



# NEWS *Lines*

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

## MARCH 2021

IN THIS *Issue*

Director Candidates  
Selected

2-3

Office Notice of  
Annual Meeting

3

Manager's Report

4-5

Security Light Pricing  
Information

6

Make Your Home  
More Energy Efficient

6

What does an Electric  
Lineworker Do?

7

Power Quiz

8

## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE **ANNUAL MEETING**

ATTEND IN PERSON OR WATCH VIRTUALLY

### **7PM TUESDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

TERRACE VIEW EVENT CENTER 230 ST. ANDREWS WAY, SIOUX CENTER, IA 51250

ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



**Turn in your ballots by March 18th and watch live to find out the results of the Board of Director elections in Sioux County, Plymouth County, and Ida County!**

**Turn in your ballot and question card by March 18th for a chance at a \$100 bill credit. Watch live to find out how to enter for a chance to win a door prize of a \$250 or \$100 bill credit!**



**Do you have questions about the operations of North West REC? Turn in your question cards and watch live to attend the Q & A session with North West REC personnel!**



# COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SELECTS

## Director Nominees

The Committee on Nominations met Wednesday, January 20, to select nominees for election of the Board of Directors of North West REC. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on Tuesday, March 30.

Members of the Committee on Nominations for District 1 Sioux County, District 3 Plymouth County, and District 4 Ida County, pictured to the right (L-R): Mike Thompson (D1), Paul Van Ginkel (D1), Jim Holst (D4), Gene Vermeer (D1), Brooke Sitzmann (D3), Gaylen Tapper (D3), Rod Jensen (D4), Adam Schmidt (D3), Gregg Roepke (D3)



### DISTRICT 1 – SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



#### STEVE ABMA - ROCK VALLEY

- Married to Lavon, has two children, and four grandchildren
- Farms near Rock Valley; raises corn & beans, feeds cattle and nursery for custom feeding pigs
- Past member of the Sioux County Extension Council
- Past member of Consistory in Church
- Past Member of School Board

Current member of the Board of Directors of North West REC



#### VERLYN NETTEN - ORANGE CITY

- Married to Carla, eight children, 18 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter
- Retired from being administrator of retirement home
- Active member of church, currently Sunday School teacher and elder
- Is a lay preacher for the last 50 years
- Enjoys living on an acreage, raising calves, and doing carpentry.

### DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



#### DOUG BECKER - HINTON

- Wife Peg, Son David & his wife Steph, two grandkids Jackson & Levi, Daughter Alexis, Dog Reba
- Farmer/Cattle Feeder
- Past board member of Farmers' Coop Co., Floyd Valley Grain LLC, Plymouth Co Farm Bureau, Plymouth Co Local Options Sales Tax (LOST)
- Successful completion of Iowa Institute of Cooperative Training and Farm Bureau Leadership Forums
- I would be honored to continue to serve the member-owners of NWREC by continuing to work with the current NWREC board and staff, various state and national legislators and creating economic development opportunities

Current Vice President on the Board of Directors of North West REC



#### JASON MARIENAU - LE MARS

- Married to Jen, two children, Jamison and Jaelyn
- Farms NW of Le Mars; corn, soybeans, & custom feeding swine nursery & finishing
- Currently finishing last term as director and is the Vice President for Farmers Cooperative of Craig, IA
- Attended and successfully completed all four phases of the Iowa Institute of Cooperative's Director Training
- Enjoys golfing, boating, and attending his children's athletic events.

