

## COATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

North West REC will again be helping area kids stay warm this winter by participating in the annual "Coats for Kids" drive spearheaded by KMEG14, the Sioux City television station.

Members of North West REC are encouraged to participate by donating new or gently worn coats for children who might otherwise go without. Please drop off your donation at any of the cooperative offices (Orange City, Le Mars or Ida Grove) beginning November 11, 2011. Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Hats, scarves and mittens also are welcome.

This is the second year that electric cooperatives in Northwest Iowa are participating in this effort to keep kids warm. Last winter, cooperative members and staff gathered up several hundred clothing items for the drive. In the past five years alone, Coats for Kids has brought in around 6,000 coats for children.

The used coats are first cleaned by Davenport Cleaners in Sioux City and then distributed to those in need by the Salvation Army throughout Northwest Iowa.

People who would like information about receiving coats that are collected should call the Salvation Army at 712-255-8836.



## OFFICES CLOSED

*Our offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24 and Friday November 25. Please call 1-800-766-2099 in case of an outage or emergency. Have a safe holiday!*

### North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435 • 1505 Albany Place SE • Orange City, IA 51041-0435

<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.		<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Lyle D. Korver</b> <i>CEO &amp; General Manager</i>
Orange City office open during noon hour	<b>ORANGE CITY</b>	(712) 707-4935 (800) 766-2099	<b>Darwin Dirks</b> <i>Assistant Manager &amp; Director of Operations Services</i>
Ida Grove & Le Mars offices closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	<b>IDA GROVE</b>	(712) 364-3341	<b>Verdell Buss</b> <i>Director of Finance &amp; Office Services</i>
Outside Depository Available for After Hours Payments	<b>LE MARS</b>	(712) 546-4149	<b>Lorraine Egdorf</b> <i>Editor</i>



# NEWS Lines

*"Published monthly for the member-owners of North West Rural Electric Cooperative"*

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## IOWA DELEGATES TRAVEL TO NATION'S CAPITAL

Thirty representatives from Iowa rural electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., in September to discuss energy, economic development and storm recovery issues with Iowa's congressional delegation.

"The issues discussed with Iowa's members of Congress directly impact Iowa's electric cooperatives' ability to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-consumers 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Marion Denger, board president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "Electric cooperative leaders view it as their responsibility to those we serve to make sure our elected officials are well aware of how current policies can and will affect everyday Iowans."



*Representing North West REC in Washington D.C. were Board President Joel Orthman; Manager Lyle Korver; and District 1 Director, Jeff Rehder.*

Many of these representatives took time away from the harvest, from jobs and from family to carry the cooperative message to each of Iowa's seven members of congress on the following legislative measures:

- A sound U.S. energy policy is critical to electric cooperatives as we make plans for providing power to our member consumers now and into the future. The impact of current energy policy and the speed of transition from coal-based generation to other generation sources will have a significant impact on our member-consumers' power bills. Electric cooperatives support the creation of a balanced energy policy that protects both economy and the environment.

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- All electric utilities receive subsidies in one form or the other and the rural electric cooperatives receive the least amount of federal subsidy per consumer. We asked our legislators to preserve funding we do receive through these essential programs: RUS, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, Power Marketing Administrations and the Federal Energy Management Agency.
- Electric cooperatives rely significantly on FEMA funds to promptly restore power after severe natural disasters, such as tornadoes, ice storms and floods, and for hazard mitigation projects. Without FEMA assistance, many electric cooperative member-consumers living in these affected areas would face additional burdens of longer wait times for service restoration and the potential for higher rates. Due to the high frequency of recent disasters, FEMA funds are at risk of being depleted. We need to ensure that Iowans impacted by severe storms are not forgotten, and FEMA funding is not redirected to more recent disasters.

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“The meetings held with Iowa’s members of Congress and their staffs were very productive. Each office took the time to listen to our concerns and understand our issues from the point of view of the cooperative member-consumer,” said Brian Kading, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “We appreciate their willingness to work with us on energy-related issues and their continued support of rural electric cooperatives.”

Three representatives from North West REC were included in the Iowa delegation making the trip to D.C. Joel Orthmann, Board President; Jeff Rehder, Director from District 1 and Manager Korver. NWREC directors and management will also be meeting with our Iowa State Senators and State Representatives this Fall to discuss legislative issues that are important to our Cooperative and our members on the state level.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES DISCOUNTS WITH COOP CONNECTIONS CARD

**Pizza Ranch Restaurants** - Visit [www.pizzaranch.com](http://www.pizzaranch.com) for individual location hours  
Buy one adult buffet, get the 2nd adult buffet for \$5.99 – Available at Akron, Hawarden, Hull, Le Mars, Orange City, Primghar, Rock Valley, Sanborn, Sheldon and Sioux Center

