

## North Star takes aim at young adult members

*Co-op looking for ways to connect with younger member-owners*



When the North Star Electric Cooperative board of directors decided the cooperative needed to engage more with its young adult member-owners, North Star employees targeted an even younger group to achieve the goal.

What North Star did was team with Lake of the Woods Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) to help host the ECFE carnival for mostly preschool children in March at Lake of the Woods School in Baudette.

The idea was simple, and came out

of an earlier focus group meeting with the young adult members: Form a dialogue with young adult member-owners by attending, participating in and sponsoring events for the members' children.

"We didn't have to plan this event; we were able to team with ECFE," said Brad Dolinski, who is heading up the young member-owners initiative for the co-op. "We had a group of five volunteers from North Star and all of us were busy.

"We purchased a couple of little games for the kids to play, we had balloons, coloring books, suckers and a cutout of a lineman the kids could take their picture with. I'm guessing there were well over a 100 kids."

North Star's carnival participation was part of what North Star is calling "Our Next Generation of Member-Owners."

Kicking the initiative off were meetings at the VFW clubs in both Baudette and Littlefork. North Star invited young adult member-owners to the VFWs for pizza to begin the process of getting them more involved in the co-op. Twenty-two young adult members attended in Baudette and 15 came to the Littlefork event.



Dolinski gave a 10-minute presentation before posing a question to one of the young adult members to get the conversation started at the first meeting in October in Baudette.

"Once the ball started rolling it wasn't a silent meeting," Dolinski said. "There were no dead points. That's when I figured it was really going to work."

Dolinski told the young adults he would only take an hour of their time. When the time was up, he gave them the option to leave.

"Not one person left the room," he said. "They stood around and talked with each other and to us more about things that came up during the event."

North Star General Manager Ann Ellis is pleased with early results. She said the co-op searched for a model to follow regarding engagement of young adult members.

"Unless we engage our younger members, we are just another bill to them," Ellis said. "We need to demonstrate our mission and our values to this increasingly larger audience who has never lived

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Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

**Baudette** ..... 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202  
**Littlefork** ..... 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

For credit card payment, call 855-874-5354.  
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e-mail us at [nsec@wiktel.com](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com)  
Visit our website at  
[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)

### 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.*

## DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked **AND** helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident:

**ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.**

# Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the board of directors' February 24, 2017, meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to research the USDA's REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant) process to provide financial assistance to Rainy Lake Medical Center and to approve the review of several board policies.

Staff reports included the financials, the 2016 capital credit allocation, the transfer of unpaid delinquent final bills to collections, the review of the annual Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, the advances made in electric vehicle (EV) technology and their extended battery life, water heater and dual heat sales, CIP (conservation improvement program) rebates, distributed generation, Operation Round Up, scholarship testing, office cleaning, new services and upgrades, idle service retirements, outages, M-State's Holes for Poles fundraiser, the safety committee's updates to the safety manual, the legislative meetings held in Washington,

D.C., with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), the MREA annual meeting, the aging cable serving Norris Camp, allowing plug-in electric vehicles on medium-term control on the off-peak rate and Littlefork Foreman Bruce Petersen's upcoming retirement.

Board reports included Vice President Hanson's discussion of a recent tour of Rainy Lake Medical Center in International Falls. They are looking for assistance in funding renovations, potentially through the USDA's REDLG program, to help maintain chemo and other services in International Falls.

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 TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!

Like your cooperative at [www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric](http://www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric) for outage updates during spring storms and other useful information.

## Budget billing available

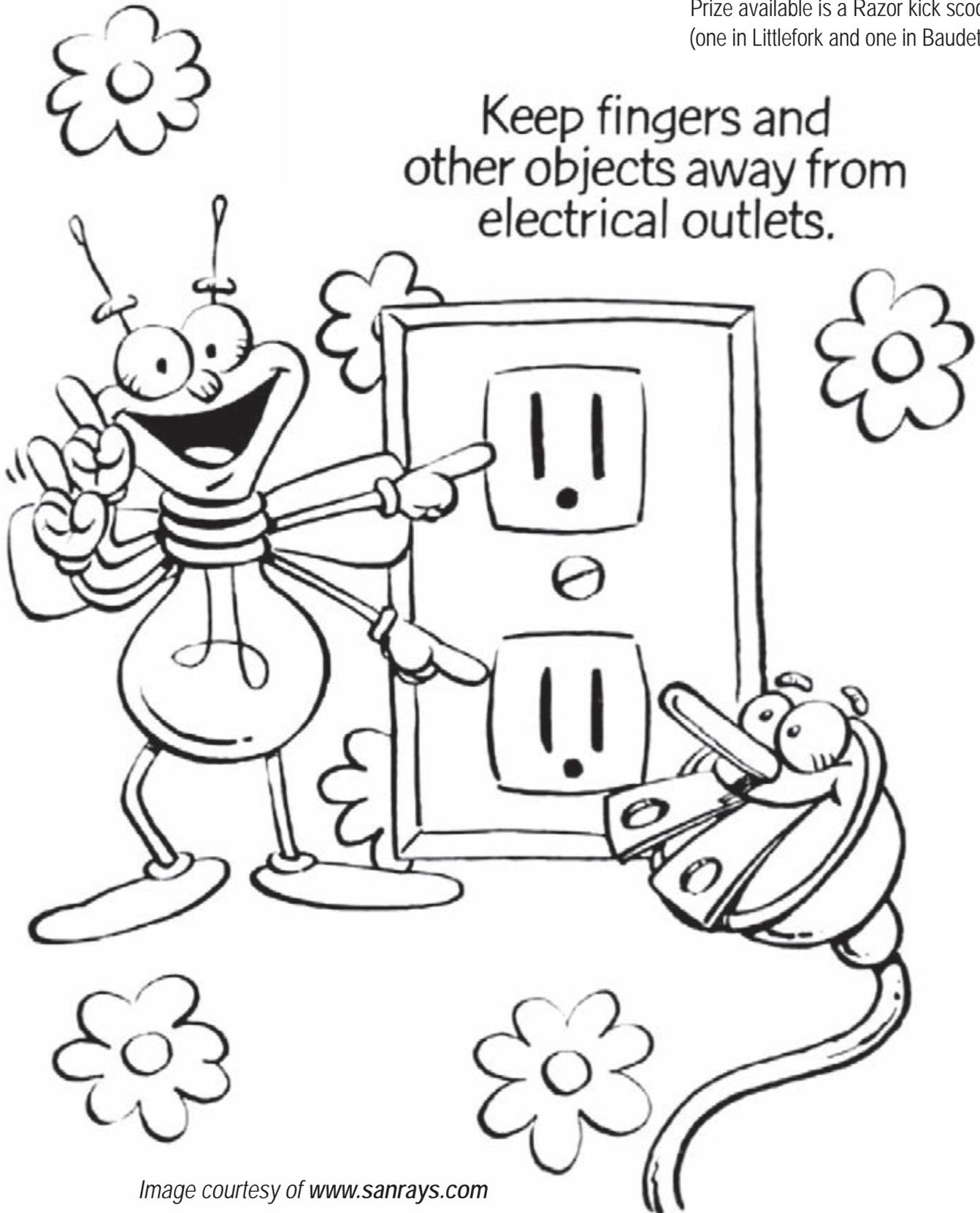
Do you like the idea of paying the same amount each month for your electric bill? If yes, you may want to contact Patsy to discuss your options. The time to enroll is now, so your account has a chance to build up a credit going into colder, higher bill months. Call Patsy at 218-634-2202, 888-634-2202, or email [patsynsec@wiktel.com](mailto:patsynsec@wiktel.com).



