Craig and Kathy Slick of Baudette were the lucky winners of our $100 Electric Bill Credit. Everyone who was signed up for our automatic bill payment program was put in the drawing. Craig and Kathy have been paying their electric bill this way every month since 2008. Congratulations to them, and thank you to the 2,435 of you who use this very cost-effective bill-payment method.

When we can save money, you save money.
MANAGER’S REPORT – KUDOS TO COMMUNITIES

This is normally the time of year when parents of high school seniors are scrambling to do yard and home spruce-ups before graduation open houses, high school sports are bringing teams and fans together and class field trips have the kiddos all excited. But, as you know, this is not a normal spring.

As I write this from my makeshift remote office on April 28, I know how hard people are working to ensure the health and safety of those around them. Last month we talked about all that North Star Electric Cooperative is doing differently to adapt to COVID-19 concerns in ways that allow us to continue to provide you with reliable, affordable and safe electricity.

This month I want to give our communities kudos for all I see being done to promote healthy living and healthy businesses. People are going out of their way to support a wide variety of businesses, like buying drive-thru popcorn and concession candy at the theater without being able to watch a movie there. How about the instant sell-out of reservations for a curbside pickup rib dinner to help keep the restaurant open? Volunteers are making masks. A distillery and a brewery in our area are making hand sanitizer. Resorts have implemented best practices for safely accommodating their guests and employees. Sometimes, it is during the bad situations when people shine the brightest, and I see a lot to be proud of up here on the Canadian border!

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Typically, North Star provides electrical safety demonstrations in classrooms across our service territory. What students normally learn is:

- Stay away from power lines
- Don’t fly kites near power lines
- Remind your parents to watch out for power lines when they are using a ladder, chainsaw or other outdoor equipment
- Never use anything with a cord or plug around water
- Keep metal objects out of toasters
- Don’t climb trees near power lines

Let’s make this fun in a different way. Help your student record a 5-10 second movie clip telling the world about how to be safe around electricity. Email the clip to nsec@wiktel.com. The best clip will earn the winning student $50!

Speaking of winning, check out the six graduating seniors who won scholarships totaling $3,000 in North Star’s Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship competition. Again, adjustments were made to remotely reach students, and because this had to be an open-book test this year, we asked the students to write a couple of paragraphs that addressed the value of electricity, especially during this COVID-19 period. Responses were interesting and centered around what they would do if they couldn’t charge their devices or have access to the internet (363-14-005-02, Lorene Hanson). What would YOU miss the most if you were obligated to "stay at home" with no electricity?

Educating our young people is critical, even when it comes to the electric cooperative that their parents own. Educating our young people is critical, even when it comes to the electric cooperative that their parents own.

Co-op member-consumers (or employees or board members)!

For fire departments and emergency workers, if you are looking for training focused on your crew’s safety around power lines, check out this video from our insurance carrier: https://www.federatedrural.com/video-library.

If you have recently lost your job or had your hours cut, and you are having trouble paying your electric bill, there are temporary new rules that make qualifying for fuel assistance a lot easier. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do. Please call Sue at 218-278-6658 for guidance.

Providing reliable, safe and affordable electricity is our mission – and in times like these, we are stability to help you through uncertainty. Count on us.

At your service we remain … Ann Ellis

General Manager

Ann Ellis
General Manager
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Feb. 5, 2020, board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the allocation of the 2019 margins (revenue in excess of expenses) to the cooperative members’ capital credit accounts, to select Steve Arnesen as the North Star representative on Minnkota Power Cooperative’s board of directors, to select Mike Hanson as the North Star representative on Square Butte Electric Cooperative’s board of directors, to approve updates to policies, to approve Director Smith’s out-of-state travel with MREA to Washington, D.C., and to approve the transfer of final unpaid delinquent bills from current accounts receivable to the reserve for uncollectible.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, final 2019 margin results, billing peak measurements, employee benefits, ripple receiver testing, the correction of nonshedding off-peak loads, rebates, the completion of the Baudette office fire alarm system installation, AMI installations, right-of-way maintenance, pole change-outs, work-plan project staking, rubber goods testing, pole testing and outages.

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.

NORTH STAR KNOWLEDGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

North Star Electric would like to thank the students who took the time to study and take the test, which was about North Star Electric and rural electric cooperatives. Congratulations to the 2020 scholarship winners!

