



NEWS Lines

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

MARCH 2025

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WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING Tuesday, March 25, 2025

5:30-7:00pm Meal Served, 7:00pm Business Meeting
Convention Center, 275 12th St SE, Le Mars, IA 51031

We invite all members in all districts to attend the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, March 25 at 7:00p.m. at the Convention Center in Le Mars.

The format of the meeting will consist of a short business meeting and a panel discussion, comprised of NWREC CEO & General Manager, Lyle Korver; NWREC Directors, Tom Wagner and Jeff Rehder; and NIPCO Executive Vice President & General Manager, Matt Washburn.



Lyle Korver



Tom Wagner



Jeff Rehder



Matt Washburn

Jill Miller will be providing music before the meeting begins. We will also be announcing the results of the director election and the winners of the \$1,000 scholarships. We will be serving a meal before the meeting consisting of beef, pork, potatoes, vegetables, salad and Blue Bunny ice cream for dessert.

We encourage you to submit questions for the Q & A panel discussion and RSVP for the meal by filling out the yellow RSVP/Question Card in this mailing and returning it to our office by March 17th.

The Annual Meeting will be live-streamed via Facebook. You can watch on our website or our Facebook Page. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nwrec or our website: www.nwrec.coop. It will also be recorded and available for viewing on our website and Facebook page after the event.

Door prizes will be available to those who attend in person or join online. We will give out a keyword and a number to text it to during the meeting to register for the prizes for those who are joining online.

Prizes include: (10) Ten \$250 bill credits and (20) Twenty \$100 bill credits!

To Vote By Mail: There is a two envelope system for voting this year. Please read the instructions on page 15 of this report and printed on the envelopes.

Everyone who returns their ballot and (or) question card to the office by 17th of March will be entered to win one of (10) ten \$100 bill credits!

Director Nominees are Selected

The Committee on Nominations met Thursday, January 19, 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 25.

Members of the Committee on Nominations for District 1 Sioux County, District 3 Plymouth County, and District 4 Ida county are pictured to the right. L to R: Jason Marienau, Ron Rice, Dick Homn, Virdene Otto, Ken Van Donslear, Greg Roepke, Gail Van Bakum, Adam Schmidt, Nick Van Oort.



DISTRICT 1 – SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



D1 Steve Abma - Rock Vally

- 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
- **Currently serves on NWREC Board**



D1 Calvin Bakker - Rock Valley

- Married to Kandice, has three kids, and three grandkids
- Live on an acreage northwest of Rock Valley
- Works in Construction
- Co-owner of C&J Construction in Rock Valley, concrete work and metal building supplier
- Proud supporter of all local schools.
- Past board member of Farmers Lumber Company in Rock Valley
- Hobbies include boating, motorcycling, and spending time with grandkids

DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



D3 Jeff Arens - Le Mars

- Married to Jackie, has 4 children
- Vice President of Schuster Company in Le Mars which provides refrigerated and dry truckload transportation across the United States and Canada
- Active volunteer in church, school, and community
- Currently on the Gehlen Catholic Finance Committee, Diocesan School Board, Le Mars Board of Civil Service Commissioners, Past Le mars Business Initiative Corporation Member, Past Gehlan School Board President/Member
- Hobbies include Biking, Golf, attending my kids athletic events, and watching Iowa Hawkeye Athletics.
- Iowa Motor Truck Association Board Member and incoming chairman



D3 Dave Bruggeman - Le Mars

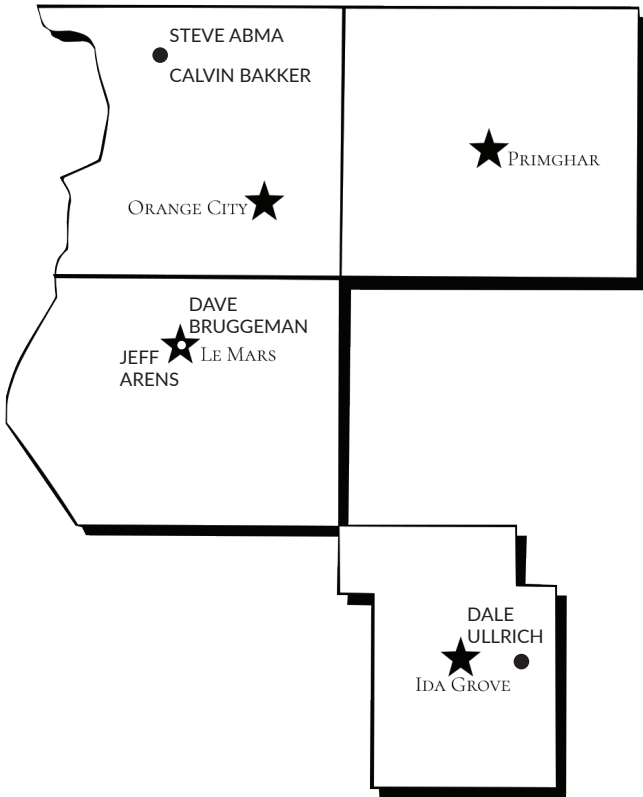
- Married to Daletta, has 2 children, and 2 grandchildren
- Works as a Grain Merchandiser at Premium Feed & Grain in Brunsville, IA
- Proud "Papa" of two young grandsons
- Hobbies include fishing, golf, and grill master
- 31 year proud member of NWREC

