

Congratulations to the 2018 scholarship winners!

FIRST PLACE	\$700 each	SCORE
Evan Peterson	Littlefork/Big Falls	100%
Kate Knaeble	Littlefork/Big Falls	100%
SECOND PLACE	\$400 each	
Rebecca Holm	International Falls	98%
Benjamin Keeney	International Falls	97%
Annamarie Wells	Home School	97%








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. Each of the students who are underlined won a \$100 cash award randomly drawn from the group of 27 students who scored more than 60 percent correct. The students who took the test were: Warroad – Aaron Anderson, Abbie Benjamin, Angel Lewis; Home school – Annamarie Wells; Lake of the Woods – Shania Thompson, Sonia Stimpfl, Bailey Kristjanson, Hannah Paulson, Camryn Strohl, Luke Krause, Ellie Hasbargen, Kierra Krause, Lauryn Nordine, Josh Pieper, Josh Haataja; Indus – Jacy Kling, Blazen Whitfield; Littlefork/Big Falls – Evan Peterson, Kate Knaeble, Anna Imhof, Aaron Kennedy, Kyler Swenson, Josh Daniels, Zachary Fraczkiwicz; International Falls – Rebecca Holm, Benjamin Keeney, Alex Belanger, Eric Earley. These scholarships were made possible from funding of unclaimed capital credits.

PLAN AHEAD TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Spring is in the air and yard projects are on our minds, but before you put a shovel in the ground, make sure you are taking all the steps to be safe. Digging without locating underground utilities, even for the smallest projects, could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages or cause severe electrical shock, even death.

Make sure to plan ahead and call in advance. The 811 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to the locating service serving your area. Tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark the public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities and each color is universal to what utility type is buried.

	Red – Electric
	Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV
	Blue – Potable Water
	Green – Sewer/Drainage
	Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipeline
	Purple – Reclaimed Water
	White – Premark site of intended excavation

(article continued on page 3)

Member Appreciation Days

Please join us on

Monday, June 4,
at the Littlefork office
from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5,
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 and we will also have a kids drawing for a scooter (pictured on page 3). There will be face painting, electrical safety demonstrations, balloons and bucket truck rides. We will also have some of the tools and equipment that our linemen need to use to perform their work safely and efficiently.

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MAY 2018

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Steve Arnesen
Vice President Michael Hanson
Secretary-Treasurer Lorraine Nygaard
Directors Shelley Spears, Randy Bergan, Tom Smith, Bruce Sampson
General Manager Ann Ellis
Editor Wayne Haukaas

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.
Online billing information available via SmartHub app.

Electrical after-hours emergencies
1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603
e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com
Visit our website at
www.northstarelectric.coop

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' March 7, 2018, meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to approve the annual distributed generation reports and schedules, to approve Director Sampson as the 2018 delegate for Cooperative Response Center (CRC) and to approve the rescheduling of the September and November board meetings.

Staff reports included the safety report, financial report, review of the Rural Utilities Service Form 7 for 2017, allocation of 2017 margins to members' capital credit accounts, unclaimed capital credits, work order inspections, water heater sales, off-peak heat, heating repair rebates, Operation Round Up®, the summer power plant trip for members, the Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship testing plans, new service and upgrade work to be completed this

spring and summer, retirement of idle services, right-of-way clearing and mowing, outages, the completion of the line worker apprenticeship program for two employees, Minnkota's winter billing demand, correcting nonshedding off-peak loads and upgrades to equipment serving Canadian members. Progress toward strategic planning goals was discussed and the issues to be discussed with our St. Paul legislators were reviewed. The RUS form 7 report was also reviewed.

Board reports included an update from the Minnkota board meeting.

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

Save money through home appliance efficiency

With home appliances accounting for 13 percent of the average home's utility bill, appliance savings can have a significant effect on overall energy costs. Safe Electricity has tips to help you use your appliances efficiently:

New appliances

If you are in the market for a new appliance, look for the blue ENERGY STAR® label. The label guarantees that the appliance uses at least 20 percent less energy than appliances that are not ENERGY STAR-approved. The initial cost of an ENERGY STAR product is often more expensive, but in the long run you will realize savings through decreased energy bills. ENERGY STAR products are tested not only for efficiency, but also for performance and features.

