



NEWS *Lines*

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

MARCH 2024

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WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

**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 26 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; NIPCO Executive Vice President & General Manager, Matt Washburn; and Representative Randy Feenstra.



Lyle Korver



Tom Wagner



Jeff Rehder



Matt Washburn



Randy Feenstra

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 members to submit questions for the Q & A panel discussion and RSVP for the meal by filling out the green RSVP/Question Card in your Annual Meeting mailing packet and returning it to our office by March 18th.

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 printed on the envelopes. Only district 3 (Plymouth) has director election this year and will receive a ballot. All districts will receive a RSVP/question card in their Annual Meeting packet to return.

Everyone who returns their ballot and (or) RSVP/question card to the office by March 18th will be entered to win one of (10) ten \$100 bill credits!

Director Nominees are Selected

The Committee on Nominations met Monday, January 29, 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 26.

Members of the Committee on Nominations for District 3, Plymouth County, are pictured to the right (L-R): Janelle Johnson, Adam Schmidt, and Gregg Roepke.



DISTRICT 3 – PLYMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



D3 Scott Feuerhelm, Merrill

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



D3 Joe Rotta, Merrill

- Married to Dianne, 3 children, 3 grandchildren
- Graduate of Iowa State University
- Farms near Merrill, raises corn, soybeans, and hogs
- Past president of Plymouth County Farm Bureau
- Past director of the Iowa Pork Producers
- Past president and current grill chairman for the Plymouth County Pork Producers
- Swine superintendent for the Plymouth County Fair
- Hobbies include traveling and spending time with family
- Enjoys biking, hiking, and pickleball

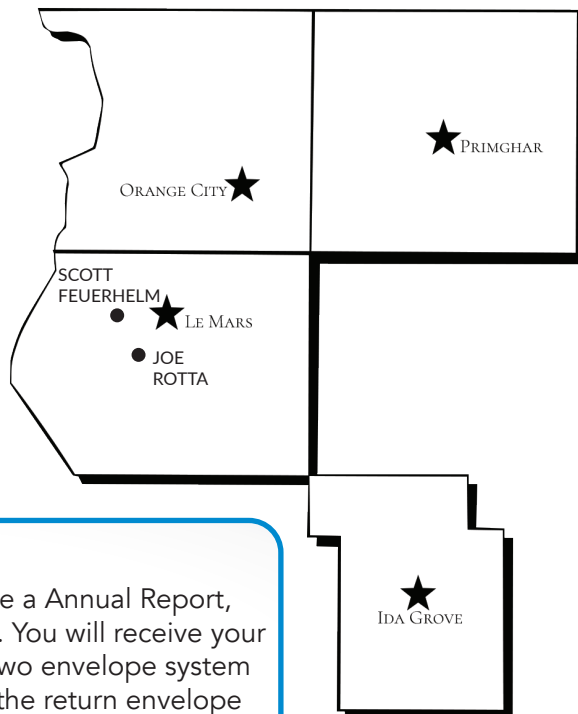
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Convention Center, Le Mars, Iowa at 7:00 P.M. on **Tuesday, the 26th day of March, 2024**, 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.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 1st day of March, A.D., 2024.

Steve Brown, Secretary *Stephen L. Brown*



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 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 18th of March, to be counted in the Director Election!

Pricing information on Security Lights



Security lights and maintenance are available to our members at the prices below. We are no longer able to service HPS or mercury vapor lights as we are no longer able to get parts for them. If your old light has an issue, you will need to upgrade to a LED light if you would like us to fix it.

Security Light Service Work

- LED - maintenance \$80
- (Will retrofit mercury vapor or HPS lights to LEDs when maintenance is necessary) \$190
- Move security light to new pole \$225
- Move security light and pole \$225
- Remove security light from pole or disconnect light \$225

Sell security light to member - includes installation

- LED security light (will not install on anything but a pole) \$225
- Replace a HPS light with an LED light \$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 (We will not set poles for gateposts, basketball hoops, etc.) \$175
- Sell any size used pole to member \$125



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 26-28 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | (please circle) |
| July 10-12 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |
| July 24-26 | 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 30, 2024.

Energy Trail Tour

2024

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.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

North West REC Continues to Grow

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting, I'm pleased to report that your Cooperative had another successful year and continues to grow. Growth is important to North West REC (NWREC) and our members, as increasing our kilowatt hour (kWh) sales is one of the key factors that has contributed to our ability to keep rates stable for the past eight years.

New Services in 2023: 144 new services were added. → We now have 10,346 total services.



Examples of some new or expanded services that were added in 2023:



