

MANAGER'S REPORT

District 5 vacancy – special election

There is a vacancy on the North Star Electric Cooperative board of directors, and district boundaries have shifted across the whole system. The new director will be elected at the Oct. 7 annual meeting by members in District 5, which is now the members in the area around International Falls and Rainy Lake. In addition to this special midterm election, Districts 1 and 4 will be electing their representatives for the full four-year terms. **Your district number is printed on your electric bill and may be different than the last time you voted.** If your residence is in one of these three districts, and you are interested in being a candidate, please see the back page of this *Enlightener*, check out our website or give us a call for more information.

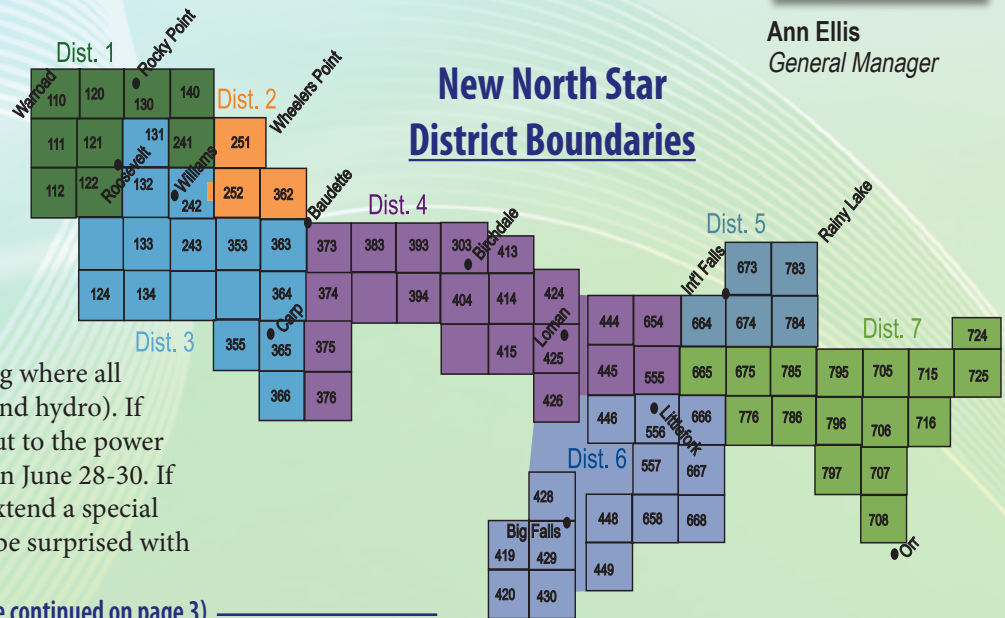
All-of-the-above energy strategy

Check out the graphic on page 6 showing where all of your electricity is generated (coal, wind and hydro). If you haven't been on North Star's bus tour out to the power plants, there may still be a seat for the trip on June 28-30. If you think "coal" is a dirty word, I'd like to extend a special invitation to you to attend. I think you will be surprised with what you learn. Give us a call for info.

(article continued on page 3)



Ann Ellis
General Manager



Liberty dragline at the BNI Coal mine



BNI's new 240-ton coal trucks

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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' May 10, 2016, meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to redraw district boundary lines, to not appoint a District 5 member to fill the vacancy, to hold a special midterm election at the annual meeting on Oct. 7, 2016, for the members of District 5 to fill that vacancy, to approve an agreement with accounting firm Eide Bailly for financial statement audit and tax return preparation services, to submit an application to CoBank's Sharing Success grant program, to approve a \$3,220.15 inventory adjustment as a result of the annual reconciling of inventory, to accept the final version of the IRS Form 990 for filing, to approve the transfer of two bills from current accounts receivables, to approve the CFC As-Offered Line of Credit to replace the existing one, to authorize North Star's contributions to NRUCFC's Integrity Fund to provide assistance beyond territorial issues, including regulatory, legislative or judicial issues impacting rural electric cooperative members and to approve the review and minor revisions of several board policies.

