



NEWS *Lines*

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

**JANUARY
2023**
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Scholarships Available



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2023. Last year we awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 75 students!

There will be two \$1,000 scholarship winners from each of the four districts of North West REC (Ida, O'Brien, Plymouth, and Sioux). The selection process for the \$1,000 scholarship winners will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores, overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written reference or appraisal by a third party.

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. All applicants will receive at least a \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire will be communicated at a later date.

North West REC members may qualify if their dependent meets the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Are current North West REC members.
- Must be a senior in high school in our service territory for the 2022-2023 school year and planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.
- Submit an application as provided by North West REC.
- Return all completed forms no later than Friday, February 17, 2023.

You can apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail the scholarship committee at scholarships@nwrec.coop and they will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call us at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 17, 2023!

As we step from the old year into the new, we extend wishes of health, happiness, and prosperity to our member-owners and their families. With our wishes comes our pledge that stays the same year in and year out, reliable service for you!

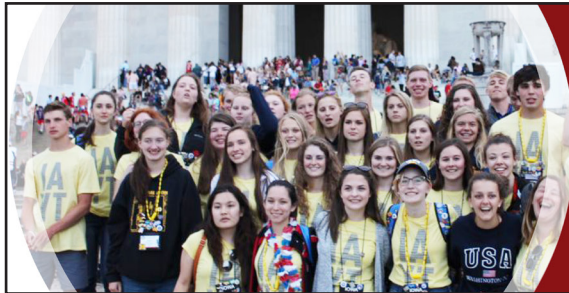
2023
Happy New Year

Apply Now for the 2023 Youth Tour Trip to D.C.

North West REC will send two high school juniors on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 17-23, 2023!

At North West REC one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school junior students with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

Two students will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2023 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 17-23 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 17-23!

High school students interested in public service and government are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



We are accepting Youth Tour applications from now through February 10, 2023. Dependents of North West REC member-consumers are eligible to apply. **The student must be a current junior high school student.** You can download our youth tour application at www.nwrec.coop. You can also call 800-766-2099, email nwrec@nwrec.coop, or stop by our office and we can get you a copy. Contact the office for more info.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. **Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2023 by Friday, February 10, 2023!**

Powerline Scholarship Available

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 \$1000 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 (Iowa, Plymouth, O'Brien and Sioux Counties).
- Be a member or the child/dependant 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.
- **Submit a scholarship application to North West REC by Friday, February 17, 2023.**

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.

You can apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Renee at rwynia@nwrec.coop and she will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935.

All entries for the scholarship must be returned to North West REC no later than Friday, February 17, 2023!



Bid Form - Vehicles for sale

FOR SALE - #1

2009 GMC extended cab 4WD pickup, 5.3L V8 engine, 209,700 miles.



FOR SALE - #2

2009 Dodge 4WD pickup, 4.7L V8 engine 249,000 miles



FOR SALE - #3

2008 Dodge Ram Quad cab 4X4 pickup, 5.7 liter V8 Hemi, 245,200 miles.



FOR SALE - #4

2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring Edition 3.8 liter V6 engine 123,750 miles.



These vehicles 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, February 15 2023. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sales 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 vehicles will all be available for viewing at the Orange City office 1505 Albany Place SE.

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

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Vehicle bidding on: _____



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

North West REC Reaches 25 year Anniversary

On behalf of the board of directors and employees of North West REC, I want to wish each of you a Happy New Year! As we begin another year, we wanted to highlight the 25-year anniversary of your Cooperative and the 85-year milestone of rural electrification in northwest Iowa. We thought our members, and especially our newer members, might enjoy a brief recap of the history of our Cooperative. Following the passage of the 1936 Rural Electrification Act, rural electric cooperatives began forming throughout the United States for the purpose of bringing electricity to rural areas for the first time. In 1938, groups of individuals began signing up members and formed Ida County REC, O'Brien County REC, Plymouth Electric Cooperative Association and Sioux Electric Cooperative Association.

Those four cooperatives were very successful in building the original electric distribution systems to bring electricity to rural northwest Iowa for the first time. This has dramatically improved the quality of life for rural families for the past 85 years.

In order to become more efficient and to better serve our members, the original four cooperatives consolidated operations effective January 1, 1998, to become North West Rural Electric Cooperative (NWREC). This required at least 50% of the members from each cooperative to vote and a 66-2/3% favorable vote. Over 85% of the members from each of the four cooperatives voted in favor of the Plan of Consolidation.

The consolidation went into effect on January 1, 1998 (25 years ago) and we believe we are stronger together!! We hope you agree that the consolidation has been successful and has benefited the member-owners.