# North Star Electric Cooperative Coloring Contest

Must be colored by contestant. Winner will be drawn randomly from drawings we receive on the days of the Member Appreciation in Littlefork and Baudette (June 8 and 9). Make sure to put your name and phone number on the drawing. Prize available is a Razor kick scooter (one in Littlefork and one in Baudette).

Keep fingers and  
other objects away from  
electrical outlets.



*Image courtesy of [www.sanrays.com](http://www.sanrays.com)*

## May is Electrical Safety Month



**W**e use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to overlook possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes (675-05-008-04, Bruce Kittelson). May is Electrical Safety Month, and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have – your brain – to work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration warns that electrical current levels as low as 3 milliamperes can result in injury. In a 2009 report on electrocutions associated with consumer products, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated an average of 70 fatalities per year (from 2007 to 2009). The most common product categories associated with these electrocutions were small appliances, large appliances and power tools.

Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take can make all the difference in preventing accidents. Safe Electricity offers the following home safety tips to help arm you with the knowledge to stay safe and help others stay safe.

- Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.
- Make sure recognized safety laboratories like UL, ETL or CSA have certified the electrical appliance, tools and cords you plan on using.
- Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- Only use extension cords properly rated for the devices you plan to plug into it.
- For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker, and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they are working properly.
- Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

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

*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 (ASHP) is indicated by the heating season performance factor (HSPF), and cooling efficiency 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. 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 will provide better comfort and humidity control than an oversized one.

When choosing an air-source heat pump, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Heat pumps that are ENERGY STAR-rated do qualify for some very nice rebates through our PowerSavers program. Heat pumps that are connected to your furnace and have a SEER 14/HSPF 8.2 get a \$400 rebate and SEER 15/HSPF 8.5 or greater get a \$500 rebate. A mini-split system (no ductwork) with a SEER 15 gets a \$500 rebate. In addition to the PowerSavers program, we also give an extra rebate of \$100 per ton. Please give us a call for additional information about any of our rebates.



**Ann Ellis**  
General Manager

# MANAGER'S REPORT

**B**ecause you normally don't even perceive electricity's presence, it's often forgotten how close (and dangerous) it can be, so let's reflect a bit about ...

## Safety

We talked to the youngsters at the ECFE carnival about not touching wall outlets. We offer classroom safety demonstrations to show what happens to Lightning Liz when this little neon character contacts electrical lines. Our linemen



built a high-voltage demonstration trailer with full-sized line equipment and energized it with 7,200 volts to give audiences a safe look at what happens when the insulated, leave-me-alone grid is contacted with anything grounded – tree limbs, farm equipment, animals, ladders, etc.



The point is, when handled properly, electricity is safe. It is also an incredible value when you think of what it does, with the flick of a switch, to make your life better.

## Member Appreciation Days



Please plan to join us from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 8 at our Littlefork office or on June 9 at Baudette for our open houses. Be sure to bring the kids and their Coloring Contest entries (found on page 3)! The winners will be randomly selected, and the kids' prizes are Razor kick scooters. The

brats will be great, and the cotton candy is always a big hit.

## Retirement

Line Foreman Bruce Petersen is hanging up his climbing hooks and belt this month as he completes a dedicated 39-year career admirably serving the needs of North Star Electric Cooperative's members. We thank Bruce for his many contributions, countless middle-of-the-night responses and decades of leadership at both the cooperative and community levels. Best wishes for a happy retirement!

## Career as an electrical line worker

Did you know that becoming an electrical line worker requires just nine months of formal training at a school like the M-State facility in Baudette? After graduation, there is an apprenticeship period before qualifying to take the journeyman test. If you are interested and would like a tour of the Baudette facility, instructor Grant Walton can be reached at the school (218-634-1065) or cell (218-556-6925).

