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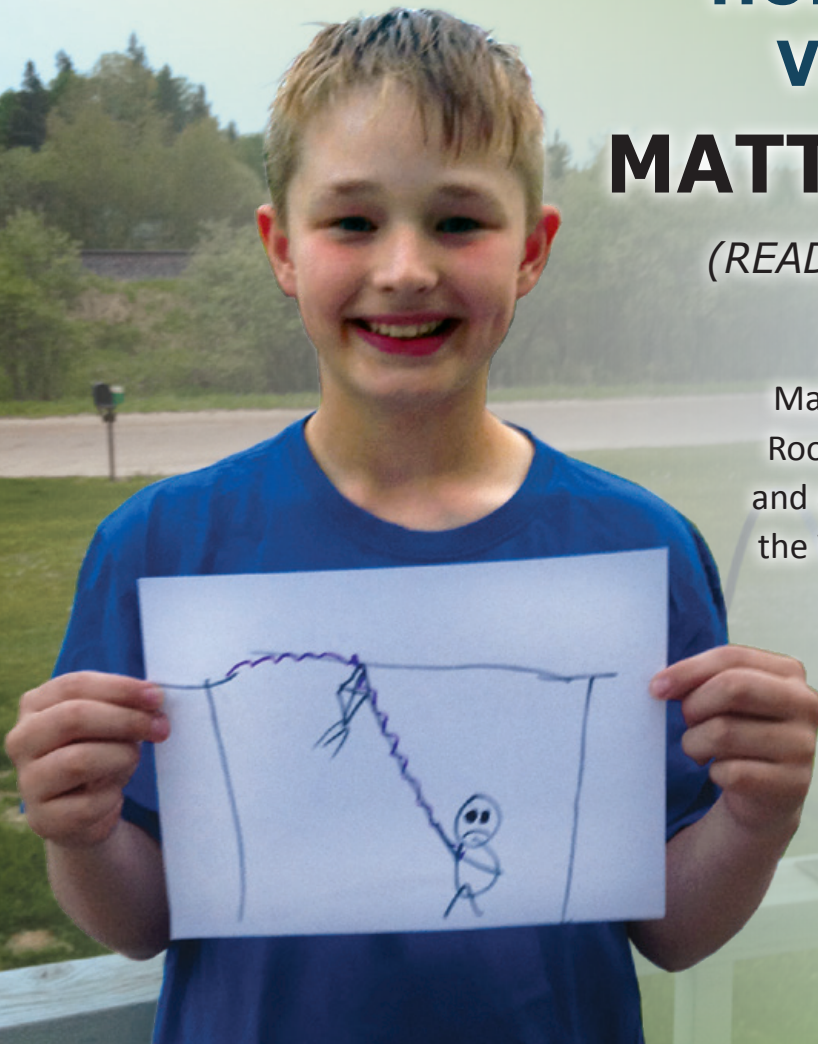
**NOMINATION PROCESS
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HOMEMADE SAFETY VIDEO WINNER

MATTHEW NORDINE

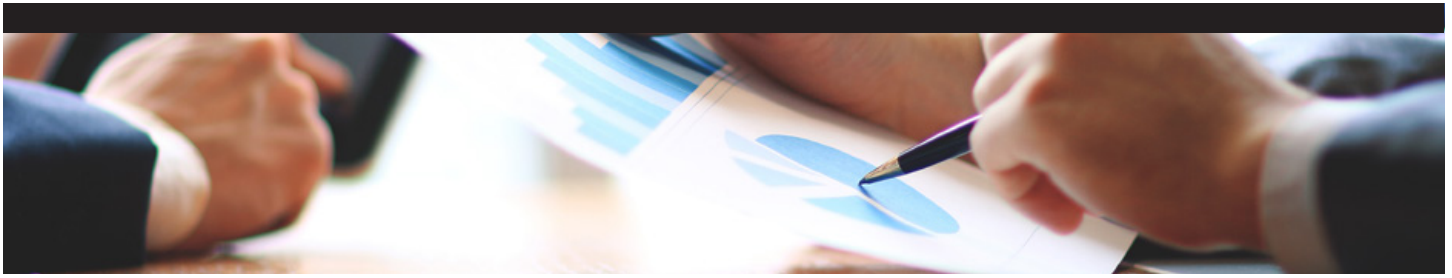
*(READ MORE IN THE MANAGER'S
REPORT ON PAGE 2)*

Matthew is from
Roosevelt, Minn.,
and attends Lake of
the Woods School.