Washers and dryers

- The biggest trick to washing clothes efficiently is to use less water and use colder water.
- Wash full loads when possible. Washing machines use about the same amount of energy regardless of load size. If you are doing a smaller load, adjust the size on the machine to use the appropriate amount of water.
- Do not waste energy by over drying laundry. If you have a moisture-sensing option, use it.
- Use high-speed spin cycles to help remove excess water and reduce drying time.
- Use a drying rack or line dry clothes when possible.
- Clean the lint trap and the dryer vent to promote circulation and prevent fire hazards.



(article continued on page 5)



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

Off-peak load control in April?

Yes, we did have a few hours of load control April 8 and 9 when the wind wasn't blowing and one of the power plants had a brief outage. This illustrates what can happen as more of our power generation resources are

intermittent (wind/solar). It also emphasizes the important role our off-peak program plays as a resource itself. Although the off-peak program does not generate electricity, it can effectively and efficiently manage the need for generation resources. When our own electricity-generating resources aren't enough to meet the demand for electricity, and purchasing power from the market is too expensive, Minnkota is able to shave demand peaks with this 'resource.'

So, how reliable are each of Minnkota's generation resources? Last year, the two Young Station power plants were providing you with power more than 95 percent of the time (363-11-012-01, Samuel Pierce). The wind blows about 40 percent of the time, but not necessarily when we need it, and solar is about 13 percent efficient.

Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship winners

Congratulations to the high school seniors who have earned our awards, and thank you to all who participated in our annual Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship test. Many of these students will be future rural electric cooperative members, and maybe even some will be future board members or employees of a member-owned cooperative. Our nonprofit business model is one that is not taught in schools, but it is one that is extremely successful for its member-owners, especially when the member-owners are engaged.

Red Lantern Award

North Star Director Lorraine Nygaard (Big Falls, Minn.) received Minnkota Power Cooperative's Red Lantern Award at its annual meeting last month.



Operation Round Up® applications due

May 31 is the deadline for the next round of applications to be considered for North Star Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® grants. Local, tax-exempt organizations may contact us for the guidelines and application form, or it is available on our website, www.northstarelectric.coop, on the Forms tab.

Save the date!

Member Appreciation Days will be June 4 (Littlefork) and 5 (Baudette) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Youngsters attending our Member Appreciation Days with their parents/grandparents will be eligible to win a Razor A5 LUX scooter. We will also have drawings for electric grills, brats with all the fixings, bucket truck rides for the kiddoes, face painting and all the cotton candy, cookies and popcorn you can eat. We are looking forward to seeing 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.

PLAN AHEAD TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

(article continued from page 1)

There were more than 24,000 home digging incidents involving underground utilities in 2016, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). To help stay safe, make use of the free underground utility locating service by calling 811.

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, you should call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before you dig.

Keep in mind, 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of the underground utilities have been located, you can start your digging project. Be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.

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.



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

SIMONSEN, JOE

ALEXANDRIA

WOLFE, DUANE F.

ANOKA

HAVERLAND, MARK R.C.

AURORA

HARPER, JEFFREY A.

AUSTIN

EKEDAL, KENNETH
HAMMER, LLOYD E.
O'ROURKE, DANIEL

BAUDETTE

ANDERSON, EDWARD N.
ANDRYS, MARJORIE H.
ATWOOD, ALFRED
BAKER, LEWIS E.
BAKER, MERLE D.
BEARDEN, JERRY
BELL, CLARKE (EST.)
BELL, ESTHER (EST.)
BENOIT, DONALD A.
BROGAN, GARRET
CHRISTENSEN, OSCAR
(EST.)
CYR, DAVID
DAVIS, STUART J.
EARL, THAD (EST.)
FIRST NAT'L BANK-BDTE
FOLEY, MARK
FOUSSARD, EMILY P.
(EST.)
FOUSSARD, MONTY
FRIDAY, HAROLD G.
FUNK, RUSSELL W.
GAFFEY, DONALD J.
(EST.)
GENDE, JOSEPH F.
GENERAU, HARRY
GUSTAFSON, RONALD G.
GUSTAFSON, TOM
HALL, HOWARD
HERBOLD, JOE
HESS, DON
HILL, ARNOLD D.
HOFFMAN, FRANK J.
HOLLERUD, WALTER
(EST.)
KEYSER, ROSCOE

KLAMM, LEONARD W.

