

BUDGET BILLING
PAGE 4

ITEMS FOR SALE
PAGE 6

RHUBARB CUSTARD BARS
PAGE 7

HAVE A FUN, SAFE SUMMER

KEEP ELECTRICAL SAFETY
IN MIND AS WARM
WEATHER SPROUTS



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.



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT – WHO'S THE BOSS?

Who's the boss? You are. If you buy electricity from North Star Electric Cooperative, you are automatically a member-owner of the co-op. You help determine the future of the cooperative when you are engaged: attend the annual meeting, read the *Enlightener*, like us on Facebook, communicate with the co-op employees and also with the director from your area who you elect to represent you on the board. Although the Oct. 4 annual meeting is months away, the director election process is now beginning.

All candidates are required to have 20 signatures from members (within their district) on the official petition form and submit this form no later than Aug. 5.

This year the members residing in District 7 will elect their board representative. This area includes the communities of Ericksburg, Ray, Kabetogama and the areas

surrounding them. Your district number is printed on your monthly electric bill.

AMI metering project

Just eight weeks have passed since we began our new AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) deployment, and our linemen have installed four of the 10 collectors, 54 of the 297 routers, 1,837 main meters and 761 off-peak meters. This leaves 6,302 meters to go. We appreciate your help to coordinate an appointment to exchange the off-peak meters inside your homes. We are doing our best to get this done as cost-effectively as possible because efficiency impacts electric rates.

We have had three calls from members with concerns about the new meters. When comparing a meter like the ones we are installing to other common household devices, you can see below that the meter's non-ionizing emissions are minimal.

The AMI system offers many benefits, including outage detection, and of course, meter readings. We can share that metering information with you if you are

• If you buy electricity from North Star Electric Co-op, you are automatically a member-owner of the co-op.

• The AMI system offers many benefits, including outage detection, and of course, meter readings.

• Air-source heat pumps transfer heat in the direction you want, rather than generate it. There is heat in cold air.

interested in tracking your usage patterns to help identify any problems early. If you are not at home but want to check that an appropriate amount of electricity is being used there, our SmartHub app gives you that access, along



(Article continued on following page)



"In the case of smart meters, the FCC has no data or reports to suggest that exposure is occurring at levels of RF energy that exceed our RF exposure guidelines." - Lynn Woolsey, FCC chief of Engineering and Technology

with other features like viewing your monthly electric bills for the last several years or paying your bill electronically. If you have more questions, please call us or visit www.nse.coop.

Save money

This may sound too good to be true, but you CAN put one BTU of purchased electricity into a super-efficient air-source heat pump (ASHP) heating and cooling system and get three BTUs out of it. Air-source heat pumps transfer heat in the direction you want, rather than generate it. Yes, there is heat in cold air. The air is your fuel, and the electricity just moves it through the condenser to extract the heat and move it where you

desire — into the house when it's cold, and out of the house in the summer.

Don't forget about the HUGE rebates for ASHP installations! A 2-ton unit with a SEER rating of 17 or greater will bring you \$800 in rebates.

Could it get any better? YES, because if you are using off-peak electric heat, you can also get the off-peak rate for your ASHP unit, which includes cooling your home in the summer, and also for very efficiently heating your home in the spring and fall.*

We do not sell ASHPs, but we would love to answer your questions if you are considering an installation. Contact Kevin or Clayton at **888-634-2202**.

Fresh look

We hope you find the new look of the *Enlightener* engaging, helpful and informative. Our goal is to help you get the best bang for your buck, because ... you're the boss!

