

## NVREC completes upgrades to improve reliability



In an effort to continue providing dependable, reliable electrical service to our members, Nishnabotna Valley REC crews and contractors have been working on completing an aggressive pole replacement program over the last year.

NVREC will also be replacing several miles of overhead and underground line this summer.

(Left) Journeyman Lineman Jerek Richardson disconnects the live line from the old pole scheduled to be replaced.

(Right) Crew Foreman Aaron Nippert guides the new pole to be set, while Lineman Jeremiah Ruby uses a remote control on the digger derrick to drop the new 40' pole into place.



## Shining the light on community volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are excited to once again participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$2,500 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the contest entries we received in our first two years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're increasing our three charity donations from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each this year to encourage even more participa-

tion across the state."

Member-owners and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Nishnabotna Valley REC, you're a co-op member-owner and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community.

The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-owner. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) to review the contest rules. Contest entries will be accepted at this website

starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.



# Don't let old electrical wiring pose potential problems in your home



People who love older homes usually get drawn in by their grandeur. They see a beautiful old farm house on an acreage in the country and fall in love with its stately staircase and intricate architectural features. Once they sign on the dotted line, they painstakingly restore woodwork, make sure windows are in working order, and tend to other repairs. One of the top pri-

orities on their “to do” list should be to get the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician.

Just because the wiring in a home is old doesn't automatically mean there's a problem, but there could be. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), many older homes that still have outdated wiring can't handle the electrical load of today's modern appliances. That's not good because old, outdated wiring could pose a fire hazard.

As electrical components age or become overloaded, the system can overheat and wear out insulation. This can lead to arcs (electrical discharge) and short circuits — the two main causes of home electrical wiring fires, according to the CPSC. In addition, old rubber wire insulation can become brittle and easily flake, leaving wires exposed.

Older wiring called knob and tube can be found in homes built around 1950 or earlier. If your electrical system was not thoroughly inspected when you bought it, or if it was inspected but it has been several years, have it inspected by an electrician to make sure it is safe and that it adequately meets the electrical needs of your home.

Regardless of the age of your home, be sure to get any potentially dangerous wiring issues checked out by a professional, especially if:

- Your circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses blow often
- You notice unusual power draws or dimming or flickering lights
- You see discolored (dark colored) outlets or switch plates or they are warm to the touch
- You notice unusual odors like a burning smell but can't find a source
- Your outlets only allow you to plug in a two-pronged plug (and not a three-pronged plug), which means they are not grounded
- You don't have ground-fault circuit interrupters near faucets or other sources of water in your home
- Your house was built more than 40 years ago

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

**DON'T**  
place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.

**DO**  
keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

**DO**  
ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.

**DON'T**  
overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.



PROVIDING power to

**2,600**

MEMBERS

ACROSS

**1,419**

MILES OF LINE

But right now it's  
**YOU** I'm worried about.

THEIR job is **dangerous** enough.

The last thing they need is for you to drive into the utility truck because you ignored the flashing lights, cones and signs.

When you see utility crews at work, slow down, and move over.

*You have the power to protect a life.*



**MOVE OVER**  
**SLOW DOWN**

## SAVE ON THE PERFECT GRADUATION GIFT



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## AT THE MARINA



### ...the water is NOT fine

Although the water may look inviting, marinas are not meant to be swimming areas. Docks and boats can carry sources of electricity. If this electricity seeps into the water due to faulty wiring, the water becomes energized.

If you are exposed to water that is charged with electrical current, you can be shocked and even drown — this is known as electric shock drowning. There are also other dangers of swimming near a marina.

#### Dangers of swimming at a marina include:

1. Electric shock drowning.
2. Carbon monoxide poisoning from boat exhaust.
3. Contaminated water from a storm or spill.
4. Impact from a boat or its propellers.



Ensure marinas have ground fault circuit interrupters installed and that they are tested often. Keep your boat's electrical system well-maintained and have it inspected regularly.