Spring is in the air, snowbirds are returning home, and with fishing season about to reopen, we've included a recipe this month from one of our linemen (found on page 9). Customize it with the seasoning and cheese of your choice, and enjoy! At your service we remain, Ann.

## Member Appreciation Days

Please join us on

**Thursday, June 8,**  
at the Littlefork office **&** **Friday, June 9,**  
at the Baudette office  
from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

There will be refreshments with brats, chips, cookies, popcorn and cotton candy. Adults can register for prizes. We will also have face painting, electrical safety demonstrations, balloons and bucket truck rides. We will have some of the tools and equipment that our linemen need to perform their work safely and efficiently. Winners will be drawn for the coloring contest as well.

## Tips for prepping your air conditioner



Spend some time prepping your air conditioner this spring to handle the heat waves that summer might bring. By performing regular maintenance checks on your air conditioner, you are increasing both the safety and efficiency of cooling your home. The Energy Education Council shares the following tips to help you keep your home's temperature and energy bills low:

- Remember to remove all condenser covers, coil blankets or lids that protect your unit during winter months. If you start the air conditioner while the protective items are in place, you could damage the system.
- Once you have removed all protection, check that all panels and pipe insulation are still in place.
- Clean or replace your filters at least twice a year. Before your air conditioner is used for the season, check the filter to see if it is clogged with dust.
- Clean the air conditioner coils at the beginning of each season. If they are dirty, they will reduce the airflow to the home. Use a refrigerator coil brush or the soft brush on a vacuum.

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## New executive order calls for review of the Clean Power Plan

By Dan Riedinger, NRECA



Throughout the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump pledged to review burdensome federal regulations when he became president. On March 28, President Trump took an important step to follow through on that commitment by signing an executive order to promote energy independence. The order also calls for review of the Clean Power Plan.

“Electric co-ops have two key missions – providing electricity and other services to more than 42 million consumers and empowering the communities they serve,” said Jim Matheson, chief executive officer at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for the nation's more than 900 electric co-ops. “The Clean Power Plan jeopardizes co-ops’ ability to accomplish both.”

“If implemented, the plan would hit many of our electric cooperatives extremely hard by forcing them to prematurely shut down existing power plants. Those co-ops would in essence be charged twice for their electricity – once to continue paying down the loans on the closed power plants and again for the cost of purchasing replacement power,” he said.

Co-ops were so concerned about the economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan that they petitioned the courts to review and reject the regulation. The Supreme Court sided with co-ops and imposed a stay of the rule – essentially

(continued on page 7)



### MEMORIAL DAY

Never forget  
Ever Honor

North Star Electric  
will be closed

Monday, May 29,

in observance of Memorial Day.

Please remember those who  
sacrificed their lives for  
our freedom.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Energy saving comparison

(Incandescent vs. LED light bulbs)



Incandescent	LED
100-watt	15-watt
8 hours/day	8 hours/day
31 days/month	31 days/month
Equals 24,800 watts (24.8 kWh)	Equals 3,720 watts (3.7 kWh)
At 11.9 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax	At 11.9 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals <b>\$3.15</b> per month	Equals <b>\$0.47</b> per month
<b>Savings per bulb per month with LED = \$2.68</b>	
Cost of LED bulb after rebate = \$4 (at either North Star Electric Cooperative office)	

*If you know of any other energy saving device that will pay for itself this quickly, please let North Star know about it and we will have it in a future Enlightener.*

## New executive order calls for review of the Clean Power Plan (continued from page 6)

freezing its implementation. This pause created the Trump administration's opportunity to review the rule.

Electric co-ops put the interests of their members first when deciding how to best meet their energy needs. The Trump executive order allows co-ops to continue reducing their carbon footprint while keeping traditional

energy resources in the mix. This is critical as co-ops work to preserve both the reliability and affordability of electricity.

It will take the Trump administration a long time to navigate the maze of administrative, regulatory and legal procedures necessary to review the Clean Power Plan (132-05-002-02, Floyd Olson). In the meantime, electric co-ops will keep doing what they do best – delivering a consumer-focused energy future that empowers cooperative members and their communities.

*Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and*

*cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

**“Electric co-ops have two key missions – providing electricity and other services to more than 42 million consumers and empowering the communities they serve. The Clean Power Plan jeopardizes co-ops’ ability to accomplish both.”**

## Help keep your lights on



Careless ditch burning can destroy utility poles and junction boxes, leading to unnecessary power outages. Pole damage range from surface

charring to destruction, and may cost landowners \$2,000 on up, depending on the location of the pole and the severity of the damage.

Please use extreme caution when burning around our electrical equipment, and always tend to a fire once it is lit. Let's do our part to keep the lights on and costs down.



# We are Looking for you!

Listed on the following pages are the names of past members of North Star Electric Cooperative who have unclaimed capital credits remaining on our books. Before year-end, the remaining unclaimed capital credits for the names listed on these pages will be donated to local charitable organizations. If you recognize any names in this publication, please have that person or their authorized representative contact our office for further instructions on how the unclaimed amounts may be distributed. Thank you for your assistance.

**ADRIAN, MINN.**  
SIMONSEN, JOE**AITKIN, MINN.**  
HOFF, JEAN C.**ALEXANDRIA, MINN.**  
WOLFE, DUANE F.**ANOKA, MINN.**  
HAVERLAND, MARK**AURORA, MINN.**  
LAUDER, EDWARD**AUSTIN, MINN.**  
EKEDAL, KENNETH  
O'ROURKE, DANIEL**BAUDETTE, MINN.**  
ANDERSON, ROBERT  
ANDRYS, MARJORIE H.  
BAKER, LEWIS E.  
BAKER, MERLE  
BAKER, MERLE D.  
BEARDEN, JERRY  
BENOIT, DONALD  
BRINNING, JOHN C.  
BROGAN, GARRET  
CHRISTENSEN, OSCAR  
(EST.)

