

MANAGER'S REPORT

Director nomination process

Rural electric cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members – everyone who purchases electricity from them. Members in each of our seven districts elect their board representative, and at this fall's annual meeting on Oct. 6 in Littlefork, the members in Districts 5 and 6 will cast their ballots. The only way to be placed on the ballot is to meet the guidelines printed in this *Enlightener* on page 8, and petitions for nomination are due at the cooperative by Aug. 4.

Wondering which district you are in? It is printed on your monthly bill, plus the first three digits of your 10-digit account number represent the area on this district map.

Do you love getting more for less?

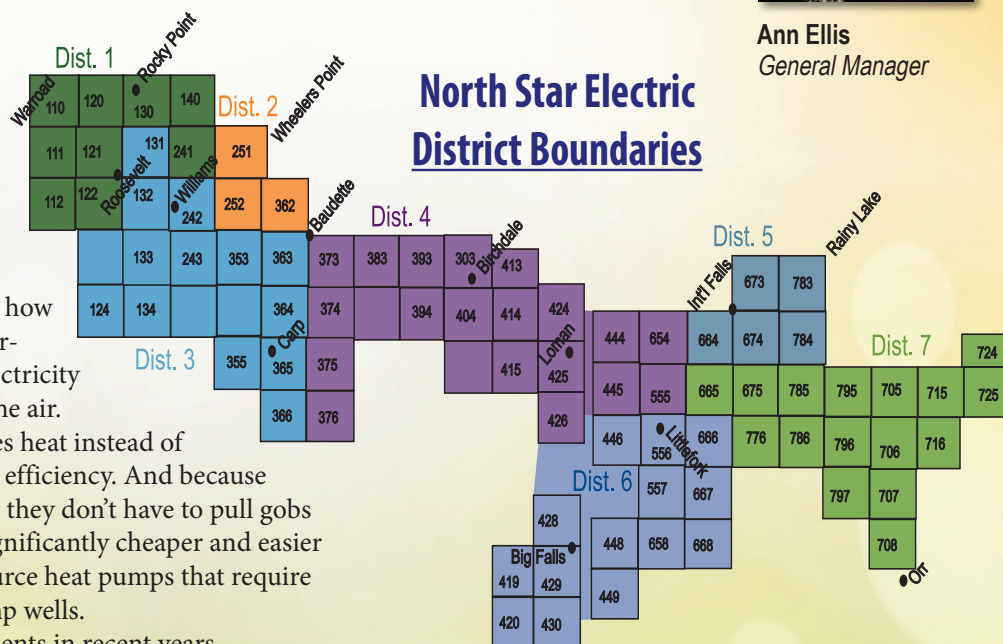
How about getting three times as much heating and cooling for the same price? That's how it works with a 300 percent efficient ASHP (air-source heat pump); one kWh of purchased electricity pulls the Btu equivalent of three kWh out of the air. Sound like magic? Well, it's a reality that moves heat instead of generating heat, which gives you more energy efficiency. And because air source heat pumps move heat from the air, they don't have to pull gobs of water through them. This makes ASHPs significantly cheaper and easier to install compared to geothermal ground-source heat pumps that require recirculating ground loops or pump-and-dump wells.

ASHP technology has made big advancements in recent years. They can heat and cool homes in our neck of the woods for all but the few coldest months. Even outside air that seems too cold (think

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Ann Ellis
General Manager



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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

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1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603

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Visit our website at
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' April 6 and May 3, 2017, meetings. All board members were in attendance, with the exception of Mike Hanson at the April 6 meeting. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to approve submission of an application to the CoBank Sharing Success program for two matching grants to support the Kabetogama first responders and the playground at the city of Big Falls, to approve a \$3,504.69 inventory adjustment as a result of the annual reconciling of inventory, to approve a budget amendment for up to \$7,000 for document scanning equipment, to approve restatement of the NRECA Retirement Security Plan, to accept the IRS Form 990 for filing, to approve a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) resolution granting online authority for the administration of loan and grant processes through RUS and to approve the review and updates of several board policies.

Staff reports included the financials, the hiring of a new administrative assistant/billing clerk in the Baudette office, CoBank's Sharing Success program, unclaimed capital credits, the spring all-employee meeting, the workers' compensation audit, identity theft prevention, document scanning and storage, the annual inventory adjustment, the low-income program, water heater and dual heat sales, distributed generation, Operation Round Up®, Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship testing at local schools, electric vehicles (EVs), member appreciation days, interest in new services, retirement of idle services, right-of-way clearing work, annual line inspection, GPS data collection on transformers and cabinets, Littlefork Foreman Bruce Petersen's upcoming retirement, outages and

blinks, PCB spill training, safety training, RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) recertification, bids for summer work plan projects, the recent RUS Operation and Maintenance Review and Civil Rights Review, the hiring of two summer apprentice line workers, the process of updating the correct service territory boundaries with the PUC, the availability of broadband service within North Star's service area, the potential of a cost-plus rate structure for a large power account, review of the strategic plan goals and upcoming strategic retreat, DBS capital credits, concerns with right-of-way contractors in the Birchdale area, economic development, safety and the recent successful M-State open house.

