooms and spa suites to meet a wide variety of needs for Rock Valley and its citizens and visitors. Additional amenities include a heated indoor pool, beer and wine lounge, breakfast area, fitness facility and conference room. The facility is decorated with artwork and memorabilia from the surrounding area. An electric charging station, provided by North West REC, will serve guests with electric cars. North West REC nominated GrandStay Hotel & Suites for the Iowa Venture Award.

“The Iowa Venture Awards Luncheon provides a forum to celebrate Iowa companies that are making a positive impact in the community,” said IADG President, Rand Fisher. “Congratulations to the community and leaders of Rock Valley on the opening of the GrandStay Hotel & Suites, offering an excellent experience for corporate and leisure visitors to the community.”

JANUARY 2020

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SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



Additional Scholarships Awarded

North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2020.

There will be one **\$1,000 scholarship winner** and one **\$750 scholarship winner** from each of the four districts of North West REC. The selection process for the \$1,000 scholarship winner and \$750 scholarship winner 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 reference by a third party. The winners of these scholarships will be recognized and awarded at the district meetings in the spring.

In addition, there will be several randomly selected \$500 and \$250 scholarships awarded to scholarship applicants at each of the four district meetings of North West REC. In order to receive one of the randomly selected \$500 and \$250 scholarships, students must be present at the meeting to win.

The scholarships are 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 for the 2019-2020 school year and planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an 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 28, 2020

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 28!**

2020 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

WINTER INCREASES THE RISK OF POWER LINE ACCIDENTS

The winter weather brings snow, ice and wind that can bring down tree limbs and power lines. What's more, poor road conditions cause cars to lose control, slide off the road and contact utility poles. In a downed line situation, the moments after the accident can be the most dangerous because many people don't know proper safety steps.



The only real way to steer clear of trouble is to be prepared. There are specific steps to take if a power line falls on or near your car.

First, always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. Second, stay in the car.

The ground is an excellent conductor of electricity and so is your body. If you step out of a car that is in contact with a power line, the electricity will run from the car through your body and into the ground. So stay in the car, call 911 immediately and wait until help arrives. If anyone is near, caution them to stay far away from the car and the power line.

If the vehicle is on fire or there is smoke inside the car, however, you may need to leave. To avoid receiving a shock, jump away from the car so that no part of you touches the car and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together, and then shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground, or hop away on two feet, keeping both feet together.

Stay safe out there this winter!

2020

As we step from the old year into the new, we extend best wishes to our member-owners and their families. Health, happiness and prosperity head our list of wishes. And with our wishes comes our pledge that stays the same year in, year out – reliable service for you.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

"Your Cooperative had another successful year in 2019, and we are looking forward to continuing to work hard in 2020 to provide reliable electric service for our members at the lowest possible cost."

Board Approves 2020 Capital Outlay Budget System Improvement Plan Continues

Happy New Year! As we begin another year, I want to use this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy and successful 2020. Your Cooperative had another successful year in 2019, and we are looking forward to continuing to work hard in 2020 to provide reliable electric service for our members at the lowest possible cost. These are key components of our Mission Statement and align well with our strategic goals.

Each year we evaluate what we have done well and what we could improve on to better serve our members. As part of our planning for each new year, we prepare a detailed work plan, capital outlay budget and operating budget. Management reviews the proposed budgets for the upcoming year with the board of directors to get their input and approval.

The Capital Outlay Budget includes new construction projects, system improvements, new services and the planned expenditures for new transformers and meters.

Here are a few highlights from the Distribution Plant section of the 2020 Capital Outlay Budget:

NEW SERVICES - \$300,000: We have been adding an average of 125 new services per year and have budgeted a similar amount for 2020.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - \$3,733,000: This includes projects involving the replacement of our older line with new line. We have budgeted 18 miles of new three phase overhead line and 70 miles of new single phase underground line.

ORDINARY REPLACEMENTS - \$275,000: This includes projects like replacing poles, crossarms, etc.

LOAD MANAGEMENT & SPECIAL EQUIPMENT - \$1,150,000: Our current load management system is over 30 years old, and we are doing a pilot project on a new system. We will likely begin the first phase of replacing our old system in 2020.

Total Distribution Plant Budget for 2020 - \$5,458,000

The Distribution Plant portion of the budget is larger than normal this year. During the strategic planning meeting last January, the board and management team set a strategic goal of developing a plan to accelerate the rebuilding of NWREC's original electric distribution plant. We have increased the number of miles of line for replacement by 20 miles to meet our goal.

