



NEWS *Lines*

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

MAY 2026

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Electrical Safety Starts with Awareness

May is Electrical Safety Month, a good reminder to stay aware of electrical hazards at home, on the farm, and on the road. At North West REC, your safety is one of our top priorities. Electricity powers our daily lives, but it must always be treated with care.

One of the most serious hazards is a downed power line. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous. Stay at least 35 feet away—farther if the ground is wet—and never touch the line or anything it's contacting. Report downed lines to North West REC at 800-766-2099. If your vehicle or equipment contacts a power line, stay inside if possible. If you must exit due to fire, jump clear with both feet together and hop away from the area.

Electrical safety is especially important in rural areas where large equipment is often used near overhead lines. When operating farm machinery, moving augers, or working with large equipment, always look up and be aware of nearby power lines. Taking a moment to check your surroundings can help prevent dangerous contact with overhead lines.

Grain bins must also be placed a safe distance from overhead power lines to prevent accidental contact with equipment. Maintaining proper clearances helps protect both farm operators and utility lineworkers.

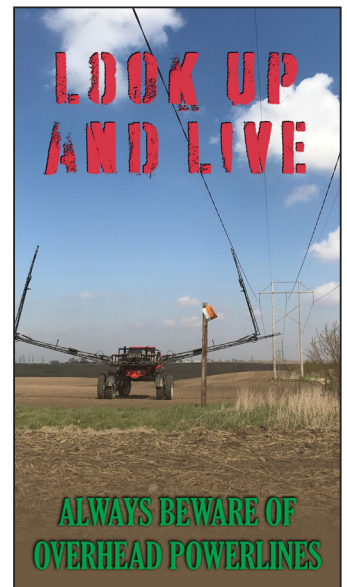


Safety on the road is also important. Our crews often work along roadsides to maintain lines and restore power. Iowa law requires drivers to move over or slow down when approaching utility vehicles with flashing lights, helping keep crews and motorists safe.

Many electrical accidents can also be prevented with a little preparation. Before starting any digging project—such as installing a fence or planting trees—remember to call 811 two to three days in advance so underground utility lines can be marked.

At home, simple habits make a difference. Avoid overloading outlets, use GFCIs near water, and plug space heaters directly into wall outlets instead of extension cords. It's also important to teach children to stay away from power lines and electrical equipment.

Electricity is essential to everyday life, but a little awareness can go a long way in preventing accidents. For more safety tips and resources, visit www.nwrec.coop or call North West REC at 800-766-2099.



Revolving Loan Fund

North West REC created the Community/Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long-term improvement in the local economy.

The RLF is a local funding source with a goal of providing low interest loans to assist local economic and community development projects. Our priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the local economy, improving the skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and/or medical care of rural residents. This fund is administered by the North West REC Board of Directors.

Eligible applicants include organizations involved in community or economic development projects such as: new or expanding private business, local governments, and nonprofit community development organizations.

For more information on eligible and ineligible uses of funds, loan terms, interest rates and other loan requirements, contact the REC office at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

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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.

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.) \$225
- Sell any size used pole to member \$175

