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COLLEGE SAVINGS
ACCOUNT WINNER
OWEN DAVIS

**ANNUAL MEETING
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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 – **WHOLESALE RATES ARE STABLE; HONORING OUR VETERANS**

Annual meeting highlights

Thank you to everyone who joined us at North Star's 79th annual meeting! We were pleased to visit with many members – young and old – state Rep. Rob Ecklund and board members from neighboring rural electric cooperatives (121-40-062-06, Mike P. Hansen). As you can see from the pictures on page 5, there were a lot of happy people there, and we had plenty of good things to share.

Project Tundra – CO₂ capture

This is Minnkota's carbon capture and sequestration project, which is in the advanced research and design phase. Minnkota's Stacey Dahl delivered a great presentation to our annual meeting crowd, and if you missed it, here's how to access some of the info:

To view two videos about Project Tundra, you can go to YouTube and:

- o Search "Project Tundra Minnkota" to learn about the process to remove CO₂.



Project Tundra - The Future of Carbon Capture
Minnkota Power Cooperative • 74 views • 1 month ago
The future of carbon capture technology is emerging in North Dakota. Project Tundra partners seek to keep the coal-based energy ...

- o Search "Low Carbon Energy for North Dakota" for information about permanent geologic storage.



Low Carbon Energy for North Dakota
Energy & Environmental Research Center • 239 views • 5 months ago

- o Or go to the **www.ProjectTundraND.com** to see both videos and LOTS more. You can also follow the latest news by "liking" Project Tundra on Facebook.

If you'd like to see the slides Stacey shared at the annual meeting, email us at nsec@wiktel.com and we will send you a link.

Wholesale rates are stable

Assuming no new legislative mandates or regulations will be imposed on us, our wholesale electricity price from Minnkota should be stable for a good stretch of time. Since more than 60% of every dollar you send to North Star is forwarded on to Minnkota, this is very important when it comes to keeping your retail rates stable.

Patriotic students

The Littlefork/Big Falls fifth and sixth graders sang the national anthem for the crowd,

• Assuming no new legislative mandates, our wholesale electricity price from Minnkota should be stable for a good stretch of time.

• Project Tundra is Minnkota's carbon capture and sequestration project, which is in the advanced research and design phase.

• Without the sacrifices our veterans have made, we would not be enjoying all of the freedoms that they have protected for us.

which has become one of my favorite parts of the annual meeting. The little PomPom



girls were as good as the frosting on the cupcakes (and the fabulous meal served by the Littlefork

Lutheran church group). If you couldn't join us this year, mark your calendar to be with us on Oct. 2, 2020, at the Lake of the Woods School for our 80th anniversary!

Honoring our veterans

As Veterans Day approaches, I'd like to close with a sincere thank you to all of our veterans. Without the sacrifices they made, we would not be enjoying all of the freedoms that they have protected for us. We are reprinting an article that ran last November in the Northern Light Region, the newspaper located in Baudette. It choked me up last year, and the message is timeless. I hope you take the time to read it.

At your service we remain ... Ann

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Sept. 4, 2019, board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve a donation to the NRECA International Foundation to support the electrification of Africa, Asia and Latin America and to set next year's annual meeting date for Oct. 2, 2020.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, review of several policies, delegates for upcoming meetings, the financial audit in progress,

unclaimed capital credits to be donated, correcting non-shedding off-peak load, rebates, solar distributed generation, new services, service upgrades, idle service retirements, pole changeouts, AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) installations, power line inspection, the digger truck replacement, work plan projects and outages.

Visiting guest David Noess from Federated Rural Electric Insurance joined the meeting and gave an overview of North Star's insurance coverage, claims and

safety, and he discussed the importance of clear right of way.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (557-22-003-02, Duane Burmeister). 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.



BOARD MEMBERS INVESTED IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

Effectively governing a rural electric cooperative requires investments in education. Board members Shelley Spears (Baudette), Bruce Sampson (Ray) and Mike Hanson (Birchdale) recently graduated with NRECA's (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's) Credentialed Cooperative Director certification (Spears and Sampson) and Board Leadership certification (Hanson). Board policy requires that new directors become CCD certified before the end of their first term. Our statewide association makes this more cost-effective and convenient by offering the training close to home in two separate week-long Fast-Track sessions.

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

HONORING AND REMEMBERING VETERANS DAY

Article courtesy of Doris Knutson, Northern Light Region

The Lake of the Woods School held their annual Veterans Day program on Monday, Nov. 12, 2018, and a large crowd was on hand to witness the meaningful observation.

