


THREE GREAT DAYS OF EDUCATION AND FUN
 can be yours on the Energy Trail Tour, sponsored by North West REC and NIPCO. Learn how water and coal are used to make electricity. See mining area returned to productive land. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners in a comfortable motor coach. Lodging, meals and entry fees are included. Sixteen lucky couples from North West REC will be selected at random from those who sign up. You might be one of them, so sign up today!
 Your cost: just \$50 per couple!



Energy Trail Tour

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$50.

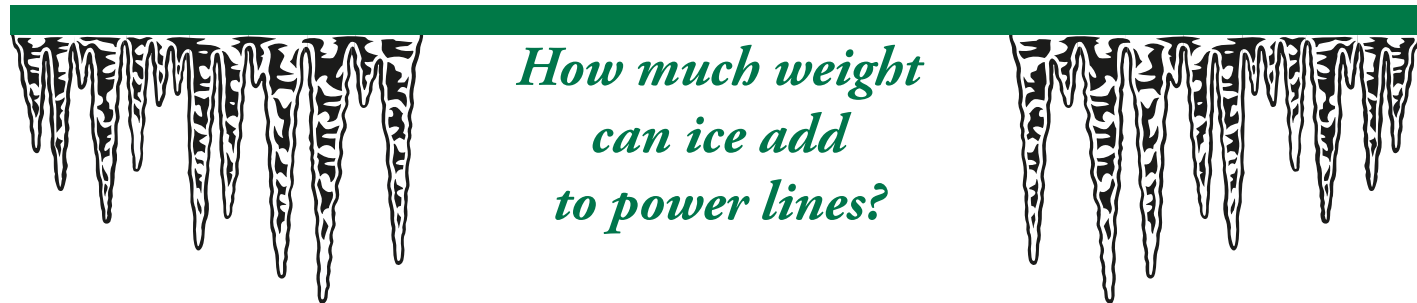
Our first and second choice of dates:

July 14-16	1 st	2 nd
July 28-30	1 st	2 nd (please circle)
Aug. 11-13	1 st	2 nd

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

Name _____
 Spouse's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Phone _____

Clip coupon and return to REC office by May 10, 2010



*How much weight
 can ice add
 to power lines?*

Just a quarter inch of ice can add nearly 500 pounds of weight to a pole-to-pole span of a power line.

This means that up to 2,000 pounds of extra weight could be bearing down on sections of three-phase lines with the three-phase lines and the neutral. Ice loads actually account for few breaks in overhead power lines.

Lines snap more often due to sudden impacts such as when lines loaded with ice begin to oscillate and slap together or when an ice laden tree limb crashes through a section of line.

Overhead power lines are actually rated to carry thousands of pounds of static weight.

North West Rural Electric Cooperative
 1505 Albany Place SE • Orange City, IA 51041-9678

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.	Phone:	Lyle D. Korver <i>CEO & General Manager</i>
	ORANGE CITY (712) 707-4935 (800) 383-0476	
Outside Depository Available for After Hours Payments	After Hours (800) 766-2099	Darwin Dirks <i>Assistant Manager & Director of Operations Services</i>
	IDA GROVE (712) 364-3341 (800) 354-3341	
	After Hours (800) 766-2099	Verdell Buss <i>Director of Finance & Office Services</i>
	LE MARS (712) 546-4149 (888) 278-6094	
	After Hours (800) 766-2099	Lorraine Egdorf <i>Editor</i>

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

District 1 – Sioux County
Monday, April 5
MOC-FU High School in Orange City
Registration & Dinner
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment: The Brown Family

District 2 – O'Brien County
Tuesday, March 23
South O'Brien School in Primghar
Registration & Dinner
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment: The Singing Farmer

District 3 – Plymouth County
Tuesday, March 30
Le Mars Community High School
Registration & Dinner
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Auditorium
Entertainment: Girlfriend

District 4 – Ida County
Tuesday, March 16
Skate Palace in Ida Grove
Registration & Dinner
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment: Girlfriend

ON THE INSIDE...

Notice of Annual & District Meetings of Members 2

Committee on Nominations. 2-3

Manager's Report 4-5
Ice Storm Update

Notice of Implementation of Power Cost Adjustment 6

Youth Tour Contest 7

Truck For Sale Bid Form 7

Energy Trail Tour 8

Ice Storm Update - Manager's Report pages 4-5

NOTICE OF ANNUAL & DISTRICT MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The Annual and District Meeting of Members in District 1 will be held at the MOC-FV High School, Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on Monday, the 5th day of April, 2010; and

The District Meeting of Members in District 2 will be held at the South O'Brien School, Primghar, O'Brien County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on Tuesday, the 23rd day of March, 2010; and

The District Meeting of Members in District 3 will be held at the Middle School Auditorium of the Le Mars Community School, Le Mars, Plymouth County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on Tuesday, the 30th day of March, 2010; and

The District Meeting of Members in District 4 will be held at the Skate Palace, Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa at 7:00 o'clock in the P.M. on Tuesday, the 16th day of March, 2010, to take action on the following matters:

- The report of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of one director in District 1, two directors in District 3, one director in District 4, each for a three-year term.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Dated this 4th day of March, A.D., 2010.



