



NEWS Lines

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

JULY 2026

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Thinking of Joining SmartHub?

Save time and money with our **bank draft** and **SmartHub e-bill options** by having your monthly electric bill deducted from your bank account and receiving your bill electronically. You would no longer receive printed billing statements in the mail. **To sign up for SmartHub, please register at www.nwrec.coop. You can also sign up for bank draft online once you register for an account.**



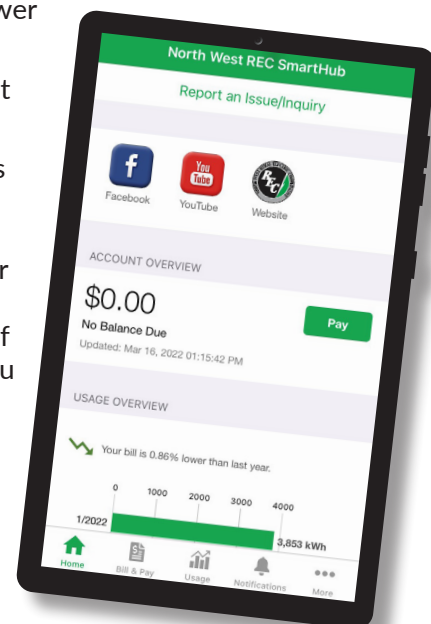
Why sign up for the automatic bank draft and SmartHub e-bill option?

- No more writing a check to North West REC for your electric bill.
- Your electric bill will be paid on the due date - no worrying about getting your check to our office on time.
- Accurate record keeping from your financial institution showing the direct payment you make to NWREC on your bank statement.
- Access to your electric information at all times online - view your billing and payment history with bill details.
- Easy sign up for SmartHub e-billing at www.nwrec.smarthub.coop or download the free app available for Android and iOS Apple devices.

What else can you do with SmartHub?

- View your electric usage and history.
- Report outages directly from your SmartHub account!
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text alerts for power outages and restorations.
- Contact our office with questions and account issues.

Your financial institution automatically transfers the amount of your monthly electric bill from your account to North West REC each month. The amount transferred will also appear on your monthly bank statement. The amount due will be transferred out of your account on the 8th of each month for payment of your electric bill. You will receive an e-mail notice around the 20th of each month that your monthly electric bill is now ready to be viewed. This will indicate the amount to be withdrawn from your account. Please call 800-766-2099 if you have any questions or check out our website: www.nwrec.coop for more information.



Energy Trail Tour Winners Announced

The response from our members for this year's Energy Trail Tour, sponsored by North West REC and NIPCO, was fantastic! After drawing names from the many entries, we are excited to announce the names of members who will join us on the three trips for this unique adventure:

Michael & Nancy Thompson - Hospers
Lyle & Susan Neutz - Sioux City
Keith & Janice Swanson - Akron
Darrell & Cheryl Bethke - Hartley
Andy & Sydney Schrieber - Ida Grove
Steve Staab & Jean Marquardt - Remsen
Bill & Karna Schiltz - Hinton
Mike & Susie Jungers - Hospers
Michael & Jeanann Wilbert - Ireton
Mark & Brenda Van Roekel - Orange City
Allen & Cindy Bousema - Sanborn
Chris & Angie Beeck - Sioux City



These couples will embark on a tour featuring stops at coal mines, power plants, and hydro-electric dams, gaining firsthand insight into the electricity generation process that powers our daily lives. Congratulations to all our winners! We hope you enjoy your trip. For those who weren't selected this time, keep an eye on our newsletter early next spring for the next chance to participate. Thank you again for your continued interest and support!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH at the COUNTY <i>Fairs</i>	Sioux County July 10-17	Plymouth County July 29-August 2
	O'Brien County July 25-30	Ida County July 14-19

A NIGHT OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

2026 Member APPRECIATION DAYS

MEAL, INFLATABLES, GAMES, PRIZE DRAWINGS, & MORE!

5-7 PM	O'Brien County August 20 O'Brien County Fairgrounds 555 3rd St. Primghar	Plymouth County August 25 Plymouth County Fairgrounds 500 4th Ave NE Le Mars	Sioux County September 1 Terrace View Event Center 230 St. Andrews Way Sioux Center	Ida County September 3 Ida County Fairgrounds 2332 Hwy 59 Ida Grove
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Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member of North West REC. Your cooperative had an excellent year of financial operations in 2025, and as a result, the board of directors assigned \$3,100,000.00 in patronage dividends to the member-owners. North West REC members who received electric service during the year 2025 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2025.

Patronage dividends are retained by the cooperative until the board of directors approves them to be paid. Upon approval, a certain percentage of past allocations are retired to the members.