Visitors to the May 3 meeting included the CEO and CFO of Rainy Lake Medical Center (242-06-001-05, David Bridges). They joined the meeting to extend a thank you to the board for their interest and efforts to explore North Star's options for funding economic development, including projects like RLMC's facility renovations and equipment updates required by next summer to retain chemo services at RLMC.

Reports came from the Lake Country Power, Beltrami Electric Cooperative and Roseau Electric Cooperative annual meetings, as well as Minnkota board 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.



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

(article continued from page 1)

March) has heat that an ASHP can pull out and move into your home. In the summer, the process reverses, and heat is moved outside to make hot summer nights comfortable in your home.

Here is an example of a ASHP that was installed on our system recently. The ASHP was a 2-ton mini-split (no ductwork) with a SEER efficiency rating of 16. At 47 degrees the unit will deliver 22,000 Btus of heat (360 percent efficient) and at 17 degrees it will deliver 16,500 Btus of heat (270 percent efficient). As you can see, when the temperature drops, so does the efficiency of the unit. Most units are not used below zero. One thing that you need to remember is that an ASHP works great in the spring, summer and fall but does not work in the middle of winter.

Most 2-ton mini-split ASHPs can be installed by a professional for around \$2,500 to \$4,000, but that will vary depending on the style and location of your home.

And if that's not enough to perk you up, don't forget about all of our energy efficiency rebates. For example, a 1,500-square-foot house may require a 2-ton ASHP. This year's rebate is at least \$200, but it could be \$700 if the SEER efficiency rating of the unit is at least a 15.

If you'd like more information about your specific situation, we would be happy to answer your questions and get you moving in the right direction (353-02-002-03, Clarence Sindelir). Our mission is to improve your life, and we think air-source heat pumps may be a real winner for you in more ways than one!

Member Appreciation Days

You should receive this *Enlightener* before our Member Appreciation Days on June 8 (Littlefork) and 9 (Baudette) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and we hope you can join us. In addition to all the bratwurst and cotton candy you can eat, we will have prizes for the adults and activities for the kiddos. See you there!

At your service we remain,

Ann



Prize drawings will be at both the Littlefork and Baudette Member Appreciation Days. One scooter will be given away at each location – randomly drawn from all the coloring contest submissions.

Stay safe THROUGH THE STORM RECOVERY



Storms can cause a great deal of destruction. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that lightning resulted in 27 fatalities and 130 injuries in 2015. In addition, tornadoes caused 36 fatalities and 924 injuries, while high wind resulted in 41 deaths and 150 injuries. Flash flooding accounted for 129 deaths and 42 injuries.

Remember that just because the storm has ended, it

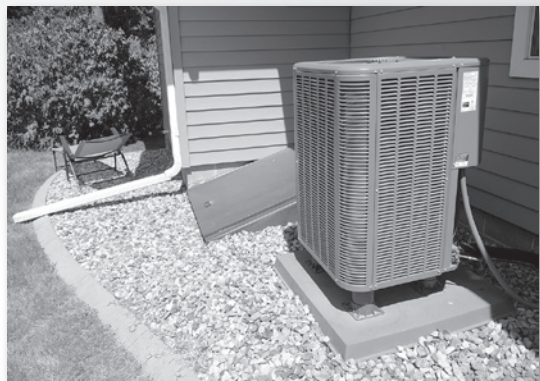
does not mean that there is no longer any danger. Safe Electricity encourages you to keep these safety tips in mind after a storm:

- It is best to assume all downed lines are energized and potentially dangerous. Stay far away from all power lines and any objects that may be in contact with those lines. Remember even if a downed line is not sparking, it can still be carrying electricity and be dangerous.
- If at all possible, remain at home and off the roadways to allow emergency responders and utility crews easy access to damaged areas or injured individuals.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- Never drive through a flooded roadway. There is no way to predict how deep the water may be.

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Does your old AC unit need replacing? Replace it with an air-source heat pump

(continued from page 1)



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 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 will also 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 which 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.

Stay safe THROUGH THE STORM RECOVERY

(continued from page 3)

- Never drive over downed lines, which easily tangle in car wheels and cause additional damage.
- If your car does make contact with a downed line, stay in your vehicle. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car. If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety.
- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are under water. The water could be energized.
- Do not turn power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility, and have them turn off power at the meter.
- When cleaning up outdoors after a storm, do not use electrical equipment when it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Take care when using a generator after power has been lost. Always run generators outside the home, in unenclosed areas. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.
- Do not use electrical equipment that has been water damaged. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.