CORDTS, DENNIS  
CYR, DAVID  
DAVIS, STUART J.  
DOLENGA, WALT (EST.)  
EARL, THAD (EST.)  
FADNESS, CLAYTON (EST.)  
FILIPPI, DALLAS E.  
FIRST NAT'L BANK-BDTE.  
FLYNN, L. W.  
FOLEY, MARK  
FOUSSARD, EMILY P. (EST.)  
FOUSSARD, MONTY  
FRIDAY, HAROLD G.  
FUNK, RUSSELL W.  
GAFFEY, DONALD J. (EST.)  
GARR, WAYNE  
GENDE, JOSEPH F.  
GENERAU, HARRY  
GORDER, J. W.  
GUSTAFSON, LINDA H.  
GUSTAFSON, RONALD G.  
GUSTAFSON, TOM  
HALL, HOWARD  
HAMANN, MARK  
HERBOLD, JOE  
HESS, DON  
HILL, ARNOLD D.  
HOFFMAN, FRANK J.  
HOLLERUD, WALTER (EST.)  
HOVE, GLEN

JENNISON, ALICE A.  
JONES, LESLIE T.  
KEYSER, ROSCOE  
KLAMM, LEONARD W.  
KLOPP, JIM

LALLI, MAT  
LAMP, FRED  
LEEDAHL, GARY R. (EST.)  
MAGNAN, EUGENE  
MAST, SHERRY  
MESNER, WILLIAM (EST.)  
MITCHELL, GARY  
MITCHELL, VERN  
MOSLEY, MARILYN S.  
NELSON, JOSHUA  
NELSON, R. C.  
NORMAN, LAVERNE  
OLSON, LORRAINE  
OLSON, SHERYL  
PHALEN, R. E.  
REIMER, IVAN J.  
ROGUS, MARGARET L.  
SCHATZ, ANDREW  
SCHEMPP, DAVID  
SERBINSKI, MICHAEL  
SIMON, RICHARD  
STOLP, JAMES E.  
STUART, ALLEN (EST.)  
SWINE M.A.P. INC.  
THAYER, ARTHUR H.  
TOPLEY, PATRICIA  
TURNER, ROBERT M.  
VILLAGGIO, JOHN  
VRIESENGA, JEFF  
WELLS, HARRY L.  
WESLEY, NEWTON

**BAYPORT, MINN.**  
BENSON, ROLYN**BEMIDJI, MINN.**  
BRENNING, WES  
LILLEMO, RICHARD  
LUND, ORLAND J.  
URAN, THOMAS  
ZIRUPS, JOHN**BIG FALLS, MINN.**  
BAIRD, MERRILEE W.  
CHWIALKOWSKI, DAVID  
ESTES, PHILLIP  
FARGO CAFE  
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PORTER, MICHAEL J.  
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OBERG, KATHERINE A.  
OSWALT, TARA

TOURVILLE, JOHN R.  
WEEKS, MARK J.  
WROBLESKI, JAMES A.

**EAST GRAND FORKS, MINN.**  
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HAGEN, CRAIG**EDINA, MINN.**  
ALEXANDER, GARY C.  
GUNDERSON, WAYNE**EFFIE, MINN.**  
JOHNSON, TONY W.**ELK RIVER, MINN.**  
DESCHENES, GEORGE E.**ELY, MINN.**  
GLOCKZIN, CALVIN**EVELETH, MINN.**  
HEDIN, BRIAN**EXCELSIOR, MINN.**  
DEGRAY, OLIVER**FARMINGTON, MINN.**  
CARNATHAN, J. C.**FERGUS FALLS, MINN.**  
LARSON, MELVIN J. (EST.)  
WHITFORD, JEFF**FERTILE, MINN.**  
REESE, BERNARD**FOREST LAKE, MINN.**  
DUNN, JAMES**FOSSTON, MINN.**  
KOLLON, ALBERT (EST.)**GOLDEN VALLEY, MINN.**  
HOLDAHL, OLAF R.**GRAND MARAIS, MINN.**  
BALDWIN, CLARK J.**GREENBUSH, MINN.**  
FILER, HERBERT L.**GRYGLA, MINN.**  
ROEN, THOMAS O.**HALLOCK, MINN.**  
WUNSH, PATRICIA**HIBBING, MINN.**  
HACKEY, JACK (EST.)  
WAMMER, JOE (EST.)**HOUSTON, MINN.**  
MUELLER, AGNES HAR**HOWARD LAKE, MINN.**  
BRAVINDER, ROBERT F.**INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.**

ANDERSON, BRUCE  
ANDERSON, DONALD  
ANDERSON, RICHARD  
ANDERSON, TERESA A.  
ARNOLD, JOHN W.  
BALLARD, BERT E.  
BARG, DOUG  
BARNEY, BARRY  
BARTHOLOMEW,  
EMERSON (EST.)  
BARTHOLOMEW, GLADYS  
BENNETT, MICHAEL  
BLUME, RONALD  
BRANCH, TINA  
CARLSON, DALE R.  
CARLSON, TIMOTHY  
CHRISTENSEN, RAY  
CRABB, WM J.  
CROWSTON, JESSE  
CURRIER, JOHN W.  
DEJONG, CORNELIS  
DEMARS, RICHARD  
DRESP, CHARLES J.  
DUMAIS, PIERRE  
ECKLUND, DALE  
EDEEN, ORWALL  
ESTES, TODD  
FAIRCHILD, DOROTHY  
FALLS CABLEVISION, INC.  
FIELD, JOHN WEST  
FRANKLIN, PHYLLIS  
GMAC MORTGAGE CORP.  
GRONLUND, DAVID  
HARDEE'S  
HOLT, THOMAS S.  
HORNE, HUEY  
HUGHES, RENE  
IRBY, JOHN T.  
IRWIN, EVERT (EST.)  
JOHNSON, JEANETTE  
KETCHMARK, MICHAEL M.  
KING, DARLYNN  
KLIMP, DAVID  
KOHLMASE, J. C. (EST.)  
KONECNY, LEONARD  
KUCERA, WALLACE J. JR.  
LEFORTE, TRACEY  
LOGAN, JAMES D.  
MAISH, OTTO  
MARTENS, JEFF