## DISTRICT 4 – IDA COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



### DALE ULLRICH - ARTHUR

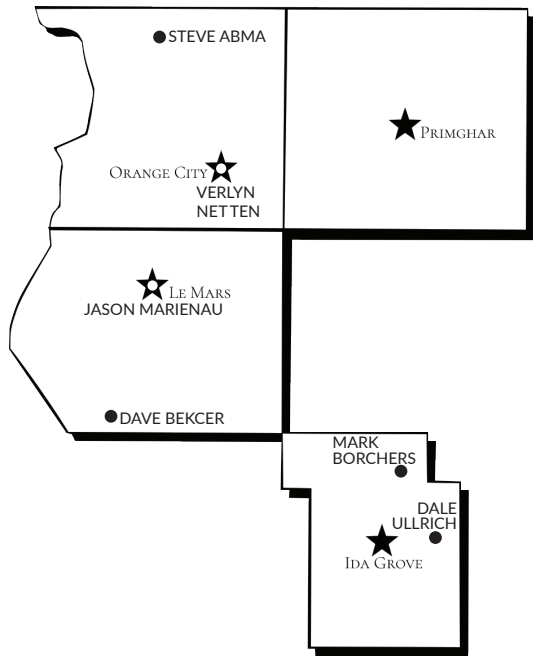
- Married to Sandy, two sons & three grandchildren
- Farms NE of Ida Grove, raising corn & beans
- Serves as director of Ida Co Veterans Affairs
- Member of Horn Memorial Hospital Foundation Board
- Serves on the Skate Palace Board of Directors
- Past Board member of Ida County Ag Society
- Past board member of Ida County REC during consolidation
- Enjoys camping, boating, farming, & time with family

Current member of the Board of Directors of North West REC



### MARK BORCHERS - GALVA

- Married to Karen, three sons & one daughter, 13 grandchildren
- Member of NWREC since 1982
- Griggs township trustee for the last 25 years
- Served on Ida County Pork Producers, held all offices
- Served on Ida County Ex. Council, held all offices
- Taught adult Sunday School & held all offices
- Helped start & current member of Faith Lutheran, Holstein
- Taught confirmation for eight years
- Served on Ida County Conservation Board
- Owns Woudstra Meat Market in Orange City with wife Karen
- Enjoys traveling, spending time with kids & grandkids and taking them bike riding



## Reminder About Mailing

Watch your mail for your Annual District Meeting mailing which will include ballot & return envelope. You will receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing if you are a member in District 1, 3, or 4. Be sure to vote and mail your ballot(s) to the cooperative in the envelope included in the mailing, as the return envelope you send your ballot in with will be used for a random prize drawing. Ballots must be returned to the office or postmarked by the 18th of March to be counted in the Director Election!

Watch the Annual Meeting on our Facebook Live Stream for your chance to win additional door prizes!

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Terrace View Event Center, Sioux Center, Sioux County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Tuesday**, the **30th day of March**, 2021, to take action on the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of one director in District 1 for a four-year term.
- The election of one director in District 3 for a four-year term.
- The election of one director in District 4 for a four-year term.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 2nd day of March, A.D., 2021.

Shirley Benson, Secretary

*Shirley Benson*



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"The Annual Meeting will be a hybrid event with the members having the option of either attending in person or participating online by livestream on Facebook Live."

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HYBRID EVENT

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic event, we have all had to make significant adjustments in how we live, work, and handle social, church and community events. North West REC has been impacted in many ways and has found it necessary to continue to be adaptable, flexible, and innovative in how we deal with the ongoing challenges of this pandemic.

We wanted to remind our members that as result of the ongoing uncertainty of what the COVID-19 situation will look like in March, the Board has decided to not have our district meetings this year. **The Annual Meeting will be a hybrid event with the members having the option of either attending in person or participating online by livestream on Facebook Live.**



We will not be serving a meal nor having any entertainment this year. The meeting will include a short business meeting with the Nominating Committee and financial reports followed by a Question and Answer session. We are including a question card with the mailing of the annual report to our members. Our hope is that many of our members will return the card with a question that they would like us to address during the Q & A time.

Our Annual Meeting is a very important member engagement event, and we encourage your participation by voting on the director election, returning the question card, and either attending in person or joining online.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

The 2020 Annual Report has been mailed to all our members and we hope you will take a few minutes to review it. It includes a good summary of 2020's operations and the financial results. I am pleased to report that 2020 was a very good year for your Cooperative. Here are just a few highlights:

- We met our number one priority of having a safe year again. Our employees have worked 391,191 hours since the last lost time accident in 2016.
- Rates were stable for the 5th consecutive year. The Board has announced rates will remain stable for at least two more years.
- We avoided significant storms and had only 78 average outage minutes per member for the year. 99.99% service reliability.
- 96 miles of new line was constructed with most of this being underground and replacement of older overhead line.