For more information on storm safety, please visit SafeElectricity.org.

Member Appreciation Days

Please join us on

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



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 \$3.15 per month	Equals \$0.47 per month
Savings per bulb per month with LED = \$2.68	
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.

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!



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:

Wayne Bergstrom (waynebergstrom@gmail.com)
Phone: (701) 520-9771
Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)



Special electric co-op recognition for Minn. Representative Collin Peterson



Rep. Collin Peterson and representatives from the Minnkota family.

“Thank you for what you do back home,” Peterson told co-ops. “We are doing what we can to keep you going and keep things in line.” As he so often does, Peterson took the time to provide an update to cooperative members in attendance, as well as listen and respond to the issues at hand that day (362-17-006-02, Kathryn Davis). Within hours of the meeting, his office was already responding to the issues discussed.

“Peterson has stood strong with co-ops on several issues,” said Darrick Moe, CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association in Maple Grove. Coordinating House support for Rural Utilities Service funding; asking the Environmental Protection Agency during Clean Power Plan rollout for enough time for compliance; and backing efforts to preserve the use of large-capacity electric water heaters in load control programs, among other things. “In general, he is very supportive of virtually all of our priorities, and routinely crosses party lines to support rural electric cooperative positions,” said Moe.

The NRECA board of directors bestows its Distinguished Service Award upon a national leader who has made outstanding contributions to the progress of electric cooperatives and whose history of support for rural electrification and public power merits special recognition. Former recipients have included Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hubert Humphrey, Jo Ann Emerson and Heidi Heitkamp.

In April in Washington, D.C., MREA member cooperative representatives packed 1310 Longworth, a beautiful committee hearing room, to honor Representative Collin Peterson. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson joined the group to present the NRECA Distinguished Service Award to the 13-term lawmaker for his career of service. The co-op delegation responded with a standing ovation for the Congressman.

“From my perspective, he’s never forgotten why he’s here,” said Matheson, who served alongside Peterson as a member of Congress from 2001-2015. “He’s always been there to represent the people back home. You could say that I patterned myself after him,” he said, noting that others in Congress saw him as a role model, too.

Congratulations to the 2017 scholarship winners!

<u>FIRST PLACE</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
Emma Stimpfl	Lake of the Woods	100%
<u>SECOND PLACE</u>	<u>\$400 each</u>	
Carolann Stone	Home school	98%
Jordan Sonstegard	Lake of the Woods	97%
Anna Earley	International Falls	95%
Sydney Anderson	International Falls	95%

North Star would like to thank all the students who took the time to study and take the test, which was about North Star Electric and rural electric cooperatives. The students who took the test were: Warroad – *Phillip Ness*; Lake of the Woods – *Emma Stimpfl, Jordan Sonstegard, Logan Rennemo, Jaydon Hiemstra, McKord Krause, Christen Johnson and Dominick Muggli*; Indus – *Holger Olsen*; Littlefork/Big Falls – *Gina Thydean, Sydney Wendt, Liana Henrickson, Haley Linder, Tate Promersberger, Kylie Clark, Moses Simutkin, Elizabeth Moe, Peter Franz, Logan Pritchard, Kaylee Kennedy and Adam Clement*; International Falls – *Sydney Anderson, Anna Earley, Valandre Butler, Claire Herzig and Isabella Ettestad*; Home school – *Carolann Stone*. These scholarships were made possible from funding of unclaimed capital credits.

Staff Report

I hope everyone got a chance to get out and enjoy some fishing since the opener and are seeing those green plants for future consumption showing up in their gardens.

Since road restrictions were lifted, we have gotten off to a busy start with new services and service upgrades. So if you have plans for either of these, or if you are putting up any new structures on the property, make sure you are not under any overhead power lines or on top of any buried power lines. It can get costly to get our lines back in code and would be at your expense, so give us a call at your convenience and don't forget to call Gopher State One Call at 811 prior to doing any digging.

Work plan projects for this year include installing 2.5 miles of three-phase underground from 56th St. NW (Grove Farms) going north along County Road 17 to 64th St. NW. There will be two overhead lines in the Rainy Lake area upgraded to three-phase near Monahan's and Gold Shores. During construction there can be blinks and scheduled outages so bear with us; it's all for the better. We will continue our vegetation management program in the Birchdale and Ash Lake areas this summer.

And lastly, after 39 years of service, Bruce Petersen has decided to hang up the hooks and belt and grab ahold of a fishing pole. We thank him for his dedicated service to the membership and wish him the best during his retirement. 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 877-687-1163
Direct 218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3rd 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
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
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
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
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

Senator Paul Utke

3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9651
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

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

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
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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

Nomination process for director election

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 6, at Littlefork/Big Falls School. The Board of Directors positions up for election are **District 5 and 6 for a four-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.