Macey Marcotte
International Falls
$1,000

Gunner Ferrier
Lake of the Woods
$400

Giffer Sonstegard
Lake of the Woods
$400

Eila Warnke
Lake of the Woods
$400

Jacob Peterson
Littlefork - Big Falls
$400

Anthony Cipriano
Littlefork - Big Falls
$400

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
LOOKING FOR UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT RECIPIENTS

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 can be disbursed to his/her current mailing address. Thank you for your assistance.

ADRIAN SIMONSEN, JOE LYLE, RICHARD LYSTAD, FRANK (EST)
ALEXANDRIA WOLFE, DUANE F. MAGNAN, EUGENE MAST, SHERRY MAXWELL, GERALD MCCLOUD, RON MESNER, WILLIAM (EST)
ANDOVER SHOEMAKER, MARK A. MILLIKAN, DAVID MOSLEY, MARYLIN S. NELSON, R. C. NORMAN, LAVERNE OSLAND, JILL J. OSLON, MARY (EST) OSLON, SHERYL OMDAHL, RAY POCHAINO, WASELKA REIMER, IVAN J. RINGHOFER, R. J. ROGUS, MARGARET L. SCHATZ, ANDREW SCHOEMPP, DAVID SCOTT, KEVIN SERBINSKI, MICHAEL SIMON, RICHARD SOIETH, KEVIN W. SOLVIK, OLE SPAULDING, JEFFREY L. STUART, ALLEN (EST) SUNE, EUGENE TINNIN, KENNETH G. TURNER, ROBERT M. VILLAECIO, JOHN VRIESENGA, JEFFERSON D. WELLS, HARRY L. WESLEY, NEWTON BENEMICH, GENNES, THOMAS LILLOMEN, RICHARD LUND, ORLAND J. URAN, THOMAS ZIPURIS, JOHN BLACKDUCK YARBROUGH, JOHN R. BLOOMINGTON ROTHE, ELIZABETH BLUFFTON HUTCHENS, STEVE BRAINTER BECK, DAVID BOWMAN, ROBERT F. FOUNTAIN PROPERTIES, LLC 
CARLTON HOLDEN, AMUND (EST) CHANHASSEN SIMS, DON CLEAR LAKE PETERSON, E. A. CLOQUET BOES, DANE COHASSET JOHNSON, PAUL D. COKATO CAMP, MARLIN H. COOK DAVIS, DON DAVIS, DONALD E.
COON RAPIDS MERKLING, STEVEN R. RENQUIST, MARTHA T. RINEHART, HOWARD (EST) COUPEE BOES, DANE
COTTAGE GROVE NALAND, PAUL R. CROOKSTON BRULEY, GARY PETERSON, AARON V. DULUTH BERG, FLOYD KARASCH, MICHAEL
MCDONALD, JANICE OBEP, KATHERINE A. OSWALT, TARA SMITH, DONALD J. TURNER, ROBERT M. URTZ, THOMAS ZIPURIS, JOHN ELY GLOCKZIN, CALVIN EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EVELETH HEDIN, BRIAN FARMINGTON CARNANATH, J. C. FERGUS FALLS LARSON, MELVIN J. (EST) WHITFORD, JEFF FERTE REESE, BERNARD FOREST LAKE DUNN, JAMES E. GRAND MARAIS BLOOMFIELD, CLARK J. GREENBUSH SOVDE, LYLE HALLOCK PEARSON, VERNE W. (EST) WUNSCH, PATRICIA HALMA WALSH, LUELLA HIBBING HACKET, JACK (EST) HOWARD LAKE BRAVINDER, ROBERT F. HOYT LAKES ANWILER, ROBERT INTL FALLS ALMBLAD, DONALD F. ANDERSON, TERESA A. BAHM, DONNA BALLETT, BARRY BARTZ, TERRY BELANGER, MARY BENNETT, MICHAEL BEST, THOMAS L. BLUME, RONALD BLUMHARDT, DOUGLAS BOWMAN, LESLIE BOYLE, JANICE N. BRADBURN, JOHN G. BRISBIN, RYAN BROSSARD, MARGARET CARLSON, DALE R. CARLSON, HAROLD A. CASSIBO, DOUG CONT. TEL.-MN. INC. CRAB, WM J. CROWSTON, JESSE CRUM, EUGENE A. CWIK, KEVIN F. ECKERT, NADINE ECKLER, DAVID B. EKLAND, DAVE ELMENDORF, DEAN ELMENDORF, DON ELY (EST) EMERSON, DOUG (EST) EMMONS, LAURANCE EMMONS, ROBERT EMMONS, ROGER EMMONS, THOMAS J. (EST) EMMONS, WILFRED EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD EMBARRASS DONNER, TODD
CANCELED. We appreciate your patience during that was scheduled for June 16-17 has been canceled. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the safety of our members, the Center Tour that was scheduled for June 16-17 has been canceled. We appreciate your patience during these uncertain times.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities and each 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.

