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North Star Electric Co-op and CoBank teamed up to make a **\$20,000 DONATION** to the Baudette Community Foundation possible. The foundation was created to promote a healthier community, and constructing and operating The Grand Theater has been its main project. North Star employee Tessa Strohl is pictured with foundation directors Mike Hovde (left) and Laurie Baade (right) and theater manager Jacob Knutson.



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT – “NORMALLY”

I'd like to know how much more often the word normally has been used over the last three months.

Normally this issue would be full of colorful, fun photos

from our Member Appreciation Days and the bus trip for member-consumers wanting to witness electricity being generated by our (Minnkota's) plants. We'd be talking about seeing you at the fair. We'd be dropping more hints about the upcoming annual meeting. Hey, wait! We ARE going to mention our Oct. 2 annual meeting. Although your calendar likely has “canceled” written all over it, our intention is to not let our membership meeting suffer the same fate, even if it has to be a little different.

One of the most important duties member-consumers have is electing their representative on the board of directors. Each director represents about 800 other member-consumers in their area on our seven-member board. This year Districts 1 and 4 are up for election. District 1 covers the Roosevelt/Rocky Point area, and District 4 runs from east of Baudette to just east of Pelland Junction. Your district number is printed on your monthly billing statement if you want to know if you will be voting or if you'd be eligible to run. Interested member-consumers should contact the office soon, because the only way to get on the ballot is by petition. The

completed form must be turned in before the beginning of August.

Something else you want to get on your calendar is installing the air-source heat pump you've been thinking about so you can start enjoying up to 300% efficiency, which means saving up to two thirds of the cost to heat and cool your home. Electric heating has always been 100% efficient, which means you only pay for the heating/cooling you get. Air-source heat pump technology extracts the existing heat from compressed air and moves it into (or out of) your home for a fraction of the price of generating the heat with a fuel or wind turbine. And if you already have off-peak electric heat to take care of the middle-of-winter heating, you can add your air-source heat pump to your off-peak (half-priced) meter. Call us with your questions.

Normally I am an extremely positive person, but for some reason, I had several drafts of this month's report that were more focused on the power that FEAR has over even very logical people. When we knew so little about COVID-19, it was very easy to be extremely concerned. About 1,300 Minnesotans have died from COVID-19 with 80% of them being residents of assisted living or long-term care centers. Thankfully the numbers leveled off (251-24-099-05, Robert Christensen). As one of the 5.5 million Minnesotans, I hope the paralyzing fear you felt in March, just like I did, has subsided and has been replaced with emotions that enable us all to appreciate the life, liberty and pursuit of

• Although your calendar likely has “canceled” written all over it, our intention is to not let our membership meeting suffer the same fate, even if it has to be a little different.

• Your district number is printed on your monthly billing statement if you want to know if you will be voting or if you'd be eligible to run.

• This year the recipient of the Sharing Success grant is the Baudette Community Foundation, the nonprofit entity that built and operates the Grand Theater in Baudette.

happiness our forefathers imagined for all Americans.

On a final note, each spring we apply for a Sharing Success matching grant from one of our lenders, CoBank. We alternate between an east-end and a west-end project. Last year the grant funded part of the construction of the EMS helipad at Kabetogama. This year CoBank increased the value of the opportunity, and the recipient of \$20,000 is the Baudette Community Foundation, the nonprofit entity focused on providing healthier communities, that built and operates The Grand Theater in downtown Baudette. Of this, \$10,000 is a match from North Star. We are committed to our members, to our local communities and to the good projects they accomplish.

Wishing you all a very happy 4th of July! At your service we “always” remain ... Ann

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the May 6 (virtual) and May 20 (on-site), 2020, board meetings. All board members were in attendance at both meetings. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to sign the MREA mail-in ballot approving changes to their bylaws and resolutions, to approve updates to policies, to submit an application for a matching grant to the CoBank Sharing Success program, to accept the 2019 annual cogeneration filings and reports, to approve the director district boundaries as they currently stand, to approve the inventory adjustment as a result of the annual reconciling of inventory, to accept the 2019 IRS Form 990 for filing, to give General Manager Ellis the authority to approve the May 6 director expense vouchers and to proceed with the manager selection process using NRECA's Executive Search Services.

Staff reports included the safety report, COVID-19, the financial report, loan fund advances, CoBank's Sharing Success program, annual cogeneration reports and filings with the State of Minnesota, the annual inventory adjustment, the review of the IRS Form 990, DBS capital credits, the annual Red Flags Review for identity theft prevention, winter load control, the cancellation of this year's power plant tour, the Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship testing, upgrades to Baudette and Littlefork shop lighting, rebates, heat pump installations, new services, upgrades, AML installations, line inspection, line relocates, summer work plan projects, the progress on filling an open lineworker position and annual meeting options if COVID-19 is still a major concern this fall.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (556-45-021-05, Tom Junker). 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.

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

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 – HEADING TOWARD NEW NORMAL



Marty Mollberg
Manager of Operations

Since the state is starting to loosen up on social distancing, North Star has followed suit. In time, we will see what the new normal looks like and how it changes the way work is handled.

We have started to enter homes again to change out the last of the off-peak meters on the automated meter reading project. If you are one of the handful left that needs your meter changed, please contact our office to set up a time for that to happen.