In addition to the presentation of colors by the Baudette Ceremonial Squad, musical numbers performed by choir members and presentations by students, teachers and veterans, a moving



presentation was given by local veteran Cody Wilkerson.

Wilkerson began by giving the history of his time in the military, from his National Guard basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he was trained as a combat medic, to his enlistment in the Army following his graduation from high school.

Upon enlistment, Wilkerson traveled to Ft. Benning, Georgia, for Advanced Infantry Training, followed by a stint in the U.S. Army Airborne School.

"After throwing myself out of a high performance aircraft five times," Wilkerson said, "I became a U.S. Army paratrooper."

According to Wilkerson, that was the day his life changed forever. He was assigned to Charlie Company 1st 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment as part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg.

"After a childhood of loneliness, I had finally found a family – a family of brothers," he said.

During Wilkerson's assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division, he was deployed several times to Panama, Arkansas, Virginia, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. On Aug. 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Wilkerson's unit landed at King Fahd International Airport on Aug. 7. The temperature on that day was 138 degrees Fahrenheit.

In the nine months Wilkerson spent in that region, he saw the horrors of war and, as he says, "I will never forget it." In his talk, Wilkerson focused on some of the positives that came from his experience, as well as some lessons he learned.

"I learned that life is fragile and quick," he said. "You better focus on the important things." He was also quick to downplay his role while acknowledging the role of others.

"I want to make something perfectly clear," he said, "I am not a hero, although I did get the opportunity to walk amongst some."

"When I ask myself the meaning of Veterans Day, I think of these men," Wilkerson continued.

"It was almost as if I got dropped off at the Hall of superheroes, but these guys didn't wear tights and capes; they wore night vision goggles and parachutes. I am standing here today because men laid down their lives so that I may live. For that, I have to try to live the rest of my life in their honor."

In addition, Wilkerson touched on the difficulties he faced once he returned home. In 2012, he was having a particularly tough time.

"I was having a hard time even getting out of bed," he said. "The problem was I couldn't figure out why on earth I felt like this."

Wilkerson was eventually diagnosed with severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as well as severe depression and an anxiety disorder. One day, an old Vietnam War veteran said something to him that made a lot of sense.

"He said all of us change from war," Wilkerson recalled, "some for the better – some for the worse. He told me, 'You, my friend, have been a gunfighter and a warrior and a sergeant. My friend, none of those quit.'"

Wilkerson then offered a deal to those on hand at the Veterans Day program. "I won't quit," he vowed, "I won't stop fighting, I won't stop helping those in need and I won't leave any of you behind."

In return, he asked a few things from the audience as well. "Only say things about people that you would say to them," said Wilkerson.

"If it doesn't do any good, don't do it, don't say it, don't think it. Do your very best. Never cause any hurt or pain to others. Help when you can. Protect those who can't protect themselves. Do something to improve your environment, it will make you feel better. Take care of yourselves so we can do it all over again tomorrow. Thank these veterans; they are my brothers and sisters and they have earned it. If you just think about what I've said today and you put it to work, well, that's enough thanks for me."

"I am standing here today because men laid down their lives so that I may live. For that, I have to try to live the rest of my life in their honor."

2019 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



North Star Electric service award recipients (left to right): Tessa Strohl, 10 years; Rachel Krohn, 1 year; Brittany Hanson, 5 years; Nick Horne, 5 years.



A good-sized crowd gathers for North Star Electric Cooperative's 79th annual meeting.



Littlefork-Big Falls Mini Cheerleaders perform.



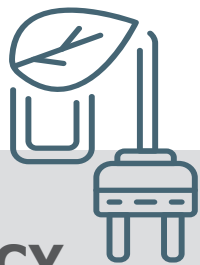
North Star employee Patsy Olson and volunteer Deric Gustafson tabulate the results for the \$250 early bird contest.



Al Linder – grand prize winner of a \$500 energy credit, and Elsie Boquist – \$100 energy credit winner.



Littlefork-Big Falls fifth and sixth graders sing the national anthem.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

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

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE

The cold weather law does not totally forbid winter cutoffs. If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly.

An electric cooperative must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit when the following conditions are met:

(1) the customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility. For the purposes of this clause, a customer who is receiving energy assistance is deemed to have demonstrated an inability to pay;

(2) the household income of the customer is less than 50% of the state median income. All income documentation must be returned along with your Inability to Pay form unless you have verified income eligibility with an energy assistance provider in clause (3);

(3) verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the utility, unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy

Local energy assistance providers

Lake of the Woods County	218-634-2642
Koochiching County	218-283-7000
Northwest Community Action	800-568-5329
Kootasca Community Action	877-687-1163
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity	800-662-5711

assistance that uses income eligibility in any amount at or below the income eligibility in clause (2); and

(4) the customer receives referrals to energy assistance programs, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

THE COLD WEATHER LAW PROVIDES YOU WITH THESE OPTIONS:

The RIGHT to declare your inability to pay. If you do so and if your household income is less than 50% of the state median income, the service affecting your primary heat source cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of your bill. However, we have the right to accept or reject your request based on information supplied or other supporting documentation.

