



NEWS *Lines*

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

OCTOBER 2022

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Iowa's cooperatives team up to celebrate Iowa Co-op Month

To celebrate National Cooperative Month in October, Iowa's electric cooperatives are partnering with the Iowa Credit Union League and the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives on an Iowa Co-op Month campaign to raise awareness about the positive impact of cooperatives in our state. Governor Kim Reynolds recently signed a proclamation declaring October as Co-op Month in Iowa.

The Iowa Co-op Month campaign works to educate Iowans about the "cooperative advantage" through a landing page at www.IowaCooperatives.com, media outreach and coordinated social media posts. Here are some co-op facts you might not know:

1. Nearly one in two Iowans is a member of a cooperative, including credit unions, electric distributions co-ops and ag services co-ops.
2. If all of Iowa's 12,000 cooperative employees were grouped together, they would be one of the top 10 largest employers in the state. Co-ops offer stable careers with top-tier benefits in communities of all sizes.
3. Iowa's locally owned cooperatives generate more than \$60 million in property taxes each year, which directly benefit Iowa communities, counties, local schools and hospitals.

We're proud of our cooperative heritage of being locally owned and governed with a mission to improve quality of life for our member-owners. At North West REC, we are democratically controlled by our members through an elected board of directors who make long-term decisions for the cooperative. All co-ops are guided by 7 Cooperative Principles, which is a key reason why electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities; we always put the needs of our members first.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram this month to watch new videos celebrating the cooperative difference featuring Iowans just like you. Learn more about the cooperative advantage at www.IowaCooperatives.com.



Keep Safety in Mind During Harvest Season



It's that time of year again when combines are plugging through fields and tractors with wagons are busy carrying loads to and from the grain elevator. It's time for harvest and time for safety, especially overhead power line safety.

Farmers need to be alert when working with farm equipment. Many pieces of farm equipment, such as grain augers or elevators, can reach heights that exceed power lines. Before harvest even starts, it is a good idea to walk around your farm to see where overhead lines are located and check the height of farm equipment.

Other tips to remember this harvest season:

- Be alert to power lines when you reach the end of your field.
- Inform family members and hired hands about safety procedures.
- Keep all objects at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Contact your local REC before you build or move a grain bin.

What you should do if you're inside a tractor that touches a power line:

- Try to back away from the line.
- If you can, stay put and have someone call NWREC.
- If you must leave your tractor, jump clear (putting both feet forward) so you won't make contact with the ground and the vehicle at the same time.

Safety tips for handling loose grain:

- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Never work alone. If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone assist you.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Be especially careful when working with old grain.

Being aware of the dangers could mean the difference between a safe harvest season and a disaster. Take that extra minute for safety – the life you save may be your own! Stay alert and stay alive!



MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN

MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN

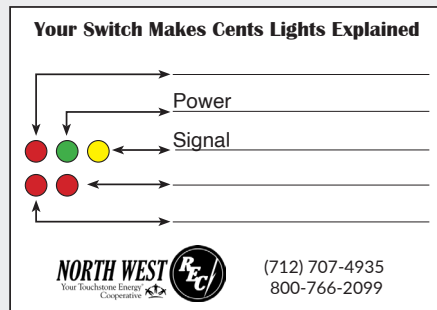
It's that simple, and it's the law in Iowa. By following these two rules of the road, you can help save lives and avoid receiving a traffic ticket – or even losing your driver's license. It's necessary to move over or slow down when approaching stationary emergency, maintenance, and utility vehicles with flashing lights activated.



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

When our member service employees swap out your old switch with our new RF switch they will put a sticker (similar to the one below) on the outside of the switch panel. If the green light is on there is power to your switch and it is working properly. If any of the red lights are on, then your switch is currently doing load control to conserve energy during a period of peak energy demand.

How do you know if your switch is currently being controlled?



Sign up for **smart choices**

Don't receive Smart Choices?

Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:

www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up

Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code below in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win! We are giving away two \$25 bill credits in October.



CCW10024OCT

Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The 2022-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (4 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or 2021 or 2022 tax return.

Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for the help will be paid on a first come, first serve basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

Maximum Gross Income Household Annual Gross

Size	Income
1.	\$27,180
2.	\$36,620
3.	\$46,060
4.	\$55,500
5.	\$69,940

For families with more than five members, add \$9,440 annually for each additional family member.

APPLICATION

Social Security Card or I-94 Card – We require a copy of the original card for each household member.

Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill – This may be two separate bills.

Proof of Income – This includes total household gross income from all sources (for all household members age 19 and over). We must have complete proof of income to process your application.

