



No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. North Star encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water – When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

Skip the makeshift shelter — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

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Reducing energy costs is a bright idea

As technology has advanced, so has the availability and variety of energy-saving light bulbs. Plus, while a person is saving energy, they are also saving money.

A variety of energy-saving light bulbs – including light-emitting diode (LED), compact fluorescent (CFL), and Halogen lights – provide alternatives to the traditional incandescent light bulbs. According to **energy.gov**, with the 2007 lighting standards in place, U.S. households could save nearly \$6 billion in 2015 alone.

Begin by checking your lighting fixtures. You will need to make sure that the bulbs being used match the wattage of your fixtures. Watts represent the units of power
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75 years
1940 - 2015

JULY 2015

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Online billing information available via SmartHub app.

Electrical after-hours emergencies
1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603

e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com
Visit our website at
www.northstarelectric.coop

Members' corner

We added a section called members' corner. What we would like is for members to send in questions about your electric cooperative, and we will answer them for you. Please give us your name and a phone number in case we need to clarify the question, and send them to North Star Electric, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN, 56623, Attn: Wayne.



North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mission Statement

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Highlights from the **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors' June 3 meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to approve RUS forms allowing Manager Ann Ellis to execute and submit RUS forms on behalf of North Star, to approve the transfer of final unpaid delinquent bills to Uncollectible Accounts in the amount of \$18,469.71, to approve the director districts as they currently stand for the upcoming year, to approve the addition of Robyn Sonstegard to the check signing authority and to approve the request for the AN8 RUS loan, the associated financial forecast, and increased cooperative debt limit, as presented by RUS representative Mark Doyle.

Staff reports included the financial report, below-budget sales, grassroots efforts at the Capitol, staffing changes within the office, the recommendation for no fall capital credit retirement due to below-budget financial

performance this year, dual heat sales, Operation Round Up, the 75th Anniversary celebration, the June power plant tour, new service requests, this summer's contracted construction work to be done in the Pelland Junction area, an electrical safety refresher course given to local DNR employees, North Star safety training, the addition of two summer 1,000-hour employees and the underground lines serving the Norris Camp area.

Board reports included an update from the Square Butte Electric Cooperative's board meeting, as well as the Minnkota Power Cooperative's board meeting.

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 Ann Ellis at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



Fixing up your home? We can help.



Minnesota Housing partners with Border State Bank to provide loans for repairs, remodeling, installation of electric off-peak heat, and energy saving improvements. The Minnesota Housing Fix Up loan program offers affordable fixed interest rates with loan amounts up to \$50,000.

Go green and save! Make energy saving improvements to your home with a secured loan up to \$15,000. This loan has no income limit and repayment terms go up to 20 years.



Looking for energy savings ideas? Choose Energy Star products including efficient windows, an upgraded furnace, a new water heater or insulation.

Get started on a loan today by contacting your local Border State Bank:



Baudette
Roseann Swenson - NMLS #530659
Amanda Risser - NMLS #530660
218.634.3300
www.borderstatebank.com

International Falls
Molly K. Bragg - NMLS #690519
218.283.5556





Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

Happy Birthday North Star Electric Cooperative! Well, here we are ... 75 years behind us. A lot has changed in that time, but our purpose has not.

"To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing clean, affordable, electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction." Our mission will continue to guide your cooperative as new technologies emerge and member needs evolve.

To commemorate our milestone during our big celebration, Marlys Hirst assisted us to showcase the Minnesota Historical Society's "Electrifying Minnesota" exhibit. Along with that, local 4-Hers were surveying members, and one of the questions was, "What would you miss most if you didn't have electricity?"

What **WOULD** you miss the most? Would it be the Internet, running water, TV, good lighting, your cell phone or just being able to flush a toilet? Electricity from your cooperative is a silent workhorse, providing convenience and comfort in countless ways. It is easy to take it for granted, especially when your employees and directors have taken preventative action to make it available 99.95 percent of the time (Timothy Fagerhaugh, 251-24-209-03). So, next time you flip a switch or take a hot shower, think about what a great product you are purchasing and how lucky we are to live with all the modern conveniences it provides.

One thing is certain, we wouldn't be where we are today without cooperation between all stakeholders: your elected directors, your employees, our communities and, of course, **YOU** – our members. Great job everyone!

Promotions

One promotion leads to a vacancy, which dominoes into a string of others, so I am very pleased to announce that we already had existing employees who are more than capable of handling new positions. These changes include the

promotion of Robyn Sonstegard to Finance Manager, Tessa Strohl to Bookkeeping Coordinator and Glen Marcotte as your new Work Order Clerk. The vacancy we are filling now is a lineman position in Littlefork.