If a member becomes deceased, patronage dividends can be refunded.

The member's estate then needs to fill out the required paper work to have the past patronage dividends refunded.

If you have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed of your new address. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to your correct address.

NEWS *Lines* 



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Board Approves a \$1,490,000 Patronage Retirement

I'm pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved a significant deferred patronage dividends retirement to the members again this year. The total amount of the retirement will be \$1,490,000, and this brings the total amount of patronage that has been returned to the members over the last 87 years to \$38 million. These patronage retirement funds will be distributed to the members this fall in the form of a bill credit on the electric bills, that will be mailed around the 20th of September.

		DATE <u>2026</u>
Pay to the order of	NWREC Member-Owners	\$1,490,000. ⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀
<i>one million four hundred ninety thousand and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀</i>		
<i>2012/2025 retirement</i>		<i>North West Rural Electric Cooperative</i>

What are deferred patronage dividends?

One of the benefits our members realize from being a member-owner of North West REC (NWREC) is to share in the net income or margins of the Cooperative. Following the closing of the Cooperative's books each year, the margins are assigned to the members based on the dollar amount of electricity they have purchased during the year. These assignments are referred to as deferred patronage dividends and they are part of NWREC's equity and are retained for a period of years to enable NWREC to finance construction projects and other operating expenditures.

This is consistent with Principle #3 of the Seven Cooperative Principles. Principle #3 is Members' Economic Participation - Equitable contribution to and control of capital, with benefits often returned to members.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

How long do I need to wait to receive the patronage dividends that have been assigned to me?

These deferred patronage dividends are retained by the Cooperative for a period of years and represent equity for the organization until the point in time when they are returned to the members. We are currently using a combination First In, First Out (FIFO) and Last In, First Out (LIFO) method. This gives an opportunity for both our long-time and our newer members to see the benefits of being a member of the Cooperative

What year of business will this years' retirement be based on?

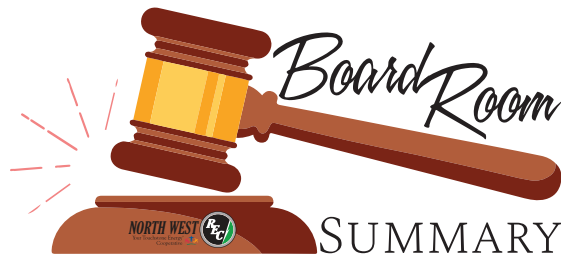
This year's retirement will cover a portion of the assignment from the year 2012 and a portion of 2025's assignment.

How will I receive my patronage refund?

Similar to what we did last year, we will be distributing the patronage retirement through bill credits. Printing and mailing costs continue to increase and we are estimating that we save over \$6,500 by using the bill credit method instead of mailing checks. We have also had a number of members who have misplaced checks in the past, and we have had to do rewrites, which adds costs.

How much has the Cooperative returned to the members in patronage refunds?

With this \$1,490,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 87 years to \$38 million! We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about.



The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the May Board Meeting:

- Received monthly safety meeting reports. It has been a safe start to 2026. We have had a number of farm equipment incidents where farm equipment has damaged our poles, underground boxes and other electric infrastructure. We encourage all members and farmers to Be Aware and Take Care around electric facilities.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.
- Manager Korver provided an update on operations, kWh sales, service reliability and industry trends.
- Received financial reports from Curt Ahrenholz, Finance Director.
- The Board approved a \$1,490,000 patronage retirement.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations on several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- The Board approved an update of the Policy A-5 Charges schedule.

2026 REBATES



Geothermal Heat Pump

Residential \$1,400 per ton (new installs)
\$750 per ton (replacement)

*Maximum rebate limit of 30% of cost up to \$10,000

Commercial/Industrial/Ag \$1,400 per ton (new installs)
\$750 per ton (replacement)

*Maximum rebate limit of 30% of cost up to \$50,000

Air Source Heat Pump

Residential & C&I/Ag \$700 per ton (all electric heat)
\$500 per ton (not all electric)

*Maximum rebate limit of 30% of cost up to \$10,000

Commercial/Industrial/Ag \$700 per ton (all electric heat)
\$500 per ton (not all electric)

*Maximum rebate limit of 30% of cost up to \$50,000

Ductless Mini Split Heating/Cooling & P-Tac Unit

Residential \$700 per unit (all electric heat)
\$500 per unit (not all electric)

*Maximum rebate limit of 30% of cost up to \$5,000

C&I/Ag \$700 per unit (all electric heat)
\$500 per unit (not all electric)

*Maximum rebate limit of 15% of cost up to \$10,000

Marathon Water Heaters - sold at rebated price

**Must have a switch to purchase at rebated price*

Size	Rebate	Rebated Price
50 gallon - SHOP ONLY WITH SWITCH	\$300	\$1,225
85 gallon - HOUSE OR SHOP WITH SWITCH	\$400	\$1,650
100 gallon - HOUSE OR SHOP WITH SWITCH	\$500	\$1,800
100HD gallon DAIRY ONLY WITH SWITCH	\$500	\$1,800

Hog Building (50 gallon only) Full Price \$1,525

New Home with all electric heat —\$1000 off an 85 gal.

