

Member Appreciation Days

We were pleased with the turnout at our fourth annual Member Appreciation Days. We had 42 kids and 165 adults register at Littlefork and 12 kids and 201 adults register at Baudette for a total of 420. The winners of the electric cart grill were Jerry Walker at Littlefork and Carrie Haro at Baudette. The Lock-N-Go grill winners were Truman Lindvall at Littlefork and Linda Lafky at Baudette. The winners of the \$25 gift card for the kids' drawing were Adam Boelk at Littlefork and Ally Beil at Baudette.

Ally Beil, of Baudette, was the lucky winner of the \$25 gift card for the kids' drawing at Baudette.



Tim Pelach draws a large electric arc when giving a safety demonstration in Baudette.

Carrie Haro, from Williams, was the lucky winner of the electric cart grill in Baudette.



Linda Lafky, of Clementson, was the lucky winner of the Lock-N-Go grill in Baudette.

North Star Electric will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

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Visit our Web site at
www.northstarelectric.coop

North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mission Statement

To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance.

**Gopher State
One Call**



It's the LAW
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
Minnesota Statewide One Call
Notification Center
1-800-252-1166

Highlights from the **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the board of directors meeting held on May 2, 2007. All directors were present. They acted upon usual, routine business. In addition, they voted to approve the purchase of new boiler controls to increase efficiency and to approve minor changes to three policies.

Reports from staff included the number of accounts disconnected for non payment, submitting the IRS form 990, the progress of the AMR project, and that with 95 percent of the residential AMR meters reporting readings to the cooperative office, there is a good possibility that the billing cycle will be moved ahead by 24 days to bring accounts more current. This would be spread over the four summer months, with six additional days of electricity added to each of those four bills. Because of good kWh sales and financial performance in January and February, the cooperative may be able to waive that one monthly fixed charge for the catch-up month. A recommendation was provided at the June board meeting. Also discussed was the purchase of an infrared camera to detect heat losses, the efforts to help members reduce energy usage, the success of the Operation Round Up program, the plans for the member trip to the power plants near Center, N.D., the Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship competition, the planting of seedlings on North Star property, the scheduled school safety programs, the

Member Appreciation Days on May 17 and 18, the new services, the CPR and safety training, the completion of the high-voltage demo trailer that will be used to educate the public about electricity and how to stay safe around it, the equipment, the summer help, and the contracted right-of-way spraying that will occur this summer.

Also discussed were plans for a Strategic Planning session, as well as naming the recipients of unclaimed capital credits: Williams Ice Arena Assn., Williams Senior Citizens Center, Baudette First Responders, Baudette Fire Department, Koochiching County Food Shelf, Koochiching Hospice, River Valley Development Assn., Indus School Music Class, Big Falls Community Center, Kabetogama First Responders, and the Littlefork/Big Falls and Indus student trip to the coal mines and power plants near Center, N.D.

Board members reported on neighboring cooperatives' annual meetings. President Arnesen reported on the Minnkota Power Cooperative monthly board meeting and the legislative visit.

Detailed minutes are available at the Cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board, or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Dan Hoskins at least one week in advance to be included on the agenda.

CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection with the State Board of Electricity and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector.

- *St. Louis and Koochiching counties:*
Bob Orgon
10111 Roosevelt Rd. S.E.
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: (218) 556-3829
Fax: (218) 751-3535
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)
- *Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties:*
Scott Stenvik
16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Phone: (218) 689-5406
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)



“With double red cell donation, donors can give just red cells and that’s the component of blood that is in the greatest demand.”

Dan Hoskins, General Manager

Donate the gift of life

A couple of weeks ago, I was sitting in a chair in the First Lutheran Church in Baudette. I had my feet up and was leaning back just relaxing while watching United Blood Services (UBS) take my blood. You see, UBS uses a high-tech process that makes it possible for blood donors to give two units of red blood cells in only one visit. Donating blood this way can double the lifesaving effect of the donor’s generous gift.

In a traditional blood donation, donors give whole blood, which consists of red cells, plasma and platelets, and those folks who donate that are very much appreciated, also. But with the automated process called double red cell donation, donors can give just red cells and that’s the component of blood that is in the greatest demand.

Donors say, and I concur, the automated double red cell donation seems to be more comfortable than regular whole blood donations. Donors also receive back their own plasma and about a pint of saline, leaving them better hydrated than before the donation.