Staff reports included additional issues, including the financial report, winter load management, roof repairs to be done at the Littlefork office, water heater

rebates, light bulb sales, high-use concerns, Operation Round Up, scholarships, upcoming Member Appreciation Days, the June power plant tour, new service inquiries, pole change-outs, contracts awarded to Legacy Contracting and Emblom's Midwest Powerline Construction for this year's work plan projects, Citi Lites contracted cable locating services, line inspection, no lost-time hours, the M-State advisory board committee meeting, two summer 1,000-hour apprentice line worker hires, a full-time line worker hire in Baudette, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) "dotmocracy" survey given to North Star members, legislative meetings attended in early May, and the annual review of the Red Flags Rule, which is a requirement designed to detect the warning signs, or red flags, of identity theft.

Board reports included updates from the Square Butte and Minnkota board meetings, as well as Roseau Electric and Beltrami Electric annual meetings.

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.



"Like us" on
facebook

www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

(article continued from page 1)

Lump of coal

I recently brought back a little lump of coal from the BNI mine next door to your two coal-fired power plant units in Center, N.D. It is sitting on my desk as a reminder of the power it holds and the positive difference it makes in lives every day. There are about the same number of Btus in it as there are in one kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity. One kWh would keep your cellphone charged for about two months. It would light a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours or light a 15-watt LED bulb for 67 hours. Please note that both bulbs produce the same amount of light (lumens), but the LED bulb is far more efficient. You can buy efficient Energy-Star® rated LED bulbs at either of our offices – \$4 each for the LED bulbs that give off as much light as a 100-watt incandescent, or \$3 for those producing the equivalent lumens from an old-fashioned 40- or 60-watt bulb. For every LED bulb we sell, we send \$1 to the local food shelves. We are

helping you save money without accepting dimmer lighting, PLUS you/we are helping those who are struggling.

Don't overpay

If you get a flyer in the mail offering you 100 percent wind power for just a couple of extra dollars per month, think twice before acting (130-37-017-04, Terry L Beaudry). You maybe don't even know that you can already do just that with North Star, your trusted energy partner, AND we charge a price five times LESS than what we've seen offered.

Dotmocracy

We have had a great response already to the "Electric Rates and/or Cleaner Energy" survey we mailed a couple of weeks ago. As we expected, the results show some opinions and comments that were extreme on both sides, but what we are looking for is how the majority of the members feel. We will have results for you in the next *Enlightener*.

At your service we remain ... Ann

Fixing up your home?

We can help.

Minnesota Housing partners with Border State Bank and Citizens 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 loan up to \$15,000. This loan has no income limit and no equity required. Plus, you'll save money with low interest rates.

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

Contact your local bank to apply for a Fix Up loan today!



DIGGING SOON?



ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.



For additional information:
www.borderstatebank.com

Anna Stewart NMLS# 1003973
Roseau – 463-3888
Christine Modahl NMLS# 530663
Badger – 528-3255
Lisa Bergsnev NMLS# 504770
Greenbush – 782-2151



118 Main Ave. S., P.O. Box 160
Roseau, MN 56751

Stuart McFarlane NMLS# 677574
Paul LaPlante NMLS# 677575
463-2135

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.)



Birds on a wire



While it is safe for a bird to sit on an overhead power line, it is not safe for people to be near overhead power lines. So how can birds sit on a power line unharmed? Safe Electricity reveals insights into the “bird on a wire” phenomenon and separates fact from fiction.

In order for an electrical charge, or electrons, to move from one spot to another, it must be in contact (or sometimes close proximity) with conductive material that has at least two different points of potential. Electrons will move toward lower potential. That is why it is said that electricity is always looking for a path to ground (lower potential).

A bird remains safe because it is sitting on a single wire and is at one point of contact – and consequently one electrical potential. If the bird sitting at this one potential was to also make contact with another object of different potential, that bird would be completing a path to ground, causing severe electric shock or electrocution. For larger birds with wider wingspans, reaching and touching another cable is a real hazard.

Getting near overhead power lines is also a serious hazard for people. The utility professionals who work near overhead power lines must wear appropriate safety clothing, use tested safety equipment and take training to be able to do the installation, maintenance and

repair work they do (303-36-002-02, Robert Nelson). It is vital that safety equipment is regularly tested as even nonconductive materials, such as rubber, wood or plastic, can conduct electricity if damp, dirty or damaged.

