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**FUN AT THE NORTH STAR  
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**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 – VOLUNTEERING IS REWARDING

My first “real” job was working at the Sears Catalog store on Main Avenue in Baudette. I loved working with Gloria and Bev, and working

for Roger was a pleasure. I remember how almost giddy he would get as a fair board member, and how much effort and love he put into making the county fair a success (365-08-006-02, Randy Orton). I also remember the complainers – the rides weren't good enough, the dates were too early for their produce, the weather was too hot, etc. But he, as most volunteers do, picked out only the constructive criticism, kept calm and chived on.

As we are in full swing of fair season, I am once again reminded of, and truly grateful for, all of the many volunteers across the spectrum who spend countless hours, often behind the scenes, so the rest of the community can be safe, find enjoyment and flourish.

Your cooperative employees are volunteers as well, serving others by coaching kids, maintaining safe snowmobiling trails, stocking food shelves, working on Rotary projects, supporting their churches, serving on school boards, etc.

Our Touchstone Energy® Values are Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community. We walk the talk, and we are happy to do it.

### Kabetogama helipad

Speaking of volunteers, the Kabetogama Area Volunteer Fire Department has

been working hard to raise money for a helipad rather than shut down U.S. Highway 53 when a helicopter needs to come to the rescue. CoBank, one of our lenders, has a Sharing Success program. It matches rural electric cooperative grants up to \$7,500/year, and this year they have awarded a matching grant to the Kabetogama project. Pictured in the photo with Fire Chief Larry Warrington is North Star lineman Nathan Zortman of Littlefork, who has also served as a volunteer firefighter.



### New metering system deployment

I'm guessing there are quite a few members who would like to 'volunteer' to have their meter changed out to a new meter that will communicate with our new AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system.

Although eight of the 10 data collectors are up, the meter deployment has to happen in a relatively orchestrated way. Routers are strategically placed with the first ones closest to the collectors, and the meters near each router are then installed. The web of routers and meters continues to grow out until we are complete, which we anticipate will be before the end of 2020. Because we

• Your cooperative employees are volunteers as well, serving others by coaching kids, serving on school boards, etc.

• The success of the helipad project could potentially impact anyone living near, visiting or passing through Kabetogama.

• If you find a tag on your door asking you to call us, please do this promptly while we are still working in your area.

are doing this work ourselves, progress has temporarily slowed down due to our summer construction projects, new service requests, county projects, etc.

The Warroad and Williams areas continue to be the first target because of end-of-life communications issues coming up there. The Littlefork area is nearly complete. Off-peak meters are a challenge, as they are usually inside dwellings, and homeowners are not usually there to grant us access. If you find a tag on your door asking you to call us, please do this promptly while we are still working in your area. We appreciate your help to get this done as efficiently as possible.

### Annual meeting

Let's talk about some volunteers you will see at our Oct. 4 annual meeting. The kitchen crew, who will prepare a chicken cordon bleu dinner for all attending members and their families, is

an exceptional group of volunteers from the Littlefork Lutheran Church. Mark Oct. 4 on your calendars now to save the date!

### Operation Round Up

Seven volunteers, who are members from across our service territory, serve on the North Star Electric Cooperative Community Trust (Operation Round

Up®) board of directors. A solid majority of our 5,408 members (consider yourselves volunteers as well) participate in Operation Round Up, and that participation has generated almost \$200,000 of funding for local tax-exempt organizations that the Community Trust Board chooses. See photos on page 5 to appreciate how the last six months of

funds has been dispersed.

So, if you're not a volunteer, consider giving it a shot. You may be surprised to find out what great stuff you've been missing!