The following is a summary of our General Plant portion of the Capital Outlay Budget:

The total General Plant budget is \$765,000.

This includes a new basket truck, two pickups, trencher, skid loader, computers and servers and other tools, shop and office equipment.

\$360,000 Loan from our Revolving Loan Fund Assists New Prairie Woods Nature Center

The new Prairie Woods Nature Center near Hawarden is nearing completion. We recently had the opportunity to tour the beautiful new facility and to present a \$360,000 loan from our revolving loan fund to help finance a portion of the \$4.8 million project. The Center features a two story, 12,000-square foot facility that will be used for school field trips, summer camps, nursing home visits, civic groups and families.



Pictured front row left to right – Brian Van Engen and Gordon Pottebaum representing Sioux County Conservation Board; Lyle Korver, CEO of NWREC; back row left to right – Sunday Ford, Asst. Director of Prairie Woods Nature Center; Brent Van Beek, NWREC Member Service Director; Curt Ahrenholz, NWREC Finance Director; and Robert Klocke, Director of the Prairie Woods Nature Center.

North West REC was successful in securing a \$300,000 grant from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program. This is the 13th grant that NWREC has received and it gets added to our existing revolving loan fund (RLF). When we receive these grants, NWREC is required to deposit matching funds of 20% of the grant amount into our RLF. The initial loan needs to be made to a not-for-profit community type of project such as this nature center at 0% interest. As the loan is repaid, the funds are reloaned to other economic development or community development projects in our four county service area. This program is designed to be a supplemental source of funds at attractive rates but not as the primary source.

Over the last 24 years, NWREC's revolving loan fund has grown to \$5.2 million. 70 loans totalling \$14 million have assisted community, new business and business expansion projects. This has been a great economic development tool for your Cooperative and has been one of the key factors in helping our load to grow, which helps to keep our electric rates very competitive. If you have any questions about this program, please contact our office.

Board Room Summary – November 27

The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting held on November 27:

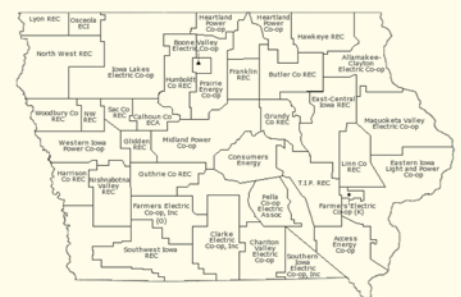
- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff.
- Heard a report from Mike Berkenpas, who represented NWREC on the NRECA International work project in Guatemala in October. Mike was one of four linemen from Iowa RECs to go on the project. They constructed 2.5 miles of line and brought electric service for the first time to 42 homes, a health post and school. The video of the trip was shown and will be published on NWREC's web site.
- Reviewed and approved the 2020 Capital Outlay Budget.
- Received a Legislative Update about the upcoming 2020 Legislative Session from State Senator Randy Feenstra. The directors and staff shared thoughts on issues that are important to the Iowa RECs.
- Reviewed plans for the December Patronage Days and March Annual District Meeting events.
- Approved a letter of support for the NRECA Cybersecurity Capabilities program that we have the opportunity to participate in.
- Received an update on the load management pilot project.
- Manager Korver shared a report on economic development projects that staff has been working on.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Received a report from the directors who attended the Basin Annual Meeting.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Appointed Manager Korver to serve as the Delegate to the NRECA and CFC Annual Meetings.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES UPDATE WEB-BASED POWER OUTAGE INFORMATION RESOURCE

Information about power outages effecting homes, businesses and farms served by North West REC is available online at www.iowarec.org, the website of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

This web resource, developed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provides a statewide view of power outages at electric cooperatives that deliver electricity in each of the state's 99 counties to approximately 650,000 Iowans. When you log onto the power outage tool, you will see a map of Iowa, and you can view the information from a county-by-county view of Iowa or electric co-op-by-electric co-op view, including North West REC. At the website you also will be able to obtain safety information as well as link to North West REC. In addition to going to the statewide association's website to view the maps, you can check out the information at <http://outages.iowarec.org>.



When there are widespread power outages in Iowa or isolated power outages impacting large numbers of Iowans, North West REC will enter information onto the website. The website will automatically refresh every 10 minutes, so it will reflect the most recently entered information from the electric co-ops. When only a few North West REC member-consumers are without power, the website may not necessarily reflect that information.