# Scholarships awarded to students from area schools



Nishnabotna Valley REC is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023-2024 School Year College Scholarships from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Nishnabotna Valley Foundation. We would like to thank everyone who applied for a scholarship and congratulate those who were selected this year.

NVREC's scholarship program was established to support one of the cooperative's seven principles, education of members. The students were asked to explain the cooperative business model and how those principles influenced their high school career, their community or school involvement, and how they will continue to integrate those values into their future careers.

## **Katie Andersen**

Exira - EHK High School  
Shane and Cara

**\$1,000 Scholarship**  
**Basin Electric**  
**Power Cooperative**  
**Member**  
**and \$500 Scholarship**  
**Nishnabotna Valley**  
**Foundation**



## **Hudson Barnum**

Woodbine Community HS  
Kert and Amanda

**\$1,000 Scholarship**  
**Basin Electric**  
**Power Cooperative**  
**Employee**



## **Abigail Schechinger**

Harlan Community HS  
Jay and Cindy

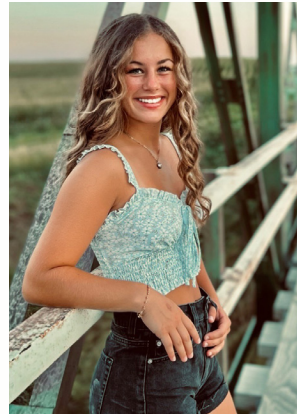
**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Ella Petersen**

Exira EHK High School  
Kevin and Carrie

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Madison Kjergaard**

Harlan Community HS  
Brian and Paula

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Stephen Leinen**

Harlan Community HS  
Darrel and Shayla

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Alexander Galati**

IKM- Manning HS  
John and Michelle

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Bradley Curren**

Harlan Community HS  
Dave and Grace

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Reese Rhinehart**

2-Year School  
Iowa Western CC  
Neil and Angie

**\$500 Scholarship**



## **Teegan Schechinger**

2-Year School  
Riverside Community HS  
Dean and Rita

**\$500 Scholarship**

# Start managing your energy use in the palm of your hand with SmartHub!

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use, and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.

- Manage your account
- View and pay your bill
- Monitor usage 24/7
- Report service issues
- Receive Important updates



## SMART ENVIRONMENT

Go to [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com) to sign up and download the app!

**Save a tree (and some time).  
Give paperless billing a try today!**

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



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Home Billing & Payments > My Profile > My Usage > Contact Us >
Search Have a Question? Get Help. >

**My Usage**

Usage Explorer

Average Usage

Planning

Usage Comparison

### My Usage

This My Usage section provides several tools for you to analyze your past and current usage, as well as plan and conserve in the future. Compare your use and costs, set markers to monitor changes in your usage over periods of time, and get energy saving tips. Click the tabs below to learn more about these tools.

Analyze Your Usage
Plan and Save

#### Usage Explorer

Usage Explorer gives you a detailed look at your past and current usage, all in one place.

View your usage and weather trends by month, or if available by day or hour.

Use the Usage Explorer tool

#### Usage Comparison

Usage Comparison lets you compare two bills worth of usage history side by side.

View the differences between this month last year, or other combinations to see how your bill varies each month.

Use the Usage Comparison tool

#### Average Usage

Average Usage shows you what your typical or average usage is for your selected time period.

For example, see your average usage on each day of the week (such as Tuesdays), over the course of a year. Or see your typical usage in each hour of the day over the course of 2 weeks. Discover when you can save the most on your utility bill.

Use the Average Usage tool

Billing & Payments My Profile My Usage Contact Us
Call Us: 1-800-234-5122

# Congratulations 2023 Youth Tour winner, Veronica Schechinger

Nishnabotna Valley REC's Education Committee selected Veronica Schechinger to represent the cooperative in Washington D.C. in June 2023. Veronica is a student at Riverside Community High School and is the daughter of Dean and Rita Schechinger of Oakland.

Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington D.C. every June since 1958! Nishnabotna Valley REC joins in that tradition to help teach area students about the cooperative business model and much more.