It is a myth that all power lines are insulated with a protective coating that prevents shocks. Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating that is on lines is actually for weatherproofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current.

Safe Electricity urges people to be aware of their surroundings and shares the following safety tips:

- Always look up and look out for overhead power lines.
- Keep yourself and any equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Remember that getting too close to a power line, even without touching it, is very dangerous.
- Avoid working directly under power lines.
- When working with tall equipment such as ladders, poles or antennas, carry them in a horizontal position as to not risk making contact with overhead lines.
- Always assume that power lines, even if they have come down, carry an electrical charge.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



LED lighting rebate form



ENERGY STAR® bulbs highly recommended
(Rebates will not exceed 75 percent of purchase price)

Complete this form, attach a copy of your purchase receipt and mail to: North Star Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623 Attn: Wayne
(Rebates will be in the form of a credit on your electric account)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Other Phone #: _____

North Star Electric Account Number: _____

Name of Retailer: _____

Replacing 40-60W bulb: (\$4/bulb rebate)
Number of bulbs: _____

Replacing 75-100W bulb: (\$8/bulb rebate)
Number of bulbs: _____



2016 power plant tour

June 28-30, 2016

We are offering all North Star Electric members an exceptional summer opportunity that's fun for all ages. This year's tour is three days, which will make the trip more relaxing.

The tour is scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, June 28-30. On the first day we will tour Minnkota's control center and print shop in Grand Forks, and then it's off to the Baymont Inn & Suites in Mandan, N.D.

On the second day we will visit the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., where most of our electricity is generated. This will include a tour of the open pit mines where machines strip the coal and reclaim the

land so it can once again be used for agriculture. This is where we will see the huge electric dragline Liberty, with its 300-foot boom and 70-cubic-yard bucket, which is used to remove the overburden soil from the coal. Then it's off to see the Garrison Dam and tour the hydroelectric plant. We will end our day by returning to the Baymont Inn & Suites for supper.

On the third day we will drive by the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center near Valley City, N.D., and then visit the Infinity wind turbine by Petersburg, N.D.

Some of our energy is generated at both sites. The wind towers at Ashtabula are 250 feet tall with 120-foot blades. After that we're off to Grand Forks for lunch and then back home. The cost to members is just \$100 per person or \$175 per couple, which covers the bus, hotels, tours and meals. Members who have not been on this trip are encouraged to go.



BNI Coal mine



Garrison Dam



Milton R. Young Station

Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Participants

Address

Telephone Number _____

Account Number _____

Number Attending _____

Have you enjoyed this trip in the past? N/Y What year? ____

Please print names of participants the way you would like them to appear on your name tags. Your deposit will be refunded if the tour is canceled or if you should find that you cannot make the trip. We will send further details prior to departure. Return with check for \$100 per person or \$175 per couple to: North Star Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623

Minnkota, NextEra Energy Resources announce wind farm plans

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, announced an agreement April 1 with an affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to purchase renewable energy from an expansion of the Oliver County Wind Energy Center located near Center, N.D.

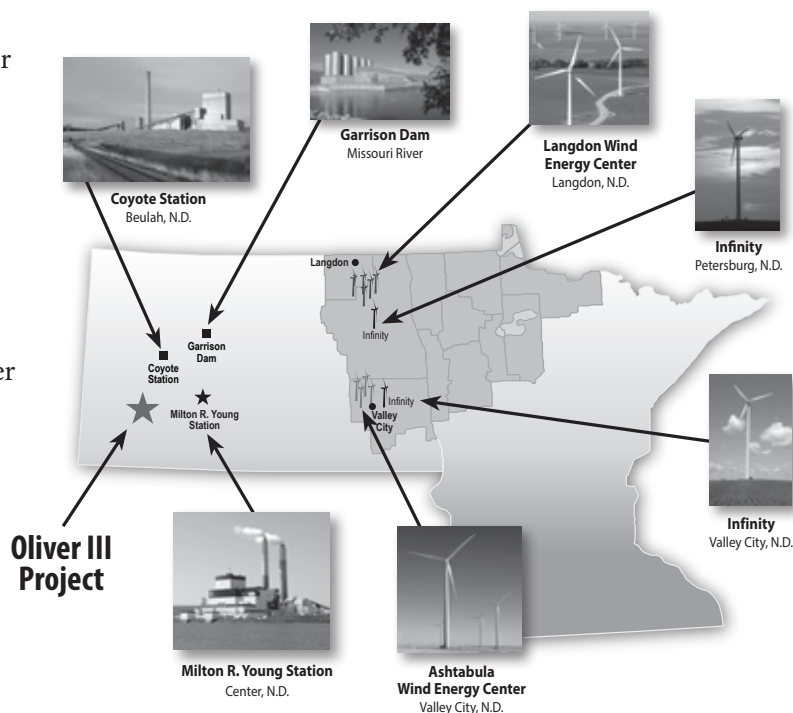
NextEra Energy Resources is developing the wind farm addition, which is expected to begin operation in 2017. All of the energy production from the 100-megawatt (MW) addition, referred to as the Oliver III project, will be sold to Minnkota under a 35-year Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). The project will approximately double the size of the Oliver County Wind Energy Center by utilizing an estimated 44 General Electric (GE) wind turbines, each having a nameplate capacity of 2.3 MW.