**Malcoms Paint & Hardware** - 512 2nd St, Ida Grove – 10% off regular priced merchandise under \$50

**Family Table Restaurant** – 88 E State Hwy 175, Ida Grove – Buy a meal and get an appetizer half off

**Brenner’s** – 700 Second St, Ida Grove – Will match North West REC rebate on Energy Star appliances

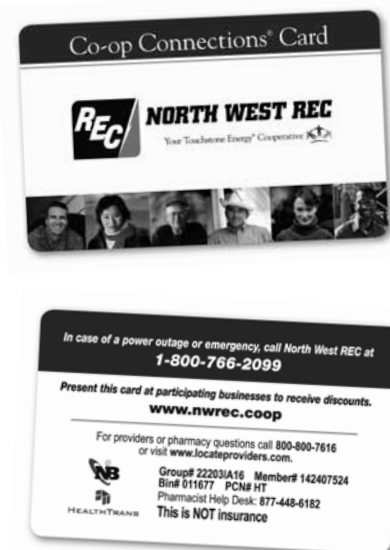
**Subway** – 500 W State Hwy 175, Ida Grove & Hwy 75, Hinton – One free cookie with purchase of sandwich fresh value meal

**Joe’s TV & Appliance** – 223 Central Ave NE, Orange City \$50 off total purchase of \$499 or more, \$100 off total purchase of \$1,099 or more – Discount must be mentioned at time of sale, cannot be added after sale complete. This discount may not be combined with any other discounts or offers.

**Subway** – Le Mars – Purchase a footlong sandwich and receive a free 21 oz. beverage of choice

Check out all the national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop). If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you can call our office or stop in to request a written listing. Participating pharmacy location list can be found at [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com). Our group # is 22203.

Call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 if you have questions or need more information.



## CHANGE TO “PULL THE PLUG” PROGRAM

Environmental Services of Iowa, LLC will now be mailing all “Pull the Plug” rebate checks to REC members instead of hand delivering them at the time of pick up.

Once an appliance pick up is verified, ESI will mail the check to the member within two days of the collection time.

The “Pull the Plug” program provides up to three \$25 rebates for North West REC members who are looking to get rid of old refrigerators, freezers or window air conditioners. Appliances must be in working condition to qualify for the recycling program.

Just call the cooperative at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to arrange for easy pickup.



Thank you for saving energy!

## DIRECTOR COMPLETES NRECA CREDENTIALLED COOPERATIVE TRAINING PROGRAM



Charlie Rohlf, Director in District 4, recently completed the required five training programs as part of the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Training Program. The purpose of this program is to help prepare directors to make wise business decisions in the boardroom.

We want to congratulate Charlie for taking the time to participate in this training program and for his dedication and commitment to being a well-informed director.

## BE SURE TO ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

Many of our members are faithful in entering the Editor’s Choice Contest in the Living with Energy in Iowa magazine each month. The prize in November is a \$100 3M/Filtrete Model 3M-50 programmable Wi-Fi thermostat that is guaranteed to work with any heating and cooling system.

The magazine is looking to increase the number of participants by duplicating that prize to the cooperative who has the largest percentage of entrants compared to the number of meters.

Be sure to enter the Editor’s Choice Contest at their web site [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com).

## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative at its annual get-together this fall.

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Deb Clausen – Billing Coordinator, Ida Grove

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Delores Lancaster – Executive Secretary, Orange City  
Brent Van Beek – Lead Lineman, Orange City

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mike Berkenpas – Journeyman Lineman, Le Mars



Employees recognized: (l-r) Brent Van Beek, Delores Lancaster and Deb Clausen.

## ENERGY ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

North West REC is continuing to place more and more emphasis on energy efficiency. In addition to offering energy efficiency rebates, our member service department will begin offering energy assessments to our members on September 1.

Your Cooperative has purchased a new infrared camera to help with these energy assessments. When scheduling appointments, it is important to know that there needs to be at least a 20 degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures for the camera to work effectively.

There will be a charge of \$45 to the member, applied to your electric account. We will provide the member with an energy efficiency kit as part of this program. Included in this kit are several kinds of caulk, a showerhead, faucet aerators, two CFL bulbs and energy efficiency information.

One of our member service personnel will conduct a walk-through of the house, with the member present, to look for possible ways to save energy. They will review a detailed list of energy efficiency ideas for potential savings. Simple

changes in both lifestyle and in the home will pay you back year after year. Some of those improvements won't cost you a lot of money to put into effect.

For non-residential buildings, we will do the energy assessment for \$95 for up to four hours. If the member requests longer than that for using the infrared camera on a number of motors, panels, etc., there will be an additional cost per hour.

Call our office today to set up an appointment for your energy assessment.



## OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Contributions made by North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the third quarter of 2011 totaled \$6,600. This brings the total contributions made through Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$254,545.11 -- that's more than a quarter of a million dollars given in assistance to people in need and worthwhile organizations in our four-county area! Many people have been helped thanks to our members.

