



# NEWS *Lines*

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

## AUGUST 2020

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# Member Appreciation Days

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING  
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

**4:30 - 6:30 Activity Stations & Meal    6:30 Musical Entertainment**  
**Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for watching the entertainment**  
**Social Distancing will be practiced to the best of our ability**

- Box Meals & Blue Bunny Ice Cream
- Prize drawings for adults & kids
- Information & activity stations
- The Klassens will perform in Sioux & O'Brien counties
- See our Chevy Bolt Electric Vehicle
- Information available on Energy Efficiency Rebates
- The Browns will perform in Ida & Plymouth counties



## O'Brien County

Thursday, September 3rd  
O'Brien County Fairgrounds  
555 3rd St SE  
Primghar, IA 51245

## Sioux County

Tuesday, September 8th  
Terrace View Event Center  
230 St Andrews Way  
Sioux Center, IA 51250

**All members  
are welcome  
to attend  
whichever date  
or location  
works best for  
you.**

**PLEASE BRING  
LAWN CHAIRS  
OR BLANKETS.**

## Ida County

Tuesday, August 25th  
Ida County Fairgrounds  
2332 Hwy 59  
Ida Grove, IA 51445

## Plymouth County

Tuesday, September 1st  
Plymouth County Fairgrounds  
500 4th Ave NE  
Le Mars, IA 51031

# 2020 SCHOLARSHIP *Winners*

North West REC provides several scholarships to high school students each spring. These scholarships are funded by North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a consumer-owned, regional generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Bismarck, N.D., responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to eight Midwestern states.

The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students in the region; it is also an investment in the economic future of rural areas. This year North West REC awarded four \$1,000 scholarships, four \$750 scholarships, twenty-six \$500 scholarships, and thirty-one \$250 scholarships. The \$1,000 and \$750 scholarship winners were chosen through applications by our scholarship committee. The \$500 scholarship winners were randomly drawn and the remainder of those seniors who turned in an application and would have attended the annual meeting were awarded \$250 scholarship winners.

## \$1,000 Scholarship Winners



### District 1

#### Jillian Den Herder

Kirk & Diane Den Herder  
Western Christian High School  
Dordt University  
Elementary Education



### District 2

#### Jillian Heemstra

Dennis & Lori Heemstra  
South O'Brien High School  
University of Northern Iowa  
Elementary Education



### District 3

#### McKenna Van Eldik

Daniel & Robyn Van Eldik  
Akron Westfield High School  
South Dakota State University  
Nursing



### District 4

#### Russell Brummer

Gary & Meridith Brummer  
Ridge View High School  
South Dakota State University  
Agricultural & Biosystems  
Engineering

## \$750 Scholarship Winners



### District 1

#### Brooke Zylstra

Carl & Nicole Zylstra  
Boyden-Hull High School  
Northwestern College  
Business



### District 2

#### Case Moermond

Josh & Becca Moermond  
South O'Brien High School  
Northwest Missouri State  
University  
Agriculture Business



### District 3

#### Chloe Calhoun

Kevin & Christi Calhoun  
Le Mars High School  
University of Nebraska  
Food Science & Technology



### District 4

#### Kylee Weber

Kevin & Keri Weber  
OABCIG High School  
Dordt University  
Agriculture & Animal Science



