

PRINCHED MONTHLY FOR THE MEANING OF MORTH MEST PHIRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

AUGUST 2024

IN THIS *Assue*

Scholarship Winners

Lineworkers Helped Bring Electricity To Guatemalan Village

Managers Report 4-5

Unclaimed Property 6-7

Quarterly Operation Round-Up Report

> Power Quiz 8

Switch Smart? 8

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.



2024 Member APPRECIATION DAYS

Pork Chop & Hot Dog Meals
Blue Bunny Ice Cream Treats
Adult & Kid Prize Drawings
Patronage Information
New NWREC mobile app
Bouncy Houses
Games & More!



Please join us from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.
Bring the postcard you receive in the mail to register for prizes and bill credits!

O'Brien County August 27

O'Brien County Fairgrounds 555 3rd St. Primghar Sioux County September 3

Terrace View Event Center 230 St. Andrews Way Sioux Center Ida County September 10

Ida County Fairgrounds 2332 Hwy 59 Ida Grove Plymouth County
September 12

Plymouth County Fairgrounds 500 4th Ave NE Le Mars

Awarded \$27,000 in Scholarships to 62 Students!

North West REC provides several scholarships to high school students each spring. These scholarships are funded by North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a consumer-owned, regional generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Bismarck, N.D., responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to eight Midwestern states.

The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students in the region; it is also an investment in the economic future of rural areas. **This year North West REC awarded sixty-two scholarships totaling \$27,000.** There were eight \$1,000 scholarships, twenty-five \$500 scholarships, and twenty-nine \$250 scholarships. The \$1,000 scholarship winners were chosen from applications reviewed by our scholarship committee. The \$500 and \$250 scholarship winners were randomly drawn from the remainder of the applicants who also completed a educational questionnaire about North West REC.

\$1,000 Scholarship Winners



District 1
Maddie Schwark
Steve & Amber Leusink
University of Iowa
Pre-Law/Spanish



District 1
Emalee Vermeer
Mark & Tricia Vermeer
Dordt University
Elementary Education



District 2
Hali Bullerman
David & Ann Bullerman
South Dakota State University
Agricultural Business



District 2
Ellen Hunt
Steve & Julie Hunt
University of Northern Iowa
Communications Disorders



District 3
Julianna Verzal
Jeff & Stacy Verzal
South Dakota State University
Psychology



District 3
Brandon Sandall
Darrell & Sharon Sandall
South Dakota State University
Mechanical Engineering



District 4
Brody Schneider
Jason & Tiffany Schneider
Northwest Iowa Community College
Powerline



District 4 Taya PhilipsCurt & Kristal Philips
Morningside University
Elementary Education

\$500 District 1

De Vries, Tye
Fedders, Ashley
Hoftyzer, Chloe
Hulshof, Molly
Jansma, Breanna
Muilenburg, Jocelyn
Pals, Tyra
Pohlen, Haley
Vonk, Hudson

\$250 District 1

Doughan, Lillian Harman, Jackson Meerdink, Landon Nilles, Eric Schrock, Emilee Van Grootheest, Merrik Van Regenmorter, Brodie Van Voorst, Laney Verhoef, Kaily

\$500 District 2

Budden, Tamson Oliver, Ian Schierholz, Adam Wilson, Elodie

\$250 District 2

Hofmeyer, Makenna Larson, Brenden Struve, Ashlynn

\$500 & \$250 Scholarship Winners

\$500 District 3

Allan, Brady Galles, Kaden Harpenau, Will Homan, Cole Homan, Jacie Kovarna, Ashlyn Loutsch, McKenna Morrow, Cael Schroeder, Owen

\$250 District 3

Brown, Sarah Geddes, Brooklyn Kallsen, Chance Lahrs, Briar Newton, Anne Peters, Mason Philips, Ben Schmitz, Linley Sitzmann, McKenna Tentinger, Kennedy Van Otterloo, Grace Wadle, Beau Wiese, Kyle

\$500 District 4

Burk, Natalie Sharkey , Carson Vohs, Jaycie Weeda, Dillon

\$250 District 4

Goettsch, Isaac Parks, Isabella Schimmer, Jacob



Co-op Lineworkers Helped Electrify Guatemalan Village



In mid-June, 14 lineworkers from Minnesota and lowa traveled about 2,800 miles to transform a rural village, improving Guatemalan families' lives for generations. The trip was part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Program, which has been providing volunteers

to illuminate villages and homes in impoverished countries around the world since 1962.