MARTINEAU, PEGGY  
NEILL, W. TERRY  
NELSON, NELL  
NIEMI, BENHARD E.  
OFFERDAHL, PATRICK  
OLSON, DALE  
OLSON, PAULINE  
OWENS, EUGENE T.  
PARKER, SCOTT  
PEGGAR, JUNE  
PLASKY, GORDON  
POISSON, SCOTT  
PULLAR, TONY L.  
RUCKH, K. J.  
SAVELA, GORDON  
SCHILLINGER, ROBERT II  
SCHNEEGAS, MICHAEL  
SEWARD, KEITH W.  
SHOBERG-DOYLE, LOIS K.  
STAFFORD, JAMES  
STENSBERG, PAUL  
STONE, LEONALD E.  
SWANSON, THOMAS D.  
TCI OF NORTHERN MN  
TERION, INC.  
THOMPSON, ARNT T. (EST.)  
THOMSON, FAYE L.  
TOFTE, JOANNE  
TRABERT, JOHN  
TRACY, ROBERT L.  
TRANA, EILEEN  
TURNER AND SHEETS  
UNOCAL (CURTICE  
ISLAND)  
WATTS, MARK  
WILCOX, LARRY E.  
WORLEY, GEORGIETT  
WRIGHT, ROBERT T.  
ZEIPEN, FLORENCE

**ISANTI, MINN.**  
JENSVOLO, LARRY O.

**KIMBALL, MINN.**  
LITCHY, GARY

**LAKE BENTON, MINN.**  
LAFLIN, THERON

**LAKE ELMO, MINN.**  
FYTEN, RICHARD A.

**LAKE PARK, MINN.**  
ANDERSON, RICHARD G.

**LAKEVILLE, MINN.**  
AXELSON, JOHN A. (EST.)  
FOSBURGH, CLAYTON  
ULLSTROM, WILLIAM

**LITTLEFORK, MINN.**

ANDERSON, ALFREDA A. (EST.)  
 ANDERSON, ERIC ANSON, INC.  
 ANTHONY, THOMAS J.  
 BERG, AGNES (EST.)  
 BROWN, DAYMON  
 DOREN, A. H.  
 ELLISON, LEONARD L.  
 GRIFFING, JANELL  
 HOLDEN, RANDY  
 HOOTER, CHARLES  
 HUGGINS, JAMES K.  
 JOHNSON, MARLYS  
 JONES, GORDON  
 MARTIN, CLYDE  
 MILLER, JEFFREY  
 MUSE, DAVID  
 NALAND, ROB  
 PERRON, SANDRA M.  
 RAHMAN, FAIZUR  
 ROGERS, SAMUEL  
 SPODEN, PATRICIA  
 TATE, ROBERT J.  
 TEDDER, JIMMY  
 THYDEAN, JEFF  
 WARD, RICHARD  
 WOOD, SEAN  
 YUHAS, THOMAS A.  
 ZEMEK, MICHAEL (EST.)

**LOMAN, MINN.**

BRUNNER, JOHNATHAN

**MADISON, MINN.**

MERCHANT, STEVE

**MARGIE, MINN.**

HAVERLAND, EVA

**MARINE ST. CROIX, MINN.**

OPSE, DONALD J.

**MILACA, MINN.**

WINTERMEYER, CHARLES (EST.)

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**

C B ENTERPRISES  
 GRIFFIN, LAWRENCE J.  
 MACILRAVIE, LORNA  
 MICHAL, STANTON P.  
 TAMMARO, MICHAEL

**MINNETONKA, MINN.**

JOHNSON, PHILLIP S.  
 KLIEVER, EDWARD

**MOOSE LAKE, MINN.**

SCHWOCHERT, ED (EST.)  
 SCHWOCHERT, JACQUELIN E. (EST.)  
 SCHWOCHERT, MICHAEL L.

**MOUND, MINN.**

MOFFITT, CECIL (EST.)  
 SKINNER, DARCIE W.

**NEW HOPE, MINN.**

STROTHMAN, CHET

**NEW PRAGUE, MINN.**

BURMEISTER, JEFFREY J.

**NISSWA, MINN.**

ANDERSON, DEBORAH

**NORTH BRANCH, MINN.**

JONES, DUANE

**NORTH MANKATO, MINN.**

CARSON, CLAYTON T.  
 FARLEY, JOSEPH  
 REISDORF, JANE S.

**NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINN.**

MARTIN, GRETA

**ONAMIA, MINN.**

KOSEK, CHRIS

**ORR, MINN.**

HENN, EDWARD  
 HODOR, JOSEPH J.  
 MACSHANE, JOHN E.  
 ROTHE, RUSSELL  
 SARVER, E. C.

**OSLO, MINN.**

WOINAROWICZ, ROMAN (EST.)

**OWATONNA, MINN.**

KRIESEL, DEAN H.

**PINE ISLAND, MINN.**

LARSON, DAVID L.

**PLYMOUTH, MINN.**

BELANGER, ALFRED  
 PILON, DANIEL D.

**PRINCETON, MINN.**

PETERSON, CLAYTON

**PUPOSKY, MINN.**

MAI, MARK A.