DISTRICT 4 – IDA COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



D4 Dale Ullrich - Arthur - running unopposed

- Married to Sandy, two sons, three grandchildren, & a new great-granddaughter
- Farms NE of Ida Grove, raising corn & beans
- Serves as director of Ida Co Veterans Affairs
- Former 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, and time with family
- **Currently serves on NWREC Board**



REMINDER ABOUT MAILING

Watch your mail for your Annual Meeting mailing which will include a Annual Report, ballot, ballot-envelope, **RSVP**/question card, and return envelope. You will receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing. Be sure to vote following the new two envelope system and mail your ballot or **RSVP**/question card to the cooperative in the return envelope included in the mailing, as the return envelope will be used for a random prize drawing of \$100 bill credits. Ballots must be returned to the office, or postmarked by the 17th of March, to be counted in the Director Election!

(District 2 O'Brien County does not have a director election this year, D2 members can still be eligible for the \$100 bill credit drawing by returning their **RSVP**/question card in the return envelope provided by the 17th of March.)

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Convention Center, Le Mars, Iowa at 7:00 P.M. on **Tuesday, the 25th day of March, 2025**, to take action on the following matters:

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

Dated this 1st day of March, A.D., 2025.

Steve Brown, Secretary *Stephen L. Brown*



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Recap of Record Setting Year in 2024

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting on March 25, we wanted to share a few highlights from 2024. Even as we continue to face many challenges and changes in our electric utility industry, we are pleased to report that your Cooperative had one of its best years ever in a couple of key areas of our operation. Here are a few highlights.

Reliability. Providing reliable electric service for our members is one of North West REC's (NWREC) highest priorities so it was exciting to see our year end reliability numbers and to realize that your Cooperative enjoyed it's best year ever. One of the key reliability ratios that we monitor closely is our System Average Interruption Index (SAIDI). This is a metric that measures the average amount of time a customer experiences an outage over a given period of time. It's a good way to measure the overall reliability of our electric system.



For the year 2024, the average NWREC member was out of power for only 45 minutes for the whole year. This was the lowest we have seen in the history of the Cooperative and is a great accomplishment for our employee team. We were able to provide reliability at a rate of 99.99%.

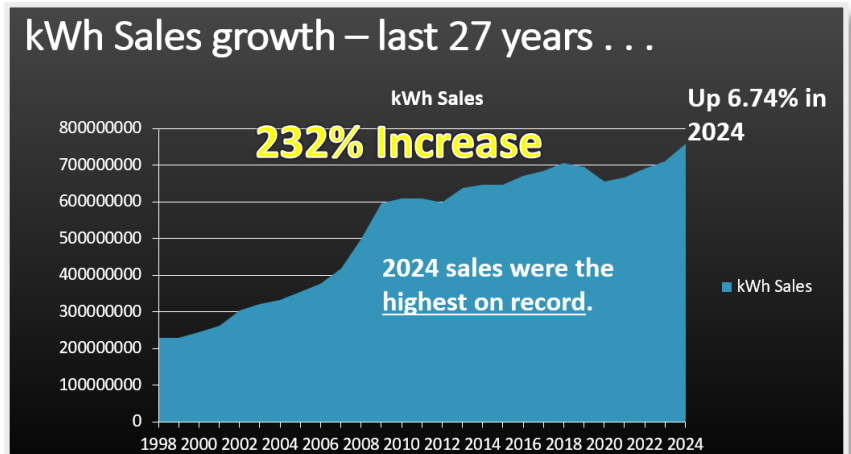
In the past, an average outage number of less than two hours was considered good in the industry. As NWREC and our power suppliers continue to make significant investments in system improvements, we have seen that number decrease and we will work for continued improvement in our overall reliability for our members.

Kilowatthour Sales. We also enjoyed a record year in terms of kilowatthour (kWh) sales. Your Cooperative has enjoyed a significant amount of growth over the last 25 years through our emphasis on economic development and the amount of value added ag and commercial and industrial growth in our service area. For example, the four ethanol plants that that we serve all came on-line within that time frame and now account for nearly 30% of our total sales.

kWh sales for 2024 were a record of 758 million. The increase over 2023's sales was 48 million kWh's or 6.7%. As you can see on the graph below, a majority of the sales growth is coming from our larger three phase commercial, industrial and value added ag customers. Sales from these larger customers now accounts for 63% of total sales.