Minnkota and NextEra Energy Resources have a longstanding and mutually beneficial business partnership that has helped to greatly expand wind generation in North Dakota. In addition to the Oliver III project, Minnkota has PPAs in place with affiliates of NextEra Energy Resources for 357 MW of wind power from the Langdon and Ashtabula Wind Energy Centers on the eastern side of the state.

“Minnkota has been at the forefront of renewable energy development in North Dakota,” said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president & CEO. “By early 2017, nearly 35 percent of Minnkota’s electric generation capacity will come from wind – one of the highest percentages of any utility in the United States.”

The Oliver III wind farm will help Minnkota make progress toward compliance with an anticipated federal regulation to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from existing power plants. Minnkota opposes the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan, which currently requires a 45 percent rate-based CO₂ reduction from North Dakota’s coal-based plants by 2030. The rule has been temporarily suspended by the U.S. Supreme Court until related litigation has concluded.

“Although the Clean Power Plan has an uncertain



path forward in the court system, we understand that CO₂ emissions could be subject to future regulation,” McLennan said. “At the same time, the Wind Production Tax Credit is scheduled to be phased down over the next five years, which has the potential to significantly impact wind pricing.”

The Oliver III wind farm will be strategically located near the Minnkota-operated Milton R. Young Station, a coal-based power plant that serves as the cooperative’s primary source of generation. This will allow Minnkota to use its recently constructed Center to Grand Forks 345-kilovolt transmission line to efficiently deliver both coal and wind energy to its members in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Not having to construct major infrastructure specifically to transmit power from the wind site provides significant savings.



Staff Report

Since our cool and wet start to spring, we have gotten off to a good start with new service installations and service upgrades. With road restrictions now lifted, crews will continue changing rejected poles out of the International Falls and Pitt substations.

We have completed our annual line inspection of the overhead and underground distribution systems and the crews will make the necessary repairs to the problems that were found during inspection (664-26-001-06, Nick Ysen). Crews will also work on retiring idle services and right-of-way maintenance.

The summer work plan projects are also well underway. These work plan projects include an upgrade of six miles of three-phase overhead between Ray and the Kabetogama substation and also seven miles of three-phase underground replacement on County Road 8 between the Morris Point and Zipple Bay resort areas.

We welcome Cody Stuhag to the North Star employee group. Cody previously worked as a lineman for Highline Construction and most recently for the city of Moorhead Public Utilities. Cody is from the Glyndon-Dilworth area and brings his wife, Tonya, and two sons, Talin and Beau, with him to the area.

Are you thinking of a new service or service upgrade? Call ahead so we can get you on the schedule. Until next time, stay safe.



Marty Mollberg
Operations Manager



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
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rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn

Nomination process for director election

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election are **District 1 and 4 for a four-year term** and a special midterm election in **District 5 for a one-year term**.

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you live in one of these districts and 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 the member is nominated;

(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; and

(i) not have been convicted of a felony.

(j) **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.

(k) **Disqualification.** After the Board of Directors determines that 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.

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.

SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.

The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the cooperative is by nomination 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.