



# NEWS *Lines*

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

## 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. 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 also available on our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Renee at [rwynia@nwrec.coop](mailto: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

## FEBRUARY 2019

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# OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the fourth quarter of 2018 totaled \$7,850. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$439,155. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$3,500..... Medical Emergencies & Accidents – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems, accident related injuries and accidents resulting in significant loss
- \$2,000 ..... ATLAS of Orange City, ATLAS of Sioux Center, Autumn's Center, Food Bank of Siouxland, Le Mars Little League, Siouxland Youth for Christ, Zestos – program support
- \$2,250 ..... Nine area hospitals – program support
- \$ 100..... Friends of the Festival Foundation – 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE: CHANGE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

*North West REC will 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.** See page 7 for more information.*

# 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 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  
rwnya@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: Chelsy Clavarella, Basin Electric 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 10-12	1st	2nd
July 24-26	1st	2nd (please circle)

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 24, 2019*

>> PLEASE NOTE <<

Change to Connections Card Discount

Effective immediately, the Pizza Ranch discount will no longer be available except at the Sanborn Pizza Ranch. Their discount will be "Buy one adult buffet at regular price and get the 2nd adult buffet for \$6.99".



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps NWREC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities."

## Why Do We Advertise?

At North West REC (NWREC) we're often asked why we run radio ads or spend resources on mailing out a member newsletter each month. Great question! Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for NWREC to communicate often with our members who own the co-op. In fact, the core principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated.

We use a variety of communications methods to "cut through the clutter" and make sure we reach our members with our messages. Our monthly newsletter, radio announcements, social media posts, bill stuffers, emails and website serve as effective ways for us to quickly communicate important information with you regarding safety, energy efficiency, cooperative business and regulatory notices.

Let's break these categories down one by one:

### 1. Safety Awareness

As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to keep you safe from the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 8-1-1 before digging so underground utilities can be properly located. During the holidays, we promote safety in the kitchen because the incidence of home fires increases dramatically during that time. Throughout the year, we tell members to "look up and live" as they use ladders and tall equipment around the house, garage or barn.



### 2. Energy Efficiency

At NWREC, we're committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce that electricity bill and become more energy efficient, but we need to promote those resources so you know about them. For example, we often post energy efficiency tips on our Facebook page and within the pages of our member newsletter. We communicate through various methods to let you know about rebates and incentives for energy efficient products.





### 3. Cooperative Business

As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know important information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish an annual report which includes important information about the co-op and sometimes we'll post notices in the local paper to make sure you're aware of upcoming events.

### 4. Regulatory Notices

We are required to communicate with our co-op members regarding specific state and federal regulations. For example, you may notice the grain bin clearance notice we publish every year in the member newsletter and articles informing members about financial aid available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps NWREC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.

## 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 as we are hoping for another good turnout.

District 1 at Unity Christian in Orange City – March 19  
District 2 at South O'Brien School in Primghar – March 21  
District 4 at Skate Palace in Ida Grove – March 25  
District 3 & Annual Meeting at Le Mars High School – March 26

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. There will not be a director election in District 4.

## Important – Scholarship Program to Change

We want to make you aware of a change we are making to our scholarship program this year. We will continue to offer a \$1,000 scholarship in each of our four districts. In addition, we will be selecting four \$500 scholarship winners at each of our district meetings in March. You can find the details of this program in another area of this newsletter and on our web site.

Your Cooperative is pleased to support our youth by offering this scholarship program. **Please note – 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.** We will also be announcing the \$1,000 scholarship winner at the local district meetings as well. With this expansion of our scholarship program, 20 young people will have the opportunity to receive a scholarship this year.

# PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

## *District & Annual Meetings of Members*



### **DISTRICT 1 – SIOUX COUNTY**

**Tuesday, March 19**

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

### **DISTRICT 2 – O'BRIEN COUNTY**

**Thursday, March 21**

South O'Brien School in Primghar  
 Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm  
 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  
 Business Meeting 7:00 pm  
 Meeting held in Middle School Auditorium  
 Special Speaker – Chuck Long


### **DISTRICT 4 – IDA COUNTY**

**Monday, March 25**

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


*The* **CO-OP CORNER** | Let's Talk *Energy Efficiency*

Get to know your REC and the energy efficiency incentives available to you




**NORTH WEST**  
Your Touchstone Energy  
Cooperative

Although the trend of "energy efficiency" efforts have only been in the forefront of news and political communications in the past 10-15 years, Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives have been offering cost-effective energy efficiency programs since the late 1980's! North West Rural Electric Cooperative (NWREC) provides energy efficiency rebates and incentives for various energy-efficient products to our 7,219 member-owners. North West REC also offers many energy efficiency programs, such as: Switch Makes Cents - load control program, energy efficiency rebates, Kill-A-Watt Metering, and Prairie Winds Energy Program. We continue to upgrade our facilities to maximize efficiency, including more efficient transformers and upgrades to substations. By investing in more efficient electrical generation, transmission and distribution, North West REC can manage costs more effectively, resulting in lower utility bills for our members in the communities we serve.




**OVER \$3.6 MILLION**

Invested in energy efficiency over the past 5 years




**OVER \$35 MILLION**

kWh of energy savings over the life of the measures installed



**2,503**

Homes this can power for a full year!



**OVER \$1 MILLION**

in avoided costs - costs that would have been spent without energy efficiency

# 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.**

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 15, 2019**

The selection for the \$1,000 scholarship 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](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Renee at [rwynia@nwrec.coop](mailto: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 15!**

### 2019 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

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. What is the date of the annual district meeting in your district? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many total scholarships will be awarded at the annual district meetings? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_.

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](mailto: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. 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.

**DECEMBER 2018**

**POWER QUIZ** *Winners*



Eldora Vander Brink, Sioux Center  
William Verdoorn, Hospers  
Kathryn Taylor, Ireton  
Loren Oetken, Akron  
Allen Beukelman, Sioux Center

Dennis Bennett, Galva  
Carlene Hamann, Danbury  
Terry Kratz, Westfield  
Douglas Schoenrock, Le Mars  
Beyer Farms, Sanborn



**\$250 winners for 2018 were Myron Klein, Sheldon and Randy Van Kalsbeek, Hospers.**

## 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

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