\$4,600 . . . . . Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries or death

\$1,000 . . . . . Ten Area Food Pantries

\$100. . . . . Special Olympics, NW Iowa

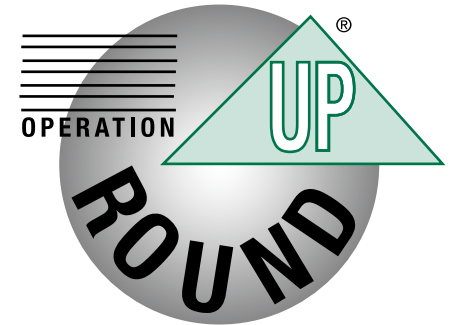
\$100. . . . . The Living Center (Le Mars)

\$400. . . . . Orange City Community Chest, Ida County Crisis Funds, S.O.S. O'Brien County, Le Mars United Way

\$100. . . . . Abbey of Le Mars – fundraiser for residents with no family support

\$200. . . . . Siouxland Youth for Christ (Hawarden and Le Mars)

\$100. . . . . Primghar Junior Women's Club – support Christmas project for needy children



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 county 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

## MANAGER'S REPORT



Lyle D. Korver

*With this \$661,000 patronage retirement, a total of \$17,959,000 will have been returned to the members during the last 70 years.*

### Board Approves \$661,000 Patronage Retirement

One of the benefits our members realize from being a member of North West REC (NWREC) is to share in the net income or margins of the Cooperative. This is much different than what customers of investor owned utilities experience as the net income of these types of utilities belong to the share holders.

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. This assignment is called deferred patronage dividends. These assigned margins are retained by the Cooperative for a period of years and represents equity for the organization until the point in time when these patronage assignments are returned to the members. Our goal is to retire the patronage on a 15 year or less cycle.

I'm pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved the retirement of patronage again this year. The total amount of the retirement will be \$661,600 and it will be made in the form of a credit on electric bills dated December 20 for those current members who were members of the Cooperative during the years 1999 and 2001. For those individuals who are no longer members, we will issue a check. We have been making the retirement by bill credit the last couple of years and this seems to work well. It is the most efficient way for us to do this and results in a savings of over \$3,000 compared to writing checks for everyone.



This payment will include the full assignment that was made in 1999 - \$292,000 – plus a portion of the “special assignment” that was made in 2001. In addition to the normal assignment from operations that was made in 2001, the Board also assigned an additional \$1.8 million that was realized from an extraordinary gain on the sale of a portion of the personal communications spectrum (PCS) licenses the Cooperative owned at that time. We have previously retired \$1,060,000 of this “special assignment” and will be retiring an additional \$369,000 this year. This makes a total retirement of patronage that will be made in December of \$661,000.

With this \$661,000 patronage retirement, a total of \$17,959,000 will have been returned to the members during the last 70 years. All four of the Cooperative's districts are now on the same retirement schedule.

Our lender, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), completes a statistical analysis each year, which gives the member cooperatives the opportunity to compare their operating ratios with other REC's around the country. One of the statistics shows a comparison of how NWREC compares to the other 695 REC's relative to the retirement of deferred patronage dividends. I'm pleased to report that your Cooperative compares very well. It indicates that North West REC has retired 35.75% of the total amount of patronage that has been allocated throughout the Cooperative's 70 year history. The average level is 24.61%. NWREC was rated 147th best out of 695 REC's on this statistic.

## NWREC Recognized for Contribution to International Program

(The following includes excerpts from a news release that was issued by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association)

“Beginning this month, cooperatives around the globe will celebrate International Year of Cooperatives. At the same time, NRECA International Programs, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will mark 50 years of helping developing countries provide rural residents with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

“International Year of Cooperatives will provide us with a great platform for advancing the cause of those still living without electricity”, says Ingrid Hunsicker, manager of international program development for the NRECA International Foundation, a charitable organization that partners with electric cooperatives in the United States to bring power and economic development to rural villages overseas.

Since its creation on November 1, 1962, NRECA International Programs has assisted with electrification efforts that have resulted in increased agricultural productivity, millions of new jobs, as well as an enhanced quality of life for more than 100 million people in 40-plus nations. NRECA International Programs projects are currently under way in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen.

Despite progress, much work remains. “Almost 66 percent of the world's population still lacks electricity or must depend on unreliable and unsafe power,” Hunsicker emphasizes. “That's where the foundation comes in – it adds value to NRECA International Program initiatives.”

When natural disasters happen, NRECA International Foundation is able to jump in and send aid, such as when much of Haiti's electrical infrastructure was destroyed by an earthquake in 2010.

Because conditions vary so widely, NRECA International Programs has adopted the slogan, “Electrifying the world . . . one village at a time.” The outreach relies on the time-tested electric cooperative business model – giving, many for the first time, practical experience in democratic decision-making and free enterprise so they can launch locally driven services. Through these efforts, we show the best face of not only who we are as electric co-ops but as Americans.”

North West REC has supported this important program for a number of years. This year, your Cooperative was recognized at the NRECA Region Meeting in Minneapolis for contributing at the National Partner Level with a donation of \$2,500. Glenn English, CEO of NRECA, presented the award to Board President Joel Orthman and me at the recent NRECA Regional Meeting in Minneapolis. The certificate includes the inscription, “Thank you for your support and monetary contributions to the NRECA International Foundation in its mission of Electrifying the World . . . One Village at a Time.”



Glenn English, CEO of NRECA presents award to Manager Lyle Korver, and Board President Joel Orthman.



We have CFL bulbs remaining after our district meetings. We invite our members to stop at one of our offices, and we will give you **two FREE bulbs** until the supply is gone.