Over the last 25 years, we have experienced significant change and growth as you can see from the data below:

	1998	2023
Number of Members	6,589	7,273
Number of Services	8,368	10,252
Miles of Line	3,528	3,700
Kilowatthour Sales	210 million	680 million
Total Assets	\$35 million	\$122 million
Total Revenue	\$13 million	\$51 million

As a result of the efficiencies we have gained from the consolidation and the significant increase in kWh sales, along with stable wholesale purchased power costs, NWREC and our members continue to enjoy very competitive electric rates. We will share more information about rates next month, but I'm pleased to share that we **will not** be raising our base rates in 2023. This marks **eight years of rate stability**.

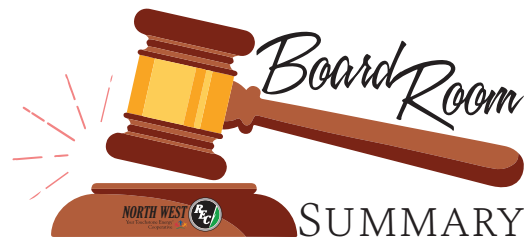
The mission of NWREC hasn't changed since the consolidation and for that matter for 85 years when the REC's were first formed. **"We will provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members."** We pledge that this will continue to be our mission going forward. Thank you for your continued loyalty and support.

Rob Driesen Recognized for 25 Years of Service

Each year at the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, our Statewide recognizes employees and directors who have reached 25 years of service to their cooperative. This year, Rob Driesen, was recognized for his 25 years of service to North West REC. Unfortunately, Rob wasn't able to attend the meeting in Des Moines so I had the opportunity to present the certificate of recognition to him in the office.

Rob was actually hired by Plymouth Electric Cooperative as a journeyman lineman in the fall of 1997 – just prior to the consolidation. He served as a lineman for 16 years and then transitioned into the member service department in 2013. He currently leads this department with a team that provides many services for our members including processing rebates, providing information about our energy efficiency and rebate programs, economic development, load management, metering and many other services.

We congratulate Rob for his 25 years of dedicated service to NWREC.



The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the October and November board meetings:

- The monthly safety report was presented by Derald Philips.
- Monthly financial reports were presented by Curt Ahrenholz.
- Darrin Lynch from our lender, CFC, presented the 2021 Key Ratio Trend Analysis report. The long term debt loan portfolio was also reviewed. While interest rates are increasing, over 90% of NWREC's loans are on a fixed interest rate and the overall average interest rate is 3.95%.
- Manager Korver presented his monthly report and shared that the wholesale rate from NIPCO will be increasing in 2023 by approximately 1.2%.
- The board approved the same scholarship program for high school seniors as we had in 2022.
- The board approved the CPA audit proposal from Eide Bailly for NWREC's annual audit for the next three years.
- Received a cyber security report from IT Director, James Vondrak.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner and Director Rehder on the recent NIPCO, Basin, and CFC Board Meetings.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations.
- Approved the 2023 Capital Outlay Budget for 2023 construction projects and general plant equipment purchases, included is over 50 miles of new line construction to replace older line. The total Capital Outlay Budget for 2023 is \$6.9 million.
- A new ten-year financial forecast was approved.
- Manager Korver reported on some economic development projects that are underway.
- A legislative grassroots report was given which included results of the recent election and plans for legislative meetings in December.

2023 Energy Efficiency Rebates

All changes to our energy efficiency rebates are effective as of January 1st, 2023. We want to make sure all our members are aware of the current rebates. See the full list of rebates we offer below.

Rebate forms for New Electric Appliances, Building Insulation, Pull the Plug, and Electric Vehicle Chargers are available at our offices and can also be found on our website at nwrec.coop under the member services tab.

No form is needed for the other rebates, simply submit a copy of the invoice for the rebated equipment to North West REC, and a representative from North West REC will call you to set up a time to inspect the installation prior to the rebate being paid to verify that it has been installed and is operating.

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 	\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON
	\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEATING/COOLING & P-TAC UNIT - NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 - REBATE LIMITED TO TWO UNITS PER SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING OR OUTBUILDING • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 - LIMIT OF ONE REBATE FOR EACH LEASABLE HOTEL ROOM 	\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
	\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
	\$800 PER TON	\$400 PER TON
	\$400 PER TON	\$200 PER TON

MARATHON WATER HEATERS - SOLD ONLY TO MEMBERS AND INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM. MUST HAVE LOAD MANAGEMENT SWITCH INSTALLED TO RECEIVE REBATE. REBATE IS FOR THE MAIN WATER HEATER ONLY, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE STORAGE TANKS FOR GEOTHERMAL. REBATE AMOUNTS:

50 GALLON MARATHON	\$300 REBATE
85 GALLON MARATHON	\$700 REBATE
100 GALLON MARATHON	\$700 REBATE
105 HD GALLON MARATHON	\$700 REBATE
HOG BUILDINGS (50 GALLON ONLY)	FULL PRICE - No REBATE
NEW HOME WITH ALL ELECTRIC HEAT (PRIMARY HEAT & ELECTRIC BACKUP)	\$1000 REBATE ON AN 85 GALLON
	CALL THE OFFICE FOR CURRENT PRICES

