



YOUTH TOUR CONTEST 2017

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 2017 Youth Tour Contest with two students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for June 9-15, 2017. 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 available on our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Lorraine at legdorf@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Lorraine 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 24, 2017.

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

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2017 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: Lorraine
PO Box 435
Orange City, IA 51041

10 REASONS TO APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

Many rural electric cooperatives across the State of Iowa participate in sending high-school aged youth on the Iowa Youth Tour, a trip to our nation's capital, to learn more about the cooperative values and impacts that they have on our communities. Throughout the trip, the tour engages in hands-on learning, immerses youth in the culture of Washington, D.C. and creates once in a lifetime experiences with friendships that will last a lifetime. Below are ten amazing reasons to visit the Youth Tour, but there are many more simply too numerous to list. (This was written by Jacob Holck of Merrill who attended the 2016 Iowa Youth Tour.)

- 1 The Uncertainty** – When I stepped foot in Des Moines, IA to meet the other delegates, I really didn't know what I was walking into on this trip. With about 30 delegates from across the State of Iowa, these people are about to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will impact each other's lives and owners of many rural electric cooperatives across the state!
- 2 The Food!** – Come hungry and leave happy! From a Half-Smoke at Ben's Chili Bowl to a burger at Five Guys Burgers & Fries, you are sure to be full as you immerse yourself in the culture of Washington, D.C. and eat like a local.
- 3 The Run with Senator Chuck Grassley** – It's a tradition! Get up at roughly 3 AM, drive to Senator Grassley's home and go for a run! It's time for some real one-on-one time with a Senator that will remain an experience unlike any other!
- 4 The Pin Trade** – Iowa's pins are worth quite a bit mainly because they are CORN NECKLACES. Let the war break out between the states and see just what happens . . .
- 5 The Hill** – Have you ever had a personal tour given by an office representative of one of your elected officials? The Capitol Tour is an amazing thing, especially with these guys because you bypass the normal tours . . . and may even get to see some other things too!
- 6 The People** – The Keynote Speakers are AMAZING! We even had one from Iowa and he met all of the 2016 presidential candidates when they visited.
- 7 The Peacefulness** – Whether it is a boat ride on the Potomac or the tour at the Tidal Basin, you are sure to kick back a little and have a ton of fun in the process!
- 8 The Changing of the Guard** – Guarded continuously since 1937, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is one of the most sacred places in Washington, D.C. Watching the Changing of the Guard is amazing, but being selected to lay a wreath is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives the feeling of honor and astonishment.
- 9 The Family** – After spending every waking moment with the same people for the duration of the trip, these people are no longer friends . . . they become family, just like rural electric cooperatives across the state.
- 10 The Chaperones** – Shelly has experience and a lot of it in planning this trip! With seven youth tours under her belt, she knows how to do it right! Youth Tour would not be the same without Shelly leading the way and it is because of her work year round that the Iowa Youth Tour is the best Youth Tour in the nation!!



OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the fourth quarter of 2016 totaled \$3,800. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$378,355. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

\$ 500 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$2,300 Food Bank of Siouxland, LeMars United Way, Orange City Community Chest, Ida County Crisis Funds, S.O.S. O'Brien County, ATLAS, Autumn's Center, Abbey of LeMars, Primghar Junior Women's Club, Hope Haven, Village Northwest Unlimited, Life Skills Training Center, and Ida Services Inc. – program support

\$ 100 Friends of the Festival – support for community events/programs

\$ 900 Nine area hospitals



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 # _____

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

MANAGER'S REPORT



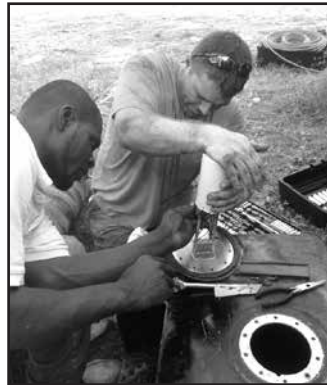
Lyle D. Korver

“In the last 50 years, NRECA International has brought electricity to more than 120 million people in 43 developing countries.”

North West REC Lineman Answers Call to Provide Help in Haiti

Our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), has an international program that has been a global ambassador for the cooperative business model for many years. NRECA International began in 1962 to share lessons learned in the electrification of rural areas of the United States. In the last 50 years, NRECA International has brought electricity to more than 120 million people in 43 developing countries. This program helps to design and implement successful, sustainable, scalable rural electrification programs that improve education, healthcare, safety and economic opportunity.

North West REC has been a longtime supporter of the NRECA International Program by annually contributing \$2,500 to this great program. We were excited that one of our linemen, Gabe Roetman, had the opportunity to get involved by helping in Haiti following the serious destruction that occurred from Hurricane Matthew.



NRECA International sent out a desperate call in October for a mechanic who was needed in Haiti to repair three digger derrick trucks that were broken down. Gabe had enrolled in the Iowa Lakes Community College diesel technology program and worked in that field for four years before changing to the Powerline program, so he had the skills they were looking for. Gabe answered the call and traveled to Haiti on November 17. By the fifth day, he had made the repairs and the trucks were running again. He then worked a couple of days with the line crew in Haiti making line repairs and returned home on November 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

He described the damage to the new cooperative's lines as devastating. The Cooperative Electric (CEAC) was formed in Haiti in 2013 and the first lights were turned on in September, 2015. The CEAC served 1,000 meters prior to the hurricane. Just one year after first turning on the lights, they were faced with rebuilding the system.