North West REC was able to send lineworker, Mike Berkenpas, down to Guatemala to help with this life-changing work. The village of Las Peñas, at an elevation of around 6,000 feet, is made up of about 35 homes scattered on the crests and flat areas of the mountainside, near the larger community of Jalapa in eastern Guatemala. Crews helped build more than three miles of powerlines and wired the homes for electric service.

The lineworkers who volunteered are used to working hard in some rough conditions, but this two-week trip in June pressed them to new limits. The ride to the village, after the staging area at a local ranch, was grueling. To get to the village, the team spent more than an hour bouncing over rocks, splashing through puddles, straddling washouts, spinning through ruts and sliding on the wet, red clay road that hadn't even existed four weeks earlier. The rain, coming in sheets at times or as a lingering gray mist, kept the road slick and travel slow, and caused the team to walk the last mile into the village on a couple of days.

All the work had to be done by hand without bucket trucks and other large equipment available in the states. However, they did have willing local residents. "They were eager to help," Steve Dvergsten, Sioux Valley Electric, South Dakota, said of the Guatemalans. The crews were amazed at how the locals did the work that would be done by equipment back home, running the line down one side of the mountain and back up the other.

"The locals are amazing, and they go through this terrain like we walk on flat ground," said Ryan Loomans, Nobles

Cooperative Electric. "It's amazing, we couldn't have done it without them."

The local municipality will now manage the lines and serve the village. The introduction of electricity will bring meaningful change to the community. In rural villages, boys often attend school while girls are kept home to do housework and food preparation. With electricity, girls can join the boys attending school. Additionally, electricity brings numerous other benefits including: better health, fewer open fires in kitchens, refrigeration of food, economic growth and more.

"Electricity is going to bring them a better education and a better life," said Willy, one of the team's translators.

Along with building the line, the crews also wired the houses with a couple of outlets and light bulbs. Some younger boys were excited just to have light, so they wouldn't have to use candles, while another man in his

50's said he can't wait to get a refrigerator, so he can keep food.

On the last day up the mountain, the crews met the locals outside the village for a small ceremony and to say their goodbyes.



The leader of the village spoke on behalf of the community, expressing their gratitude to the team. "Thank you to everyone who helped," he said. "You bring happiness for the hope that we can do more now with electricity." This work echoes of the time in the U.S. about 80-90 years ago when rural areas received power for the first time thanks to rural electric cooperatives. Life in America is significantly better today thanks to rural electrification.

One Guatemalan woman summed it up nicely: "I am grateful that you came here to visit. It is a grand day that you installed electricity here."





MANAGER'S Report

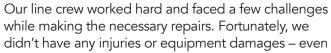
Lyle D. Korver

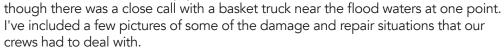
Impact of Flooding Events Widespread

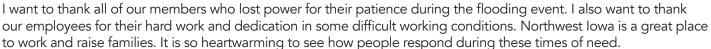
Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to everyone who has been impacted by the June flooding events in northwest lowa. We know that the damage to homes, businesses, roads, bridges and other infrastructure has been widespread and devastating. While the response efforts were nothing short of amazing, the ongoing recovery efforts will continue to take a lot of hard work and perseverance.



In terms of how this has impacted North West REC, I would have to say we were very fortunate. Our electric distribution system held up very well. We did have a few broken poles and damaged transformers, meters and underground cabinets. But overall, our outage time and damages were fairly minimal compared to what others were dealing with.













Member Appreciation Events Scheduled

One of our strategic goals is to continue to enhance our member engagement opportunities. Some of our best opportunities related to this are our Member Appreciation events. We have had great attendance at these the last several years and we are really looking forward to them again this year. We hope you will mark you calendar and plan to attend one this year. The dates and locations are located on the front page of this newsletter.