## \$500 Scholarship Recipients

### District 1

**Ashley Beitelspacher**  
Le Mars

**Travis Mulder**  
Rock Valley

**Micah Byl**  
Maurice

**Keanna Post**  
Sioux Center

**Caleb Haley**  
Alton

**Sarah Rosgaard**  
Rock Valley

**Luke Hoogendoorn**  
Ireton

**Parker Van Kley**  
Orange City

**Chloe Wynia**  
Maurice

### District 2

**Paige Dage**  
Sanborn

**Noah Fuhrman**  
Paullina

**Sean Negus**  
Sutherland

**Skye Rehder**  
Granville

### District 3

**Tucker Heeran**  
Le Mars

**Cole Moffatt**  
Ireton

**Andrew Hessa**  
Sioux City

**Faith Olson**  
Remsen

**Jenna Laughton**  
Le Mars

**Will Roder**  
Remsen

**Kade Lynott**  
Hawarden

**Gretchen Ruba**  
Granville

**Camden Schroeder**  
Remsen

### District 4

**Hunter Mass**  
Ida Grove

**Kaitlyn Riessen**  
Battle Creek

**Autumn Schreiber**  
Battle Creek

**Elizabeth Zobel**  
Battle Creek

# CONGRATS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## \$250 Scholarship Recipients

### District 1

**Anna Beitelspacher**  
Le Mars

**Alyssa Renken**  
Ireton

**Haley Driesen**  
Hull

**Kaylee Van Donge**  
Hull

**Mackelle Grevengoed**  
Hull

**Alayna Van Regenmorter**  
Maurice

**Ethan Hulsof**  
Ireton

**Hannah Van Tilburg**  
Rock Valley

**Connor Koomia**  
Hull

**Sarah Vander Werf**  
Hawarden

**Megan Morgan**  
Orange City

**Austin Wilbert**  
Ireton

### District 2

**Sierra De Boer**  
Archer

**Kendra Frodermann**  
Magnolia

**Wyatt Tesch**  
Granville

**Sara Wallin**  
Paullina

**Katey Wieringa**  
Hospers

### District 3

**Gabriel Clark**  
Merrill

**Hailey Rice**  
Hinton

**Lakia Eilts**  
Le Mars

**Kennedy Ruhland**  
Le Mars

**Alka Eliades**  
Merrill

**Shaunna Scheitler**  
Le Mars

**Jakob Francksen-Small**  
Merrill

**Valeria Uribe**  
Le Mars

**Steven Greigg**  
Sioux City

**Skyler Waldschmitt**  
Remsen

**Brooke Haage**  
Akron

**Taylor Worrell**  
Hinton

### District 4

**Corin Bower**  
Danbury

**Carson Godberson**  
Ida Grove



## Energy Efficiency LOANS FOR HOMEOWNERS

An energy-efficiency loan from North West REC can be an effective way to improve your home and save energy.

The loan may be made for qualifying energy efficient home improvements such as new electric heating systems, an electric water heater, or energy efficient windows and doors.

If interested in an energy efficiency loan, members must complete a loan application and provide a complete itemized bill. This bill may include electric heat equipment, wiring, labor, electric water heater, and electric space conditioning equipment for cooling. Insulation expense, to improve the integrity of the building and the space to be conditioned, may be included in a loan. The loan application and credit check will be reviewed by the board of directors.

Other specifics of our loan program for North West REC members include:

- Minimum amount of \$500 to \$999 written for one year.
- Maximum amount of \$7,000 for equipment upgrade, written for three years.
- Maximum amount of \$4,000 for house improvement of insulation, doors, windows, caulking, weather-stripping, etc.
- 5.50% simple interest
- Monthly payments included on electric bill
- No penalty for early pay-off

North West REC will deduct any rebates from the total itemized bill and will finance up to 90% of the remainder upon approval from our board of directors.

Call us to find out if your home improvement project qualifies!



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

*"NWREC is doing well and continuing to focus on our mission of providing safe, affordable and reliable power..."*

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Unprecedented is a word that is getting used a lot this year, but it certainly applies to what we are experiencing in 2020. I hope you and your family have stayed healthy and safe. I am pleased to report that the "NWREC family" is doing well and all of our employees and directors are healthy. It was good to open our offices on June 8 and to have some visits from our members again. We continue to follow social distancing guidelines and have received great cooperation and support from our members. Thank you!

While COVID-19 has caused us to change some of our procedures and how we operate, I am pleased to report that your North West REC (NWREC) is doing well. Even though kilowatt hour sales are lower this year, with some of our commercial and industrial load being scaled back due to the impacts of COVID-19 on their operations, operating margins through May are actually better than budget. We will provide more detail in the coming months, but I did want to let our members know that NWREC is doing well and continuing to focus on our mission of providing safe, affordable and reliable power for our members.