**RANIER, MINN.**

ALDERMAN, JERRY  
 BURBAGE, CHARLES H.  
 CHAPMAN, JERE  
 OLSON, JANET  
 RAMNES, LYLE  
 RAY, GEORGE C.  
 STAGG, MICHAEL  
 YATES, PETER

**RAY, MINN.**

ABBAY, DON  
 ANDERSON, LAURENCE D.  
 BROECKER, LAWRENCE  
 BROWN, GARY  
 DEGOOD, RALPH (EST.)  
 GARDEN, JOHN S.  
 GUTZ, JULIE (EST.)  
 HARVES, RICHARD C. (EST.)  
 MCGINNIS, L. B.  
 MODER, ROGER  
 PFANZ, GEORGE  
 ROMIG, BILLIE D.  
 SOGER, RICHARD L.  
 STANGE, JOHN L.  
 THOMPSON, CHARLES  
 WITTE, WALTER R.

**RED WING, MINN.**

MULLER, THOMAS L.

**REDWOOD FALLS, MINN.**

HOPPKE, SHAWN

**ROCHERT, MINN.**

NOLAN, BARBARA

**ROCHESTER, MINN.**

STREIFF, EVELYN M.

**ROOSEVELT, MINN.**

BROUSE, WILLIS J.  
 CLAYPOOL, CORT  
 DOMBROWSKI, ELAINE  
 FANSON, JEFFREY A.  
 HANGSLEBEN, CHRIS  
 JOHN, BRANDON K.  
 KLASEN, TERRY  
 KNUTSON, ROD  
 KRUPICH, MICHELLE  
 OLSON, IRVIN L.  
 REIHE, FARRELL  
 RUSSELL, DON  
 SCHELL, MARTIN R.  
 SMITH, DANIEL  
 SMITH, DAVID A.  
 STOREY, DAVID  
 ULLYOTT, JOEL  
 VILAYSONE, LACKKY  
 WALKER, WILLIS F. (EST.)  
 WALLACE, WILLIAM  
 WEAVER, GERALD  
 ZNAJDA, JESSIE M. (EST.)

**ROSEAU, MINN.**

ERICKSON, CLARENCE E.  
 HAMANN, HERBERT (EST.)  
 KUKOWSKI, ALLAN  
 NELSON, E. H.

**S. INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.**

ROGERS, BERNIECE  
 SCHWARTZ, ANGIE

**SAINT CLOUD, MINN.**

BRUSTAD, ROSS

BURGESS, RICHARD E.  
 FEMRITE, JENNINE

**SAINT LOUIS PARK, MINN.**

CHANDLER, MARK

**SAINT MICHAEL, MINN.**

JOHNSON, ROBERT W.

**SAINT PAUL, MINN.**

CILIBERTO, GERRY  
 HANE, ETHEL  
 JOHNSEN, RODNEY  
 NEWMAN, OLIVER (EST.)  
 PAINTER, FREDERICK

**SALOL, MINN.**

BAILEY, JANICE  
 MATTSON, CLIFFORD  
 VOLK, LAVERN

**SCANDIA, MINN.**

JOHNSON, ALAN H.  
 JOHNSON-LINDBERG  
 SHALEEN, GLENDON L.

**SHAKOPEE, MINN.**

EDEEN, DENNIS

**SIDE LAKE, MINN.**

BABER, JOSEPH

**STEPHEN, MINN.**

TRANE, BERTEN

**STRANDQUIST, MINN.**

JENSEN, HAROLD

**THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINN.**

FISH, RILEY  
 HAROLDSON, MYRON  
 HICKS, JAY  
 KEEFE, JEFFREY A.  
 MILLSOP, STEPHENIE  
 NELSON, GREGORY  
 PROTZ, ROBERT

**VESTA, MINN.**

MALONE, CLIFFORD W.

**VIKING, MINN.**

DAHLE, MICHAEL

**VIRGINIA, MINN.**

BERG, MELINDA  
 EBERT, ANN M.  
 FARMERS HOME ADM.  
 LIABRAATEN, ORVILLE O.  
 PETERSON, CARL W.  
 SMOLENSKY, WILLIAM  
 WELANDER, THOMAS

**WAHKON, MINN.**

SANTMIRE, RAY

**WAITE PARK, MINN.**

PRICE, AMY

**WARREN, MINN.**

MATTISON, TODD

**WARROAD, MINN.**

ADAMS, MICHAEL  
 BANK OF AMERICA  
 BERGGREN, DONOVAN  
 BROWN, STACEY  
 CYRUS, WILLIAM  
 DOWERS, DORIS B. (EST.)  
 ETLICK, LINDA  
 GLASS, WILLIAM  
 JAMES, PAUL  
 KINGERY, BRENT  
 MOLSTAD, TIM  
 NORDGAARD, KELLY  
 OLSON, DUANE G.  
 OLSONOSKI, ALLEYN  
 PEDERSEN, CARL  
 REGNIER, BRAD  
 SEELEY, HAROLD  
 WACHSMUTH, G.  
 WALZ, SHELLEY  
 ZEIDLK, TOM

**WEST SAINT PAUL, MINN.**

BURKE, MICHAEL P.

**WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINN.**

GAZDA, KENNETH  
 MAGNUSON, RON

**WILLIAMS, MINN.**

BIXBY, RICHARD (EST.)  
 FIELD, HELMER R.  
 GINTER, JERRY  
 GONSOROWSKI, LOUIS  
 GUILLEMETTE, LES  
 GUSTAFSON, STEVE  
 HARDWICK, MICHAEL L.  
 HOEFLER, VINCENT F.  
 JOHNS, BARRY  
 LARSON, MARVIN E.  
 LORENZ, JOHN (EST.)  
 MARTIN, LARRY  
 MCCANN, WILLIAM A.  
 PAGNAC, DARWIN  
 PAGNAC, MARY E. (EST.)  
 RAMBERG, DARREN  
 RAMBERG, SARAH  
 RANGER, J. C.  
 REMINGTON, TOM (EST.)  
 ROGINA, ROLAND (EST.)  
 SKETERS, DORA  
 TAYLOR, FRANK

**WILLMAR, MINN.**

KENNARD, MARGARET

**WOODBURY, MINN.**

MOYER, GEORGE W.

