

# NORTH WEST REC OFFERS POWERLINE SCHOLARSHIPS

North West REC is again sponsoring a powerline scholarship. This program is designed to assist persons enrolled in a course of powerline training at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an individual who has met the eligibility requirements. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in the four county area served by North West REC (Ida, Plymouth, O'Brien and Sioux Counties)
- Be a member or the child of a member of North West REC
- Be accepted as a full time student in the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon
- File a scholarship application with North West REC by Friday, April 6, 2012

All applicants are required to submit an application form as well as their most recent academic transcript. The criteria for the award will be based upon community and school activities, potential for success and grade point average.

A check will be made out to both the recipient and Northwest Iowa Community College and will be sent to the recipient prior to the beginning of the second semester of course work.

For an application or more information, contact:  
 North West REC  
 Attn: Darwin Dirks, Assistant Manager  
 2496 Lincoln Ave SW  
 Le Mars, IA 51031  
 800-766-2099  
 ddirks@nwrec.coop



## 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

Ida Grove & Le Mars offices closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Outside Depository Available for After Hours Payments

**Phone:**  
**ORANGE CITY** (712) 707-4935  
 (800) 766-2099

**IDA GROVE** (712) 364-3341

**LE MARS** (712) 546-4149

**Lyle D. Korver**  
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**Verdell Buss**  
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**Lorraine Egdorf**  
 Editor



# NEWS Lines

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## NORTH WEST REC HELPS LOOK FOR SAVINGS

Member energy advisor Rob Driesen is a detective with a camera.

Driesen conducts energy assessments for North West REC members. His special infrared camera helps identify culprits that let precious energy dollars slip out the door.

Driesen's camera creates images of temperature and points out where cold air leaks into a home, or where electrical circuits might be dangerously hot.



In early December, Driesen visited the rural Sanborn home of Harv and Linda Verbrugge. Harv Verbrugge, a retired electrician, wanted to know why some spots in his home were cold.

Driesen's camera spotted the problems:

- A heating duct in the entryway had no insulation.
- A cold spot on the front exterior wall facing the porch needed additional insulation.
- The sill plate on the one-story home lacked sufficient insulation to keep the cold out of the basement.

All of the cold-spot problems at the Verbrugge home can be remedied with additional insulation.

During the energy assessment, Driesen and Harv Verbrugge examined and photographed the home's exterior walls, looking for areas where the temperature was significantly cooler than the rest of the heated home. Driesen also checked over the electrical panel for overloaded circuits and major appliances for energy efficiency.

A home energy assessment usually produces 50 to 60 photographs which are given to the resident as digital images on a compact disk or printed on paper.

Each area of the home has two photographs: a typical snapshot as well as an image showing the relative temperature of all surfaces. A written report indicates problems and possible solutions to help the resident plan home energy efficiency improvements.

Harv Verbrugge was pleased with his energy assessment. "I would highly recommend this test," he said. "The price is very fair and a copy of problem areas is given to the customer for reference."

The price of energy assessments is \$45. The work has to be done when the outside temperature is 30 degrees higher or lower than inside temperature so the infrared camera can detect air leaks. The assessment takes about 2 to 2.5 hours.

To help co-op members cure air leaks, North West REC offers an insulation rebate of 30 percent of the insulation cost, up to a maximum of \$500 for professionally installed insulation.

Call North West REC for more information about energy assessments or the insulation rebate program.



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## YOUTH TOUR CONTEST 2012

*Want to visit Washington, D.C.? Who wouldn't?  
It's FUN, it's FREE and you'll make lots of FRIENDS!*



North West REC is sponsoring the 2012 Youth Tour Contest with two students receiving an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for June 15-21, 2012. Added this year is a \$1,000 scholarship for the Iowa representative on the Youth Leadership Council.

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](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Delores at [dlancaster@nwrec.coop](mailto:dlancaster@nwrec.coop) and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Delores at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099.

The Youth Tour Contest application should be returned to the REC no later than **Friday, March 30, 2012.**

The Board of Directors and management encourage all who are eligible to enter the Youth Tour Contest for an exciting educational experience.

### 2012 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 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

## APPLIANCE RECYCLING

Participate in our appliance recycling program and turn your old refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner in for a \$25 rebate per appliance. Just call the cooperative at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to arrange for easy pickup. Appliances must be in working condition to qualify for the recycling program.



## EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS DONATE 7,500 HOURS

The employees of North West Rural Electric Cooperative, along with employees at other western Iowa cooperatives, donated nearly 7,500 hours of volunteer service to their communities during 2011.