25 Years Of Service

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in Des Moines, Tim Honkomp, Gaylen Schneider, Sheila Van Beek and Doug White were recognized for 25 years of service to electric cooperatives. During a special awards ceremony, Tim and Gaylen received commemorative certificates from IAEC Board President Steve Seidl and IAEC Executive Vice President/General Manager Chuck Soderberg. Sheila Van Beek and Doug White were unable to attend the ceremony but still received a commemorative certificate.



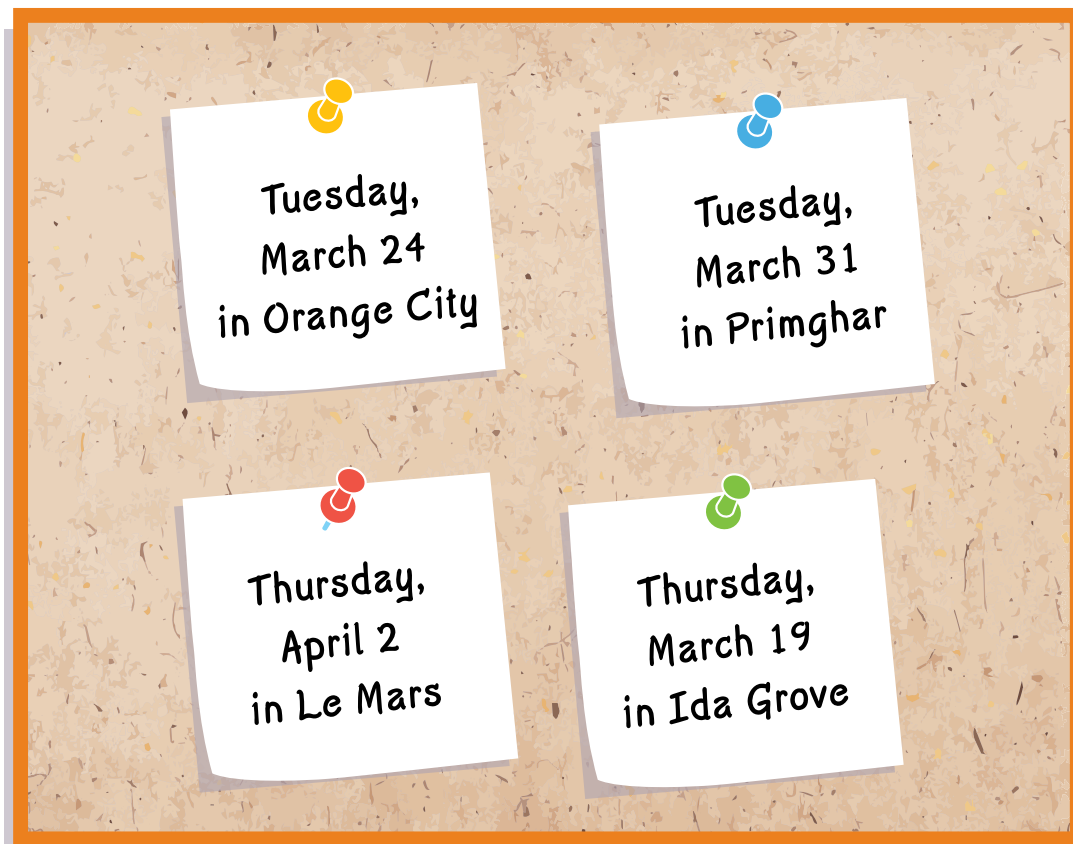
Tim Honkomp



Gaylen Schneider

Save the Date

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING DATES FOR 2020



Tuesday,
March 24
in Orange City

Tuesday,
March 31
in Primghar

Thursday,
April 2
in Le Mars

Thursday,
March 19
in Ida Grove

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. The total General Plant budget is _____.
2. The deadline to return the scholarship information is _____.
3. Name one of the 25-year employees honored: _____.

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 February 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* NOVEMBER 2019



Jed Van Der Zwaag – Hospers
 Bobby Back – Sutherland
 Dennis Von Arb – Alton
 Kevin Puhmann – Paullina
 Carla Jenness – Le Mars

Bert Van Batavia – Boyden
 Robert Zenk – Le Mars
 Eugene Boon – Alton
 Robert Vondrak – Merrill
 Lyle Gansko - Merrill



North West Rural Electric Cooperative

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Orange City office open
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Le Mars office
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Ida Grove office
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Mon-Fri

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