



# NEWS *Lines*

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



## DECEMBER 2021

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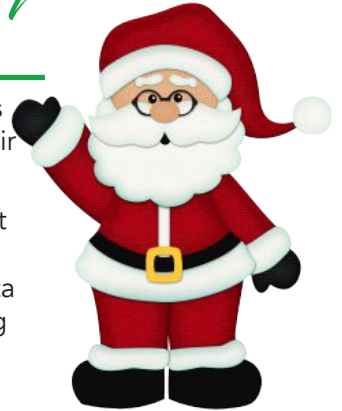
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## 4 WAYS *Santa Saves Energy* IN HIS WORKSHOP

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop— how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.



Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!
3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.
4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).



# SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2021. Last year we awarded \$35,000 in scholarships to 85 students!

**There will be two \$1,000 scholarship winners from each of the four districts of North West REC** (Ida, O'Brien, Plymouth, and Sioux). The selection process for the \$1,000 scholarship winners will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores, overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written reference or appraisal by a third party.

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. All applicants will receive at least a \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire will be communicated at a later date.

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 in our service territory for the 2021-2022 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 an application as provided by North West REC.
- Return all completed forms no later than Friday, February 25, 2022.

**You can 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 send 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 25!**

## *Employees Recognized* FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



North West REC is thankful for the many years of hard work and dedication these employees have given. Congratulations to all on their years of service!

### **30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Brent Van Beek –  
Member Energy Advisor, Orange City

### **15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Mike Berkenpas –  
Journeyman Lineman, Le Mars

### **10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Tony Rolfes –  
Journeyman Lineman, Le Mars

### **5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Tyler Kallemeyn –  
Accountant, Orange City

Megan Pick –  
Customer Service/Office Assistant,  
Orange City

Employees pictured (left to right): Brent Van Beek, Mike Berkenpas, Megan Pick, Tony Rolfes, and Tyler Kallemeyn



# North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative 2022 Scholarship Application



Scholarship applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a dependent of a current North West REC member, a **senior** in high school in our service area for the 2021-2022 school year, and planning to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Please complete the form below; completeness and neatness ensure your application will be evaluated appropriately.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents must be active members of North West REC or have a current electric account with North West REC. In order to verify, please provide account number from a North West REC electric bill (you may need to get this from your parents 😊): \_\_\_\_\_

***Please put the name and address of the high school which you will graduate this spring.***

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please put the name and address of the accredited school you plan to attend in the fall.***

School\College: \_\_\_\_\_ College Town\City: \_\_\_\_\_

Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Signatures***

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Scholarship Submittal Requirements:***

1. Complete this form by typing or printing - your name should be on all attachments.
2. Recent academic transcript from high school.
3. Copy of your college entrance examination (ACT and/or SAT) scores.
4. Compose a short essay outlining your high school honors, school activities, community involvement, and employment history and how these experiences have shaped your character and future career goals.
5. One letter of reference from a teacher, counselor or employer.
6. Mail your complete application packet to:

North West REC  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 435  
Orange City, IA 51041

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire will be communicated at a later date.

**DEADLINE: Friday, February 25, 2022**





Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"NWREC truly belongs to the members we serve"

## What Does Co-op Ownership Really Mean?

At North West REC (NWREC), we often say that those who receive electricity from the co-op are also owners of the co-op, but what exactly does that mean? If you own your home or car, you have the keys and can access your property any time you want to. As a part owner of NWREC, you don't exactly get a set of keys to the office, but you do receive some great benefits.

One of the most important benefits of being a co-op owner is that you have a voice in how the co-op operates. Member-owners like you democratically elect the co-op's local board of directors, who must also be member-owners. These directors serve your local interests in governing the cooperative. If you'd like to learn more about serving as a director, please contact our office or one of the Nominating Committee Members who are listed in another section of this newsletter. Make sure to attend our annual meeting each year in March to exercise your right to vote as an

owner. During the meeting, co-op member-owners vote in director elections, review the cooperative financials and vote on any other cooperative business such as proposed bylaw amendments. You also have an opportunity to talk directly to co-op staff and your board of directors. To make the meeting accessible to all members, we will once again be live streaming the Annual Meeting. We will also be having District Forums to provide members with information about NWREC but also to seek your input.

As a member-owner of NWREC, you are also accumulating equity in the co-op as you use electricity each month. In fact, each member-owner has a deferred patronage dividend allocation account on file which tracks the credit or equity accumulated each year. The cooperative is a not-for-profit organization, but when we experience additional income over expenses – referred to as margins – at the end of the year,

we allocate that extra money back to our owners in relation to how much electricity each member-owner used during the year. These funds are allocated to your deferred patronage dividend allocation account and returned to you over time when the board determines that it is financially feasible to do so. You should receive an allocation notice from NWREC in April each year which details your specific account information. NWREC retired a record amount of \$2 million in patronage retirements to the members in September this year and to date, a total of \$29 million has been returned to the member-owners of the Cooperative.

