



NEWS *Lines*

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

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**Our offices
will be closed
Monday,
September 1
in observance
of Labor Day.**

We're Looking For Students Interested In Public Service And Leadership

Students who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, North West REC has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at www.iowaYouthTour.com.

"This program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Lyle Korver, "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. – Advocacy
- Thursday, Oct. 23, 7:00 p.m. – Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online by September 30 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear about Iowa Youth Tour. Students with an interest in government and public service are encouraged to apply for this weeklong trip to Washington, DC. The 2026 Youth Tour is slated for June 14-20 next summer.

Learn more at www.iowaYouthTour.com or contact our office at 712-707-4935 or nwrec@nwrec.coop for more information.



Operation Round-Up Report

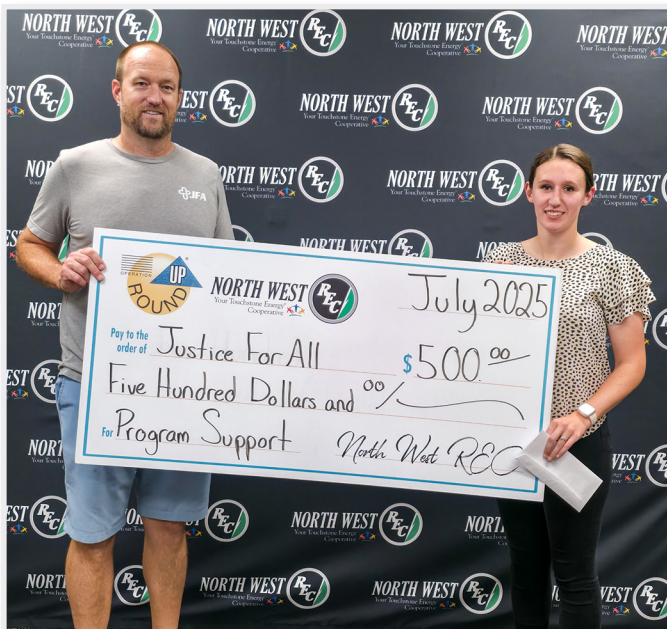


The Operation Round-Up program is designed to provide benefits to individuals, organizations and communities in our service area. These funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, to assist worthy causes right in your local county area.

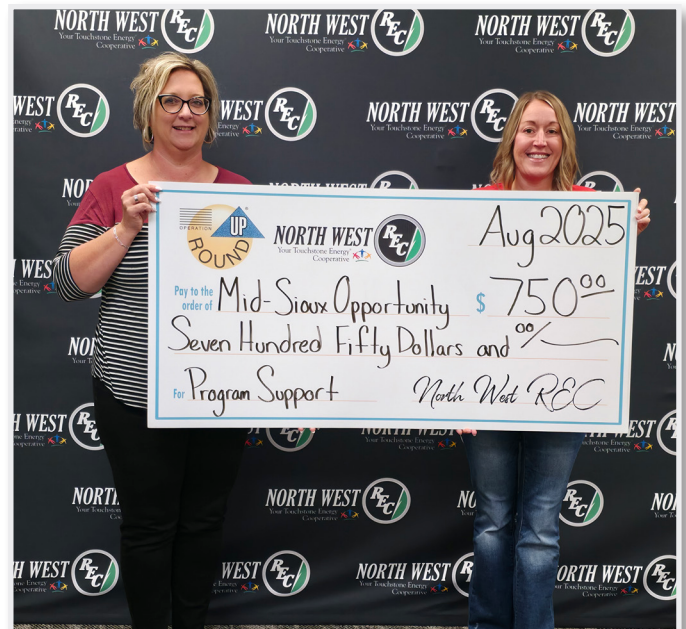
Recently we were able to present an Operation Round Up Check to Justice For All and Mid Sioux Opportunity. Justice For All coordinates volunteers, collects donated goods, and supports projects that help meet basic needs for individuals and communities near and far. Mid-Sioux Opportunity provides programs and services that support low-income individuals and families with basic needs, education, and self-sufficiency.

North West REC recently presented an Operation Round Up check to support their ongoing efforts to make a positive difference through hands-on service and community support.