At your service we remain,
Ann

**The efficiency of an ASHP depends on both the SEER and HSPF factors, as well as the outdoor temperature. As the outdoor temperature becomes more extreme, the efficiency is reduced. Almost all ASHP installations require a conventional heating source for the cold months.*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the April 3, 2019, board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine action, the board voted to approve the Cogeneration Policy and Rules and adopt the Cooperative Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection Process, to accept the 2018 annual cogeneration filings and reports, to approve the director district boundaries as they currently stand and to certify and approve the authorized officers of the board for the renewal of the CoBank line of credit.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the annual Red Flags Review for identity theft prevention, CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program, the board of directors' self-assessment process, requests for proposals for upcoming tax and audit preparation services, rebates, dual heat, ripple receiver testing, Knowledge

Scholarship testing, new services, outages and blinks, the new AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) implementation and communications with state legislators regarding the proposed energy bill.

Jamie Overgaard, rates, load and planning manager with Minnkota Power Cooperative, met with the board to review the Integrated Resource Plan, which documents how Minnkota plans to meet the electrical requirements of its customers in a reliable and cost-effective manner.

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.

SEE YOU AT THE

FAIR!

Northern District, Littlefork

July 11-14!

Lake of the Woods, Baudette

July 17-20!



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 BEFORE YOU DIG.
VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the *Enlightener* are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

STAFF REPORT – CAPITAL CREDITS / BUDGET BILLING



Robyn Sonstegard
Manager of Finance & Administration

Capital credits

In last month's *Enlightener*, we published our listing of past members of North Star Electric Cooperative who have unclaimed money from the 2012 capital credit retirement. The unclaimed capital credit listing is our last-ditch effort to find these former members whose addresses must have changed. If you know anyone on this list, please have that person or their authorized representative contact our office for further instructions on how the unclaimed money may be claimed. This fall, the

capital credits that remain unclaimed will be donated to local charitable organizations.

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. Any excess revenues are shared back with the members over time. In between the allocation time and the retirement time, these funds are used to help finance a variety of long-term capital needs, including powerline construction, trucks, inventory, meters or transformers.

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, some budget-billed accounts with electric heat may have a higher reconciliation amount due on July 20. If you have questions or concerns on your budget-billed account, please call Patsy at **888-634-2202**.

If you don't use budget billing but have been thinking about giving it a try, the budget billing cycle begins in July, so now is the time to give Patsy a call. This is an ideal program for members with electric heat because it gives them the same flat monthly payment throughout the year, until the reconciliation month.

"Any excess revenues are shared back with the members over time."



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the AC to run longer.

Source: energy.gov



ENERGY SAVING COMPARISON

INCANDESCENT | 100 watt

31 days/month
Equals 24,800 watts [24.8 kWh]
At 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals \$3.23/month

LED | 15 watt

31 days/month
Equals 3,720 watts [3.7 kWh]
At 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals \$0.48/month

Savings per bulb per month with LED = \$2.75 | Cost of LED bulb after rebate = \$4

HAVE A FUN, SAFE SUMMER

Warmer weather sprouts thoughts of happy outdoor scenes – children running and playing, people enjoying pools and lakes, folks digging into gardening and other projects. Most are not thinking about potential safety hazards that could affect the summer fun. We want you to keep them in mind to ensure a safe summer of making great memories.

We don't want anyone to learn about electrical safety the hard way, through a personal experience that ends with life-changing injuries or death.

The MacKenzie family didn't dream their 12-year-old daughter would die from an electrical shock when she went swimming with friends. Their tragedy taught them the importance of ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection around pools and other water sources.

The Studer boys didn't expect an electrical flash when they opened an unlocked electrical box in their new backyard. They were lucky the burns left no permanent scars. They and their parents want everyone to understand about pad-mounted equipment.

Steve Wald and his kids felt sure they would make it home on their bikes before the storm hit. Instead, the wind brought a live power line to the ground in front of them. They turned back, sought shelter at the closest home, and learned that when thunder roars, you must go indoors.

Working for an electric utility got me thinking about electrical safety several years ago. Before then – like most people – I turned on lights, plugged things in and never thought about electricity unless the power went out. That changed when I learned about the multitude of heartbreaking, life-changing incidents – most avoidable.