As an electric cooperative, NWREC truly belongs to the members we serve and any margins are shared back with our member-owners over time. While we can't give you a set of keys to the office, co-op ownership does have its privileges!



The current Board of Directors pictured left to right: Steve Brown, Dave Bosma, Jeff Rehder, Scott Feuerhelm, Dan Hoffman, Shirley Benson, Steve Abma, Doug Becker, Chad Dau, Dale Ullrich, and Tom Wagner

# Who Serves on the Board?

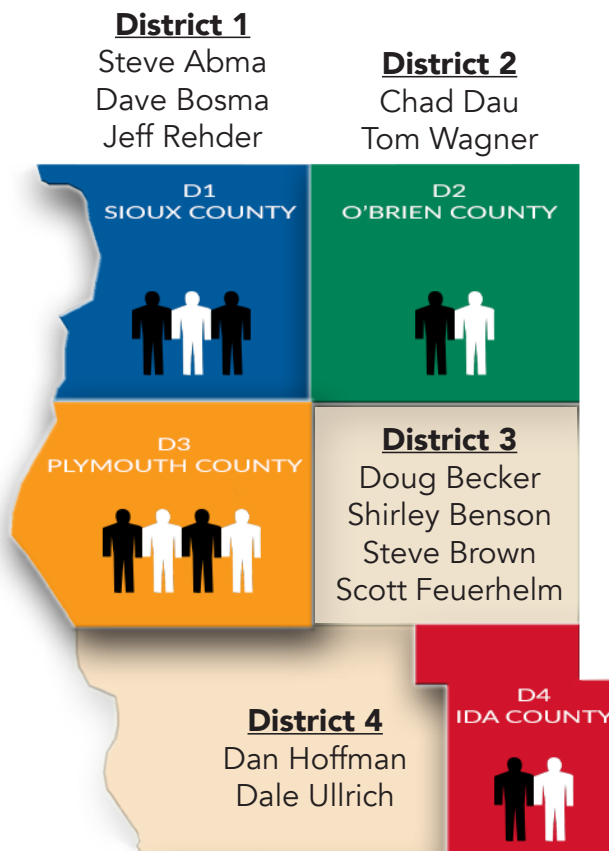
NWREC has four Director Districts and eleven total directors. The Director Districts and directors are shown in the graphic to the right. The current Board of Directors is pictured on the bottom left page.

The number of directors for each district was determined at the time of the Consolidation based on the number of members that resided in each District. The Districts represent the service area of the four cooperatives that consolidated to form North West REC. Members nominate director candidates by District and vote by District.

## The Officers of the Board are:

**Jeff Rehder, President**  
**Doug Becker, Vice President**  
**Shirley Benson, Secretary**  
**Tom Wagner, Treasurer**  
**Steve Brown, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer**

The cooperative model has worked very well for providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the members. We encourage your continuing support and involvement.



The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the board meeting that was held on October 28, 2021.

- A safety report was presented by Derald Philips and approved.
- Manager Korver's monthly report included an update on: service reliability (we are having the lowest average outage minutes in the last 20 years); kWh sales are up 1.5% year-to-date; staff has started working on the 2022 Capital Outlay and Operating budgets; staffing changes; building addition project is nearing completion.
- Received and approved the monthly financial reports as presented by Curt Ahrenholz.
- Heard a report on the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis report. This is a benchmarking tool and NWREC's ratios compared very favorably to the 800 REC's included in the report.
- Received a report on the rate study that was recently completed by CFC. The study indicates that NWREC's rates should be able to remain stable at least through 2022.
- Approved the memberships of 24 new members.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Decided to offer the same scholarship program that we did this past year when \$35,000 in scholarships were offered to over 65 students whose parents are members.
- Approved donations to our local high schools and fire departments.
- Approved a \$2,500 donation to the NRECA International program.
- Appointed members to serve on the Nominating Committee for director elections in connection with the 2022 Annual Meeting.

# CONGRATULATIONS *Winners!*

Congratulations to our winners Eric Koerselman, Jodi Basart, and Stanley Meyer. Members can sign up on our website to receive our monthly *Smart Choice E-Newsletter*, where members receive a monthly email with tips on energy efficiency, electrical safety, and updates from our co-op. Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code in the Smart Choices article, click on it, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win! Members can participate in our *Are You Switch Smart?* Contest, by learning about our Switch Makes Cents program in the newsletter and on our social media pages every month. You can enter by filling out and mailing in the form on the back page of the newsletter or enter on our website!