New "all electric" MOC-Floyd Valley Elementary School



Center Fresh Egg Facilities



Post Equipment



Schuster Trucking Addition



Dairy Digester Loads



Data Mining Loads



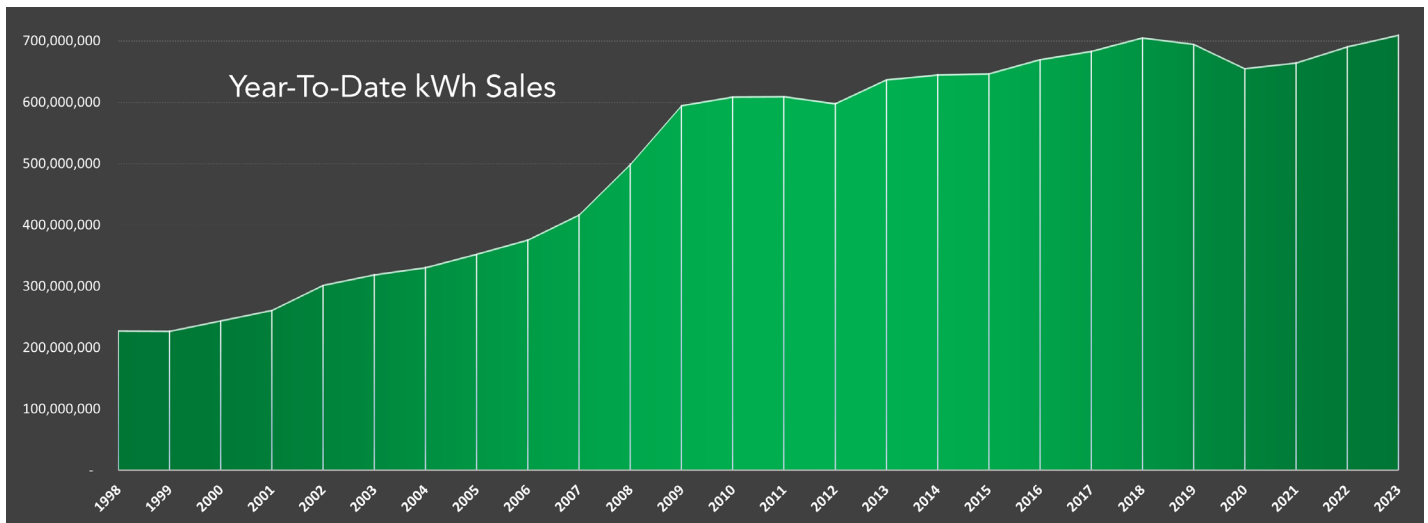
Kanaal Huis Senior Living



Housing Developments

kWh Sales:

Kilowatt-hour sales reached a new record of 710 million kWh's in 2023, which was an increase of 2.77%. Since the consolidation in 1998, kWh sales have increased 211%. This enables us to spread our fixed costs over a higher volume of kWh sales and contributes to rate stability.



Revolving Loan Fund:

We have been very involved with economic development and we are fortunate to have a very progressive service area that continues to enjoy growth and expansion.

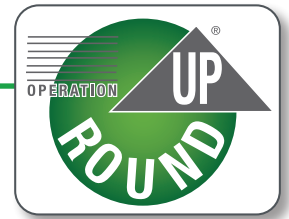
NWREC has a revolving loan fund (RLF) that has been a great tool that offers financial assistance to community and economic development projects. We were successful with three new grants from the USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant program in 2023 which totaled \$808,000. We utilize these grant funds to provide 0% interest loans for non-profit and community projects. The three grants in 2023 assisted two local hospitals and one fire department.

Our RLF is now up to \$6.48 million

We have excellent partnerships with our local community and county development groups, and we are committed to continuing to work closely with them to ensure that NWREC and our area continues to grow.



Operation Round-Up Update



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 area.

This month two of the charitable organizations we were able to present a check to for program support were Horn Memorial Hospital Foundation and Baum Harmon Mercy Hospital Foundation.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program or to receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 800-766-2099.



Director Profile

Shirley Schroeder

Family: Husband - Tony; Four sons & their families - Andy & Jacque, Keira, Abram, and Isaac Schroeder; Ryan & Kayla, Kaiden, Leo, and Emmit Schroder; Nick & Megan Schroeder; and Scott Schroeder.

Occupation: Farm with my husband and sons and recently retired from FUH lab where I worked as a med tech. Specialize in being Grandma Shirley.

Interests: Quilting, cooking, tailgating for Coyotes, Cyclones, and Jacks, serving on Siouxland Ag in the Classroom Board to promote ag education.

What she enjoys about serving as an NWREC Director: A chance to serve in an industry vital to us all. A world with affordable, reliable electricity benefits us all. I have learned a lot about the energy industry and met some very intelligent and talented people.



The Power Behind Your Power *Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.*

You've likely noticed North West REC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a 4-year college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, North West REC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local

community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in northwest Iowa, North West REC has 20 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 3,742 miles of power lines across 4 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 8, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



Front (L-R): Scott Wubben, Brandon Bonnema, Andrew Koenen, Luke Lathrop, Adam Gesink, Kobe Culver, Justin Nippert, Matt Weiland, Sidney Pitt, Robin Maassen, and Derrick Haak.

Back (L-R): Phil Elgersma, Mike Berkenpas, Tim Honkomp, Tracy Bahrenfuss, Tony Rolfes, Dustin Koele, Alex Jungers, Levi Hemmelrick, Jon Heiliger, Steve Heilman, Doug Alons, and Hunter Rockman.

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 4. 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 2024

Jay Anliker - Primghar
 Barry Carlson - Aurelia
 Wilbert Postma - Sanborn
 Dale Zenk - Merrill
 Steve Schoenherr - Hinton

Duane Mulder - Sioux Center
 Jeff Kay - Holstein
 Cindy Hansen - Alton
 Irwin De Boer - Sioux Center
 Rodney Renken - Le Mars



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 4. 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 closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

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

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



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Lyle D. Korver
 CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
 Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde
 Editor



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