The utilities all are part of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative's service area and are Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Because commitment to community is one of the four core values of Touchstone Energy cooperatives, NIPCO has recognized the employee volunteers for their service. Each of the employees who volunteered at least 25 hours during the year received a Touchstone Energy logo clothing item of their choice.

Volunteer service completed by cooperative employees includes city council and other city government boards, hospital and church boards, volunteer firefighting, leadership of church, community and youth group activities, refereeing sports contests, and working on community celebrations.

Employees at North West REC contributed 982.5 hours in their communities.

## ADD INSULATION TO ADD ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**North West REC is offering an INSULATION REBATE PROGRAM for our member-consumers.**

- 30% of the installed cost - up to \$500 maximum rebate
- Insulation professionally installed by a registered contractor—blown-in, insulating concrete forms, rigid styrofoam panels and/or structural insulated panels type insulation
- Structure must have a primary electric heating source—includes new or existing homes, ag and commercial buildings
- One rebate per structure
- Need copy of invoice and rebate form completed and returned to North West REC

### REBATE FORM

#### MEMBER INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Location/911 Address (if different from above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Residential \_\_\_\_\_ Ag/C&I \_\_\_\_\_

Building Insulated \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### INSULATION

	Estimated R Value	Material
___ Ceiling/Attic	_____	_____
___ Walls	_____	_____
___ Foundation	_____	_____
___ Other	_____	_____

Invoice Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Rebate Amount (30%) \_\_\_\_\_

Installer \_\_\_\_\_

## COOPERATIVES COLLECT COATS FOR KIDS

North West REC and its members are helping keep kids and others warm this winter.

The cooperative was a collection point for the annual KMEG-TV Coats for Kids program during November and December. The electric cooperatives and other participating businesses in northwest Iowa together collected about 1,800 coats for distribution by the Salvation Army.

“Please extend our thanks to those who donated coats,” said Salvation Army Capt. Von R. Vandiver, corps officer. “There are literally hundreds of children, and adults, who are wearing a warm coat in today’s wintry weather because of the KMEG Coats for Kids program.”

Nearly 600 coats had already been given to those in need by the beginning of January. About 1,200 coats remained on hand for distribution throughout the cold winter months. The Salvation Army works with charitable and social services organizations throughout the region to provide coats and other assistance to persons in need. Anyone in north-

west Iowa who needs warm winter clothing can contact the Salvation Army in Sioux City at 1415 Villa Ave., or call the office at 712-255-8836.

While the program is called Coats for Kids, donations typically include both new and used winter clothing for persons of all ages. This is the second year that North West REC and its affiliated electric cooperatives in northwest Iowa were part of the program.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

### *Additional Scholarships Awarded*

North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will again be sponsoring four individual \$1,000 scholarships to a dependent of a member of North West REC. There will be one winner from each of the four districts of North West REC.

In addition to that amount, North West REC will also sponsor four \$750 scholarships and four \$500 scholarships to the runners-up in each district. We will be able to honor a total of 12 applicants.

The scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the eight-state region where Basin Electric of Bismarck, ND, supplies wholesale electric power.

North West REC members may qualify if their dependent meets the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Are current North West REC members
- Must be a senior in high school and planning to enroll in a full-time accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school
- Submit the application as provided by North West REC
- Return all completed forms no later than **Friday, February 17, 2012**

The selection will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals and a written recommendation by a third party.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, send in the registration form below, and we will then send you an application form. You can also apply online by visiting our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Delores at [dlancaster@nwrec.coop](mailto:dlancaster@nwrec.coop) and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Delores at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than **Friday, February 17!**



## 2012 DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

*Mark your calendar & plan to attend!*

### MARCH 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
19	20 DISTRICT 1 MOC-FV High School in Orange City	21	22 DISTRICT 3 Le Mars Community High School	23
26	27 DISTRICT 4 Skate Palace in Ida Grove	28	29	30

### APRIL 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 DISTRICT 2 South O'Brien School in Primghar	4	5	6
	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20

### 2012 BASIN SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION

YES, I am interested in applying for the scholarship. Please send me the application form.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Delores • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S REPORT

## Significant System Improvements Planned for 2012

Your Cooperative has completed another successful year, and we have now turned our attention to 2012. As part of our planning for each new year, we prepare a work plan, capital outlay budget and operating budget. The work plan is used for planning our construction and maintenance projects for the coming year and is one of the key components in developing the capital outlay budget for the year.

Providing reliable electric service to our members at an affordable cost continues to be one of our primary goals. As we make plans for how we can improve the system, we look at areas where we have had a higher than normal number of outages, the age of line segments and where higher than normal load growth is occurring.