Kenneth Bower, Secretary

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SELECTS DIRECTOR NOMINEES

DISTRICT 1 - Sioux County



Steve Abma
Rock Valley

- Married to Lavon; two children; two grandchildren
- Farms near Rock Valley; raises corn and beans, feeds cattle and nursery for custom feeding pigs
- Current board member of North West REC
- Member of the Sioux County Extension Council
- Member of Consistory in Church
- Past member of school board



Marvin Kaptain
Rock Valley

- Married to Kathy
- Grew up on a farm in Montana
- Started business in MT – building hopper cones for grain bins, Sparky team roping machines, other various items
- Moved business to Iowa – M-K Industries, Inc.
- Served on Christian school board and church council in MT
- Attends United Reformed Church in Sioux Center, member of building committee
- Enjoys spending time with family and the rodeo industry

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST 2010

North West REC is sponsoring the 2010 Youth Tour Contest with four students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. There will be one winner from each of the four districts of North West REC. The trip is scheduled for June 12-17, 2010.



All sons and daughters of North West REC member-consumers, who are presently juniors in high school, are eligible and encouraged to participate.

If you are interested in applying for the youth tour, send in the registration form below, and we will then send you an application form. The application is available on our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Delores at dlancaster@nwrec.coop and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Delores at 712-546-4149 or 1-888-278-6094.

The Youth Tour Contest application should be returned to the REC no later than **Friday, March 19, 2010.**

The Board of Directors and management encourage all who are eligible to enter the Youth Tour Contest for an exciting educational experience. If you have any questions, please contact Delores at 712-546-4149 or 1-888-278-6094.

2010 YOUTH TOUR CONTEST REGISTRATION

YES, I am interested in entering the contest. Please send me the application form.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PARENT'S NAME _____

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Delores • PO Box 440 • Le Mars, IA 51031

Truck For Sale - Bid Form



Bid Amount \$ _____

For Sale:

Chassis – 1999 Navistar Model 4900
Manual Transmission – 6 speed
Height to Bottom of Basket – 54' 8"
157,850 miles

Aerial Unit – Altec Model # AM855
Single Two-Man Side Mounted Basket
Working Height – 59' 8"
11,125 Engine Hours

Engine – DT-466
Basket Capacity – 700 Lbs.
Fiberglass Service Body
4,546 PTO Hours

This vehicle will be sold on a bid basis. Bids will be accepted at any of the three cooperative offices until 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2010. The truck can be seen at the Le Mars office, 2496 Lincoln Ave. S.W. If you have questions, please contact Darwin Dirks at 712-546-4149.

We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sale will be on a cash basis only.

Name of individual/org. submitting bid: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

NOTICE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

Last month we reported that North West REC's (NWREC) wholesale purchased power costs had been increased 9.5% as of January 1, 2010. This was on top of the 30% in wholesale power cost increases we have experienced from our power supplier, NIPCO, over the previous three years. We explained that these increases were being caused by the extended drought that had adversely impacted hydro generation the last seven years and by increasing costs related to coal generation.

The 2010 Operating Budget for NWREC was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the January 28, 2010 board meeting. The budget indicates that additional operating revenue will be needed in 2010 in order to meet the targeted margins and financial ratios that our lender, CFC, requires. Based on this, the Board of Directors approved the implementation of a power cost adjustment (PCA), which will go into effect on April 1, 2010.

As we reported in the newsletter last month, a PCA is a method of either collecting from or returning to the members the difference in wholesale power costs compared to the base wholesale rate that was in place when we did our last cost of service study. Based on current projections, we estimate that the PCA will average 3 mills or 3/10 of a cent per kWh for 2010. On a usage of 1,000 kWh's it would amount to \$3.00 per month. For the average customer, it should amount to less than a 5% increase in your electric costs for 2010.

We are not planning to make an adjustment to the rate structure at this time. We believe the PCA will provide the necessary additional revenue we will need to offset the increase in wholesale purchased power costs we will experience in 2010 and to meet our financial operating ratios.

We will discuss the implementation of the PCA in further detail at our March District Meetings. In the meantime, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Joel Orthmann
President

Lyle Korver
CEO

Reminder About Mailing . . .