On the week long tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government, and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They participate in National Youth

Day, visit with their elected legislators, and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

In Iowa, students apply for slots from their local electric cooperative. Each year, high school students in the Nishnabotna Valley REC service territory with a passion for government and public service are encouraged to apply.

Approximately 40 high school students are chosen by their local electric cooperatives from across the state of Iowa. The Iowa students join with more than 1,800 students from co-ops around the country.

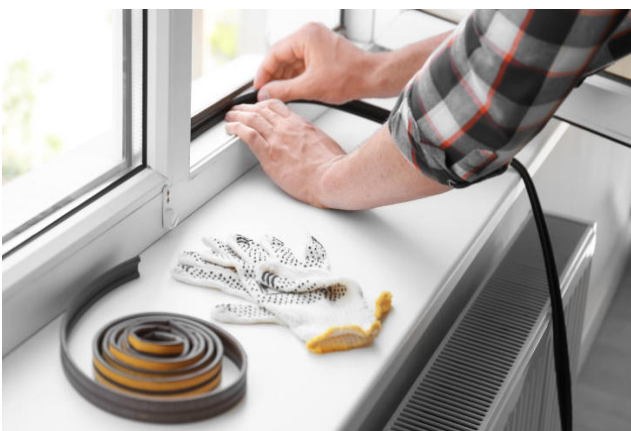
If you have a high school student who would be interested in participating in Youth Tour in the future, visit our website for details at [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com) or watch for information in the Jan/Feb 2024 *News Lines* edition next year.

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# 10 tips for energy efficiency this summer

*As summer quickly approaches, it's important to take steps to ensure your energy consumption is as efficient as possible. Here are some tips to help you keep your home safe and your energy costs low!*

- 1** Check air conditioning systems annually for repairs or replacements.
- 2** Schedule HVAC maintenance regularly to enhance system efficiency.
- 3** Replace furnace filters every three to six months depending on use and type of filter.
- 4** Set your thermostat at 78 degrees while cooling.
- 5** Unplug electronics when not in use - they can still pull energy even when turned off.
- 6** Invest in ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> certified light bulbs and appliances.
- 7** Keep curtains drawn on sunny days to reduce heat gain in or keep them open on cold days for added solar heat (as long as there is unobstructed sunlight).
- 8** Utilize ceiling fans throughout your home as needed — but remember fans cool people, not rooms. Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- 9** Check insulation levels in attics, basements, walls, and crawl spaces looking for missing or damaged insulation that may need replacing or supplementing with additional materials such as spray foam insulation, rigid foam boards, etc.
- 10** Make sure all exterior windows and doors close securely without any gaps by adjusting the door thresholds or adding weather-stripping where needed.



## **REMEMBER:**

*Member-owners who choose to purchase Energy Star<sup>®</sup> appliances and make energy saving investments to their home or business may qualify for an energy efficiency rebate.*

***Details at [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com)***

# Seeking nominating committee members and board of director candidates

The best part about being a member of your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is just that ... it's *your energy cooperative*. You have a say in how Nishnabotna Valley REC is run, because membership also equals ownership. Being locally owned, operated and democratically run means you can trust your co-op to focus on members' needs, local priorities, and decisions that are best for your community.

Additionally, you have the oppor-

tunity to participate in the election process from nominating candidates to voting for the nominees. Directors are elected from the general membership to represent the cooperative.

A nominating committee is first assembled to find and recruit a member who is willing to make the commitment of serving the membership for a three-year minimum term on the Nishnabotna Valley REC board of directors. The nominating committee will meet once in June to nominate and vote on the candidates for the August 24, 2023 election.