- **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
- **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for 30 days preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year federal income tax return, 2021 or 2022.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your 2021 or 2022 federal income tax return.
- **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LIHEAP:

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.

Ida County - Ida County Courthouse 712-364-2175
401 Moorehead • Ida Grove 712-225-3322
Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cherokee County 712-225-3322
921 So 2nd St • Cherokee
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lyon County 712-472-3746
302 S Lincoln • Rock Rapids 712-722-3611
Wednesday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Plymouth County 712-546-6603
180 10th St SE • Le Mars 712-225-3322
Tues & Thurs 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sioux County 712-722-3611
618 14th St NE • Sioux Center
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Central Office 800-859-2025
418 S Marion St • Remsen 712-786-2001
Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Fax: 712-786-3250

Visit us on the web at: www.midsioux.org
Hearing Impaired Call 711

Upper Des Moines Opportunity
O'Brien County Outreach Center 712-957-1023
140 2nd St SE • Primghar
Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Wed – open until 6:30 pm





Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Member Appreciation Day Events See Record Turnout

We were very pleased to see a record turnout from our members for the four Member Appreciation events that were held at the end of August and in early September. We enjoyed beautiful weather and served nearly 2,500 members and guests. One of our goals with having these events in the fall and having outside activities was to encourage more participation from younger members and families. In the past, our primary member engagement events were typically held in March and revolved around a meeting format. The turnout from younger members and families for those events was usually quite low.

I'm pleased to report that the turnout from our younger members and families for the fall Member Appreciation events was once again up considerably compared to our March meeting format events. We had a number of activities for everyone including inflatables for the kids, education stations for all age groups, and an EV and classic car show.



We had a number of activities for everyone including inflatables for the kids, education stations for all age groups, and an EV and classic car show. We served a porkchop meal and had hot dogs for the kids. We also handed out patronage checks.

The prize winners and some pictures are included in another section of the newsletter. We are always looking for new ways to try to improve our member engagement. These events seemed to be a real hit, and we appreciate the great participation we had. If you have ideas for ways that we can improve these events in the future, please share them with us. Thank you for your loyalty and support.

\$2,044,000 in Patronage Checks Distributed

One of the important benefits our members receive from being a member of North West REC is the return of deferred patronage dividends. Following the closing of the Cooperative's books each year, the margins are assigned to the members based on the dollar amount of electricity they have purchased during the year. These assignments are referred to as deferred patronage dividends.

The Board of Directors approved a patronage retirement in the amount of \$2,044,000 this year, and we have returned this to the members in the form of checks or bill credits this fall. We used a combination of the First In, First Out (FIFO) and Last In, First Out (LIFO) method this year. This year's retirement covered the remaining assignment of the year 2009, a portion of 2010, and a portion of 2021.

With this \$2,044,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 83 years to over \$31 million. We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about.



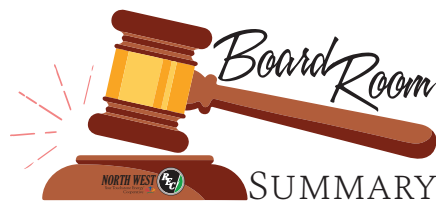
First Signup for Our EV Rebate and Rate

Earlier this year, we announced a new rebate and rate that are available to members who purchase an electric vehicle (EV). We are pleased that we have had our first member signup for this new program.

Pictured below are Greg and Julie Bakker from Rock Valley who recently purchased a new Chevrolet Bolt EUV. They installed a level 2 charger in their garage and we installed a load management switch and meter to record the charging usage.

Since they agreed to signup for our "off-peak" 6.9 cent charging rate, they qualified for a \$1,000 rebate. Through our load management program, we will be able to ensure that all the charging for the EV will be during off-peak times. Congratulations to Greg and Julie on your new purchase and for being our first member signup on this program.

We continue to be big supporters of ethanol, but feel we have an obligation to also begin preparing for the transition to more electric vehicles. Just as we support an "all of the above" position regarding electric generation, we take the same position with our transportation system. Please contact us if you have any questions about this or any other program we offer.



The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the board meeting that was held on August 25, 2022.