• An early retirement of patronage was made to the members in May in the amount of \$1.6 million.

• Total margins of \$3.7 million which were \$255,000 higher than 2019's margins.

There will be more details in the Annual Report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like more information about our operations.



The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting that was held on January 28, 2021:

- A COVID-19 update was provided by Manager Korver. Our employees continue to do a great job of adapting to the changes we have incorporated.
- Manager Korver provided an update on 2020's operations. In spite of the COVID challenges we faced throughout the year, overall North West REC had a very successful year.
- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff.
- Approved the work order summary for 2020. The amounts were \$324,384 for new construction; \$4,829,862 for system improvements; \$199,950 for ordinary replacements and \$1,100,593 for miscellaneous work orders. The total of all work orders completed for 2020 was \$6,454,789.
- Approved the engagement letter with the firm of Eide Bailly for the 2020 annual CPA audit.
- Reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting which will be held on March 30 at the Terrace View Events Center in Sioux Center. It will also be livestreamed online giving members the option to attend virtually.
- Manager Korver provided an update on the implementation of the strategic plan.
- The results of the recently conducted member engagement survey were reviewed. 1,141 members participated and provided some great feedback for the board and staff. The ACSI score was also reviewed. It was a very strong score of 89.
- Rob Driesen gave an update on the automatic standby generator pilot program and also on the load management deployment.
- The Cooperative's solar interconnection policy was reviewed.
- 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. He was recently elected to represent our District (Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin) on the CFC Board.
- Director Benson was appointed to serve as delegate to the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations, our four counties 4-H groups, and medical emergency situations.

# PRICING INFORMATION ON *Security Lights*

Security Lights and maintenance are available to our members at the prices below.

## Security Light Service Work

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • High Pressure Sodium (HPS) - maintenance  | \$50                        |
| • LED - maintenance   | \$80                        |
| - (Will retrofit mercury vapor or HPS lights to LEDs when maintenance is necessary) | \$240 (\$50 rebate = \$190) |
| • Move security light to new pole   | \$100                       |
| • Move security light and pole  | \$175                       |
| • Remove security light from pole or disconnect light                               | \$100                       |

## Sell security light to member - includes installation

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • LED security light (will not install on anything but a pole) | \$275 (\$50 rebate = \$225) |
| • Replace a HPS light with an LED light                        | \$240 (\$50 rebate = \$190) |

LED lights have a 5-year warranty, but if we find something wrong on the members side causing an issue with the light not to work, we will charge a \$50 service call fee.

## Poles

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • Setting a pole for member<br>(We will not set poles for gateposts, basketball hoops, ect.) | \$175 |
| • Sell any size used pole to member  | \$125 |



# MAKE YOUR HOME MORE *Energy Efficient*

There are many steps you can take to make your home a greener one, no matter the weather. Cut your energy costs by following these efficiency steps year round.

- Update your insulation. This helps keep cool air in your home during summer months and warm air in during the winter.
- Invest in a smart or programmable thermostat. With a programmable thermostat, you can set the temperatures to automatically adjust for when you are home and when you are away. A smart version learns your habits and implements them. Many models know when you aren't home and heats or cools accordingly. You can also save money any season by closing off rooms that you do not need to heat or cool.
- Make use of ceiling fans, and make sure they are circulating air in the correct direction for the season. Ceiling fans should operate in a counter-clockwise direction during warm months and in a clockwise direction during cold months.
- Use curtains or window blinds to your advantage. Close curtains or blinds in the summer when the sun is out to keep the room cool, and leave them open in the winter to let the heat from the sun warm up the room.
- Seal cracks around the house to reduce heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer by using caulking and weather-stripping around windows and doors.
- Adjust your own habits to increase efficiency. Turn off lights when leaving a room, set computers to go into sleep mode when not in use, and make sure nothing in your home is covering vents. This allows for continued air flow and reduces the work for the furnace or air conditioning unit.