KLOPP, JIM
LALLI, MAT
LAMP, FRED
LEEDAH, GARY R. (EST.)
MAGNAN, EUGENE
MAST, SHERRY
MAXWELL, GERALD
MESNER, WILLIAM
(EST.)
MILLER, LINDA
MOSLEY, MARILYN S.
NELSON, JOSHUA
NELSON, R. C.
NORMAN, LAVERNE
OLSON, SHERYL
PHALEN, R. E.
REIMER, IVAN J.
RINGHOFFER, R. J.
ROGUS, MARGARET L.
SCHATZ, ANDREW
SCHEMP, DAVID
SERBINSKI, MICHAEL
SIMON, RICHARD
STOLP, JAMES E.
STUART, ALLEN (EST.)
TURNER, ROBERT M.
VILLAGGIO, JOHN
VRIESENGA, JEFF
WELLS, HARRY L.
WESLEY, NEWTON
WICK, WARREN D.

BEMIDJI

BRENNING, WES
LILLEMO, RICHARD
LUND, ORLAND J.
URAN, THOMAS
ZIRUPS, JOHN

BIG FALLS

BAUER, SAM A.
CHWIAKOWSKI, DAVID
ESTES, PHILLIP
FARGO CAFE
HILL, CLIFTON F. (EST.)
SNAPP, DENNIS R.

BIRCHDALE

DALE, JAMES T.
HEMSTOCK, RONN L.
PORTER, MICHAEL J.

BLACKDUCK

YARBROUGH, JOHN R.

BLAINE

BUCHANAN, JAMES L.
(EST.)

BLOOMINGTON

ROTHE, ELIZABETH

BLUFFTON

HUTCHENS, STEVE

BRAINERD

BOWMAN, ROBERT F.
SIKES, MARK

BRECKENRIDGE

KOHLHASE, KEVIN

CANNON FALLS

BRAFORD, ARLIE (EST.)

CHANHASSEN

SIMS, DON

CHATFIELD

JENSEN, BETH

CLEAR LAKE

PETERSON, E. A.

CLOQUET

BOES, DANE

COON RAPIDS

MERKLING, STEVEN R.

COTTAGE GROVE

NALAND, PAUL R.

CROOKSTON

BRULEY, GARY
PETERSON, AARON V.

DULUTH

BERG, FLOYD
KARASCH, MICHAEL
MCDONALD, JANICE
OBERG, KATHERINE A.
OSWALT, TARA
ROSANDICH, RYAN
TOURVILLE, JOHN R.
WROBLESKI, JAMES A.

EAST GRAND FORKS

FEHR, MARJORIE
HAARSAGER, LUVERNE

EDEN PRAIRIE

HAGEN, CRAIG

ELK RIVER

DESCHENES, GEORGE E.

ELY

GLOCKZIN, CALVIN

EVELETH

HEDIN, BRIAN

FARMINGTON

CARNATHAN, J. C.

FERGUS FALLS

LARSON, MELVIN J.
(EST.)
WHITFORD, JEFF

FERTILE

REESE, BERNARD

FOREST LAKE

DUNN, JAMES E.

GRAND MARAIS

BALDWIN, CLARK J.

HALLOCK

WUNSH, PATRICIA

HIBBING

ADAMIC, EDWIN R.
(EST.)
HACKEY, JACK (EST.)
WAMMER, JOE (EST.)

HINCKLEY

LANGR, PETER

HOPKINS

DEGRAY, SCOTT

HOUSTON

MUELLER, AGNES HAR

HOWARD LAKE

BRAVINDER, ROBERT F.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS

ANDERSON, DONALD
ANDERSON, TERESA A.
ARNOLD, JOHN W.
BALLARD, BERT E.
BARG, DOUG
BARNEY, BARRY
BARTHOLOMEW,
EMERSON (EST.)
BARTHOLOMEW,
GLADYS
BENNETT, MICHAEL
BLUME, RONALD
BRADBURN, JOHN G.
BRIGGS, DIANNE

BROWN, HUBERT (EST.)