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 sign up on our website. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099.



Pictured is North West REC Communications/ Member Services Coordinator, Emily Vander Velde (right), presenting the check to Justice For All Executive Director, Joel De Wit (left).



Pictured is North West REC Billing Coordinator, Julee Kovarna (left), presenting the check to Mid Sioux Family Resource Director, Laura Bensen (right).



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Load management is one of the easiest ways for members to become active members in their cooperative and save money on their electric bills. Not only does having a load management switch help qualify you for the interruptible all electric heat rate, it also qualifies you to purchase a Marathon water heater from us at a rebated price! You can save between \$300 and \$500, depending on which size you purchase, by installing a switch on your water heater. An even bigger bonus, if you are building a new home with all electric heat and have a load management switch installed, you can receive \$1,000 rebate on an 85 or 100 gallon water heater!

Local Teens Attend National Tour Program

Thirty-five high school students sponsored by Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives, including two from North West REC, traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 for the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Iowa students joined with nearly 2,000 other student leaders from across the nation to learn more about cooperatives and U.S. history and government. Iowa's electric cooperatives were the first ones to send students to Washington, D.C., more than 65 years ago; over the decades, hundreds of Iowa student leaders have learned about their role as an American citizen through this program.

Tyler Friedrichsen and Elsie Van Beek (pictured left) were the Youth Tour delegates chosen to represent North West REC.

"Youth Tour is a major highlight for many students, and we're proud to send 35 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate," said Shelly York, Youth Tour coordinator at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime."

Students who attended Youth Tour participated



in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump started their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives, and toured the monuments and museums in our nation's capital.

For more information on how you can participate in North West REC's 2026 Youth Tour program, contact our office at 712-707-4935 or nwrec@nwrec.coop or visit www.iowaYouthTour.com. Search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook or Instagram to see the group's recent adventures from 2025.

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. Warranty does not cover light struck by lightning.

Poles

- Setting a pole for member (We will not set poles for gateposts, basketball hoops, etc.) \$225
- Sell any size used pole to member \$175



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

As the Old Saying Goes "Be Careful What You Wish For"

Following the June flooding events of last summer, many of us were starting to have concerns about being back in a drought, as it had become extremely dry last fall and early this spring. Well, as the old saying goes, "be careful what you wish for". June and July have been extremely wet months and as often happens with summer rains, the storms with strong winds come with it.

I had not heard of a derecho storm until the summer of 2020 when our area was on the edge of the derecho storm that caused widespread damage throughout east central Iowa. We were fortunate during that storm, as our system received fairly minor damage. We ended up sending some of our linemen to help REC's in eastern Iowa that year as they received significant damage from that event.

This time we weren't quite as fortunate. With nearly 100 mph winds in parts of Sioux County on the evening of July 28, what many are calling another derecho event, we experienced a lot of damage to the northwest part of our system. We had over 500 members that lost power for anywhere from a few hours to more than a day in a few cases. We don't have a final count yet on the number of broken poles, but as I am writing this article, four days after the storm, we are still working on replacing some of the downed poles and lines.

At times, we need to become a little creative in our storm restoration efforts, as we did with this storm. We actually rented nine portable generators and installed them at some services that may have been out of power for over a week if we had not taken this action. The reason for that is our single-phase line

was under built on another utilities line, and they lost over 75 structures. We weren't able to make our repairs until their contractors completed their repair work. This repair work was continuing four days after the storm.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our members. I was very proud of our employee team again as all of our departments worked proficiently and professionally together to do whatever it took to get power restored for our members as quickly and as safely as possible. Once again, we saw one of the important benefits we have gained from our consolidations, by being able to bring in crews

quickly and efficiently from other districts where there either wasn't any damage, or the damage was minimal.

Thanks again to our members for your support during these challenging times. We have received a lot of very nice thank you comments from members, either over the phone or on social media. This means a lot to us.





NWREC Members Participate In 36th Energy Trail Tour

More than 130 electric cooperative member-owners from western and north-central Iowa embarked on an educational adventure this summer, participating in three motorcoach tours that showcased the journey from power generation to their homes and businesses. The 36th annual Energy Trail Tour season featured three motorcoach tours departing from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) in Le Mars, with tours scheduled June 18-20, June 25-27, and July 9-11.