The food and fellowship is always great and we have a lot of fun things planned including information about our patronage retirement, rolling out our new NWREC mobile app, sharing safety and reliability information, and having bouncy houses for the kids and some skills challenge games for all ages. We look forward to seeing you!



The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the May and June board meetings:

- Received monthly safety meeting reports.
- Mike Berkenpas, lineman with the Le Mars crew, gave a report on his recent work project trip to Guatemala and his work with the lowa and Minnesota crews to build line and bring electric service to a remote area for the first time.
- Received an update from Doug Alons, Operations
 Director, and Derrick Haak, Assistant Operations
 Director, on the recent flooding damage and
 repairs.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.
- Manager Korver provided an update on operations, kWh sales, staffing and service reliability. KWh sales for the first five months of 2024 are at a record level.
- Received financial reports from Curt Ahrenholz,
 Finance Director. Margins through five months are higher than budget.
- Plans for the Member Appreciation Day events were reviewed.

- Met with Sioux County Board of Supervisors, Carl Vande Weerd and Craig Hoftyzer, to receive an update on the recent flooding and to discuss issues of common interest.
- Approved a Business Disaster Loan Program to assist small businesses who have been impacted by the flooding.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- Received an update on the fiber broadband project at Holstein that North West REC is partnering with Evertek on through our N.E.T. Broadband partnership.
- Heard a report on technology and cyber security by James Vondrak. IT Director.



Left to Right: Shirley Schroeder, Steve Brown, Doug Becker, Jeff Rehder, Scott Feuerhelm, Steve Abma, Dale Ullrich, Daniel Van Beek, Dave Bosma, Dan Hoffman, Tom Wagner.

Call the Office to Claim Your Property

North West REC, located at 1505 Albany Place SE, Orange City, IA 51041 is holding unclaimed property (resulting from a refund or patronage dividend) due to the persons listed below. Please call 1-800-766-2099 to claim this property or to update a mailing address. If you know someone listed please tell them to call the office. The person listed, or their beneficiary, must call the office themselves to claim the property.

Ahlers, Clarence Ahlers, Vincent Ahlers Farm Amber Pork Inc Anderson, Brad Anderson, Darrel Anglim, Melissa Atsma, Ray, J. Aulenbach, Tracey, J.

В

Babcock, Josh Backman, Robert, B. Bader, Henry, R., Jr Bailey, Timothy, B. Barnes, Mary Bauler, Charles, F. Baumgardner, Tiffany Beardsley, Joe Beattie, Brian, A. Behrens, Anthony Birk, Jared, J. Bjork, Jane Black, Brent Blackmore, Darwin Bosma, Margaret, J. Brown, Michele, L. Brownlee, Sandra Bruning, Jeremy Bucher, Brian, L.

C

Castle, Adam Chavez, Arturo Christopherson, Larry Clabaugh, Travis Comstock, Thomas, L. Consolidated Energy Cornfields Inc. Cox, Scott Craig, Alan Cranston Bros Cromwell, Laurie Cullen, K.C. Culley, Kevin Cummings, Jennifer

Daniels, Todd De Groot, Harold, J. De Jong, Emma De Vos, Jerad De Vries, Tina De Waay, Richard De Weerd, Josh De Young, Devin Dekorne, Daniel Delux Motel Diamond Pork Dimmitt, Cindy Doorenbos, James, M. Hantla, John Doornink, Dustin Driesen, Arlene Duenas, Ofelia Duncan, Robert Dunnington, Jeffrey, D. Durst Inc

Edmundson, Orlyn Engelkes, William Engelking, David

F.N.Spot-A-Pot Inc. Fekete, Nick Feldman, Deborah, K. Ferdsons Family Farms Inc. Flores, Jose, A. Fredricksen, Tim French, Tamara Frentress, Mark Friedel, George Fritz, Spencer, N.