CARLSON, DALE R.
CHRISTIANSON, WENDY
COLEN, WANDA
COOK, STACEY
CRABB, WM J.
CROWSTON, JESSE
DUMAIS, PIERRE
ECKLUND, DALE
ESTES, TODD
ETTESTAD, KENT
FAIRCHILD, DOROTHY
FIELD, JOHN W. (EST.)
FISH, DARWIN
FRANKLIN, PHYLLIS
GEE, REBECCA E.
GIESICK, ROBERT
GRIFFITH, JAMES W.
GRISWOLD, LINDA B.
GRONLUND, DAVID
HANSON, JASON
HARDEE'S
HARDER, DAVID
HORNE, HUEY
HUGHES, RENE
IRBY, JOHN T.
IRWIN, EVERT (EST.)
JAAKKOLA, SONYA
JOHNSON, SIGURD
KING, DARLYNN
KLIMP, DAVID
KOHLHASE, J. C. (EST.)
KONECNY, LEONARD
KUCERA, WALLACE J. JR.
LEFORTE, TRACEY
LOGAN, JAMES D.
MAISH, OTTO
MARTENS, JEFF
MARTINEAU, PEGGY
MEYERS, TAWNYA
MILLER, ROBERT A.
MINTER, DEAN
NEILL, TERRY W.
NELSON, NELL
OFFERDAHL, PATRICK
OLSON, DALE
OWENS, EUGENE T.
PARKER, SCOTT
PEGGAR, JUNE
PETERSON, JANET
POISSON, SCOTT
PULLAR, TONY L.
RAMIREZ, JOSE
RIGDON, DAVID

RUCKH, K. J.

SAVELA, GORDON
SCHMIDT, JAMES
SCHNEEGAS, MICHAEL
SHOBERG-DOYLE, LOIS K.
STAFFORD, JAMES
STENSBERG, PAUL
STROHMAYER, DAN K.
SWANSON, THOMAS D.
TCI OF NORTHERN MN
TETREAULT, JEDD
THOMPSON, ARNT T.
(EST.)
TOFTE, JOANNE
TRANA, EILEEN
TURNER AND SHEETS
UNOCAL
VELLIEUX, DANIEL
WARD, RICHARD
WATTS, MARK
WILCOX, LARRY E.
WRIGHT, ROBERT T.
YATES, PETER

ISANTI

JENSVOED, LARRY O.

KIMBALL

LITCHY, GARY

LAKE BENTON

LAFLIN, THERON

LAKE ELMO

FYTEN, RICHARD A.

LAKE PARK

ANDERSON, RICHARD G.

LAKEVILLE

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

LAS CRUCES

THODE, JONATHAN

LE SUEUR

RATHE, ELAINE

LITTLEFORK

ALARID, DAVID
ANDERSON, ALFREDA A.
(EST.)
ANDERSON, ERIC
ANSON, INC.
ANTHONY, THOMAS J.

BERG, AGNES (EST.)
BROWN, DAYMON
CHAVIS, CHARLIE
COMBS, DAVID M.
DOREN, A. H.
EDEEN, DENNIS (EST.)
GRIFFING, JANEL
HEGG, MARY
HOOTER, CHARLES
HUGGINS, JAMES K.
JOHNSON, MARLYS
JONES, GORDON
MARTIN, CLYDE
MATHIS, JOHN
MATSON, GLADYS A.
MCLURE, THOMAS
MILLER, JEFFREY
MORRIS, REGINA
MORTENSON, CURTIS
NALAND, ROB
NORDLOH, DON
NORWEST BANK
OIUM, JENNIFER R.
PHARISS, CHARLIE N.
POWELL, THOMAS E.
RAHMAN, FAIZUR
SARKISYAN, ALEXANDER
SPODEN, PATRICIA
TATE, ROBERT J.
TEDDER, JIMMY
TIMMER, SIMON (EST.)
UNDERWOOD, SHAWNEE
WENING, RONALD (EST.)
WOOD, SEAN
YUHAS, THOMAS A.
ZEMEK, MICHAEL (EST.)

LOMAN
BRUNNER, JOHNATHAN
STEINBACH, ROCKY

MADISON
MERCHANT, STEVE

MAPLE GROVE
WALDEN, REBECCA

MARINE ST. CROIX
OPSE, DONALD J.

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WINTERMEYER, CHARLES
(EST.)