## Plug into the Power of

# smart choices



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 a Hamilton Beach® Food Processor in March.



## 326403MAR

### Don't receive Smart Choices?

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

[www.nwrec.coop/email-signup](http://www.nwrec.coop/email-signup)



# WHAT DOES AN *Electric Lineworker* DO?

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at North West REC, one of the more visible jobs is that of a lineworker. You may see one of ours working 35 feet (or more) overhead or maintaining lines at ground level.

We entrust your safety to our lineworkers, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized workers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Components of these systems include power lines, transformers, fuses, insulators, and other related equipment.

Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

## Safety Comes First

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else. They spend numerous hours in safety trainings each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Electrical lineworkers are specially trained to:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

## April is Lineman Appreciation Month

We specially recognize our lineman on April 13th, when we celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day. They put their life on the line around the clock to keep the power on and provide reliable electricity for our communities.

Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.



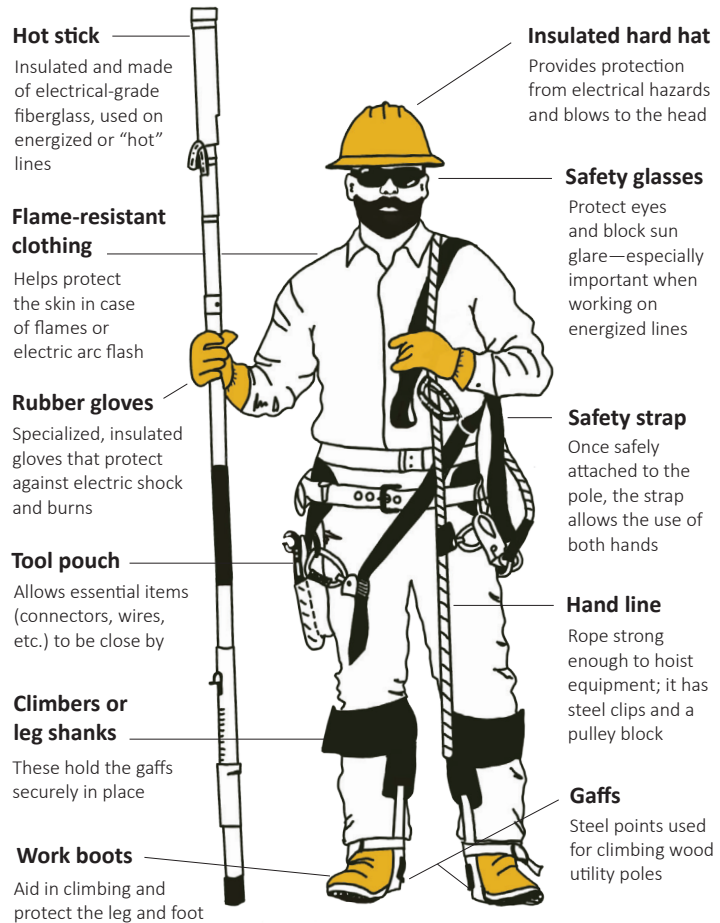
## ELECTRICAL LINEWORKERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

## WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



Safe  
Electricity.org®

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. Name someone who is running for director: \_\_\_\_\_
2. When is North West REC's Annual Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is something that a line worker wears? \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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 April 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*

JANUARY 2021



Zelda Christensen - Archer  
 Macey Friedrichsen - Sutherland  
 Randy Taylor - Rock Valley  
 Dan Hurt - Alton  
 Andrew Stoker - Boyden

Hibma Heritage Farm - Maurice  
 Kevin Farley - Ida Grove  
 Nate Van Ravenswaay - Rock Valley  
 Justin Wissink - Hull  
 Nal Farm - Melvin



### 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 Box Available  
 For After Hours Payments

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