Pictured is July-Sept Quarterly Switch Sweepstakes Winner: Eric Koerselman



Pictured is the September Smart Choices Prize Winner: Jodi Basart



Pictured is July-Sept Quarterly Are You Switch Smart Winner: Stanley Meyer



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

### Why is it important to help reduce peak demand?

Peak demand determines, in part, the cost of electricity purchased by our wholesale power provider, NIPCO. As peak demand grows, power suppliers must provide more electric generation to keep up with the load demand.

Our co-op purchases kilowatt hours from our G&T (NIPCO) based on the demand for our members. Peak demand refers to the moment in time when the demand for electricity is the highest. If there isn't enough electric generation produced to keep up with peak demand, more generation facilities may need to be built, which mean a higher price per kilowatt and more cost to you, our member-owner. By helping to reduce peak demand you can help keep power cost lower and conserve energy.

## Plug into the Power of **smart choices**

Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code 129712DEC in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win a Heat Storm Phoenix Infrared Space Heater in December

# 129712DEC

### 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](http://www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up)





# Committee on Nominations ARE SELECTED

The Board of Directors has selected the Committee on Nominations, and they will be meeting in January to select nominees for election to the Board of Directors of North West REC. There will be a director election in all 4 districts this year. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

Contact one of the nominating committee members in your district if you have any interest in running for the Board of Directors or you know of any member that would be interested. For your information, please review the director qualifications listed below.



Pictured left to right: Steve Brown, Dave Bosma, Jeff Rehder, Scott Feuerhelm, Dan Hoffman, Shirley Benson, Steve Abma, Doug Becker, Chad Dau, Dale Ullrich, and Tom Wagner.

## Your Current Board of Directors

### District 1

Steve Abma, Rock Valley  
Dave Bosma, Hospers  
Jeff Rehder, Hawarden\*

### District 3

Doug Becker, Hinton  
Shirley Benson, Remsen  
Steve Brown, Merrill\*  
Scott Feuerhelm, Merrill

### District 2

Chad Dau, Paullina  
Tom Wagner, Primghar\*

### District 4

Dan Hoffman, Ida Grove\*  
Dale Ullrich, Arthur

\* Director whose term is up for re-election in 2022

## Committee on Nominations

Contact a committee member in your district if interested in running for the Board of Directors!

### District 1 Sioux County

**Fred Gaalswyk**  
2692 300th st  
Rock Valley, IA 51247  
712-470-0397

**Ken Van Donslear**  
4350 400th st  
Hospers, IA 51238  
712-441-3350

**Dave Heuer**  
2321 360th st  
Rock Valley, IA 51247  
712-251-8191

### District 2 O'Brien County

**Brian Fritz**  
3934 Vine Ave  
Hartley, IA 51346  
712-261-3827

**Kyle Puhmann**  
4367 Polk Ave  
Paullina, IA 51046  
712-260-3238

### District 3 Plymouth County

**Randy Riediger**  
35781 320th st  
Hinton, IA 51024  
712-203-1184

**Patricia Schultz**  
30713 250th st  
Merrill, IA 51038  
712-548-7368

**Joel Brown**  
19301 K22  
Le Mars, IA 51031  
712-359-0076

**Adam Schmidt**  
17743 Jade Ave  
Le Mars, 51031  
712-540-2588

### District 4 Ida County

**Art Witten**  
5406 220th st  
Ida Grove, 51445  
712-369-1428

**Jim Holst**  
604 Burns St  
Ida Grove, 51445  
712-830-1681

## Director Qualifications:

The Cooperative's bylaws establish that a director must be a member, individually, and a bona-fide resident of the district from which they are elected to represent.

### To do a competent job, a director is expected to:

- Attend all regular monthly board meetings. The Board holds daytime meetings usually scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. Meetings last approximately six hours.
- Attend the annual meeting of the Cooperative.
- Attend meetings of related organizations such as Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Federated Insurance, and others, when necessary.
- Read and be familiar with information, data and reports received from cooperative management, national, state and other local associations.
- Establish and maintain contact with members of the Cooperative in his or her locale.
- Work in harmony with the other members of the Board and employees for the good of all members of the Cooperative.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, or of committees to which assigned by the president.

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How many \$1000 scholarships will NWREC give out?
2. Name a director who is up for re-election this coming year:
3. Name a holiday safety tip you plan to use this year:

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 January 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* OCTOBER 2021

Allen Blom - Rock Valley  
 Wanda Gagnon - Merrill  
 Lane Volkert - Holstein  
 Maynard Ravnsborg - Sioux City  
 Dale Derocher - Akron

Dennis Vander Schaff - Sheldon  
 Barb De Jong - Orange City  
 Michael Thompson - Hospers  
 Dennis Vande Brake - Maurice  
 Lyle Wittrock - Holstein



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Why is it important to reduce peak demand?

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:

ORANGE CITY  
 (712) 707-4935  
 (800) 766-2099

IDA GROVE  
 (712) 364-3341

LE MARS  
 (712) 546-4149

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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