- The monthly safety report was presented and approved.
 - An Operations Update was given by Doug Alons and Derrick Haak.
 - Manager Korver presented his monthly report, including updates on service reliability, kWh sales (4.22% increase for the y-t-d), notice of increasing health care premiums for 2023, CFC patronage retirement in the amount of \$94,675.
 - An update on the first Member Appreciation Day event and plans for the remaining three.
 - Report was shared on the solar demonstration project which has been operating for eight years. Manager Korver shared a newsletter article that will highlight what we have learned from this project.
 - Curt Ahrenholz presented the monthly financial reports. For the y-t-d, total margins are \$560,359 higher than budget.
 - Membership applications for 25 new members were approved.
 - An update was provided on the new meters and load management switch installation project. Over 2,500 meters and nearly 1,000 load management switches have been replaced.
 - Manager Korver reported on some economic development projects that are underway.
 - Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO & Basin Board Meetings.
 - A grassroots legislative update was shared.
 - Approved Operation Round-Up donations.
- Following the meeting, the directors and some staff enjoyed a tour of two of our large member's services – Center Fresh Egg and Siouxland Energy.

Employee Highlight

Get to know your cooperative's employees

Name: Derald Philips

Title/Position: Director of Safety & Loss Control

Family: Wife – Jane, Son – TJ, Daughter-in-law – Lindsey, Grandchildren – Kuyper and Brooklyn

Interests/hobbies: enjoy being with our family, sports, and reading

What I enjoy about working at North West REC:

The people I get to work with, the members I get to work for, and the variety of things I get to do.



Name: Lyle Korver

Title/Position: CEO/General Manager

Family: Wife Vicki, 3 kids and 7 grandkids

Interests/hobbies: Golf, tennis, watching grandkids sporting events, travel

Why I enjoy working at NWREC:

The opportunity to work cooperatively with our employees and directors to provide a valuable service to our member-owners that hopefully improves their quality of life.

FALL into A New Habit

With daylight savings time coming this fall (November 6), you should remember to change something other than your clock. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you change the batteries in your smoke detector. According to the NFPA, smoke detectors have reduced the number of home fire deaths by half since they were installed in homes during the 1970s. Ninety five percent of the homes have at least one smoke detector.

Unfortunately, a third of those smoke alarms won't sound due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries according to NFPA.

While changing your batteries this fall, keep these other smoke alarm tips from NFPA in mind:

- Don't paint the smoke alarm or place decoration near it, which might cause it not to work properly.
- Test smoke alarms monthly by using the alarm's "test button".
- Replace the batteries for your smoke alarms every fall or when the alarm "chirps".
- Regularly clean your smoke alarm to keep it in proper working order.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.

There are many steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances of an electrical fire. We

encourage all members to conduct a basic assessment of their electrical systems, including all electrical cords, extension cords, power plugs and outlets.

Be aware of warning signals, such as:

- Flickering lights
- Unusual buzzing sounds
- Circuit breakers that trip repeatedly
- Mild shock or tingle when touching an appliance
- Warm or hot ceiling light fixtures
- Light switches or electrical outlets not working
- Burning odor from outlets or switches

Have an electrician check the wiring in your house if you are experiencing any of these things. Also remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family. Prevent electrical fires and stay safe around electricity!



Member Appreciation Days Thank You

It was great to see so many of our members at our four Member Appreciation events this fall. We want to take this opportunity to thank the members who attended. We have some pictures from the events and of the prize winners of the Frosted Frog coolers, the electric leaf blowers, and kids bikes below.

O'Brien County Winners

Frosted Frog Cooler:
Nancy Beyer

Leaf Blower:
Allison Youngers

Bike: Brooke Bosma

Bike: Jacob Elgersma

Ida County Winners

Frosted Frog Cooler:
Dixie Lansink

Leaf Blower: Steve Schau

Bike: Elliot Neubauer

Bike: Brea Peterson

Sioux County Winners

Frosted Frog Cooler:
Joyce Maassen

Leaf Blower: Marj De Kam

Bike: Tristian De Groot

Bike: Brayden Van Maanen

Plymouth County Winners

Frosted Frog Cooler:
Tracy Welch

Leaf Blower:
Darcy Peterson

Bike: Luca Baumann

Bike: Dominic Boyle



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How many people did we serve at our Member Appreciation Events?
2. When will Mid-Sioux begin taking applications for Li-HEAP?
3. What device should you check during Daylight Saving Time?

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 November 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*

AUGUST 2022

Ray Netherton - Ida Grove
 John Reekers - Orange City
 Galen Beyer - Sanborn
 Carol Bower - Sanborn
 Teresa Whitmore - Le Mars

John Putnam - Sutherland
 Tim Kunzman - Hartley
 Roger Petersen - Merrill
 Peter Statema - Ireton
 Dennis Teut - Hinton



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

How do you know when your switch is controlling?

Answer: _____

Name _____ 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 December 31. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. With a new question every month, you can participate up to 3 times each quarter!

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 any-time 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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