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM, MUST BE ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED

EACH MEMBER IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$250 PER CALENDAR YEAR IN COMBINED APPLIANCE REBATES.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| - CLOTHES WASHER | \$50 PER UNIT | - FREEZER | \$25 PER UNIT |
| - REFRIGERATOR | \$25 PER UNIT | - DISHWASHER | \$25 PER UNIT |
| - DRYER | \$25 PER UNIT | | |

Look for this logo on your yellow energy guide to determine if your appliance is energy star certified



BUILDING INSULATION

- BUILDING MUST BE ALL ELECTRIC AS THE PRIMARY HEATING SOURCE WITH ELECTRIC BACKUP
- MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY INSTALLED FOR BLOWN-IN, AREOSHEILD, SPRAY FOAM, INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS, RIGID STYROFOAM PANELS AND/OR STRUCTURAL PANEL TYPE INSULATION
- RESIDENTIAL (HOUSE) – REBATE LIMITED TO 30% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$800 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG BUILDINGS – REBATE LIMITED TO 10% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$2,000 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR

VARIABLE SPEED AND SOFT START MOTORS

- \$30 PER HORSEPOWER
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG BUILDINGS (SEASONAL APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE)
- UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$5,000 PER MOTOR

MOTOR REBATE PROGRAM WILL RUN UNTIL AN ALLOTTED AMOUNT OF MONEY RUNS OUT. PLEASE CALL BEFORE SUBMITTING A REBATE TO MAKE SURE THERE IS MONEY AVAILABLE.

“YOU PULL THE PLUG” APPLIANCE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

MEMBER AGREES TO SELF-REMOVE AND RECYCLE QUALIFYING APPLIANCE (REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER IN WORKING ORDER) VIA AN APPROVED AND CERTIFIED APPLIANCE DE-MANUFACTURER OR DROP-OFF LOCATION.

MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A \$50 REBATE, PER QUALIFYING RECYCLED APPLIANCE, UP TO THREE APPLIANCES, PER CALENDAR YEAR. A DATED COPY OF A RECEIPT BY THE CERTIFIED VENDOR/LANDFILL/RECYCLER MUST ACCOMPANY THE REBATE APPLICATION FORM (AVAILABLE FROM OUR OFFICE OR ONLINE).

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS - CALL THE OFFICE TO BE PUT ON THE SCHEDULE

RESIDENTIAL

\$45 CHARGE

- MUST BE AT LEAST 30 DEGREE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TEMPERATURES

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS - FOR NEW LEVEL 2 CHARGERS ONLY

- RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL UP TO \$1000 TOWARD COST OF CHARGER AND INSTALLATION, REBATE CANNOT EXCEED INVOICE AMOUNT. (HYBRID VEHICLE CHARGERS \$750 MAX).
 - LEVEL 2 CHARGE 208-240 VOLT
 - MUST BE HARD WIRED AND INSTALLATION MUST MEET LOCAL CODE
 - MEMBER REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CHARGER MAKE, MODEL, S/N, SPECIFICATIONS
 - CANNOT BACK-FEED INTO THE SYSTEM
 - SUB METER AND LOAD CONTROL SWITCH ARE REQUIRED FOR REBATE
 - LIMIT OF 1 REBATE PER ELECTRIC VEHICLE



What is Switch Makes Cents? A load management switch is installed in your house or building and eligible equipment such as electric water heaters, heating and cooling systems, irrigators, generators, and ev car chargers are hooked up to it. On days when the demand for electricity is nearing peak levels, a signal is transmitted to the switch to interrupt the connected equipment for a short period of time. The combined effect of all the switches on our system allows for a reduction in peak demand. Peak demand determines in part the cost of electricity purchased by our wholesale power provider, NIPCO. By helping to reduce peak demand you can help keep power cost lower and conserve energy.

Ask about our 4.9 cent interruptible all electric heat rate!

scan the QR code to learn more about SMC



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. What grade do you need to be in to apply for Youth Tour to D.C.?
2. What certification does your new appliance need to qualify for a rebate?
3. What is the deadline to apply for scholarships?

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 February 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*

Brothers LLC - Sioux Center
 Marlyn Hofman - Sanborn
 Maureen Zimmerman - Orange City
 Harold Rahbusch - Sutherland
 Marilyn Tucker - Remsen

NOVEMBER 2022

Jay Anliker - Primghar
 James Schelling - Orange City
 Christine Moon - Westfeild
 Robbie Trometer - Merrill
 Derek Stroman - Merrill



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What is Switch Makes Cents?

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 March 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 in 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:
 (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 any-time 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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