Galero, Larry Galvin, Jason Geier, John, A. Gertrude L. Brouwer Trust Gibson, Mary, H. Gifford, Steve Goebel, James, H. Goettsch, Eric Goosmann, Autumn Graff, Teri

Grant, Shawn Greenfield, Kelly Griffin, Brady, J. Griffith, Luke

Hainds, Madhvi Hamar, Darold Hamman, Travis Haneklaus, Susan Hansen, Alice Hansen, Gene Hansen, Maxine Hardin, Jack Hare, Gerald Harms, Gladys Harrison, Samuel Harsma, Michael Harvey, Nick Hathaway, Patrick Hauq, Melissa Hawkins, John Heeringa Construction Hein, Herbert Henbest, Max, A. Hengtgen, Blake Henry, Sandra Hernandez, Marin Herwig, Steven, M. Hilley, Lori, P. Hillrichs, Randy Hinds, Jack, C. Hintz, Roger Hodgson, Roy Hoffer, Travis Hoffman, Theo, M. Hofman, James Homestead Valley Farms Inc. Hopcroft, Lawrence, J., Jr Hopkins, David Humeston, Helen

lenn, Joseph Iowa Health System Ironwood Pork LLC Irwin, Robert, M.

J & C Farms LLC Jacobson Distribution Company Jager, Grant, R., Sr. Jepsen, Sandra Jester, Bryce Jochims, David, A. Jochims, Amy Johnson, Alan, L. Johnson, Doug Johnson, Keith Johnson, Kristie Jones, Glen Jordan, Mark Jurrens, Duane, G.

K

Kallsen, Margaret Kass, Steve Killeas, Helen Kingma, Jeffrey, L. Klaassen, Jennifer Klein, Azucena Knoblock, Joseph Kolar, Robert, A. Koldenhoven, James Koopman, Tyler, C. Kraai, Adrian Kruid, Geraldine Kuiken, Harold

Labahn, William Lafavor, Jeff, W. Lamb, Michael, D. Lambert, John, H., Jr. Larson, Mrs. John, W. Leekley, Edmond Lilly, Gayle Lineberry, Clinton Lorenzen, Larry Ludwig, Melvin Ludwig, Mrs. Brad Luschen, Mark, R.

Madden, Don, Jr. Madsen, Stanton Mahaney, Justin, T. Maier, Stephen, M. Marshall, Jon Martin, Earl, W., Jr. Mason, Scott, A. Matthews, Peter Mc Dyer, David, P. Mccline, Curtis Mcdaniel, Ray Mcdermott, Alan Mcdonald, Tasha Meerbeek, Allen Menendez, Dena, L. Merideth, Josh Merley, Louis Meyer, Vernon Meyers, Charles Miller, Melva Moeller, Raymond Moffatt, Travis, A. Moir, Donald, R. Montange, Leverne Mosser, Terry Muecke, Roger Muecke, Selma Mulder, Brian Mullin, Daniel, S. Myers, Justin

Nelson, Donald, D. Nelson, Joseph Newman, Leland Newsom, Charles Nielsen, Tim Nieman, Joe Niichel, Michael Niles, Jasmine, V. Noll, Brylee, A.

0

Oetken, Mrs. Donald Oliveira, Gilberto Olson, Rich Otto Kranz, Kristi

Parker, Richard Patton, Gary Penning, Merlin Perry, Lisa Peters, Terry, L. Peterson, Troy, E. Pierce, Tom Pinney, Dave Pippett, Tricia Pitts, Marcia Poage, Cody Pope, Anthony Poppema, Kenny Priborsky, Raymond Prieksat, Carl Puck, Shirley

Radiator Works & Welding LLC Schmidt, Kenneth Rahfaldt, Jim Rahfaldt, Nick Rann, Laura Rasmussen, Rosie Rathjen, Lou Renken, Rick Rennie-Fowler, Graham Schumann, Kenneth Richardson, Lyle, C. Richter, Leslie

Ridout, Gina Ripley, Jerry, C. Robinson, Fred Robinson, Garth Rohlfs, Allen Rolfes, Betty Roseland, Steve