Operation Round-Up Update

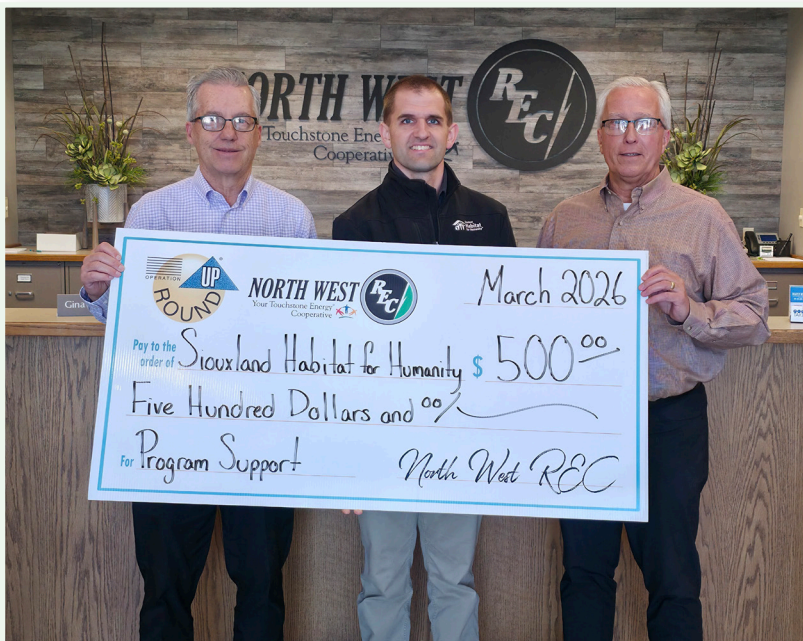


Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the first quarter of 2026 totaled \$15,950. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$839,745. Many people have been helped thanks to our generous members.

\$4,750.....Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$9,200American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Beecin Hospice Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland, Center Against Abuse and Sexual Assault (CAASA), Conquering Cancer for O'Brien, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, Local Food Pantry, Local YMCA, Horn Memorial Foundation, Hunger Free Kids of Sioux County, Mid-America Council - Boy Scouts of America, S.T.A.R.S., Siouxland Ag in the Classroom, St. Croix Hospice, Siouxland Habitat for Humanity, Then Feed Just One, Zestos Inc - program support

\$2,000.....Area 4-H Foundations – program support



Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar. The money is used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local county.

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 (left to right): Lyle Korver, NWREC CEO/General Manager; presenting the Operation Round-Up check to Kurt Franje, Siouxland Habitat for Humanity Sioux County Director; along with Curt Ahrenholz, NWREC Finance and Office Services Director.



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

While the load management program operates year-round, connected equipment is not interrupted every day. When needed to reduce peak demand, on the hottest or coldest days of the month, switches will interrupt operation of your qualifying electric devices during the following times*:

- Summer operating season is June 1 through September 30. Normal summer control periods occur, as needed, usually between the hours of noon - 10:00 PM
- Winter operating season is October 1 through May 31. Normal winter control periods occur, as needed, usually between the hours of 6:00 AM - noon and 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Typically, heat is only controlled during the month of May.

*These dates and times are subject to change, on an annual basis, without notice.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Annual Meeting Highlights

Your cooperative had another successful Annual Meeting, this year, and we would like to thank all of our members who attended or participated by Livestream on Tuesday evening, March 31. The meeting was held at the Le Mars Convention Center, and we had 700 members and guests who joined us this year. As a member-owned electric cooperative, our Annual Meeting is one of the most important events that we hold each year.

Director elections were held in all four districts – District 1 (Sioux County); District 2 (O’Brien County); District 3 (Plymouth County); and District 4 (Ida County). The results of the elections were as follows:

District 1 – Jeff Rehder was re-elected.

District 2 – Tom Wagner was re-elected.

District 3 – Steve Brown retired from the Board, and Adam Schmidt was elected to replace him.

District 4 – Dan Hoffman was re-elected.

Congratulations to Jeff, Tom and Dan on their re-election to the Board. We would also like to congratulate Steve Brown on his 21- years of service on the Board of Directors. He served as Secretary and also served on several committees. His dedication, leadership and passion for the cooperative business model will be greatly missed.

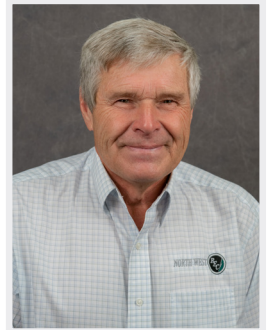
We also want to congratulate Adam Schmidt on his election to the Board and look forward to working with him.