Robyn Sonstegard
Finance Manager



Tessa Strohl
Bookkeeping
Coordinator



Glen Marcotte
Work Order Clerk

Humbled

As I write this first article as your new General Manager, I am humbled, appreciative and excited to use my abilities to fulfill the cooperative's mission at the next level. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

At your service we remain ... Ann Ellis

Kabetogama EMTs accept donation for the purchase of equipment



Working with North Star Electric, the Kabetogama EMTs received a \$5,000 grant from Co Bank's Sharing Success program. The Kabetogama EMTs accepting the check from Julian Brzoznowski, board member from District 7, were: Rusty Lehto, John Stegmeir, Cole Hraban, Kari Hraban, Dave McRoberts, Gail Nevalainen, Ellen Hart and Kevin Grossheim.



"Like us" on
facebook

www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2, at Littlefork/Big Falls School. The Board of Directors position up for election is **District 7 for a four-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;

Nomination process for director election

As approved, with a Bylaw amendment by the membership, the 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 Bylaws Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 3, Qualifications, as well as the new nomination procedure, Article IV, Section 5, Nominations.

(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.

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

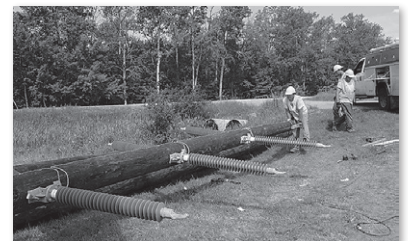
eligibility under this section it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to withhold such position from such person or to cause a director to be removed therefrom, as the case may be.

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.

When your power goes out, so do we



When storms hit and the lines are down, we roll up our sleeves and go to work. No matter what Mother Nature throws our way, we won't quit until the lights are back on in every home and business we serve.

But it's not just disasters that bring out the best in us. It's the everyday effort we make in improving reliability and adding new technology to better serve you.

We don't just provide electricity; we provide a powerful value in your life — each and every day.



www.northstarelectric.coop

Reducing energy costs is a bright idea *(continued from page 1)*

that it takes to light a bulb. The new Lighting Facts labels will have the wattage listed so that you can make sure it matches the fixture.

The label will also show how many lumens the bulb produces. Lumens, not watts, are key to picking a bulb that is the right brightness. Lumens measure the amount of light produced. The more lumens a bulb has, the brighter the bulb will be. The following comparisons outline the lumen measurement to look for that produces the brightness previously gauged by the wattage use of incandescent bulbs:

BRIGHTNESS

Use this chart to determine how many lumens you need to match the brightness of your old incandescent bulbs.

Old Incandescent Bulbs (Watts)	ENERGY STAR Bulb Brightness (Minimum Lumens)
40	450
60	800
75	1,100
100	1,600
150	2,600

Lighting labels also have information about the color of a light, ranging from cool to warm. Cool lights, which correspond with higher Kelvin temperatures, are better for visual tasks because they increase contrast. Warm lights, which correspond to lower Kelvin temperatures, are preferable for living spaces because they are more flattering.

Regular incandescent bulbs cost around 50 cents a bulb, while CFL bulbs range from \$1 to \$5 and LED bulbs range from \$4 to \$30. However, splurging on an energy-efficient CFL or LED light bulb will pay for itself in the long run and save money (Lorin Slatinski, 664-35-004-08). If either the CFL or LED bulb is Energy Star®-rated, rebates are available from your electric cooperative. A CFL light bulb, according to energy.gov, uses about one-fourth the energy of an incandescent bulb and lasts up to 10 times longer. LED light bulbs use about one-fifth the energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. For more tips on energy efficiency, please visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.



DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Always call 811 before you dig.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

Rona's Carrot Cake

Ingredients and Directions

Cake batter: 2 cups grated carrots, 1½ cup sugar, 1 cup oil, 3 eggs, 1 tsp. soda, 2 cups flour, pinch of salt, 2 tsp. cinnamon, 1 small can crushed pineapple juice, 1 cup coconut and 1 cup walnuts. Mix all together and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Frosting: 4 cups powdered sugar, 8 oz. cream cheese, ½ cup butter, 1 tsp. maple flavoring and 1 tsp. vanilla. Mix these ingredients and frost when cake is cool. (Bake time may vary depending on oven and pan size.)



**This recipe for carrot cake was requested of Rona Anderson (wife of former director LJ Anderson). She brought the cake to the Anniversary celebration, and it disappeared in no time. Thank you Ronnie!*

Current electrical inspectors

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information go to Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries' website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

• Lake of the Woods, St. Louis and Koochiching counties:

Curt Collier (cgcollier67@gmail.com)

Phone: (218) 966-5070

Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

• Roseau County:

Scott Stenvik

Phone: (218) 689-5406

Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)





North Dakota shines in State of the Air rankings

The American Lung Association's State of the Air Annual Report for 2015 gave North Dakota "A" grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog, and for lack of particulates, also known as dust.

