



NEWS *Lines*

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

Plan Now to Attend

DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

District 1 Sioux County

Tuesday, March 24

Unity Christian High School
Orange City

Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm

Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Klassens



The Klassens

District 2 O'Brien County

Tuesday, March 31

South O'Brien School
Primghar

Registration & Dinner
5:30-7:00 pm

Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Klassens

District 3 Plymouth County

Thursday, April 2

Le Mars Community High School
Registration & Dinner

5:30-7:00 pm

Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Browns

District 4 Ida County

Thursday, March 19

Skate Palace in Ida Grove
Registration & Dinner

5:30-7:00 pm

Brief Business Meeting 7:00 pm
Entertainment – The Browns



The Browns

MARCH 2020

IN THIS *Issue*

Committee on
Nominations Selects
Director Nominees
2

Operation
Round Up Report
3

Manager's Report
4-5

Youth Tour
Contest
6

Scholarships
6

Notice of Annual
& District Meetings
7

Powerline
Scholarship
7

Power Quiz
8

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SELECTS

Director Nominees

The Committee on Nominations met Thursday, January 23, to select nominees for election of the Board of Directors of North West REC. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual/District Meeting of the Cooperative in April.

Members of the Committee on Nominations: (l-r) Gregg Roepke, Kingsley; Patricia Schultz, Merrill; Dennis Baldwin, Merrill; and Adam Schmidt, Le Mars (not pictured).



DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY



SCOTT FEUERHELM, MERRILL

- Married to Jill; two children
- Crop farms, corn and soybeans; has a dairy
- Member of the Adaville United Methodist Church
- Currently serves on NWREC Board
- Member of Farm Bureau
- Past member of the Plymouth County Extension Council and of the Plymouth County Fair Board



SHIRLEY SCHROEDER, LE MARS

- Married to Tony for 32 years; they have 4 sons and 4 grandchildren
- Lives southeast of Le Mars on family farm
- Farms with husband & three of four sons
- Served on RU school board, 4-H leader, taught religious ed for 20 years
- Currently serves as VP of Siouxland Ag in classroom board
- Works part-time as medical laboratory scientist at Floyd Valley in Le Mars

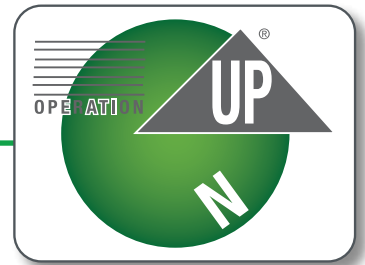


Reminder About Mailing...

Watch your mail for your Annual District Meeting mailing which will include your registration card. Please bring this card with you when coming to the meeting to receive a \$10 bill credit as your attendance gift. It will also be used for the drawing of door prizes.

You will also receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing if you are a member in District 3. All members will receive a ballot to amend the Articles of Incorporation. Be sure to vote and mail your ballot(s) to the cooperative in the envelope included in the mailing. Note to Districts 1, 2 & 4 members: There will not be an election for directors in your districts.

OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the fourth quarter of 2019 totaled \$11,200. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$481,795. Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

\$5,800.....Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems, accident related injuries and accidents or fires resulting in significant loss

\$2,700.....Nine area hospitals – program support

\$2,200.....ATLAS of Orange City, ATLAS of Sioux Center, Autumn's Center, Bethany Christian Services, Food Bank of Siouxland, Primghar Junior Women's Club, Siouxland Youth for Christ – program support

\$ 500.....Rock Valley Police Department and Orange City Health Foundation – community development projects

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 county 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 for information. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.



Ken Miller, Member Services, North West REC; and Misty Dulin, Hospital Director.



Left to right: Emily Shoup, Chief Clinical Officer; Rob Driesen, Member Service Director for North West REC; Glen Winekauf, CEO; and Michelle Weber, Chief Primary Clinics Officer.

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

July 8-10	1st	2nd	
July 22-24	1st	2nd	(please circle)

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by May 22, 2020.

Energy Trail Tour 2020

North West REC and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by North West REC. Twelve lucky couples from NWREC will be selected at random from those who sign up.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

"We consider these meetings to be one of our best member engagement opportunities that we have throughout the year."