The RESPONSIBILITY, if you choose to declare inability to pay. You must complete an "Inability to Pay" form and return it to us within fifteen (15) days of the notice to disconnect. You must contact us

immediately to arrange a payment plan.

The RIGHT to a mutually agreeable payment schedule with us. The schedule will cover your existing arrears plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period.

The RIGHT not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday or on a day before a holiday, or until at least twenty (20) days after the postmark on the notice to disconnect or until fifteen (15) days after the notice and information has been personally delivered.

The RIGHT not to be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied when a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

The RIGHT to appeal the disconnection of service to the North Star Electric Cooperative board of directors. If you choose to appeal, you must deliver or mail a personal letter stating your situation and issues in dispute. Your letter must be in our hands before the date of disconnection. You will be notified when the board of directors will review your appeal and you may be present at the review. No disconnection of service will take place during the appeal process.

If you do not meet all the conditions of the cold weather law as outlined on this notice, you do not qualify for winter shutoff protection.

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) 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

However, you still can continue to receive electric service if you call us to set up a mutually acceptable payment arrangement. Call North Star Electric at **218-278-6658** or **888-258-2008** BEFORE the due date on your disconnection notice.

If you meet all the conditions of the cold weather law, can't pay your electric bill and need cold weather protection from utility shutoff, call North Star Electric to have an Inability to Pay form sent to you. Complete the form and return it to North Star Electric Cooperative immediately along with your income documentation.



ITEM 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 – Mower" and mail to North Star Electric Co-op, Attn: Kevin Holen, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623. Bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. Nov. 29, 2019. North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

(2) 60" "Swisher" pull-behind mowers with 14.5 HSP Briggs & Stratton motors. Both mowers will be sold as-is and may be seen at North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. headquarters in Baudette, Minn. Highest bid will get first choice of mower.



Celebrate with savings!

Buy energy efficient
Christmas lights and decorations

LED LIGHTING REBATE

How to apply:



1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2019.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2019, **with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string.** ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**

Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

Mail to: North Star Electric Cooperative • PO Box 719 •
441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623

HOME COOKING

ITALIAN SAUSAGE AND HERB STUFFING

As the stuffing bakes, your home will smell like Thanksgiving. It's lightly crusted on top and full of a rich buttery and herb flavor. *(recipe/photo courtesy of foodnetwork.com)*

Prep Time

25 mins

Cook Time

57 mins

Total Time

1 hour 22 mins

Servings

8 to 10 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 pound loaf of bread in 1-inch cubes, white or sourdough
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 cups medium-diced yellow onion (2 onions)
- 1 cup medium-diced celery (2 stalks)
- 2 Granny Smith apples, unpeeled, cored and large-diced

- 2 tablespoons each of parsley, sage and thyme
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound sweet or spicy Italian sausage, casings removed
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup dried cranberries

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300°.
2. Place the bread cubes in a

single layer on a

sheet pan and bake for 7 minutes. Raise the oven temperature to 350° (251-24-199-05, Dana Frame). Remove the bread cubes to a large bowl.

3. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan, melt the butter and add the onions, celery, apples, parsley, salt and pepper. Sauté over medium heat for 10 minutes, until the vegetables are softened. Add to the bread cubes.
4. In the same sauté pan, cook the sausage over medium heat for about 10 minutes, until browned and cooked through, breaking up the sausage with a fork while cooking. Add to the bread cubes and vegetables.
5. Add the chicken stock and cranberries to the mixture, mix well, and pour into a 9 by 12-inch baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes, until browned on top and hot in the middle. Serve warm.



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

North Star Electric donates unclaimed capital credits to local, charitable organizations.



Baudette Community Foundation board member Devlin Reasy accepts one of these donations from North Star master electrician Clayton Gubbels.



Board member Mike Hanson presents a donation of \$350 to Indus School principal Laurie Bitter to be used to purchase filters for the water filtration system.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**11
NOV.**

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

**28-29
NOV.**

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday-Friday, Nov. 28-29, in observance of Thanksgiving.

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)
Email us at nsec@wikel.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., PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the fall season and other useful info.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.