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Why is Paul Bunyan wearing a cape and eye mask, and why is he holding a pencil in his hand? To be a Census Hero. You can be a MN Census Hero, too! COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS. Your response benefits our local counties and the state of Minnesota for the next 10 years (see page 2).



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

Census makes \$ENSE – actually, MILLION\$ of DOLLAR\$ – for our little communities

If you alone could secure \$24,000 for your own community just by answering a few easy questions, why wouldn't you do that? Please read this.

Is it free money?

You would be smart to know that nothing is free, but this is all about our northern Minnesota communities getting our fair share of the resources that the government collects to distribute. If we aren't counted in the 2020 Census, we don't get our share. That means our schools, hospitals, counties, towns and anyone else who benefits from government subsidies are severely short-changed.

A recruiter for census takers stopped by our shop and reported that the metro area is at a 70% response rate, but Lake of the Woods was at only 31% – the second worst county in the whole state. We need to work together to get our numbers for Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Roseau and St. Louis counties as close to 100% as possible before the October deadline.

Will you be “at the table” or “on the menu”?

Those who ignore participation will likely cause consequences that will affect us all

for at least the next 10 years. Those who respond will be heard and will help our rural areas retain our seats at the capitols in Washington, D.C., and in St. Paul.

What are the questions?

In a nutshell, you need to provide your name, birth date, race, phone number, how many people lived in your home on April 1, 2020, their info and what type of home you have.

How do I get counted?

- Call **844-330-2020** between 6 a.m. and 1 a.m. seven days a week.
- Online at **www.2020Census.gov**.
- Answer the door when a census worker knocks, but why wait? Call or go online today!

• If we aren't counted in the 2020 Census, we don't get our share.

• Those who respond will be heard and will help our rural areas retain our seats at the capitols in Washington, D.C., and in St. Paul.

• You need to provide your name, birth date, race, phone number, how many people lived in your home on April 1, 2020, their info and what type of home you have.

SO much is at stake. Be a 2020 Census Hero!

At your service we remain ... Ann

The Census Makes Sense
for Minnesota because...

Counting everyone ensures we get our fair share of resources for healthcare, public safety, schools, and more.

Respond online today at
my2020census.gov
or call **844-330-2020**

we count
CENSUS • 2020

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the June 3, 2020, board meeting. All board members were in attendance (668-18-001-07, Derek Forpahl). In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the NRECA Agreement for Executive Search and to approve the updated Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

Staff reports included the safety report, pole-top rescue training, crew observations, strategic planning, union negotiations, the upcoming board member election, COVID-19, the financial report, past-due accounts, the CoBank Sharing Success donation, cybersecurity tabletop exercises, AML read rates, summer load

control, ripple receiver inspection, off-peak meter changeouts, upgrades to Baudette and Littlefork lighting, new services, overhead and underground line inspection, pole changeouts, the County Road 103 line relocation, outages and an introduction to new journeyman lineman Travis Pederson.

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.

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

The Census Makes Sense

for Minnesota because...

2020 Census data will help shape the future for our kids for the next ten years!

Respond online today at **my2020census.gov** or call **844-330-2020**

we count
CENSUS • 2020

STAFF REPORT – 2020 CENSUS / ANNUAL MEETING



Robyn Sonstegard
Manager of Finance & Administration

Capital credit refunds

Earning and receiving capital credits is one of the benefits of being a member of your local electric cooperative! If you are new to the co-op, capital credits simply mean cash back over time. After all the bills are paid each year, we return any excess revenue, or margin, to you, our members. The capital credit refund you receive this fall will be your share of almost \$523,000 being returned to members. This year, your board of directors authorized the retirement of 20% of 2019 capital credits earned, 100% of the remaining capital credits from 1999 and 2% of all the years in between. Look for your share of this refund on your bill in early September!

2020 Census

Have you responded to the census for your household yet? Completing the census makes sense! It's so important for our rural communities to be counted and represented because of the impact it has over the next decade. Data from the census determines how federal funds are distributed, all the way down to the local level

(373-13-006-04, Milton Sellen). When you respond, you help ensure our communities get the fair share of resources for hospitals, emergency services, schools, roads and even political representation. It's quick and easy to respond from your own home, either online, by mail or by phone. Don't be left out of the count, and take a few minutes to respond today! Go to my2020census.gov on your computer, cellphone or tablet, or call **844-330-2020** to respond over the phone.