Before the meter warranty is expired, we are also testing the communications reliability after a prolonged outage of a half hour or more. We are doing a planned outage, executed remotely by Minnkota on Friday mornings between 3

a.m. and 3:30 a.m. to cause the least amount of disruption for the members. This is happening on all of our nine substations, one substation per week. We have tested four of nine substations as of this report, and results are good.

During the pandemic, we had one lineworker assigned per truck for social distancing on outage restoration and during overhead and underground line inspections (556-42-075-11, Kelly Fischer). We are now back to two lineworkers per truck.

We are off to a very busy start with new and upgraded services. If only we could limit the amount of rainfall per event, it would help with the construction times.

East-end crews have completed the line move on County Road 103 in Rainy Lake for the Koochiching County highway project.

Until next time, stay safe!

BENEFITS OF AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Unlike a furnace, an air-source heat pump doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an air-source heat pump as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to



Up to
\$500/ton
in rebates!

another, to where it's needed or not needed, depending on the season. Even cold air contains some heat. When

it's cold outside, a heat pump extracts this outside heat and transfers it inside. When it's warm outside, it reverses direction and acts like an air conditioner, removing heat from your home.

Air-source heat pumps work just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and spring, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat. Air-source heat pumps can deliver up to three times more energy than the electricity it consumes, making it one of the most efficient products on the market. A ductless mini-split heat pump option is available for homes without an existing ducted system or when adding ductwork may be impractical or too expensive.

NORTH STAR WELCOMES NEW HIRE TRAVIS PEDERSON



North Star Electric Cooperative would like to give a warm welcome to Travis Pederson, who has joined the Baudette line crew. Travis is from the Roseau area, was in the Navy and is a graduate of Baudette's M-State Electrical Lineworkers Program. He earned his journeyman certification working at Nodak Electric Cooperative. He and his wife, Jill, along with their 5-year-old son Gavin and infant daughter Lily, have found a home to buy on Rainy River, where he can enjoy one of his favorite hobbies, fishing. Welcome to our community and our co-op, Travis!

ENERGY SAVINGS 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



Equipment	Powerful Value	PowerSavers
ELECTRIC HEATING EQUIPMENT		
Baseboard/cove heater, plenum heater, hanging unit heater, radiant underfloor heat	\$25/kW	
ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATING		
Electric boiler, brick storage room unit, brick storage electric furnace/boiler, slab storage - electric cable	\$45/kW	
HEAT PUMPS*		
Air-source heat pump (ASHP)	\$150/ton	\$300/ton (<17SEER) \$500/ton (>17 SEER)
Mini-split heat pump	\$150/ton	
Supplemental heating source ASHP		\$500/unit
Ground-source heat pump	\$250/ton	\$250/ton (16.2 EER/open loop) \$400/ton (14.1 EER/closed loop)
THERMOSTATS		
Programmable thermostats		50% of purchase price, up to \$25
Energy Star® smart thermostats		50% of purchase price, up to \$50
HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) MEASURES		
Tune-up for central A/C (<i>not window units</i>)		\$25/unit
Tune-up for air-source/mini-split heat pumps		\$25/unit
WATER HEATERS*		
55 gallon or less	\$125/unit	\$125/unit
80-99 gallon	\$200/unit	\$200/unit
100 gallon or greater	\$300/unit	\$300/unit
New construction	\$100/unit	
Conversion from gas/propane	\$250/unit	
* NORTH STAR OFFERS AN ADDITIONAL \$100 REBATE FOR ANY NEW WATER HEATER PURCHASE GREATER THAN 40 GALLONS AND 240 VOLTS.		

Restrictions and requirements apply. Please contact North Star Electric for more information.

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

NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

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.

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
429 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
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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:

CAPACITY

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

ENERGY

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



HOME COOKING

PIZZA POP-UP CASSEROLE

Rich and gooey, this deep-dish, pizza-flavor casserole puffs up as it bakes. It's as much fun to make as it is to eat – a surefire bet for kids.

Prep Time

15 mins

Cook Time

30 mins

Total Time

45 minutes

Servings

6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb hamburger
- 1-15 oz. jar spaghetti sauce

Pop-up batter:

- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. oil
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 8 oz. sliced mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Brown and drain hamburger.
2. Add spaghetti sauce and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, combine milk, oil and eggs. Beat one minute with electric mixer. Add flour and salt and beat for two more minutes.

4. Pour spaghetti mixture into a 10x10 inch pan sprayed with cooking spray.
5. Top with entire amount of mozzarella slices. Pour batter over cheese. Sprinkle parmesan cheese over the batter.
6. Bake for 30 minutes at 400°. Let rest about 10 minutes after removing from oven. This reheats great in the microwave.

From the kitchen of Jan Larson



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

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

North Star Electric Co-op donates unclaimed capital credits to local charitable organizations



Randy Bergen, North Star board member (middle), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Ferol Gillie (left) and Judy Senkyr (right), representing the Williams Senior Center.

"Commitment to community is a driving force behind your cooperative as we support programs that improve the lives of those who live in the communities we serve."

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

01
JULY

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 1, if you wish to speak to the board.

03
JULY

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

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@wiktel.com | Visit our website at northstarelectric.coop

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

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.