We are proud of Gabe's willingness to serve in this way and for his great work on behalf of the International Program and the people of Haiti. "I'm glad I did it," Gabe said. "It was worth it. One thing I learned is that life is very easy here at home."

Paying for a System that Works Around the Clock

Your electric cooperative has been around for a long time – 78 years to be exact. We’ve witnessed the many ways electricity has transformed the communities we serve and our rural landscape. Before electricity, today’s household tasks were hard work and dangerous. For example, cooking and washing clothes involved a lot of manual labor. Thankfully, practically everything we do – from entertainment to our jobs – is impacted by the ease of electricity.

A lot has changed since electric cooperatives first turned the lights on for rural Iowa. One thing that hasn’t changed is our mission to provide electricity to you. Because we’ve been reliably, efficiently and affordably delivering electricity to homes and businesses for decades, some of our member-owners ask why they still need to pay for a system that should have been paid for by now.

The truth is, most – if not all – of the original system was paid for many years ago. The original infrastructure, such as poles and wires, which was paid for many years ago has likely been replaced. When you have a system that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, equipment needs to be replaced at regular intervals. Imagine if you had a car that was 78 years old and it was driven all day, every day. By now, either the car would not be operating, or every part of the car – from the tires to the engine – would have been replaced many times. The same is true for utility infrastructure. While poles and wires generally have a life span of 30-40 years, some may not last as long due to a variety of conditions. For example, a major ice storm can cause power lines to snap and poles to break regardless of their age.

Paying for an electric cooperative system can be compared to paying for your home. Over many years or decades, the original tract of land and the physical property are paid in full. But infrastructure updates such as a new furnace, air conditioner, windows, and roof are required, not to mention updates to appliances, carpeting, flooring, and paint. Consider how inefficient it would be to heat your home with a 78-year-old furnace. Think of the additional money you’d spend each month due to its inefficiency instead of replacing it with a new model. The same logic applies to your co-op as we need to replace vehicles and equipment over the years to serve you best. Aside from the costs of hard assets at the co-op, there are also the costs of property taxes, insurance, regular maintenance, and staffing that contribute to our overall system costs.

The original co-op infrastructure fulfilled the expectations of that time in terms of reliability and affordability. Over the years, many of those needs have changed. What’s in place today is an improved distribution system that allows us to meet increasing demands for kilowatt-hours in an efficient manner. Not only has the need for electricity increased, but our processes now result in reduced outage times. We also work to extend the life of infrastructure through maintenance at regular intervals. Poles are routinely tested for decay, and we trim vegetation throughout our system on cycles to maintain a high level of reliability. To balance reliability with affordability, we upgrade our system when and where it makes sense to do so. We balance financing upgrades and replacements with debt and equity so that we can keep your rates affordable while providing power that you can count on for your home or business.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



*Tracy Bahrenfuss, Dusty Koele, Tim Honkomp
and Lorn Wielenga*

Four linemen from North West REC traveled to Clear Lake, South Dakota the last week of December to help with storm restoration work. There were reports that the SD RECs had approximately 20,000 members out of power from ice and strong winds. Our linemen worked with crews from Woodbury and Iowa Lakes.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Additional Scholarships Awarded

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 sponsor **four \$750 scholarships and four \$500 scholarships to the runners-up** in each district. We will be able to honor a total of 12 applicants.

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 10, 2017**

The selection 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 or you can e-mail Lorraine at legdorf@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Lorraine 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 10!**



2017 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: Lorraine • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

Director Profile: **RAYMOND DREY**

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

Family: Wife Susan; four children: Annette, Deborah, Mark and Kristina; 15 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 4 step great-grandchildren, and two more great-grandchildren expected this summer

Occupation: A retired farmer but helps son Mark bring in harvest. In the spring drives truck for C.P.S., hauling fertilizer, chemicals and grain. Newly elected as Ida County Supervisor.

Interests: Being with family and keeping busy attending meetings, involved in church activities, minister to home bound, teach PREP class to 9th grade



What I enjoy about serving as a NWREC Director:

- Being a part of a great team of directors and working with one of the best managers in Iowa
- Representing the great REC members of Ida County
- Attending district, state and NIPCO meetings
- Staying updated on solar, wind, coal and natural gas projects
- Keeping electricity affordable to our members

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND 2017 DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

District 1 – Sioux County

Tuesday, March 21
Unity Christian High School in Orange City
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – REZA

District 2 – O'Brien County

Tuesday, March 14
South O'Brien School in Primghar
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – South O'Brien Jazz Band

District 3 – Plymouth County

Wednesday, March 22
Le Mars Community High School
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – REZA

District 4 – Ida County

Thursday, March 16
Skate Palace in Ida Grove
Registration & Dinner 5:30-7:00 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – Local School

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 31, 2017**

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: Lorraine
PO Box 435 *Orange City, IA 51041 * 800-766-2099
legdorf@nwrec.coop



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
*Finance & Office
Services Director*

Lorraine Egdorf
Editor