Along with meeting the regular blood donor qualifications, double red cell donors must meet special requirements. Men must weigh at least 130 lbs. (and I qualify almost twice) and be at least 5’1” (and I pass this also), while women must weigh at least 150 lbs. and be at least 5’5” tall. By now, most of you are saying, “wait a minute”; those qualifications might seem backwards, but they’re not. (556-17-001-03 Lance/Cheryl Fry) That’s because men’s bodies carry a greater blood volume than women’s bodies. So, generally speaking, a man who is 5’1” and weighs 130 has about the same blood volume as a woman who is 5’5” and weighs 150. The blood donor qualifications are based on blood volume, which UBS has translated to height and weight.

I, along with a number of other folks, or as UBS refers to us as Heroes, do this a couple of times or more during the year, or whenever UBS comes to town and needs a donation. Well, anyway, I was sitting there wondering how this process took place years ago without electricity. It must have been something, but I did look

to see if there was such a thing, and I believe in 1818, the first successful blood transfusion took place, but it also said there were a number of failures until they found out there were different types that affected people differently.

But back to electricity; isn’t it amazing that without this wonderful product, lives would not be so simple and the life-saving abilities would be diminished to almost nothing. Not only does electricity assist us in our everyday life, but it assists the people who help restore life.

I would like to sign off with two things; the first is electricity. It is a wonderful product that, considering the benefits of having it, is well worth the low cost. The second is human blood; it is so precious, and did you know that there is no substitute for it, and there is no way to manufacture it outside of the body. So, the next time you hear of a blood drive, think about giving a pint or two.

God Bless You and our Troops,
Dan

Visit us at the county fairs

Lake of the Woods

Baudette

July 5 - 8

Northern District

Littlefork

July 12 - 15



New Nomination Process for Director Election

As approved last fall, with a Bylaw amendment by the membership, this will be the first year that Nominating Committees will not be used to identify candidates for director elections. Anyone interested in running for the North Star Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should review the following information from the North Star Electric Cooperative By-Laws Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 3, Qualifications, as well as the new nomination procedure, Article IV, Section 5, Nominations.

The North Star Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 12, at the Littlefork/Big Falls High School gymnasium. The Board of Director positions up for elections are:

District 8 – 4-year term

District 6 – complete final 2 years of a 4-year term

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you are interested in a position on the Board of Directors, you may pick up a petition form at our North Star Electric Cooperative office in either Littlefork or Baudette.

Please be advised that each membership of the North Star Electric Cooperative is allowed one signature, and in the case of joint membership, only one signature is allowed. (A husband and wife are not joint members unless they have completed a joint membership application.)

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

All persons eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative shall:

(a) be a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is to be elected prior to being nominated for director;

For purposes of these bylaws, "primary residence" shall mean the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually

lives for the most substantial portion of the year:

(b) have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected;

(c) not be employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any director, individual or entity which either is:

(1) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(2) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(3) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative;

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5 percent of a member's total hours of employment sales or income on an annual basis:

(d) not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years;

(e) not be a close relative of an employee, where as found in these bylaws "close relative" means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including step, half, foster and adoptive is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister.

(f) be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative

unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

(g) if a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and

(h) agree to regularly attend all board, annual and special members' meetings, and in no case have more than four (4) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period of time.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

(i) Exceptions. In regard to the restrictive provisions of this section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

(j) Disqualification. After the board of directors determines that a director or a nominee for director lacks eligibility under the provisions of this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the board to promptly make a disqualification. After the board of directors determines that any person being considered for or already holding a directorship lacks eligibility under this section it shall be the duty of the board of directors to withhold such position from such person or to cause a director to be removed therefrom, as the case may be.

SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.

The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the cooperative are hereby established:

Nominations by Petition. Any twenty (20) or more members of a district of the cooperative may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and the Secretary of the board of directors shall post the petition at the principal office of the cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota; such listing of nominations by petition may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.

Electrical storms can be deadly

Safe Electricity offers tips for Lightning Safety Awareness Week June 24-30

“Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.” “You have more of a chance of getting struck by lightning.” These often-repeated sayings give the impression that lightning strikes are extremely rare – predictable and avoidable. This idea, however, is wrong.

Although seemingly less dangerous, lightning kills more people per year than either tornados or hurricanes and causes billions of dollars in damage. Given these statistics, it’s extremely important to take lightning seriously and to stay educated on lightning safety.

“Plan outdoor activities around the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if the weather turns threatening,” says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. “If thunderstorms and lightning are approaching, the safest location is indoors away from doors and windows. Avoid water, electric appliances and other objects that could conduct electricity, and use only cordless or cell phones to make emergency calls.”

Phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S. A direct strike is not necessary for lightning voltage to enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables and plumbing.

Other recommendations to avoid lightning shock and damage indoors include:

- Turn off and unplug appliances well before a storm nears – never during.
- Stay away from electrical outlets, appliances, computers, power tools and TV sets. Take off headsets and stop playing video games.

If caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in a building, take the following precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter or radio.
- Avoid water, high ground or open spaces.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- Do not stand near power, light or flagpoles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- Avoid water and contact with piping, including sinks, baths and faucets. Don’t wash dishes, shower or bathe during a thunderstorm. Also avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems, but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.
- Do not lie on the concrete floor of a garage as it likely contains a wire mesh.
- Basements typically are a safe place to go during thunderstorms, but avoid concrete walls that may contain metal rebar.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. This means if you can hear thunder, you’re within striking distance. A good idea is to use the “30-30 Rule.” According to this rule, if you count less than 30 seconds between a lightning flash and the thunder following it, you should seek shelter from the storm. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If you are outside and your skin tingles or you hear crackling sounds, this could signal that lightning is about to strike. Drop immediately into a crouching position and make yourself as small as possible with minimal contact with the ground.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Also visit www.SafeElectricity.org for more electrical safety information. Safe Electricity is a safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric utilities, educators and others committed to promoting electrical safety.

A Salute to the Red, White and Blue!

This Independence Day, Test Your American Flag IQ

The American flag is one of the most recognized symbols in the world. It may have many names – the Star-Spangled Banner, the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory – but it has one clear meaning: it stands for unity and freedom.

Our flag has earned our respect: handle it with care! In that spirit, we invite you to find out just how much you know about caring for and flying our national banner.

To determine your flag IQ, answer each of the following questions, then check below for the answers and figure out your score.

1. How do I fly the flag on a flagpole?

(One answer is false – which one?)

- When on the same flagpole, always fly the U.S. flag above any state, municipal or social-organization flag
- When on the same flagpole, the U.S. flag should be above any other nation's flag
- Raise the U.S. flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously
- When flying the U.S. flag near flags of other nations, it should be positioned on its own right

2. How do I hang the flag indoors?

(One answer is false – which one?)

- The flag may be used to cover a ceiling
- The flag can be hung horizontally or vertically
- The union, or canton (the blue field of stars) should be on the flag's right and the viewer's left
- If hung in a window, the canton should be on the viewer's left

3. When properly folded, the flag takes what shape?

- Rectangle
- Triangle
- Square
- Hexagon

4. When is a flag **NOT** flown at half-staff?

- Upon the death of a president or former president
- When the president or the governor of a state declares an official period of mourning
- On Memorial Day, honoring those who have died while serving the U.S.
- When a member of your family dies

5. How do I raise a flag to the half-staff position?

- Raise it slowly to half-staff
- Raise it slowly all the way to the top, then slowly to half-staff
- Raise it all the way to the top, then all the way to the bottom, then to half-staff
- Raise it briskly all the way to the top, then lower it slowly to half-staff

6. What should a civilian do when a flag passes by in a parade or procession?

- Salute and stand at attention
- Place the right hand over the heart when the first U.S. flag passes by
- Place the right hand over the heart when each U.S. flag passes by
- Place the left hand over the heart while the first U.S. flag passes by

7. What do I do with my flag when it's worn out?

(One answer is false – which one?)

- Burn it in a private place
- Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts can dispose of your flag
- Fold it, then carefully place it in the trash
- Contact your town or city officials for more information

Answers

- (b) is false. The U.S. flag should never share a pole with another nation's flag. International law forbids the display of one nation's flag above another in times of peace.
- (a) is false. The flag should never be used to cover a ceiling.
- (b) is correct.
- (d) is false. Flags are flown at half-staff only during official periods of mourning. On Memorial Day the flag is flown at half-staff until noon and then at full-staff for the remainder of the day.
- (d) is correct.
- (b) is correct. People in military uniform salute as the first U.S. flag passes; the remaining flags in the parade do not need to be recognized.
- (c) is false. When the U.S. flag is no longer in a condition to be displayed with honor, it should be destroyed in a dignified way.

Score

- 1-2: Not too good. Back to Civics class!
3-5: Impressive, but there's room for improvement.
6-7: Well done! Stand tall, patriot!

We gratefully acknowledge for their expertise the National Flag Foundation – the foremost authority on the U.S. flag and the U.S. Flag Code of 1923 as amended through the last edition in 1998. The Code offers the official way to show respect for the flag, but has no enforcement power or rigor of law. If you would like additional information, please visit: www.americanflags.org.