Some of our oldest sections of line are now 70 years old and obviously won't last forever. We have ongoing maintenance programs to try to extend the life of our system as long as possible, but not beyond the point where our service reliability suffers. Each year we plan system improvements whereby we replace some of the older sections of line.



The 2012 capital outlay budget was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the December board meeting. The budget for 2012 distribution plant projects totals \$2.8 million and includes the following:

- \$200,000 for new services. (We have been building in an average of 120 new services per year in recent years.)
- \$475,000 was budgeted for service revisions. (When a member adds load to their existing service, such as electric heat or a hog building and the service needs to be upgraded, we refer to that as a service revision.)
- \$375,000 was budgeted for rebuilding and reconducting single phase overhead line.
- \$400,000 was budgeted for shortening span lengths between poles (shortening span lengths from 350 feet plus feet between poles to approximately 220 feet.)
- \$130,000 for replacing failing underground line with new underground.
- \$425,000 for ordinary replacements and other line improvements.
- \$40,000 for an additional circuit out of the Le Mars substation
- \$280,000 for the NWREC portion of the FEMA risk mitigation projects. (We will cover more on that later in this article.)
- \$490,000 for transformers, meters, load management switches



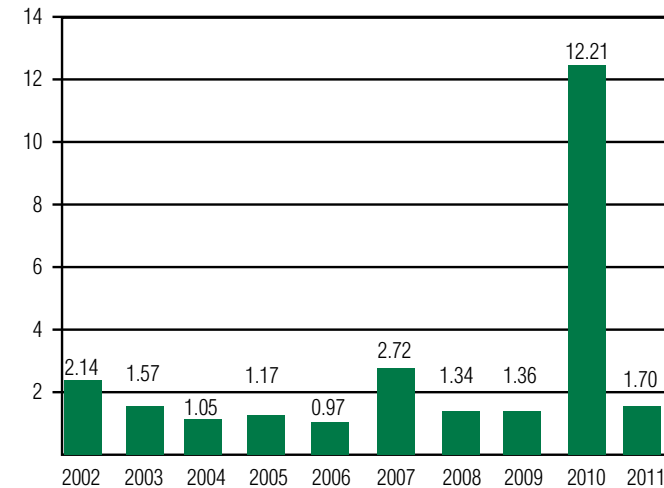
We also budgeted \$318,000 for new general plant equipment including a new basket truck, service truck, computers, software, etc.

Over the course of the 70 year history of the Cooperative, a total of \$67 million has been invested in the distribution and general plant. North West REC

(NWREC) has approximately 3,500 miles of distribution electric line, and we serve 9,500 services. The total plant investment amounts to approximately \$19,000 per mile of line and \$7,000 per service.

If we want to continue to meet our goal of providing reliable electric service for our members, it's important that we continue to make the necessary system improvements and have ongoing maintenance programs in place. We believe we are meeting this goal. The graph below shows the average outage hours we have had for each of the last ten years. In most years, we have remained below 2 hours per consumer for the whole year and this represents a 99.98% service reliability record. You can see the impact of the serious storms that we experienced in 2010 and that resulted in 12.2 hours of outage time per consumer. We were fortunate to avoid serious storms in 2011 and the average dropped to a very good average of 1.7 hours.

### Average Outage Hours



### FEMA Risk Mitigation Projects Also Planned in 2012 and 2013

In addition to the projects listed above that are included in our Capital Outlay Budget for 2012, there will be a number of other projects completed as well. Last year we reported that NWREC had received approval from FEMA for an application that had been submitted for a grant to help rebuild 66 miles of old three phase. The grant from FEMA and the State will cover 85% of the construction costs.

Due to the amount of work that we have scheduled for our crews, we decided to contract out these projects. We requested bids from a number of different contractors and we opened the bids on December 15. The low bidder was

Karian Peterson from Minnesota and they submitted a bid of \$3,865,156.

We anticipate that they will be able to replace approximately half of the 66 miles in 2012 and the remaining half in 2013.

With these FEMA projects and NWREC's work plans for the next two years, nearly \$10 million will be invested in new line and system improvement projects on our system. This is a significant investment and should lead to improved service reliability in the future for our member owners.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information about these projects. I would also encourage you to attend one of our district meetings to receive additional information about our operations in 2011 and what we have planned for 2012.

On behalf of the directors and employees, I want to wish you and your family a healthy and successful 2012.



## GOOD HABITS START YOUNG.

Learn energy efficiency measures at your electric cooperative booth.

### Siouxland Home Show

Sioux City Convention Center Feb. 23-26

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Western Iowa  
The power of human connections