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 – **STICKING TOGETHER**

Safety - and the \$50 winner is...

There are all sorts of things to be thinking about to stay safe, especially this year, but let's talk about electrical safety. Last month

we encouraged students to record a short homemade video because we missed being able to go to their classrooms to teach them how to stay safe around electricity. We wanted to turn the tables and make the students the presenters. We'd like to thank everyone who submitted a video, and **we'd like to announce that the winner is Matthew Nordine from Roosevelt!** He will have fun spending the \$50 prize he earned as the "Star" of the show, but more importantly, we hope his little movie will actually prevent some electrical accidents. Check out his interesting two-minute presentation at www.nse.coop. It is filled with very useful information. Also, please take a few minutes to review the safety info on page 5 of this issue of the Enlightener.

Help with your electric bill

As we ease into a reopened economy, we know many of you have been hit pretty hard financially by COVID-19 restrictions. Many of you have never needed financial help before, but maybe today you do. We encourage you to contact Sue in our office at **218-278-6658** to make arrangements and discuss the availability of expanded, and easier-to-qualify-for, fuel assistance. Don't wait too long, because the expanded fuel assistance ends July 1.

Want to pay lower taxes?

Here's an easy way to pay lower taxes – be counted in the census. Its results determine how \$675 billion in taxes is spread across the United States to support hospitals, schools, roads and other vital programs. Don't let your taxes go to support some other part of the nation just because you weren't counted.

For example, Koochiching County reported that 2,100 residents went uncouncted in the last census, which reduced the federal funds to the county by \$60,000,000 over the decade! That is more than just significant (373-12-006-05, Brian Fox). In addition, the census results are also used to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. State officials use the data to redraw legislative districts, and our rural area needs as much representation as we can get. So much is at stake.

The COVID-19 situation has extended the census process out to October, but you don't have to wait until someone comes to your door. Fill out your survey form or do it online, and cross this important item off your "to-do" list.

The new normal?

We anticipate our lobbies will be opening soon to the public, and our remote workers are beginning to return to on-site work. My hope is that as everyone cautiously returns to normal; we have all become better aware of the importance of basic things like effective hand-washing, staying home when we or our kids are sick and covering our coughs. Be well!

• Many of you have never needed financial help before, but maybe today you do. We encourage you to contact Sue in our office at **218-278-6658** to make arrangements.

• The COVID-19 situation has extended the Census process out to October, but you don't have to wait until someone comes to your door.

• Similar to North Star's mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our member-consumers, our communities are strongest when we all stick together for the common good.

Sticking together

If you are not old enough to remember how thick the Sears catalog was, visualize a ream of paper. Then think about trying to tear the intact ream in half. On your own, that would be pretty impossible, but if you had 500 sheets to rip individually, you could easily destroy it. Our communities need to act like a Sears catalog – bound by common goals. Similar to North Star's mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our member-consumers, our communities are strongest when we all stick together for the common good. Be part of the solution. Share your perspectives. Listen to others. Come to agreements. Support those goals. Be a part of the "Sears catalog."

And fill out your census form!

At your service we remain ... Ann

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

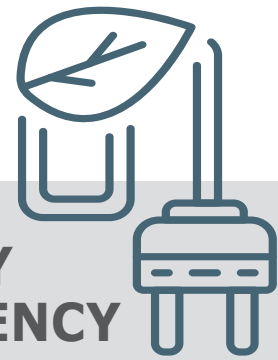


These are the highlights from the March 4, 2020, board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve out-of-state travel for operations manager Marty Mollberg.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the workers' compensation audit, CoBank's Sharing Success program, the 2019 capital credit allocation, load control, ripple receiver testing, the completion of the fire alarm system in Baudette, off-peak installations, red and yellow zone control, rebates, upgrades, AMI installations, pole changeouts, line relocates, meter testing, right-of-way clearing, rubber goods

testing, annual DOT inspections, outages, bids for construction work plan projects, insurance, legislative issues, the MREA annual meeting, employee benefits and expenses, broadband, strategic planning and the Baudette lineworker program through M-State.

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.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills (429-45-088-01, Daniel Sursely). Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Source: energy.gov



North Star offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. In case of an outage, call 1-888-668-8243.

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

STAFF REPORT – BUDGET BILLING / COVID-19



Robyn Sonstegard
Manager of Finance & Administration

Patsy at **218-634-2202**, or patsy.o@northstarelectric.coop, for additional information on budget billing.