The three-day educational experience took participants through the Dakotas to visit key facilities operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), the primary power suppliers for local distribution cooperatives through their generation and transmission partners NIPCO and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.



Tour Destinations and Learning Experiences

Oahe Power Powerhouse and Dam, Pierre, South Dakota, and Big Bend Powerhouse and Dam, Fort Thompson, SD

Participants explored hydroelectric generation at Missouri River facilities Oahe Dam and Powerhouse (June tours) and Big Bend Dam (July tour), learning about the engineering marvels of the earthen dams that created Lake Oahe, America's fourth-largest reservoir (Oahe), and Lake Sharpe (Big Bend). The tours highlight



how hydroelectric power plays an important role in an all-of-the-above energy generation mix.

Antelope Valley Station

Members toured Basin Electric's coal-fired power plant, including the turbine deck, control room, and boiler areas, culminating with views from the 17th-floor observation deck. The visit showcased the value of coal-fired baseload generation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative's investments in environmental control technologies to reduce emissions.

Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine

A drive-through tour of the active surface mine demonstrated lignite coal production and land reclamation efforts. Participants witnessed massive earthmoving equipment in operation at a facility that produces approximately 15 million tons of coal annually while reclaiming about 600 acres of mined land.

Mobile Classroom

Travel on a motorcoach provides an excellent "over-the-road" opportunity to learn about other generation sources and operations that produce valuable byproducts from the production of synthetic natural gas.



Wind Generation Education

Participants learned about the role of wind power in America's diverse energy portfolio and its contribution to the country's all-of-the-above energy approach to securing safe, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy production.

Great Plains Synfuels Plant

Passengers learned how coal is converted into synthetic natural gas as well as produce valuable byproducts including anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, and diesel exhaust fluid through Basin Electric's Dakota Gasification Company subsidiary at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Cooperative Values in Action

Beyond the technical education, participants gained a deeper insight into the cooperative difference, learning about the history of rural electric cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles, and Touchstone Energy's four service foundations: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community.

The tours combined education with fellowship, creating lasting memories while building appreciation for the complex process of delivering reliable electricity to the communities these cooperatives serve.

Power Supply Information

NIPCO purchases approximately 80% of its power supply from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and 20% from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which markets power generated from the Missouri River Dam System.

Interested in participating next year? Contact our office to find out how you can learn more about the 2026 Energy Trail Tour. The North West REC members who were able to attend the 2025 tours are pictured to the right.



Tour #1 Above Left to Right: Maria Mulder, Allen Mulder, Arlin Hoogendoorn, Shar Hoogendoorn, Jackie Netherton, Ray Netherton, Jan Budden, Kevin Budden.



Tour #2 Above Top - Left to Right: Stan Wynia, Roger Steffen, Steve Schroeder, Bottom - Left to Right: Karen Wynia, Lynette Browdy, Michelle Schroeder.



Tour #3 Above Left to Right: Jerry Helmers, Lindsey Helmers, Chet Willer, Cynthia Willer, Janna Kingma, Allen Kingma.



MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN

MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN

It's that simple, and it's the law in Iowa. By following these two rules of the road, you can help save lives and avoid receiving a traffic ticket – or even losing your driver's license. It's necessary to move over or slow down when approaching stationary emergency, maintenance, and utility vehicles with flashing lights activated.

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How much does it cost to replace your security light with a new LED one?
2. What does a new LED security light cost?
3. Name one of the stops on the Energy Trail Tour:

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 October 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*

JULY 2025

Sterling Meyer - Ireton
Jay Bolkema - Orange City
Michael Konradi - Ida Grove
Shelby Neubauer - Ida Grove
Tim Streck - Ida Grove

Jean Norberg - Sioux City
Nathan Tentinger - Le Mars
Beyer Farms - Sanborn
Wes Foreman - Rock Valley
Tony Paskert - Remsen



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What can you buy from NWREC at a rebated price if you have a switch installed?

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 October 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

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