The American Lung Association has compiled the annual report each of the past 16 years, using local data that is submitted to the United States EPA. This year's report covers the years 2011 to 2013.

In addition to the high state ranking, Bismarck and Fargo were among the top 20 cleanest cities in the nation for year-round particulate emissions. The two also were among top-ranked cleanest cities for ozone.

Also receiving A grades were Oliver County, home of Minnkota Power Cooperative's Milton R. Young Station, and Mercer County, home of the Coyote Station that supplies power to the Northern Municipal Power Agency. Minnkota is operating agent for NMPA. "North Dakotans breathe some of the cleanest air in the United States, in part because of emissions control technologies at the state's coal-based power plants," said Jason Bohrer, president and CEO for the Lignite Energy Council.

Utilities in North Dakota have invested more than \$2 billion in technology to protect the environment and spend about \$100 million annually to operate it. In the last decade, three of the seven power plants have invested more than \$800 million in emissions control technologies.

"The lignite industry has been a good neighbor in North Dakota," Bohrer said. "The mines and plants are responsible for more than 15,000 jobs in North Dakota, \$3 billion in total business activity, \$100 million annually in state taxes while providing clean, affordable energy to more than two million people in the Upper Midwest while ensuring that mines and plants are compatible with federal and state environmental standards."

The American Lung Association is not alone in its assessment of North Dakota's air quality (Rodney L Fougner, 438-23-008-11). The EPA has also designated North Dakota as one of only seven states to meet all of the nation's strict federal ambient air quality standards.

THE VALUE IS ELECTRIC!

One tank of gas for your car

20 gallons at \$2.74/gallon = **\$54.80**

More than 15 days of electricity for your entire home = **\$54.80***

*Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month at the residential rate of \$.117/kWh + Minnkota surcharge of \$.004/kWh
(Does not include the \$38 basic service fee)

Keeping you safe

(continued from page 1)



Portable generators – Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas – Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to North Star Electric by calling **1-888-634-2202** immediately.

Electrical equipment – Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

North Star has been a proud member of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives since 2000. Along with 750 electric cooperatives nationwide, we have partnered with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our No. 1 concern. For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

Does your old AC unit need replacing?

Replace it with an air-source heat pump

In size and appearance, a standard heat pump looks like a central air conditioner. But unlike a central air-conditioning system, which only cools a home, a heat pump provides heating and cooling. Heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard central air conditioners, resulting in less energy use and more cooling comfort in summer months. One thing that you need to remember is that an air-source heat pump works great in the spring, summer and fall but does not work in the winter.

Heating efficiency for air-source heat pumps is indicated by the heating season performance factor (HSPF), and cooling efficient by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER). The most efficient heat pumps have a SEER between 14 and 21, and an HSPF between 8 and 10. Always remember the higher the number, the higher the efficiency.

When selecting a new air-source heat pump, it's important to determine

the proper size needed for your home. Bigger is not always better. Oversizing causes the heat pump to start and stop more frequently, which is less efficient and harder on the components than letting it run for longer cycles. A properly sized heat pump also provides better comfort and humidity control than an oversized one.

When choosing an air-source heat pump, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. For heat pumps that are connected to your furnace and have a SEER rating of 14.0 and a HSPF rating of 8.2 or greater, there is a \$400 rebate. For mini-split systems (no ductwork), they must have a SEER rating of 15 or greater for a \$500 rebate.



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 Social Services

206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 200
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.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 1-877-687-1163
Direct 1-218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

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

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Al Franken

320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www Franken.senate.gov
202-224-5641
Fax: 202-224-0044

Senator Amy Klobuchar

302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Rick Nolan

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.nolan.house.gov
202-225-6211
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Congressman Collin Peterson

2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Mark Dayton

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 130
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
800-657-3717
mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Senator Tom Bakk

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 226
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-8881
sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

Senator Rod Skoe

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Capitol Building, Room 235
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651-296-4196
sen.rod.skoe@senate.mn

Senator LeRoy Stumpf

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651-296-8660
Email: Use mail form

Representative David Dill

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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
888-727-0979
rep.dan.fabian@house.mn

North Star Electric Cooperative 75th Anniversary

We were very pleased with the turnout at our 75th Anniversary party at our headquarters in Baudette. We served about 575 members shore lunch, which included walleye, bacon, beans, coleslaw, buns and cake. We were also happy that several members took advantage of the two buses that we had pick up members from the eastern side of our service territory. We had perfect weather so the members enjoyed the bucket truck rides. Safety and solar demonstrations were outside and inside we had building tours, Minnesota Historical Society's "Electrifying Minnesota" traveling exhibit, 4-H surveys on what would you do without electricity, face painting, balloons, cotton candy and popcorn. Everyone in attendance received a 9-quart yellow bucket, commemorative mug, CFL, can koozie and pen.