Jeff Rehder



Tom Wagner



Dan Hoffman



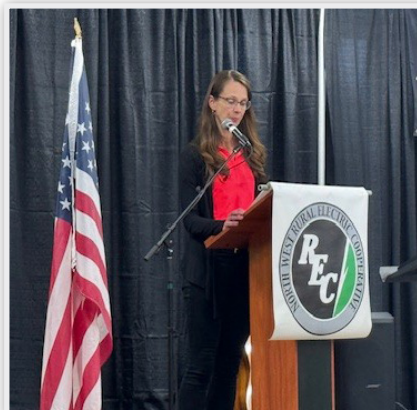
Steve Brown



Adam Schmidt

Other Meeting Highlights:

- Scholarship Winners – Renee Wynia announced the scholarship winners. 70 college scholarships will be distributed totaling approximately \$30,000. Congratulations to all the winners! (The winners will be included in the August newsletter.)
- Prizes - \$5,500 in door prizes were awarded to members from a random drawing from the on-line and in-person registrations and from the returned question cards.



Renee Wynia



Jill Miller

- We had a panel discussion with Board President, Jeff Rehder; NIPCO & Basin Director, Tom Wagner; NIPCO Executive Vice President, Matt Washburn; and myself. The discussion included updates on the following 1) 2025's operations, including safety and reliability; 2) the power supply generation mix; and 3) current industry trends. The panel also provided information about the upcoming rate adjustment that will go into effect on June 1.



I want to thank all of our members who participated in the Annual Meeting this year. We appreciate your continued loyalty and support of your Cooperative. Your support is vitally important to the ongoing success of North West REC.

Operations Director – Doug Alons Retires

Following a very successful 40-year career with the cooperative, Doug Alons retired at the end of March. Doug started as a lineman with Sioux Electric Cooperative Association in October, 1985. Following the consolidations in 1998, Doug moved into the Operations Director role and did a great job of leading the line crews in all four of our districts.

There were a lot of changes that occurred over his 40 year career, including the size of the loads we serve. When Doug began his career in the 1980's, our largest electric load was around 700 kW. Today our largest electric load, an ethanol plant, is approximately 10,000 kW. Additionally, Doug saw changes in the line construction methods, technology we use, and the types and sizes of equipment we use.

We appreciate Doug's willingness to take on increasing leadership roles within the organization over the years. He did a great job of working with the members and employees, and he will certainly be missed. Congratulations Doug! We wish you and Kathy all the best in your retirement.



Prairie Winds Program

Members of North West REC can support renewable energy through the Prairie Winds program. This program allows individual members to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities.

Persons who choose to participate in Prairie Winds will pay 20 cents per 100 kilowatt-hour block per month.

Through this program, members will not be directly purchasing alternate energy, but the extra fee does

go to support several wind turbines in the Dakotas, which feed wind-generated electricity into the transmission system that powers North West REC.

If you would like to support the renewable wind energy program, fill out the form below and return it to your cooperative office or sign up on our website.



WIND POWER AGREEMENT

Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt-hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Remember, each block is an additional \$.20 investment in not only the environment, but in the future of renewable energy.

Name _____ Number of blocks at \$.20 per month _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand my commitment is for one year and will continue on an annual basis until I notify you in writing to end my participation in the Prairie Winds program.

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 O'Brien, Plymouth, and Ida County. Please contact our office if you have any questions about the work they are doing.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
CALL 811 OR 1-800-292-8989



RECare - Consumer Contribution Fund

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those in need. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added into your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!



You care, we care, RECare.

Please return this form along with your monthly bill.

CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

_____ I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

_____ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is _____ (an active matching fund must be designated).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. Name one of the electric safety tips mentioned for electrical safety month:
2. What counties are we doing pole testing in this year?
3. Which employee recently retired from North West REC after 40 years?

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 June 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*

MARCH 2026

Carol Bowen - Sanborn
 Harlan Lammers - Orange City
 Loren Oetken - Akron
 Robert Zenk - Le Mars
 Bruce Spence - Sioux City

Steve Schoenherr - Hinton
 Marty Plueger - Le Mars
 Heath Hillrichs - Akron
 Dallas Klemme - Akron
 Paul Palsma - Alton



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

When are the switches usually operated?

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 June 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

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Lyle D. Korver
 CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
 Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde
 Editor



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