Plans being finalized for 2020 Annual District Meetings

Each year we look forward to our four annual district meetings as a great opportunity to engage with our members and to report on the Cooperative's operations and finances from the previous year. The dates for this year's meetings are:

District 1 (Sioux County)	March 24 at Orange City
District 2 (O'Brien County)	March 31 at Primghar
District 3 (Plymouth County)	April 2 at Le Mars
District 4 (Ida County)	March 19 at Ida Grove

What is the schedule and format for the meetings this year?

- We will be serving a catered meal of broasted pork chops and roast beef from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.
- A short business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with brief reports on 2019's operations and financial results.
- Scholarships will be presented to high school seniors who have applied. Our scholarship program has been significantly expanded this year. There will be (1) \$1,000 and (1) \$750 winner in each of the four districts that will be pre-selected based on their academic record, participation in school and community activities and a personal statement of career goals. There will then be random drawings for \$500 and \$250 scholarships. **The bottom line is that every senior who applies and attends one of the meetings will receive a minimum of a \$250 scholarship!**
- We will have musical entertainment following the business meeting.
- There will be a drawing for door prizes. We have some excellent door prizes again this year which are listed in the district meeting flyer.
- **The attendance gift this year is a \$10 bill credit per member who attends.**

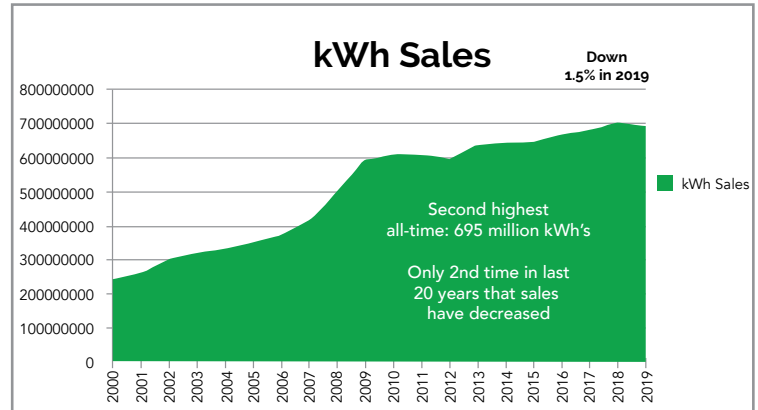


I want to encourage all our members to attend. We consider these meetings to be one of our best member engagement opportunities that we have throughout the year. We believe you will enjoy the food, information that is shared, entertainment and fellowship . . . and you may even win a prize! Hope to see you at your local district meeting.

Recap on 2019

We will be mailing our 2019 Annual Report to all our members in the near future. It will provide a good summary of 2019's operations and also include the year-end financial reports. 2019 was a good year for NWREC, and here are a few of the highlights:

- It was a safe year. Our employees worked a third consecutive year without a lost time accident and there weren't any serious member or public accidents involving our line. Our employees have worked over 300,000 hours since the last lost time accident.
- Rates were stable for the 4th consecutive year, and the PCA was reduced from 1.6 mills to 1.2 mills.
- Kilowatthour sales decreased 1.5% but still the second highest of all time.
- January of 2019 saw the highest "peak demand" that we have ever experienced – 124 Megawatts.
- Average outage minutes were higher than normal – 124 minutes per member for the year – primarily due to the flooding event last March and ice storm in April. We still had a good reliability factor of 99.98%.
- \$4.9 million was invested in new line and system improvements. 59 miles of new line was constructed, 122 new services were added, and 77 services were upgraded.



There will be more details in the Annual Report but wanted to give you a summary of some of the highlights. We look forward to another successful year in 2020!

Board Room Summary – January 30

The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting held on January 30:

- Approved the memberships of 24 new members.
- Received monthly safety, operations and financial reports from staff.
- Manager Korver presented a summary of 2019 operations.
- Approved keeping the power cost adjustment (PCA) on electric bills at 1.2 mills – the same as in 2019.
- Approved the retirement of deferred patronage dividends to the estates of deceased members in the total amount of \$3,930.
- Reviewed and approved the work order inventory summary of the line construction, system improvements, new services that were completed in 2019 totaling \$4.9 million.
- Received an update on the Nominating Committee process in connection with our 2020 Annual Meeting. Approved offering the same door prizes as last year and to make the attendance gift a \$10 bill credit.
- Heard a report on our N.E.T. Broadband partnership.
- Reviewed the preliminary report from our rate consultant on concepts relating to a time-of-use rate for electric vehicles.
- Manager Korver shared a report on economic development projects that staff has been working on.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Heard meeting reports from Directors Ullrich and Bosma who attended the Legislative Welcome Back Reception with our State Legislators and also attended a director training course.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST 2020