Unclaimed capital credits

In last month's Enlightener, we printed the "we are looking for you" list of former members with unclaimed capital credits. This published list is our last effort at finding these former members

Budget billing

If the seasonal swings on your electric bill are hard on your budget, please contact us to discuss budget billing. Our budget billing cycle starts every year in July. The bills sent out for the months of July through May are all at a set flat amount, and the June bill (received in early July) reconciles the estimated budget payments with the actual bill amounts (675-06-003-03, Greg Solo). This works very well with ACH, the automatic payment of your electric bill from your bank account. Contact

whose addresses 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.

Please remember, 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!

COVID-19

Safety is part of the culture here at our co-op. We know you depend on safe, reliable electric service, and we will continue to do our best to serve you. Currently, our offices are still closed to the public. We will continue to evaluate the pandemic status to determine when to reopen. We are using best practices, good judgment and safety precautions to continue to serve you during this time. Please stay safe and know that North Star will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for our members. The spread of COVID-19 has necessitated that we work differently, but it does not change what we do.

Make handwashing a healthy habit

How?



Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.



Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.



Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH
CLEAN HANDS

www.cdc.gov/handwashing

This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOJO, and Staples. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.



CS310027-A

HAVE A FUN AND 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 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 to 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 **SafeElectricity.org**. Packed with videos, games, articles and more, **SafeElectricity.org** is a virtual library for children and adults, farmers, contractors, businesspeople, 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 are 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 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

"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 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

Get more out of a modern cooling system.

Get year-round comfort.

Get top-notch efficiency.

GET AIR-SOURCE HEAT **PUMPED**.



Air Conditioner

Cooling during warm summer days

Absorbs inside heat and expels it from your home, then creates chilled air to push back into your home

Wall units **lack efficiency**, as they only provide spot cooling and air can leak through window seals. Central air units are comparable to ASHPs in summer

- Smaller upfront cost, but does not offer heating
- No installation rebates offered

VS



Air-Source Heat Pump

Up to
\$500/ton
in rebates!

CAN I USE IT
YEAR-ROUND?

Heating and cooling through every season

IS IT
VERSATILE?

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but offers the **versatility** of the reverse process to heat your home in the winter

IS IT
EFFICIENT?

Super energy efficient, as the unit moves both cooled and heated air throughout the home

CAN I SAVE
MONEY?

- **Large rebates** available for unit installation
- **Sustained savings** through energy efficiency

Bonus Winter Benefit:

Electric ASHP heating is **much more efficient** and **cost-effective** than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses.

PUMP UP YOUR SAVINGS WITH AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Contact our Energy Experts at **218-634-2202** for more information.

WILL YOUR AC UNIT MAKE IT THROUGH THE SUMMER?



Don't sweat it – North Star Electric has you covered. With rebates up to **\$500/ton**, the time to purchase an air-source heat pump is **NOW!**

For environmentally friendly heating and cooling, an air-source heat pump is the natural choice. Quiet and efficient, heat pumps use the heat found naturally in the air.

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

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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

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www.stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

Congressman Collin Peterson
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www.collinpeterhouse.gov
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Fax: 202-225-1593

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75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
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Gov.elect@state.mn.us

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95 University Avenue W.
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www.senate.mn/members

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rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn

WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:

CAPACITY

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

ENERGY

19% wind
11% hydro
67% lignite coal
3% other



HOME COOKING

RHUBARB / STRAWBERRY CRUMB PIE

This dazzling dessert recipe is just heavenly. The sharp rhubarb balances out the sweet strawberries perfectly and the crunchy crumb topping is the grand finale.

Prep Time

30 mins

Cook Time

45 mins

Total Time

1 hour 15 mins

Servings

8 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 egg
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 3 cups rhubarb
- Unbaked, 9-inch pie shell
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups strawberries

Topping:

- 1/2 cup flour

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 1/4 cup butter

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. In a large bowl, beat the egg and then mix in sugar, flour and vanilla.
3. Gently fold in rhubarb (cut into 1/2-inch pieces) and



strawberries (cut in half). Pour mixture into the unbaked pie shell.

5. For topping, combine flour, sugar, oatmeal and butter until crumbly. Sprinkle this over the fruit.
6. Bake at 400° for 10 minutes, then lower temperature to 350° and bake for 35 minutes longer or until crust is golden brown. Cool completely.

From the kitchen of Judy Griffen

Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is chosen to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.



NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTION

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 1 (currently held by Steve Arnesen) and District 4 (currently held by Mike Hanson).

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% 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 1-888-60OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

Email 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 the summer season and other useful info.

 **/northstarelectric**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.