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

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ANDERSON, DEBORAH

NORTH BRANCH
JONES, DUANE

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MARTIN, GRETA

ONAMIA
KOSEK, CHRIS

ORR
EBEL, GORDON J.
HENN, EDWARD
HODOR, JOSEPH J.
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ROTHE, RUSSELL
SARVER, E. C.
STEPHENSON, BRUCE

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KRIESEL, DEAN H.

PINE ISLAND
LARSON, DAVID L.

PLYMOUTH
PILON, DANIEL D.

PRINCETON
PETERSON, CLAYTON

PUPOSKY
MAI, MARK A.

RANIER
ALDERMAN, JERRY

RAY, GEORGE C.
STAGG, MICHAEL

RAY
ABBEY, DON
ANDERSON, LAURENCE D.
BRAGG, JAMES H.
BROECKER, LAWRENCE
BROWN, GARY
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GUTZ, JULIE (EST.)
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MCGINNIS, L. B.
ROMIG, BILLIE D.
SOGER, RICHARD L.
TERION, INC.
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WEIDEMAN, CLARENCE

RED WING
MULLER, THOMAS L.

REDWOOD FALLS
HOPPKE, SHAWN

ROCHERT
NOLAN, BARBARA

ROCHESTER
STREIFF, EVELYN M.

ROOSEVELT
CASTAGNA, PAUL
FANSON, JEFFREY A.
JOHN, BRANDON K.
KRUPICH, MICHELLE
NOBLE, JAMES
SMITH, DANIEL
SMITH, DAVID A.
STOREY, DAVID
ULLYOTT, JOEL
VILAYSONE, LACKKY
WEAVER, GERALD

ROSEAU
FARMERS HOME ADM.
HAMANN, HERBERT E.
(EST.)

HOVORKA, ROY
KUKOWSKI, ALLAN

SAINT CLOUD
BRUSTAD, ROSS
BURGESS, RICHARD E.

SAINT MICHAEL
JOHNSON, ROBERT W.

SAINT PAUL
ROCKY POINT RESORT, LLP

SALOL
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MATTSON, CLIFFORD
VOLK, LAVERN

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

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STEPHEN
TRANE, BERTEN

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FISH, RILEY
HAROLDSON, MYRON C.
HICKS, JAY
KEEFE, JEFFREY A.
MILLSOP, STEPHENIE

VESTA
MALONE, CLIFFORD W.

VIRGINIA
EBERT, ANN M.
LIABRAATEN, ORVILLE O.

WAHKON
SANTMIRE, RAY

WAITE PARK
PRICE, AMY

WARROAD
ADAMS, MICHEAL
BANK OF AMERICA
BROWN, STACEY
BUNTROCK, RUSSELL
CYRUS, WILLIAM
JOHNSON, MACKENZIE
KEELER, COLE
KINGERY, BRENT
OLSONOSKI, ALLEYN
PEDERSEN, CARL
REGNIER, BRAD
ROBERTSON, GEORGE
VAULE, MARY L.
WACHSMUTH, G.
WALZ, SHELLEY
WILMER, BRYAN

WEBSTER
LAFAVRE, SCOTT

WEST SAINT PAUL
BURKE, MICHAEL P.

WHITE BEAR LAKE
MAGNUSON, RON

WILLIAMS
FIELD, HELMER R.
FOUGNER, HERBERT M.
GONSOROWSKI, LOUIS
HARDWICK, MICHAEL L.

HOEFLE, VINCENT F.
JAROS, FRANK J.
JOHNS, BARRY
LARSON, MARVIN E.
LORENZ, JOHN (EST.)
MADOLL, TIMMY R.
MARTIN, LARRY
MCCANN, WILLIAM A.
NAGEL, DAVID
PAGNAC, DARWIN
RAMBERG, DARREN
RAMBERG, SARAH
RAMSEY, ROGER D.
RANGER, J. C.
REMINGTON, TOM (EST.)
ROGINA, ROLAND (EST.)
SHAW, KENNETH (EST.)
SKETERS, DORA
SORENSEN, MYRA
TORSETH, JIM
TRAPP, F. M.

WILLMAR
KENNARD, MARGARET

WINONA
OLSON, ARVILLA (EST.)

WOODBURY
MOYER, GEORGE W.