**WYOMING, MINN.**

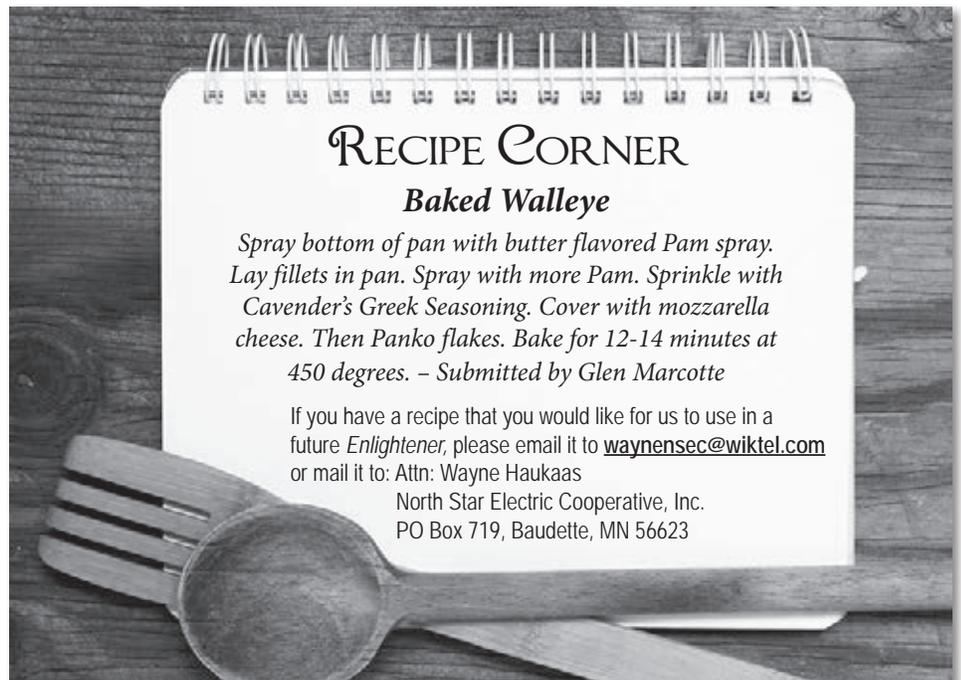
SWIFT, GERRY

**ZIMMERMAN, MINN.**

CLOUTIER, KAREN  
 MILLS, MURRAY I.

**ZUMBROTA, MINN.**

BAUER, ALBERT (EST.)



## RECIPE CORNER

### Baked Walleye

*Spray bottom of pan with butter flavored Pam spray. Lay fillets in pan. Spray with more Pam. Sprinkle with Cavender's Greek Seasoning. Cover with mozzarella cheese. Then Panko flakes. Bake for 12-14 minutes at 450 degrees. – Submitted by Glen Marcotte*

If you have a recipe that you would like for us to use in a future *Enlightener*, please email it to [waynensec@wiktel.com](mailto:waynensec@wiktel.com) or mail it to: Attn: Wayne Haukaas

North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623

# Who can wire what and where

## *Electrical inspections are a must*

Before you begin a wiring project, be sure you look into Minnesota Law. The law states that all electrical wiring shall be done by qualified licensed electrical contractors.

However, the “owner” is exempt from electrical contracting license requirements. This only applies to electrical work performed by the owner on single family residences and associated structures. Both primary and secondary residences, such as lake homes are included (783-31-035-02, Thomas S. Major). However, the exemption does not apply to condominiums, rental properties and wiring not used for residential purposes (business including farming).

An associated structure could be a detached garage, gazebo, small lawn and garden shed, but does not include the 50x100 machine shed for the combine.

Minnesota Statutes, section 326.01 defines an “owner” as “a natural person who physically performs electrical work on premises the person owns and actually occupies as a residence or owns and will occupy as a residence upon completion of construction.”

Safety is always our biggest concern so before you start any type of the above wiring, play it safe and call your state electrical inspector. This phone call will accomplish a lot because the “owner exemption” does not exempt the owner from getting electrical wiring inspected. In this case the owner is no different than the licensed electrical contractor who must get their workmanship looked at as well.

Advance contact with the electrical inspector will save you headaches later. North Star Electric Cooperative will not energize any new service until we receive the Request for Electrical Inspection (REI) permit.

REI permits and information on wiring requirements are available at [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov).



## Operation Round Up® application deadline is May

The deadline to submit Operation Round Up grant applications is May 31. Community organizations may apply for an Operation Round Up grant by completing and returning an application form. Forms are available on North Star Electric Cooperative's website, Baudette office, Littlefork office or

from a director of the North Star Electric Community Trust Board members. The directors are Gretchen Thompson, Margie Sporlein, Zelpha Crawford, Mary Ellen Lehman, Julie Lepisto, Larry Warrington and Tony Radniecki.

Grants will be awarded to nonprofit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our region.

We would like to say THANK YOU to all the North Star members who are participating in the Operation Round Up program. About 80 percent of the membership is contributing to this great cause to help our local communities.