****Prices as of 6/5/26, please confirm current prices with office**

Building Insulation - all electric buildings only

Residential 20% of install cost up to \$800

C&I/Ag. 10% of install cost up to \$2,000

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Residential/ C&I/Ag. . . . up to \$1000

*Hybrid Vehicles up to \$750

Energy Assessments - call the office to schedule

Residential costs \$45

Many rebates have forms, maximum limits, and certain criteria that needs to be met in order to receive the rebate. For complete details on all of our rebates, and forms to apply, visit our website nwrec.coop or contact the office and we would be happy to review them with you. Call our office for current prices on water heaters.

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 also be included in a loan. Once submitted, the loan application and credit check will be reviewed by the board of directors for approval.

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!

Schedule of Charges to Change

The charges that apply for many of the services North West REC provides have not been adjusted for several years. We have been experiencing increased truck, fuel, material inventory and supply costs. The Management Team recently reviewed the Schedule of Charges and developed a recommendation for the board's consideration. The Board of Directors approved the recommendation at their regular monthly board meeting held on June 3, 2026.

The following is the new Schedule of Charges that will become effective on July 1, 2026:

Reconnection Fee:	(during hours)	\$100.00	If an electrician finds a problem with the North West REC equipment, we will reimburse the member for the electrician's call – up to \$250.00
	(after hours)	\$250.00	
Disconnect Fee:		\$100.00	
Idle Service Fee:	(monthly)	\$ 20.00	
Electric heat submeter/setup:	(CT & socket)	\$100.00	
Locate member's fault on member's side:	\$200.00/hr		
(electrician needs to be present)			
Basket/digger trucks, 2 men per hour, one hour minimum:			
House moves, accidents, etc.			
Member	\$300.00/hr	\$350.00 OT	
Non-Member	\$375.00/hr	\$425.00 OT	
(for house moves, we need one week notice to notify members – cashier check or cash)			
Special multi-day commercial projects (wind)			
Member and Non-Member	\$650.00/hr		
Pick-up truck, one hour minimum:			
Member	\$200.00/hr		
Non-Member	\$275.00/hr		
Service Calls:	(during hours)	\$275.00	
	(after hours)	\$350.00	
Line Extension:			
Single Phase Line: – there is a contribution-in-aid of construction charge of:			
		• Overhead	\$7.00 per foot
		• Underground	\$10.00 per foot
Three Phase Line – the member has the option of:			
1. Paying the cost of the three phase line extension upfront (three phase underground - \$20.00 per foot including services on the yard) OR			
2. Making a contribution-in-aid payment to cover a portion of the line extension cost and signing a ten-year contract. (Additional cost for boring if required)			
		Contract Option: Overhead	\$8.00 per foot
		Underground	\$12.00 per foot
(if cable size is larger than 4/0, a higher per foot cost will apply) A ten-year contract with a monthly minimum charge would be required.			
Please contact our office at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099 if you have any questions regarding these charges.			

Pricing information on Security Lights & Poles

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\$90
- - (Will retrofit mercury vapor or HPS lights to LEDs when maintenance is necessary)\$200
- Move security light to new pole\$250
- Move security light and pole\$250
- Remove security light from pole or disconnect light\$250

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\$200

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 \$90 service call fee.

Poles

- Setting a pole for member (We will not set poles for gateposts, basketball hoops, etc.)\$250
- Sell any size used pole to member\$200

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How much was the 2026 patronage dividend assignment?
2. Name someone going on the Energy Trail Tour:
3. What is one of the dates of our Member Appreciation Days?

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 August 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*

MAY 2026

Duane Bajema - Sioux Center
Danette Burrington - Maurice
Julie Rice - Hinton
Wilbur Wittrock - Battle Creek
Jim Gearke - Le Mars

Steve Bunkers - Remsen
Ashley Trost - Holstein
Glenda Udell - Hinton
Norman Henry - Sioux City
Terry Kratz - Westfield



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Which light is on if your switch is being controlled?

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 August 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

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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