At your service we remain,  
Ann

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the June 5, 2019, board meeting. All board members were in attendance, with the exception of President Steve Arnesen. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the submission of a matching grant application to CoBank's Sharing Success program for the Kabetogama EMS heli-

pad, to approve the ordering of a digger truck to replace the 1996 model used by the Baudette crew and to approve out-of-state travel for two employees for training purposes.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the preparation of a new loan application for the 2019-2022 Construction Work Plan, Member Appreciation Days in Baudette and Littlefork, ripple receiver testing and correction, new off-peak installations, rebates, water heater sales, the newly

redesigned Enlightener, new services, upgrades, idle service retirements, AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) installations, work order inspection completion, transportation fleet issues and replacements, the hiring of summer employee Nickolas (Rudy) Johnson, board nominations, upcoming union negotiations and strategic planning.

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 if you have an item you would like placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Ann Ellis at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

## 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

## 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](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)

# STAFF REPORT – CAPITAL CREDITS / SECURE PAYMENTS



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
*Manager of Finance & Administration*

## Capital credit refunds

In early September, look for your capital credit refund on your electric bill. What do capital credits mean to you? To put it very simply, capital credits mean cash back over time. We are a nonprofit cooperative, and after the bills are paid, we return any excess revenue, or margin, to our members. The capital credit refund you receive will be your share of the \$426,000 being returned to members this fall.

This year, your board of directors authorized the retirement of 20% of 2018 capital credits earned, 100% of the remaining unretired capital credits from 1998 and 2% of all the years in between.

## Secure payments

Lately we have been hearing about attempted payment scams happening to people we know, even to our North Star members. Sometimes the

scammers might call a home or a business posing as a co-op or utility employee and threaten to shut off service unless the consumer provides immediate payment using a debit or credit card, gift card or online payment service like PayPal. We don't want you to fall victim to these scam artists. Please remember we will NEVER call you and ask you for your banking or credit card number for a payment over the phone. See below for the payment options we provide or accept!

<p><b>MAIL YOUR PAYMENT</b>                  Prefer stamps and envelopes?                  Mail your payments to:                  North Star Electric Co-op                  PO Box 719                  Baudette, MN 56623</p> 	<p><b>DROP OFF PAYMENT</b>                  Deliver your payment in person                  Monday - Friday                  7:30 am - 4:30 pm                  or leave in the outside drop box.</p> 	<p><b>AUTO PAY</b>                  Set up automatic payments from a checking or savings account. Simple. Easy. Convenient.</p> 
<p><b>SMARTHUB</b>                  Total online account access from your computer, smart phone, or tablet at  <a href="http://www.northstarelectric.coop">www.northstarelectric.coop</a></p> 	<p><b>PAY BY PHONE</b>                  Make a payment 24/7 by phone through our secure, automated system. Call 855-874-5354.</p> 	<p><b>ONLINE BANKING</b>                  Convenient monthly payment options are offered through many financial institutions. Check with your bank to set one up.</p> 



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance-free. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: [energy.gov](http://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

# OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS LOCAL PROGRAMS

The North Star Electric Cooperative Community Trust Board met on July 9 to review the Operation Round Up® applications, which they received requesting funding for various programs. The total amount requested was \$14,950. The board awarded \$8,550, so it was not an easy task selecting which group would get funding and what amount they would receive.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up®, a voluntary member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area (783-32-028-03, Lyman Roeder). Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live.

All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star, and the money is placed into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area.

Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a nonvoting member of the board.

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.



If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents will be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

About 80% of North Star's members have chosen to participate in Operation Round Up, and it is expected that contributions will be about \$18,700 each year. That money goes back into our community.

The average annual contribution from a member is about \$6. The most that could be contributed in a year by a member is \$11.88 (12 months x 99 cents).

If a member of North Star or a nonmember of the cooperative would like to make an additional contribution, please call our office.

**(Article continued on following page)**

*"Each member's small change can make a BIG difference in our local communities."*



## Operation Round Up recipients – Baudette

**Left to right:** Erik Tange, Scout Troop 4062; Liz Tange, Lake of the Woods School Band; Gary Swenson, Border Riverdale Cemetery; Margie Sporlien, Operation Round Up board member; Marty Mollberg, MN State Foundation; Darlene Morgenstern-Loch, LSS Senior Nutrition; Lindsay Marshall, Lake of the Woods Historical Society; Jennifer Johnson, Lake of the Woods Saddle Club; Gretchen Thompson, Operation Round Up board vice president.