WYOMING
SWIFT, GERRY

ZIMMERMAN
CLOUTIER, KAREN
KLIEVER, JOE
MILLS, MURRAY I.

MEMORIAL DAY

Remember And Honor

North Star Electric will be closed

Monday, May 28,

in observance of Memorial Day.

*Please remember those
who sacrificed their lives
for our freedom.*

Save money through home appliance efficiency *(article continued from page 2)*

Refrigerators and freezers

- A refrigerator's temperature should be 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. If your fridge has an attached freezer, it should be set to 5° F. A separate freezer should be kept at 0° F.
- Cover and wrap foods. Uncovered food releases moisture, which makes your fridge work harder.
- Regularly defrost your freezer. If you have more than a quarter of an inch of ice, it is time to defrost.

Dishwashers

- Air dry dishes instead of using the drying cycle.
- Use the shortest cleaning cycle possible.

- If you have a newer dishwasher model that does not require pre-rinsing, take advantage of it.

Oven

- Use a microwave when possible. Microwaves cook more quickly and use less energy than stove tops or ovens. Using a smaller toaster/convection oven is also a more efficient option. A smaller space to heat results in more energy saved.
- Do not frequently open the oven when it is in use. It causes warm air to escape and the temperature to decrease. Your oven has to use more energy to raise the temperature back up.

For more information on electrical safety and energy efficiency visit **EnergyEdCouncil.org**.



Robyn Sonstegard
Manager of Finance & Administration

Staff Report

Capital credits

In this month's *Enlightener*, you will see the unclaimed capital credit listing. Hopefully, most of our members know what capital credits are all about. We track the amount of electricity used and what members pay for it throughout the year. At the end of the year, we determine whether or not revenues exceed costs resulting in a net margin. These margins are then allocated to members as capital credits based on their electricity usage. The board of directors reviews our financial position each year and determines the amount, if any, of capital credits from previous allocations to be paid out or retired (404-01-002-05, Karen Turban). In between the allocation time and the retirement time, these funds are used to help finance a variety of long-term capital needs, including trucks, inventory, equipment, transformers or power line construction.

If you ever move off the North Star system, it is very important to ensure your mailing address remains updated in our system, so your capital credit payments continue to reach you! The unclaimed capital credit listing in this issue is our last-ditch effort to find these former members who have changed addresses. If you know anyone on this list, please encourage them to give us a call to claim their capital credits. And the sooner the better, as any remaining unclaimed funds will be donated in the fall to local tax-exempt organizations.

Budget billing

If you are a member on budget billing, please review your bills when they come in the mail. Patsy reports that because of the long, cold winter, many of the budget-billed accounts are not on track. Remember that budget reconciliation payments will be due on July 20. If you have questions on your budget-billed account, or if you would like to make adjustments to your budget payments between now and July 20, please call Patsy at **218-634-2202**.

Member Appreciation Days

We've been planning for our annual Member Appreciation Days! Mark your calendars to join us at our Littlefork office on Monday, June 4, or at our Baudette office on Tuesday, June 5. The linemen will be cooking you up some lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Don't forget to bring along your kids (or grandkids) as we will provide some fun and goodies for them too!

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 (783-29-050-01, Peter Hemstad).

Forms are available on North Star'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.

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**
Brady Hjelle NMLS# 1584905
International Falls – **283-5556**



118 Main Ave. S., P.O. Box 160
Roseau, MN 56751
463-2135

Stuart McFarlane NMLS# 677574

Paul LaPlante NMLS# 677575

**'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.



LED lighting rebate form



ENERGY STAR® bulbs highly recommended

(Rebates will not exceed 50 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: _____



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

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 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax	At 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals \$3.23 per month	Equals \$0.48 per month
Savings per bulb per month with LED = \$2.75	
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.

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 (cgcclier67@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:

Bryan Holmes
Phone: (218) 686-1413
Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

POWER PLANT TOUR

June 26-28, 2018

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 26-28. The first day we will tour Minnkota's control center and print shop in Grand Forks, N.D., and then it's off to the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center at Bismarck, 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 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. It 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 Ramkota Hotel.

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. This covers your cost of the bus, hotels, tours and most meals. Members who have not been on this trip in the past are encouraged to go.



Milton R. Young Station



Garrison Dam



Ashtabula Wind Energy Center

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