Watch your mail for your Annual District Meeting mailing which will include a registration card. Please bring this card with you when coming to the meeting. It will be used for the drawing of door prizes.

You will also receive your "ballot for director" in this mailing. Be sure to vote and mail to the cooperative in the envelope included in the mailing. Note to District 2 members: There will not be an election for directors in District 2 so you will not receive a ballot in your mailing.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SELECTS DIRECTOR NOMINEES

DISTRICT 3 - Plymouth County



Scott Feuerhelm
Le Mars

- Married to Jill; two children
- Crop farms – corn and soybeans, has a dairy
- Member of the Adaville United Methodist Church
- Member of Farm Bureau
- Past member of the Plymouth County Extension Council and of the Plymouth County Fair Board



Gerald Klemme
Le Mars

- Married to Susan; four children; nine grandchildren
- Grain farmer; sells seed for Garst and Syngenta
- Member of Christ Lutheran Church, rural Le Mars
- Longtime member of Farm Bureau
- Current board member of North West REC
- Served as president of Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Serves on the agriculture committee for Le Mars Chamber
- Enjoys golfing and attending grandchildren's activities



Jeff Gebauer
Sioux City

- Married to Shay; three children; four grandchildren
- Lives south of Westfield; produces hay from small farm of native and brome grass
- Owns and operates Investment Planners of SD, Inc.
- Member of the Akron/Westfield Ambulance Service; acts as a "first responder" EMTb in SW Plymouth County
- Past board member of the Council on Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence, Port of Sioux City RiverCade, OnDisplay Media, Inc. and Briar Cliff College Alumni Board
- Taught classes at WITCC and Briar Cliff as an adjunct educator
- Hobbies include snow skiing, fishing, farming, camping, flying and spending time with grandchildren



Alan Lucken
Akron

- Married to Marjorie; one son; two grandchildren
- Graduate of Iowa State University studying agriculture
- Lives and farms in Johnson Township
- Current vice president of North West REC
- Current president of the NIPCO board of directors
- Director of the Iowa Prairie Bank
- Member of the church council of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron

DISTRICT 4 - Ida County



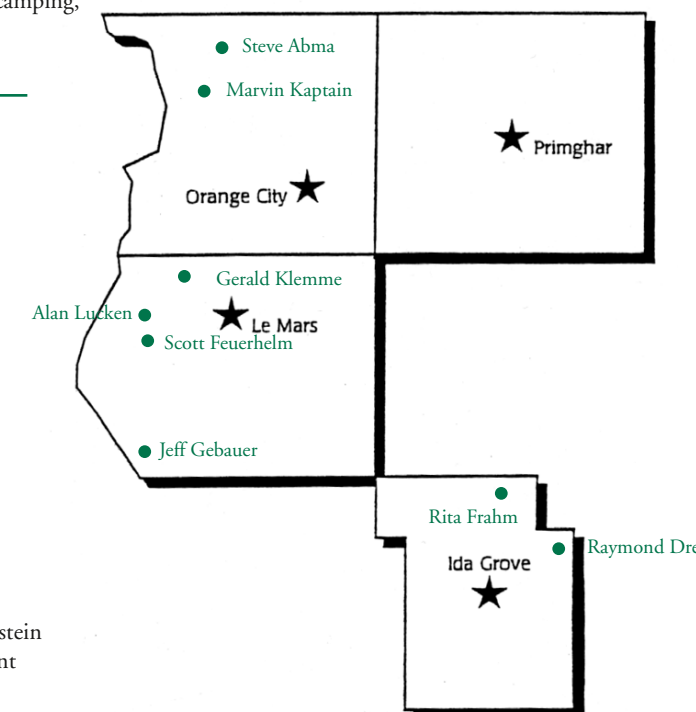
Raymond Drey
Ida Grove

- Married to Susan; four children
- Lives northeast of Ida Grove; raises grains
- Has been an REC member since 1968
- Active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Past school board member for 15 years
- Ambulance member and first responder for six years
- Township fair board trustee



Rita Frahm
Galva

- Married to Larry; two children
- Grew up on a farm in eastern Iowa
- Member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Galva
- Experienced with NIPCO & NWREC loan programs
- Vice President, loan officer Heritage Bank, Holstein
- President of Ida County Economic Development
- Member of Ida County Community Betterment Foundation



MANAGER'S REPORT

Ice Storm Update

Bad Enough . . . But Could Have Been Worse

What a way to end 2009 and begin 2010! Since I wrote my last newsletter article in mid-December, we have experienced two storms that have presented some real challenges for our members and our employees.