S

Sample, Raymond Satterwhite, Lowell Schatz, Kenneth, C. Schlenger, Karen Schmidt, Mrs. Everet, T.J. Schmidt, Deric Schmit, Brittany Schneider, Donald, W. Schoger, Robert, A. Schreiber, Andrew Schubert, Beryl Schueder, Jim Schurke, Camille Schwebach, Lindsay

Sealine, Adrian Sears, Matthew Sheda, Bryanne Siebenahler, Nathan Simonson, Whitney Skogman, Dan Smit, Sara, B. Smith, Jesse Snow, John Snow, Shelly Sokolowski, Aaron Sparks, Norma Spiering, Eric St Andrew, Hubert Stahl, Chad, A. Statema, Dave, G. Steig, David Steinbeck, Carl Stevens, Jason, L. Subart, Elizabeth

Thies, Shawn Thomas, Molly Timber Roots MTD

Tingle, David, A. Tondreau, Evelyn, M. Topete, Margarito Trobaugh, Leo Tuttle, Gerald

Uhl, Lynne Unrau, Dan Utesch, Randy Utesch, Ryan

Van Der Stoep, Larry Van Der Zwaag, Brent Van Der Zwaag, Tony Van Voorst, Brandi Van Zanten, Terry Vander Burgh, Cliff Vander Helm, James, A. Vaydich, Jeff Virginia Tornell Est. Volkert, David Vondrak, Jerald Vondrak-Oetken, Cindy, S.

Waitt Outdoor LLC Weenink, Raymond, G. West, Ronald, D. West, John Whitaker, Christian White, Harry, B. Wiener Brothers Wiese, Nancy Willer, Virgil Williams, James, J. Williams, Gary Wilson, Charles, R. Wolf, John, H. Wunschel, Amelia, R.

Yeo, Mary Young, James, M.

Zellmer, Peter, D.



One of the great parts of the Switch Makes Cents program is the interruptible all electric heat rate. When your primary and backup heat is all electric, (you have no propane or gas **SMART?** heat), you are eligible for the discounted interruptible all electric heat rate. For this rate

you will need a sub meter and a switch installed and hooked up to your heating system. This means that your electric heating & cooling system and water heater's kilowatts will run through your sub meter at the discounted rate. Appliances, lights and anything else plugged into your outlets will still run through your main meter at the regular rate. Other equipment that can be hooked up to your switch includes electric irrigators, electric generators, and electric vehicle chargers.

Operation Round-Up Report

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the second quarter of 2024 totaled \$10,350. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$727,945 . Many people have been helped thanks to our members contributions.



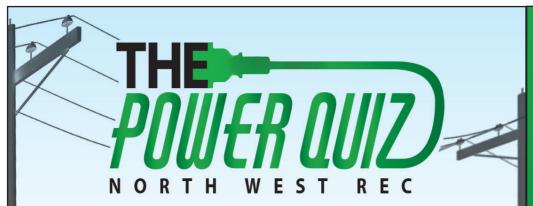
\$3,000 Medical Emergencies - assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$7,000 Floyd Valley Foundation, Hope Haven, Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Justice for All, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Upper Des Moines Opportunity

\$350 Boyden American Legion

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 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 or visit our website for more information or to sign up. To receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 800-766-2099 or visit our website nwrec.coop



- 1. How many students received scholarships this year?
- 2. What is one of the dates of the Member Appreciation Day Events?
- 3. Name an organization that received an Operation Round-Up donation?

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 September 4. 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

JUNE 2024

Austin Bliek - Rock Valley Carol Bowen - Sanborn Susan Eubanks - Remsen Terry Kratz - Westfield Maynard Ravnsborg - Sioux City

Name

Brad Roepke - Kingsley Leo Stoll - Hospers Eldora Van Der Brink - Schleswig Lyle Wittrock - Holstein Robert Zenk - Le Mars



Name one appliance that can be hooked up to your switch:

Answer:			
_			

Acct. #

What do you know about the Switch Makes Cents program? Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize. Send your answers to switchsmart@nwrec.coop, fill out the question form online, or 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 September 4. Each month, one name will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$25 bill credit.

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 open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays only

PHONE: (800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or nwrec.smarthub.coop Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online anytime using SmartHub



Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Lyle D. Korver
CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde Editor





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