## 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](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

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

Curt Collier ([cgcollier67@gmail.com](mailto: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:

Wayne Bergstrom ([waynebergstrom@gmail.com](mailto:waynebergstrom@gmail.com))

Phone: (701) 520-9771

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



# Tips for prepping your air conditioner

(continued from page 6)

- Scoop leaves and other debris away from the air conditioner. Also trim foliage and remove any nearby weeds or vines within 2 feet on the unit, which can obstruct airflow.
- After you have checked and cleaned the unit, turn it on to make sure that it works correctly.
- When looking to improve the efficiency of your unit, remember that newer models are increasingly energy efficient. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, switching to a high efficiency unit could reduce the energy used to cool your home by 20 to 50 percent.
- For extra assurance that your unit is working at peak efficiency and safety, consider a professional tune-up.
- Ensure that all cooling vents in your home are open.
- Check for air leaks in your home. Look for cracks and gaps around such areas as windows, doors, attic hatches, dryer vents, outdoor water faucets and locations where utilities enter your home. Use caulk or weatherstripping to create tight seals.
- Remember that closed window coverings can also help block out the hot sun from warming your home and keep in cold air, increasing efficiency.
- Ceiling fans can be used to create a cooling effect if operating in the correct direction. Make sure that the blades of your ceiling fan rotate in a counterclockwise direction during warmer months.

*There are also related household checks to help ensure your air conditioner will be able to maximize its efficiency:*

*For more tips on energy efficiency and safety, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org).*



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
283-7000

### Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

2232 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 877-687-1163  
Direct 218-999-0800  
Fax 218-999-0220

### Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792  
800-662-5711

## NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

### Federal legislators

#### President Donald Trump

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

#### Senator Al Franken

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

#### Congressman Rick Nolan

2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.nolan.house.gov](http://www.nolan.house.gov)  
202-225-6211  
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan  
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

#### Congressman Collin Peterson

2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.collinpeterson.house.gov](http://www.collinpeterson.house.gov)  
202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

### State of Minnesota legislators

#### Governor Mark Dayton

Capitol Building, Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
Email: <http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form>

#### Senator Tom Bakk

2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8881  
Email: [www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

#### Senator Paul Utke

3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9651  
[sen.paul.utke@senate.mn](mailto:sen.paul.utke@senate.mn)

#### Senator Mark Johnson

2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
[sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)

#### Representative Matt Grossell

429 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
[rep.matt.grossell@house.mn](mailto:rep.matt.grossell@house.mn)

#### Representative Dan Fabian

359 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635  
888-727-0979  
[rep.dan.fabian@house.mn](mailto:rep.dan.fabian@house.mn)

#### Representative Rob Ecklund

311 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
[rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn](mailto:rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn)

## North Star takes aim at young adult members

(continued from page 1)

without the convenience of electricity. We want our members to value the electric utility they own.”

Dolinski said some young adults believe the co-op is more about older generations.

“We just haven’t made a connection with this group of members yet. They don’t remember when the lights came on. They just pay the electric bill. We want to better their life. And in turn with all that’s going on in the political world right now, we need voices and we need active members. It’s a win-win.

“Some say it’s not my co-op. It’s my parents’ or my great grandparents’. You really push that it’s your co-op and your opinion matters.”

Dolinski said he hopes to have 1 to 2 meetings a year with the young adult focus groups. The co-op also will try other ways in which to connect with the young members. The idea is to be out there with the members, being a part of the community.

“We are talking about assisting at a couple of high school sports

events, maybe having a booth at the parent-teacher conferences,” Ellis said. “And we will work to improve our communications so members know who we are, why we are here and why they should care.”

The co-op also is having a coloring contest in which contestants will bring their pictures to Member Appreciation Days. This is another way to draw more young adults and their children to events. In addition, Dolinski said he would like to see North Star team up with others to host a family fun night with bounce houses and maybe use the high school choir or band for entertainment at the annual meeting to entice parents to attend.

While Dolinski is the lead on the Our Next Generation of Member-Owners project, he deflected credit to several employees who have helped plan and work the events.

“I feel like several of the people who came to the meetings are looking or thinking about the co-op in a different light today,” Dolinski said. “We’re looking to the future; we need all of our members to be involved.”

## *Bruce Petersen retires from North Star May 7, 2017*



**B**ruce Petersen is retiring from North Star Electric Cooperative on May 7, 2017, after working 39 years out of the Littlefork office. Bruce started with North Star on June 28, 1978, as an apprentice lineman. After obtaining his lineman license, he worked his way up from Lineman to Sub-Foreman and then to Foreman, a position which he held for several years.

Bruce grew up in New York Mills, Minn., and graduated from high school there in 1975. That fall, after graduating, he went to lineman school in Wadena. In 1976, after he completed lineman school, Bruce began his lineman career at North Pine Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman. One day, Bruce received a call from his friend from lineman school, Al Baumgartner. Al was working at

North Star and said there was a job opening there and told Bruce that he should apply – so he did. Little did Bruce know then, but North Star would be where he would spend the remaining 39 years of his career as a lineman.

Storms are part of a lineman’s life, and Bruce has seen several of them. In 1997, Bruce and some other linemen from North Star were called to help out PKM Electric Cooperative in Warren, Minn., when an ice storm hit its area. He also went and helped restore power for Beltrami Electric Cooperative in Bemidji, Minn., when a huge wind storm hit its area. Locally, the worst storm he can remember was the Fourth of July storm in 1978, which was shortly after he first started working for North Star.

When asked what he will miss the most after he retires, Bruce said it will be his fellow employees who he has worked with for so many years, and also all of the members.

Bruce and his wife, Lori, have four grown children, two boys and two girls, and seven grandkids. In retirement, they plan to live in Littlefork and are looking forward to having more time to visit their kids and grandkids and travel more. Bruce also plans to use their cabin in Canada more in retirement. We wish Bruce a long and healthy retirement.