The first storm happened the week of Christmas. We were fortunate that we received mostly snow (did we ever – 20 plus inches) but we did receive enough ice to cause some problems – especially when the wind picked up. We were fortunate to only have six broken poles. The blizzard conditions made it a real challenge for our trucks to get around, but we had excellent cooperation and help from the D.O.T. and County road crews. Approximately 150 members were out of power during the Christmas storms with some of them being out overnight on Christmas night.

We recognize that all outages are an inconvenience, but this is especially true at Christmas with all the family gatherings. We have been fortunate for many years as this is the first Christmas I can remember in a long time when we had to have a number of our employees working due to storm outages. We are estimating the damage to our system from the Christmas storm is in the \$25,000 to \$35,000 range.

The second storm occurred on January 20. Unfortunately the ice build up on the lines, particularly in the southern portion of our system, was some of the worst ice we have had in 15 to 20 years. In fact, in terms of overall damage to our system and the need to request help from other RECs, this is probably the worst storm to hit our system since November, 1991. Some of the ice on the lines was six to seven inches in diameter. We were fortunate that our entire system didn't have that much ice.

Here are a few pictures that give you some indication of what we were facing. However, the pictures don't actually do justice to how bad the conditions really were. Not only did we have heavy ice loading on the lines and poles but the roads and footing in the ditches were very slick, making the process of replacing broken poles and repairing downed lines very slow and difficult.

The rural electric program has had a long history of cooperation among cooperatives. North West REC has had the opportunity on a number of occasions in the last five years to send linemen and trucks to assist RECs in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. This time it was our turn to request assistance. Our State Association coordinates the disaster assistance program, and they were able to arrange assistance for us from two RECs. Nine linemen and four trucks came from Butler County REC in Allison, Iowa and four linemen and two trucks came from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric in Owatonna, Minnesota. They did a great job for us, and we sincerely appreciate their willingness to send help and for the hard work their linemen did for North West REC and our members in assisting our linemen in the restoration efforts.



We had a total of 137 broken poles along with a number of line breaks, downed neutral wires, broken cross arms, and other system damage. We are estimating total damages to our system from the January 20 storm to be in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. At this time, we know that at least a couple of the counties where we experienced damage have received disaster declarations. This means that we may have the opportunity to receive some reimbursement funding from FEMA for our storm costs.

Our employees, with assistance from the linemen from the two other RECs, worked long hours in challenging and stressful conditions from Wednesday, January 20 to Sunday, January 24. It definitely was a long five days. We were able to get all members back in power, that we were aware of being out of power, by Sunday afternoon.



We appreciate the patience and understanding from our members. We understand the hardship and inconvenience experienced by our members who were out of power, some for several days in areas where we had a significant number of broken poles. My hope is that these members know that the employees of your Cooperative did everything possible to restore electricity to you as quickly and safely as possible.

In addition to our members, employees and the linemen from other RECs that assisted us, I want to thank the County and State road crews for their excellent cooperation and assistance in clearing roads and areas in fields for us to enable our equipment to be moved to where it needed to be to work on repairs. I also want to thank members and other individuals that assisted us with snowmobiles and other equipment to help make our work easier and possible in some areas.

After Hours Answering Service

I also would like to provide some information that will hopefully address some concerns about how we handle after hours outage calls or a high volume of calls during a storm situation. For the last 12 years, we have utilized an answering service that our power supplier, Basin Electric, provides called Security and Response Services (SRS). They have a call center in Bismarck, North Dakota, and they have access to our mapping and data base with all customer information in terms of substation, line section, phase, etc.

They use an automated answering service and this works well when you consider the high volume of calls that they receive during storm situations. For example, they handled 21,000 calls during the period from Friday, January 22 through Monday, January 25.

Members have the ability to leave a message about their outage, and we receive a fax from SRS within minutes of when they receive the call. It gives us all of the necessary information including substation, line section, phase, etc. This is very helpful for us in our dispatching procedure.

Some members reported that they had a problem getting through, but we think that some of these members were trying to call one of our offices. Due to the limited number of phone lines we have locally, you could have received a busy signal. We encourage all members to call the outage number to report an outage, even during normal working hours, and they will go right to the SRS data center. You shouldn't receive a busy signal as they have a significant number of phone lines in their automated system. Please use the following number to report an outage: **Outage Number is (800) 766-2099**

Thanks again for your patience and understanding during the recent storms. Our employees do a great job and work very well together as a team in working to restore power. While the damage that we received was fairly extensive, it wasn't nearly as bad as some other cooperatives experienced as we are hearing preliminary estimates from a few in the \$2 to \$5 million dollar range.

As I indicated in the heading it was "bad enough . . . but could have been worse."



Lyle D. Korver

"Unfortunately the ice build up on the lines, particularly in the southern portion of our system, was some of the worst ice we have had in 15 to 20 years."