As we often report, increasing kWh sales is good for all of our members as we are able to spread our fixed costs over a higher level of sales. This has been one of the key factors that has enabled NWREC to enjoy a 10-year period of rate stability.

We are optimistic that NWREC will continue to grow. We have a very progressive service area with available lots for business and industry, as well has housing expansion.



Please Plan to Attend our March 25 Annual Meeting

For more information about the record setting year of 2024 and the plans for continuing to meet our members energy needs in the future, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting.

- Date - Tuesday, March 25
- Location – Le Mars Convention Center
- Time – Meal from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.
- Pre Meeting Musical Entertainment by Jill Miller – 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

- Doug Alons gave the safety report. He reported that 2024 was a safe year of operations with no lost time accidents or any public contact incidents.
- Manager Korver provided an update on service reliability, kWh sales, number of new services added in 2024, miles of line that were replaced, a new basket truck was delivered following a four year wait and an industry update.
- Curt Ahrenholz presented the year-to-date financial reports.
- Preliminary plans for the March Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Manager Korver provided an update on several economic development projects that are being worked on.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- An update was provided on the status of load management and switch installations. Over 13,000 meters and 3,000 load management switches have been changed to the new RF "two way" system.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.



L-R: Lyle Korver, CEO/General Manager; Shirley Schroeder; Steve Brown, Secretary; Doug Becker, Vice President; Jeff Rehder, President; Scott Feuerhelm; Steve Abma; Dale Ullrich, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Daniel Van Beek; Dave Bosma; Dan Hoffman; Tom Wagner, Treasurer.

Pole Maintenance Program

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout North West REC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement. When possible, North West REC communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working.

One of the key ongoing maintenance programs we do annually, in order to try to improve our service

reliability, is pole testing and treating. Each year we test and treat approximately 3,000 poles.

Poles that are rejected due to excessive rotting conditions are replaced. The other poles are treated with a pole treatment which significantly extends the life of the pole. The very low 2% or lower rejection rate we typically have each year is a strong indication of the strength of the Cooperative's system.

This spring you will see contractors working in Sioux & Ida County. Please contact our office if you have any questions about the work they are doing.



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

A frequently asked question we get when people sign up for Switch Makes Cents is "How much money will it save me?"

When you opt in to participate in the Switch Makes Cents load management program, you will have the benefit of avoiding demand costs as well as receiving a reduced energy rate just for opting-in to Switch Makes Cents. Visit our website www.nwrec.coop or call the office for all our current rates. Here are our current electric heat rates:

The Electric Heat Partial Control Rate is applicable for homes and buildings that have electric heat as their primary heat source without any backup heat source. The rate is \$.063 per KWh per month for all KWh sold for heating, cooling and water heater usage.

The Interruptible Electric Heat Rate is applicable for homes and buildings that have electric heat as their primary heat source and agree to have a load management switch installed. The rate is \$.049 per KWh per month for all KWh sold for heating, cooling and water heater usage.

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:

June 18-20	1st	2nd	3rd (please circle)
June 25-27	1st	2nd	3rd
July 9-11	1st	2nd	3rd

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 April 25, 2025.

Energy Trail Tour 2025

North West Rural Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, 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. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the 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 Electric Cooperative.

Twelve lucky couples from North West REC will be selected at random from those who sign up.

Bid Form - Vehicle for sale

#1 - FOR SALE - 2016 Chevy 3500, four wheel drive, 6.0 motor with 164,000 miles.



#2 - FOR SALE - 2015 Chevy 3500, four wheel drive, 6.0 motor with 184,281 miles.



This vehicle will be sold on a bid basis and "as is". Bids can be mailed to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041, or bids can be dropped off at any of the three cooperative offices. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 25, 2025. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sale will be on a cash basis only. Please call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to set up a time to see it. The vehicle will all be available for viewing at the Orange City office 1505 Albany Place SE.

Name of individual submitting bid: _____ Bid: \$ _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Truck #: _____

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. When is North West REC's Annual Meeting?
2. When is the deadline to return your ballot & RSVP/question card?
3. Name someone who is running for director:

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 2. 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 2025

William Aberson - Orange City
 Lonnie Kay - Holstein
 Sally Bjork - Sioux City
 Susan Schwartz - Le Mars
 Ray Netherton - Ida Grove

Travis Mulder - Sioux Center
 Alan Bennett - Galva
 Paul Dekker - Maurice
 Jerry Wendt - Le Mars
 Emily Taylor - Hawarden



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What electric rate can you qualify for if you have all electric heat?

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 April 2. Each month, one name will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$25 bill credit.

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 open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday

Ida Grove office open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

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 anytime 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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