## Operation Round Up recipients – Littlefork

**Left to right:** Tia Martin, Big Falls Fire/EMS; Zelpha Crawford, Operation Round Up board member; Lisa McClellan, Northern Options for Women; Pat Bjorum, Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County; Mary Ellen Lehman, Operation Round Up board president; Mary Jo Winkel, Littlefork Lutheran Quilters; Karina McLellan, Falls Hunger Coalition.

## 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 the 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  
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

# 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

# OPERATION ROUND UP® (continued)

At the July meeting, \$8,550 in Operation Round Up funds were distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area, including:

- Kindred Family Focus** ..... Support foster families
- Big Falls Fire / EMS**..... Multi-gas monitor
- Servants of Shelter Koochiching County** ..... Temporary shelter
- Northern Options for Women** ..... Ultrasound start up cost
- Lake of the Woods Historical Society** ..... Volunteer incentive program
- LOW School Band Department** ..... Percussion cart
- LOW Food Shelf**..... Food for the hungry
- Salvation Army of Koochiching County** .....Basic need services to residents
- Border Riverdale Cemetery** ..... Fencing
- MN State Foundation and Alumni**.... Scholarship funds - lineworker students
- Falls Hunger Coalition**..... Healthier food options for seniors
- Littlefork Lutheran Quilters** ..... Providing quilts for agencies in Koochiching County
- LOW Saddle Club**..... Timer display
- Williams Senior Citizens Day Center** .....Operating expenses
- LSS Senior Nutrition – Baudette** ..... Low income healthy meals
- Scout Troop 4062** .....Camping equipment

# NORTH STAR FAIR BOOTHS LITTLEFORK AND BAUDETTE



We had a good turnout at both our fairs! Thank you to everyone who volunteered. The two winners of the \$100 energy bill credit were Deb Polkinghorne at the Littlefork fair and Nancy Craig at the Baudette fair.



# 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  
Gov.elect@state.mn.us

Senator Tom Bakk  
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8881  
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  
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sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

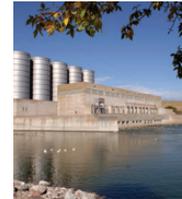
Representative Matt Grossell  
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St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
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Representative Dan Fabian  
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Representative Rob Ecklund  
311 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn

## WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:

- 34% wind
- 8% hydro
- 55% ND lignite coal
- 3% other



# HOME-COOKED MEALS

## GUACAMOLE

This quick and easy recipe will be the hit of any backyard barbeque, family reunion or summer picnic. Holy moly that's some tasty guacamole!

**Prep Time**  
10 mins

**Total Time**  
10 mins

**Servings**  
6-8 servings

### INGREDIENTS

- 8 avocados
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 can Rotel (drained)
- 1/3 cup chopped or 1 small can sliced black olives
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin

- 1/2 - 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper (to taste)
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by dicing up your mix-ins – black olives and onions; drain the Rotel and make sure the cream cheese is softened.

2. Slice the avocados in half lengthwise, making one long, oval-shaped cut around the pit. Separate the halves and remove and discard the pits.
3. Without cutting through the peels, score the avocado flesh into a grid with a knife. Scoop it out of the peels and into a bowl and mash it up to the desired consistency.
4. Add in remaining ingredients and stir together until all the components are well combined (426-14-001-50, Bruce Trask).
5. Get out the chips and dig in!



*Chef: Michael Strohl, North Star Electric Cooperative member*



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AIR-SOURCE  
HEAT PUMP.**

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- Slammin' **sustained savings**
- Wicked warmth AND chill cooling for versatile **year-round comfort**



Call member services (Kevin Holen) at **888-634-2202** for more information and to start saving today.

**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

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

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

 /northstarelectric

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*