We are passionate about sharing electrical safety information and preventing

tragedies, and are proud to be part of Safe Electricity, the national educational program that works to prevent electrical tragedies and deaths. I am grateful for the many utilities, like North Star Electric Cooperative, which are partners in that mission.

We know that when we arm people with knowledge, they will make the right move to stay safe.

Make sure you understand the dangers of swimming in a marina or near docks with electrical service. Check for power lines before fishing, and cast away from them.



Help children to recognize electrical equipment and stay away. Tell them never climb trees that are close to power lines. Look up when working with tall tools. Carry ladders horizontally and check for overhead power lines before placing them upright.

Any downed line is potentially energized and deadly. Know what to do in an auto accident that involves downed power lines.

Learn what you need to keep yourself and loved ones safe by visiting Safe Electricity.org. Packed with videos, games, articles and more, SafeElectricity.org is a virtual library for children and adults, farmers, contractors, business people, homeowners, teachers – just about anyone who has questions or needs to know about electrical safety. Learning and understanding electrical safety steps and situations is a valuable investment of time for all of us.

Electricity is an important asset to our modern life, but we must respect that power or the results can be tragic. More than a thousand people die and thousands more injured in electrical incidents and fires each year. We can change that reality. Have a great, safe summer!

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
218.966.5070

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Monday - Friday

ROSEAU COUNTY

Ronald Ditsch
218.779.6758

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Monday - Friday



"We know that when we arm people with knowledge, they will make the right move to stay safe."

PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you are receiving a low income or are 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 56623-2895
634-2642

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St
International Falls, MN 56649-2243
283-7000

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

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711



ITEMS FOR SALE ON BIDS

Items will be sold as-is and may be seen at North Star Electric Co-op Inc. headquarters in Baudette, Minn. Please mark outside of envelope "Bid – 1997 Trailer" or labeled with equipment desired and mail to North Star Electric Co-op, Attn: Marty Mollberg, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623. Bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. June 28, 2019. North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.



1997 Conrail C-20 Trailer and/or 1998 Felling FT018E Trailer



9.5kw 120/240V, LP generator with automatic transfer switch



2007 Silverado Extended Cab 1500 with 214,497 miles

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC 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 Tina Smith
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.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 Pete Stauber
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

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 Tim Walz
Capitol Building, Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
800-657-3717
Email: Gov.elect@state.mn.us

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
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

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
Kevin Holen



STAY SAFE ON THE FARM

Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, North Star Electric urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

BE AWARE

Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter

to make sure you stay far away from power lines when you use tall equipment.

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

FOLLOW THESE OTHER TIPS:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.
- Be aware of increased heights of equipment, especially new equipment with higher antennas.
- Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.

HOME COOKED MEALS

RHUBARB CUSTARD BARS

The shortbread-like crust and layers of rhubarb and custard inspire people to find rhubarb they can use to fix a batch for themselves.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
25 mins	50 mins	1 hour 15 mins

INGREDIENTS

Crust:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter

Filling:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 5 cups rhubarb

Topping:

- 1 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup whipping cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Crust is like lemon bars, use a 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.
2. Mix filling ingredients and spread over bottom crust.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.
4. Cool completely and then frost with topping.
5. Whip one cup of cream and set aside.
6. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, blend in whipped cream mixture.
7. Refrigerate finished bars.



Our offices will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day

In case of an outage, call 1-888-668-8243

Chef: Rachel Krohn, North Star Electric Co-op administrative assistant/billing clerk



NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTION

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4, at Littlefork/Big Falls School. The Board of Director's position up for election is District 7 for a four-year term.

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you live in this district 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.

OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

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

For credit card payment 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

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

E-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

The Enlightener (USPS 024959), is published monthly by North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., 441 St. Hwy 172 N.W., Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

Subscription price \$1/year. Periodicals postage paid at Baudette, MN 56623. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Enlightener, North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

**'LIKE US' ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP-TO-DATE**

Like your cooperative for outage updates during winter storms and other useful info.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.