



NEWS *Lines*

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

OCTOBER 2021

IN THIS *Issue*

Coop Principles Continued
2

Home Energy Assistance Program
3

Manager's Report
4-5

Keep Safety in Mind
6

Fall into a new Habit
6

Member Appreciation Event Winners
7

Power Quiz
8

Are you Switch Smart?
8



IT'S A MATTER OF *(Co-op) Principles*

All cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good.

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time, but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and open membership without discrimination
2. Democratic member control
3. Members' economic participation
4. Cooperative autonomy and independence
5. Member education, training and information to the general public
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, North West REC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. A group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had, but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving

the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal.

Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

(Continued on page 2)



(CONTINUED) IT'S A MATTER OF *(Co-op) Principles*

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of North West REC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model. North West REC is a reflection of our

**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

**October is
National Co-op Month!**

local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.



**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?

How do I sign up for Switch Makes Cents?

It's easy to participate in the Switch Makes Cents Load Management program! Members can call our office at 712-707-4935 to be connected with a member energy advisor who can help you decide if a switch is right for you. Scan the QR code below to visit our website to learn more about the program.



Why should I sign up?

When you opt in to participate in the Switch Makes Cents program, you will have the benefit of avoiding demand costs as well as receiving a reduced energy rate or incentive bill credits just for opting-in to Switch Makes Cents. Call the office or visit our website to see our rates!

Plug into the Power of

smart choices

Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code 108910OCT in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit in October.

108910OCT

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



IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Need help with your heating bill?

The 2021-2022 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, 2021 through April 30, 2022. 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 2020 or 2021 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 served 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.

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1.	\$25,760
2.	\$34,840
3.	\$43,920
4.	\$53,000
5.	\$62,080
6.	\$71,160
7.	\$80,240
8.	\$89,320

For families with more than eight members, add \$9,080 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, 2020 or 2021.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your 2020 or 2021 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 8:00 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*

"We appreciate the great participation we had. Thank you for your loyalty and support"

Great Turnout for Member Appreciation Day Events

We were very pleased with the great turnout we had at our four Member Appreciation events that were held at the end of August and in early September. We served over 2,300 members and guests which was a near record turnout. 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 up considerably compared to our March meeting format events. We had a number of activities for everyone including a bean bag toss, inflatables, football toss, live music, safety demonstration, etc.

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. Thank you for your loyalty and support.

\$2,050,000 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 \$2,050,000 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 2008, a portion of 2009 and a portion of 2020.

With this \$2,050,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 82 years to over \$29 million. We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about.

Our Board of Directors received



a tour of the GOMACO plant in Ida Grove following a recent board meeting and we had the opportunity to present them with a patronage retirement check. Pictured is NWREC President Jeff

Rehder presenting the check to GOMACO Plant Manager, Dan Soellner. Also pictured is Doug Becker, NWREC Vice President (far left); Lyle Korver, NWREC CEO and Shirley Benson, NWREC Secretary.



The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the board meeting that was held on August 26, 2021.

- A safety report was presented by Derald Philips and approved.
- Manager Korver gave an update on the Orange City garage/warehouse expansion project. 4,800 square feet is being added to provide additional material and equipment storage space.
- Doug Alons and Derrick Haak gave an operations update. They reported that our overhead to underground line conversion projects are going well and we continue to add a number of new services this year. Service reliability has been very good with only 22 average outage minutes per member for the first 7 months of 2021.
- Heard a report on the first of the four Member Appreciation Day events. It was held at the Ida County Fairgrounds and there was a very good turnout of members and especially younger families.
- Approved the memberships for 19 new members.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway. He also updated the board on some dairy digester projects that are being planned. The Board approved donations to the local economic development groups that we partner with.
- Approved the voluntary annexation of the Cooperative's Primghar pole yard property into the City of Primghar.
- Approved the Basin Electric Load Forecast for the period of 2021 through 2050. Basin uses this for planning future generation resources.
- Heard reports from Director Tom Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Curt Ahrenholz presented the monthly financial reports.

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!

FALL INTO A *New Habit*

With daylight savings time coming this fall (November 7), 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 snear 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 below.

Ida County Winners

- Cordless Drill: Sandra Minkler
- Air Fryer: Gary & Nancy Crouch
- Bike: Olivia Lampman
- Bike: Paxton Rasmus



Nancy Crouch



Sandra Minkler

Plymouth County Winners

- Cordless Drill: Mark Schroeder
- Air Fryer: Kim Wiltman
- Bike: Miriam Rohmiller
- Bike: Lizzy Breuer



Christina Goetzke



Kim Wiltman

Sioux County Winners

- Cordless Drill: Evan De Haan
- Air Fryer: Dan Duisternars
- Bike: Mariah Blom
- Bike: Michael Sanchez



Evan De Haan



Dan Duisternars

O'Brien County Winners

- Cordless Drill: Tracy Wittrock
- Air Fryer: Christina Goetzke
- Bike: Mark Kreykes
- Bike: Easton Bakker



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. Name one of the seven cooperative principles:
2. What should you do if you're in a tractor that touches a powerline?
3. What organization should you contact for help with the LIHEAP program?

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 2021

Carol Bowen - Sanborn
 Harold Vermeer - Rock Valley
 Stan Meyer - Ireton
 Geri Van Ruler - Sioux Center
 Tom Miller - Remsen

Marjorie De Kam - Rock Valley
 Mark Skarhus - Sioux City
 Dan Varenhorst - Le Mars
 John Willer - Merrill
 Karla Schneider - Ida Grove



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Name a reason to sign up for the Switch Makes Cents program:

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

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

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