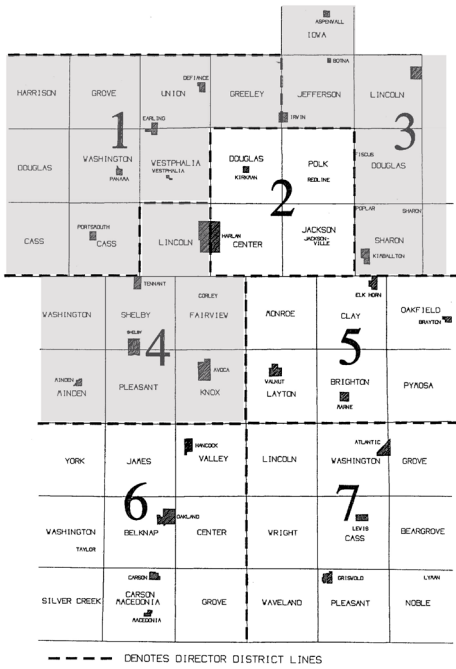
Three seats on the cooperative's board are up for election this year. Those seats are district one, which is currently represented by Gene Kenkel of Panama; district three, which is represented by Donna Olson of Kimballton; and district four, which is represented by Tom Pattee of Avoca.



oca.

If you are interested in serving on the NVREC board of directors and live in one of the three districts with positions up for election, please contact the office for a copy of the by-laws containing information about running for the board.

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or representing the cooperative as a director from districts one, three or four, please contact Janell Leinen at 712-755-2166.



Because Nishnabotna Valley REC is a cooperative, the membership elects a board of directors to represent their interests. Directors are responsible to the members for the overall management of the Cooperative, establishing the rates and policies of the Cooperative, and help decide how the resources and services of the REC are to be used for the benefit of the members.



**Gene Kenkel**  
Panama  
District 1



**Donna Olson**  
Kimballton  
District 3



**Tom Pattee**  
Avoca  
District 4



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1317 Chatburn Avenue, PO Box 714 • Harlan, Iowa 51537

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Telephone: (712) 755-2166 • Fax: (712) 755-2351

Website: NVREC.com • Follow us on Facebook!

Outages after hours, holidays, weekends: (800) 234-5122

Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

President.....Darrell Stamp  
Vice President ..... Gene Kenkel  
Secretary-Treasurer .....Bryan Greve  
Director .....Dave Applegate  
Director ..... Donna Olson  
Director ..... Tom Pattee

Director ..... Galen Grabill  
Chief Executive Officer .....Bill McKim  
Director of Operations ..... Kert Barnum  
Manager of Administrative Services..... Kara Meiners  
Communication Specialist..... Janell Leinen

# Nishnabotna Valley REC

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Nishnabotna Valley REC will provide safe and reliable electric service to its members in a valuable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible manner.*

## Advocacy in action



As part of our cooperative commitment to democracy and advocacy, Iowa's electric cooperatives regularly coordinate meetings with state and federal legislators through the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). The week of April 17, nearly 30 electric co-op representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate face to face with members of the Iowa Congressional delegation.

Iowa's electric co-op advocates were able to meet with Rep. Zach Nunn, Rep. Randy Feenstra, Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks, Sen. Joni Ernst, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, in addition to talking with a staffer from Rep. Ashley Hinson's office.

Specifically, the group talked to legislators about modernizing the permitting process, Farm Bill reauthorization, supply chain challenges, and continued threats to the reliability and affordability of power. Additionally, IAEC coordinated briefings from the American Public Power Association, the Renewable Fuels Association, and the Nuclear Energy Institute for the Iowa co-op group to learn more about issues impacting our communities.

## NVREC welcomes Mason Irlbeck



**Mason Irlbeck**  
*Apprentice Lineman*

NVREC recently welcomed Mason Irlbeck to the co-op team.

Mason is from Lamber-ton, Minnesota, a small rural town in the southwest part of the state. Mason graduated from Minnesota West Community and Technical College as a powerline technician.

Mason hopes to become a journeyman lineman like his father and brother. In his free time Mason enjoys hunting, fishing, and participating in sports.

*Welcome, Mason!*

The Nishnabotna Valley REC office will be closed for Memorial Day on **Monday, May 29, 2023.**

The office will also be closed on **Tuesday, July 4, 2023** for the Independence Day holiday.