We understand there have been a lot of cancellations of activities and events, and we had to do that back in March and April with our Member District Meetings. At the time, we decided to make every effort to have some member engagement events this fall. Our hope is to still do that. As of this writing, we are still planning to have our four Member Appreciation Day events in late August and early September. The dates are listed on the front page of this newsletter. These events will be held outdoors, and we will make every effort to have these be socially distanced, safe, and fun events. We know that some members may not be comfortable attending, and we certainly understand this. Additional information will be provided in a direct mail piece that will go out to all members in August.

## NORTH WEST REC RECOGNIZED WITH ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD



One of NWREC's key economic development partners is the Iowa Area Development Group (IADG). IADG is the marketing and business development office for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives. Rand Fisher, President of IADG, attended our June board meeting and presented NWREC with an IADG Impact Award for community development.

A recent example of our community development was the project support we provided to the Sioux County Conservation Foundation for the new 12,000 sq. ft. Prairie Woods Nature Center located in Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. This facility offers meaningful outdoor connection and endless educational opportunities for everyone, from students to seniors. NWREC supported this project with a \$360,000 zero-interest loan provided from our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). We are also the electric service provider for this beautiful new facility.

In presenting this award, Mr. Fisher commended NWREC for being an active supporter of this project and many other initiatives throughout our four-county service area. He went on to thank NWREC for providing essential financial and technical assistance that many times is a critical component in successfully securing projects that create jobs and support community vitality.

We currently operate a RLF that has grown to \$5.2 million. NWREC has been successful in receiving \$4.2 million in grant funds from the USDA REDLG program and has provided the balance in matching funds and interest earnings on the loans. Since 1995, NWREC has made 72 RLF loans totaling \$14.3 million, to community projects like the Nature Center project and for new and expanding businesses projects. The RLF is a great tool for NWREC to help improve the quality in our rural areas by contributing to long term improvement in the local economy.



## N.E.T. BROADBAND UPDATE

During this time of COVID-19, the importance of having access to Internet service has increased, especially for students and individuals who work from home. We wanted to remind our members that we are involved in a partnership with Evertek to deliver high speed wireless Internet service. The areas where we have towers include Sheldon, Orange City, Hawarden, Craig, Le Mars, Kingsley, Merrill, Ida Grove and Holstein.



You can find pricing and coverage maps on our web site. We know that our members and rural America are in need of good, reliable Internet and we are happy to play a role in delivering this service to our members.





# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY *Rural Electrification*

Five northwest Iowa middle school students are celebrating after winning top honors for their documentary on rural electrification at the 2020 National History Day® (NHD) national finals. The NHD awards ceremony was held online in June due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year, more than 500,000 middle and high school students around the world participate in the NHD program. Iowa sent 69 students to this year's national finals where they competed for top honors against nearly 3,000 other students from around the world.

Josie Jacobs, Addison Naslund, Ben Philips, Lainey Schuknecht and Hayden Wahlberg, students at Akron-Westfield Middle School in Plymouth County, Iowa, won first place in the junior group division for their 10-minute documentary, "Rural Electrification: Breaking Barriers with the Flip of a Switch." Valorie Philips, Akron-Westfield Middle School instructor and NHD coach, along with parent mentors LeAnne Philips and Arica Schuknecht, provided ongoing guidance to the students during project development.



Left to Right: Josie Jacobs, Addison Naslund, Lainey Schuknecht, Ben Philips, Hayden Wahlberg

NIPCO and member distribution cooperative North West Rural Electric Cooperative assisted the students in their research, providing historical photos and interviews as well as resources such as the book "The Next Greatest Thing: 50 Years of Rural Electrification In America" (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 1984). North West REC CEO Lyle Korver spent additional time with the students answering their questions and leading a tour of the cooperative.



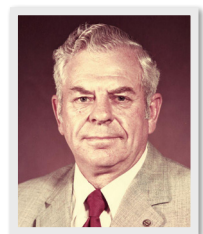
Student Ben Philips, who lives on North West REC lines, shares, "My family's farm was one of the last ones in Plymouth County to get electricity through the local REC before World War II started. In our research, we learned that if farms didn't get connected before the war, they had to wait several more years for electricity until the war was over and electrification work started again."