*Want to visit Washington, D.C.? Who wouldn't?
It's FUN, it's FREE and you'll make lots of FRIENDS!*

North West REC is sponsoring the 2020 Youth Tour Contest with two students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for June 18-25, 2020. There is a \$1,000 scholarship for the Iowa representative on the Youth Leadership Council.

All sons and daughters of North West REC member-consumers, who are presently juniors in high school, are eligible and encouraged to participate.

If you are interested in applying for the youth tour, send in the registration form below, and we will send you an application form. The application is also available on our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Renee at rwynia@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099.

The Youth Tour Contest application should be returned to the REC no later than Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

The Board of Directors and management encourage all who are eligible to enter the Youth Tour Contest for an exciting educational experience.



2020 YOUTH TOUR CONTEST REGISTRATION

YES, I am interested in entering the contest. Please send me the application form.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ PARENT'S NAME _____

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Renee • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

SCHOLARSHIPS

Although the deadline for the scholarship entries is past, we want to remind those who sent in an application of the additional \$500 and \$250 scholarships that will be randomly selected at the District Meetings. The \$1,000 and \$750 scholarship winners will be selected and notified before the meetings, as they will be recognized and awarded at each district meeting.

In order to receive one of the randomly selected \$500 and \$250 scholarships, students must be present at the meeting to win.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL & DISTRICT MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The District Meeting of Members in **District 1** will be held at the Unity Christian High School, Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Tuesday**, the **24th day of March**, 2020; and

The District Meeting of Members in **District 2** will be held at the South O'Brien School, Primghar, O'Brien County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Tuesday**, the **31st day of March**, 2020; and

The Annual and District Meeting of Members in **District 3** will be held at the Middle School Auditorium of the Le Mars Community School, Le Mars, Plymouth County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Thursday**, the 2nd day of **April, 2020**; and

The District Meeting of Members in **District 4** will be held at the Skate Palace, Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on **Thursday**, the **19th day of March**, 2020, to take action on the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of one director in District 3 for a four-year term.
- Consideration and action on proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 5th day of March, A.D., 2020.

Shirley Benson

Shirley Benson, Secretary

NORTH WEST REC OFFERS *Powerline Scholarships*

North West REC is again sponsoring a powerline scholarship. This program is designed to assist persons enrolled in a course of powerline training at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an individual who has met the eligibility requirements. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in the four county area served by North West REC (Ida, Plymouth, O'Brien and Sioux Counties)
- Be a member or the child of a member of North West REC
- Be accepted as a full time student in the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon
- File a scholarship application with North West REC by Wednesday, March 25, 2020

All applicants are required to submit an application form as well as their most recent academic transcript. The criteria for the award will be based upon community and school activities, potential for success and grade point average.

A check will be made out to both the recipient and Northwest Iowa Community College and will be sent to the recipient prior to the beginning of the second semester of course work.

For an application or more information, check out our website or contact:

North West REC * Attn: Renee
PO Box 435 * Orange City, IA 51041 * 800-766-2099
rwynia@nwrec.coop

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. The gift for attending a district meeting is _____.
2. The seniors in high school who have applied for a scholarship and attends one of the district meetings will receive a minimum of a \$_____ scholarship.
3. Our employees have worked over _____ hours since the last lost time accident.

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 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.

JANUARY 2020

POWER QUIZ *Winners*



Mike Miller, Hawarden
John Evans, Remsen
Marlyn Hofman, Sanborn
Ron Schultz, Merrill
Carol Reeves, Sheldon

Ray Netherton, Ida Grove
Janna Hardersen, Hinton
Steve Bunkers, Remsen
Betty Valentine, Sioux Center
Julie Rice, Hinton



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 Available
for After Hours Payments

Lyle D. Korver
CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
Finance & Office
Services Director

Lorraine Egdorf
Editor