**White** – Post, Damage Prevention, Others
**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

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**POWER PLANT TOUR 2020 IS CANCELED**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the safety of our members, the Center Tour that was scheduled for June 16-17 has been canceled. We appreciate your patience during these uncertain times.

**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 you 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.
PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?
ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do. We encourage you to contact them before the July 2020 deadline or when the additional federal assistance runs out, whichever comes first.

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

I hope this letter finds you and your families in good health during these crazy times. I’m sure it’s the same for most of you, but I have definitely put a dent in my bucket list projects at home during the stay-at-home order.

Automated meter reading project
We are over 99% completion of the new Landis+Gyr RF mesh meter reading system. All that remains is a handful of off-peak meters to be changed out (414-01-002-03, Brad Hazelton). However, at this time we have chosen to not enter members’ homes unless an emergency exists, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Line maintenance
The crews started the year with pole change-outs and once the frost is out, they will be back to replacing poles. During breakup, the crews have been doing overhead line inspection of the entire system. Once that has been completed, they will start on underground inspection.

Right-of-way mowing widening
The crews were working on removing danger trees and widening of right of ways in key areas of our system, along with contracted cutters that have completed several miles of line clearing north of Williams, southeast of Baudette and on the Van Lynn Road east of International Falls.

If your plan is to plant some trees this spring, LOOK UP! Small trees turn into big trees that can eventually reach the line, causing line loss and outages that all members pay for.

Work-plan projects
The two larger work-plan projects for this summer are three-phase underground line replacements due to aging infrastructure stretching from the Pitt substation to Jake’s Sawmill and from Loman to the Christian Broadcast tower.

We will also be updating the three-phase overhead line through Loman and upgrading a regulator bank near Rainy Lake. Requests for new services and service upgrades have been steady as of late, so if you have plans for either, give us a call so we can get you on the schedule.

Last thing – if you’re doing any burning this spring, be cautious around our poles and equipment. Unkempt fires can create outages and expensive repairs, along with obvious safety concerns. Until next time – stay safe!

OPERATION ROUND UP APPLICATION
DEADLINE IS MAY 31

The deadline to submit Operation Round Up grant applications is May 31. Community organizations may apply for a grant by completing and returning an application form. Forms are available on North Star’s website. 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 (795-21-054-03, Richard Hunt). About 80% of the membership is contributing to this great cause to help our local communities.
**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

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

**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

**WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:**

<table>
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<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>8% hydro</td>
<td>11% hydro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55% lignite coal</td>
<td>67% lignite coal</td>
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<tr>
<td>3% other</td>
<td>3% other</td>
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**HOME COOKING**

**SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN**

A classic Chinese takeout dish with a crispy breading, delicate, smooth and succulent chicken and a lighter sweet and sour sauce.

<table>
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<th>Prep Time</th>
<th>Cook Time</th>
<th>Total Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 mins</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
<td>40 mins</td>
<td>2-3 servings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 cup flour in Ziplock bag
- 1-2 pounds chicken breasts, cubed
- 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Mix the egg and garlic powder together in a bowl.
2. Dip chicken cubes in the egg mixture and then in the flour.
4. Mix remaining ingredients together and pour over chicken.
5. Spread out coated chicken evenly in a baking dish.
6. Bake chicken at 350° for 1 1/2 hours.

*If more than two people are eating, you will need to double or triple this recipe.*

*Suggested to serve over your choice of rice.*

*From the kitchen of Kara Stromlund*
Lorraine Nygaard, North Star board member \textit{(right)}, presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Tia Martin, representing the Big Falls EMTs.

Lorraine Nygaard, North Star board member \textit{(left)}, presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Sonja Pelland, representing Littlefork Ambulance.

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, June 3, if you wish to speak to the board.

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

\url{facebook.com/northstarelectric}