Left to Right: Josie Jacobs, Addison Naslund, Wanda Philips, Hayden Wahlberg, Ben Philips, Lainey Schuknecht

Ben's great aunts contributed to the retelling of the rural electrification story, adding a personal perspective to the work. In the students' documentary, Margaret Talbott and Wanda Philips speak of the physical and emotional impacts they felt when their lives, as young women responsible for carrying out many chores on the farm and in their homes, were made better through the introduction of electric service. The students' documentary opens with a quote from Wanda Philips: "A miracle is something that is resoundingly unusual and wonderful, and all of electricity was a miracle to me."

It wasn't learned until later that Wanda Philips' husband, Richard (Ben's great-uncle), served as a Director for Plymouth Electric Cooperative from 1972 until 1984. He was also elected as the Plymouth Electric Cooperative Director Representative to the NIPCO Board of Directors from May of 1982 until December of 1984. Philips stepped away from cooperative leadership to take a seat on the Plymouth County Board of Supervisors. "Wanda didn't mention this at all in the interview this winter," said Ben's mother, LeAnne Philips. She only learned of this cooperative connection in a recent conversation with Wanda, when Wanda called to catch up with the family.



Richard Philips

The National History Day in Iowa program has been coordinated by the State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, since 1994. Students progress through achievement levels during the competition; however, this year's pandemic restrictions kept the students from showcasing their work in Des Moines and Washington, D.C.



National History Day is a non-profit education organization, which provides a yearlong academic enrichment program that challenges students to research, develop and present papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites and performances about historical topics related to a designated annual theme. This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History."

For more on this story, read the August edition of Living with Energy in Iowa, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's statewide publication, distributed to Iowa's rural electric cooperative members.

# Employee Retires AFTER 42 YEARS AT CO-OP

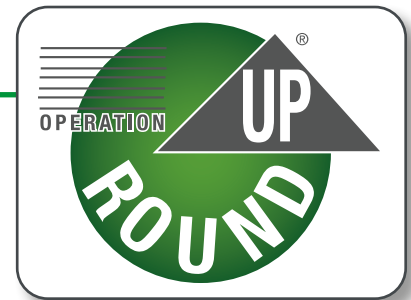


## LORRAINE EGDORF

Lorraine began her employment with the co-op in April of 1978. Lorraine retired on June 30, after 42 years at the co-op. Coworkers say she has always been someone that you could rely on to get the job done right and get it done well. She is looking forward to spending time with her grandkids, being able to go away (after the pandemic), and having an open schedule with lots of free time to do whatever she wants! We wish Lorraine all the best in her retirement, Congrats Lorraine!

## OPERATION *Round Up* REPORT

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the second quarter of 2020 totaled \$10,450. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$505,045. Many people have been helped thanks to our members contributions.



\$4,500 .....Area Hospitals - program support

\$2,500 ..... Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Justice for All – program support

\$2,400 ..... Medical Emergencies - assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems, accident related injuries, and accidents or fires resulting in significant loss

\$1,050 .....Area Parks & Recreation Centers - 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 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 or fill out the registration form below and return to us. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

### SIGN UP TODAY!

**YES** – add my name to the hundreds of North West REC members already contributing to the Operation Round Up Trust. I am not currently signed up to donate but wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar and make a meaningful difference in my community.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. Name one of the \$1000 scholarship winners: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years did Lorraine work at North West REC ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the documentary topic of the Akron-Westfield students ? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account. # \_\_\_\_\_

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 September 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*

JUNE 2020



Wilbur Wittrock - Battle Creek  
 Anita Heitritter - Archer  
 Macey Friedrichen - Sutherland  
 Barry Nieuwenhuis - Hospers  
 Galen Geyer - Sanborn

Lamont Hageman - Le Mars  
 Dennis Teut - Hinton  
 Gary McCrill - Akron  
 Andy Schroeder - Ida Grove  
 Jim Jonker - Orange City



### 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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