Presented by



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

Notification to members

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution. For inquiries please call 218-634-2202.



No More Check "Float"

Have you been to a store where you hand them a check, and then they hand it back to you? (243-23-003-03 Richard Richardson) What they just did was create an electronic version of your check. From there it speeds through the electronic banking system and probably takes the money out of your account that very same day, as opposed to paper checks traveling slowly by planes, trains and automobiles.

North Star is adding this feature to our electronic banking menu. ***This is very important to you if you sometimes count on the days of "float" that the paper method provided. We don't want you to get caught short of cash in your account,*** so please plan on the money being taken out of your bank account on the day that we receive the check.

Why are we doing this?

For several reasons, and they all include the words "efficiency" and "keeping costs low."

What happens to your paper check?

For your protection, we will destroy the original check.

Does this mean that North Star will debit your account each month and you don't have to write a check to pay your bill?

No, this is NOT a recurring debit program. We need your check to initiate each payment. You still control the timing of a payment by paying with a check.

What if I want my payment made automatically every month?

By filling out an ACH form (available at www.northstarelectric.coop/forms or

by calling us at 218-634-2202), we can set up recurring payments. You would still receive a copy of your bill, and the funds would be taken out of your account on the due date.

What authority allows North Star to convert your check?

Pursuant to regulatory rules (NACHA and Regulation E), we properly notified you of our intention to clear your check electronically. If you prefer not to have your check converted, you can opt out by calling us at 218-634-2202.

May I place a stop payment on a converted check?

Yes. As with any stop payment, however, you should place the stop payment with your financial institution as quickly as possible.



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Lake of the Woods County Community Services

P.O. Box G-0200
Baudette, MN 56623
634-2642

Northwest Community Action Council

P.O. Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

Koochiching County Community Services

1000 5th St.
International Falls, MN 56649
283-7000

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

2232 2nd Ave. E.
P.O. Box 44
International Falls, MN 56649
283-9491 or 800-559-9491

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

1213 SE 2nd Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
800-422-0312

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3rd Ave. S.
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
800-662-5711

AMR (automated meter reading) is up and running at 99 percent. We will be working on getting the remainder of the meters reporting this summer.

The 2007 Work Plan projects in the Baudette district include the replacement of the old single-phase underground cable between Williams and Roosevelt. This will be replaced with three-phase underground. We will also be replacing the old cable south of Swift with upgraded underground. Both projects will replace some old unreliable cable with new cable. (121-27-012-01 Wesley V/Colleen J Simmons) This should help us better serve these growing areas now and in the future.

Littlefork district work plans are in the Big Falls area and new cable in the lake to Dove Island.

New services have been slower this spring. I would guess this is mostly due to the high cost of gas and the uncertainty of future prices. It makes me wonder where we are heading with fuel prices determined, usually, by some dreamed-up crisis that usually is started by an industry that seems to never run out of them. This is costing us future growth, while a few drain our country of the American dream and its wealth.

ROW (right-of-way) work is a never-ending project and is of great importance; we must keep the ROW clear for safety reasons, as well as power quality. Trees in the rights of way are the primary causes of power outages and blinking lights, so when you are contacted about the ROW in your area, please help us out. Remember that North Star has some 1,500 miles of this to maintain. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Service upgrades may need to be done if you have installed any large electrical equipment to your home or business. If you have done any of this work, please contact us so we can re-evaluate your power needs. Planning ahead and giving us the heads up on this type of change will save all of us the inconveniences and costs of an unwanted outage.

GSOC (Gopher State OneCall) also needs to be called at 1-800-252-1166 before any mechanical digging is done on your property. This is the law. Once you have called in for your project location, GSOC notifies all of the utilities in your area; they are given 48 hours to respond. This protects the utilities and the member from some costly repair expenses.

Remember . . . Please be careful around all power lines as they are very dangerous! When working around them, always keep their presence in mind. If you see anything unusual, or have any questions about your power lines, contact us for help.

Until next time, so there is a next time, stay safe!



Steve Ellis
Baudette District Operations Supervisor

West End News



**We need
your
meter
reading**

If the box where you have always written in your meter reading(s) is still open, you must continue to read your meter as near to the 25th as possible. We must receive it by the 5th to avoid an estimated bill.

For the meters that are communicating with the office through the AMR (automated meter reading) system, that box where you entered your meter reading before is now filled in with the words, "Co-op Reads." In this instance, you do not have to read your meter.