Do you have a vacation home or a lake cabin? You DO need to complete the census for that address as well. If no one usually lives at that address, answer ZERO for the number of people in that household. In addition, if you can't remember if you have completed the census for your address, it's okay to report it again if you just want to be sure they have your information.

Annual meeting

One last item – please mark your calendars for our next annual meeting, to be held the evening of Oct. 2, at the Lake of the Woods School in Baudette. This year marks our 80th anniversary of serving you, our members! Our annual meeting will look a little different this year while we work with COVID-19 guidelines. Planning for the event is underway, so stay tuned to next month's Enlightener for more information!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home (375-06-006-03, Wade Renemo). Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!

Source: [energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov)

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

SEPTEMBER 22.2020



★ ★ #VOTEREADY ★ ★

Visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org to register to vote or to help your community get vote ready.

OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS LOCAL PROGRAMS

The North Star Electric Cooperative Community Trust Board met in July to review the Operation Round Up® applications, which they received requesting funding for various programs. The board awarded \$11,594, so it was not an easy task selecting which groups 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. 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 *(article continued on the following page)*



Ellen Hart with
Kabetogama EMS



Darlene Morgenstern-Loch with
LSS Senior Nutrition



Sandy Johnson with
Lake of the Woods Food Shelf



Marlene Tomzak with
Kabetogama Community Club



Kim Askey and Kelsey Street with
Paws and Claws Kooch



Ashley Hall with
Falls Hunger Coalition



Tia Martin with
Big Falls Fire/EMS



Ward K. Merrill with Citizens for
Backus Community Center



Gordy Dault with International
Falls Educational Fund



Amber Peterson with
Rainy River First Responders



Jill Knaeble with
Littlefork Fire Department

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

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.

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® HELPS LOCAL PROGRAMS (cont'd)

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.



Marie Kinn with
CERC – Big Falls



Tom Manders with Johnson /
Olson Legion Post 494



Julie Christenson with
Northern Options for Women

At the July meeting, \$11,594 in Operation Round Up funds was distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area, including:

Lake of the Woods Food Shelf	Purchase fresh vegetables
Int'l Falls Education Fund – Purple Pride	Support students' cocurricular activities
Big Falls Fire/EMS	Flash/flood lights (15)
Voyageurs Area Council	Support of Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA
Kabetogama Community Club	Purchase tables for Town Hall
Kabetogama EMS	COVID-19 prep
Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County	Continuing shelter service
Northern Options for Women	Earn While You Learn supplies
LSS Meals on Wheels Baudette	Providing meals to seniors
Williams Senior Citizens Day Center	Senior meals
Paws and Claws Kooch Emergency Rescue	Emergency medical
Lake of the Woods School Community Ed	Prairie Fire Children's Theater
Johnson/Olson Legion Post 494	Grave marker flags
Falls Hunger Coalition	Senior Select
Rainy River First Responders	800 MHZ radio
IFFSC	Fall sponsorship
Littlefork Fire Department	PPE flashlights
LOW School Elementary Music	Ukuleles for elementary music
CERC – Big Falls	Sports equipment
Citizens for Backus/Community Center	Ruby's Pantry food distribution

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
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

WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:

<u>CAPACITY</u>	<u>ENERGY</u>
34% wind	19% wind
8% hydro	11% hydro
55% lignite coal	67% lignite coal
3% other	3% other



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

HOME COOKING

OPEN-FACE BLUEBERRY PIE

Nothing says summer like a piece of fresh blueberry pie. This pie is simply rustic and summer perfect. Try it out with fresh blueberries from the LOW area!

Cook Time	Chill/Set Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	2 hours	2 hours, 15 mins	8 servings

INGREDIENTS

- Baked pie shell
- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 3 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. water
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. corn starch
- Whipped cream or ice cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Spread softened cream cheese in cooled pie shell.
2. Add 3/4 cup fresh blueberries into pie shell.
3. Combine the remaining blueberries, lemon juice, sugar and cinnamon and cook through.
4. When the mixture begins to boil, add in the cornstarch and water, cook until thickened.
5. Pour the thickened mixture over the fresh blueberries in the pie crust.
6. Chill in the refrigerator. When serving, top with whipped cream and/or ice cream as desired.

From the kitchen of Lisa Borg



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected 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

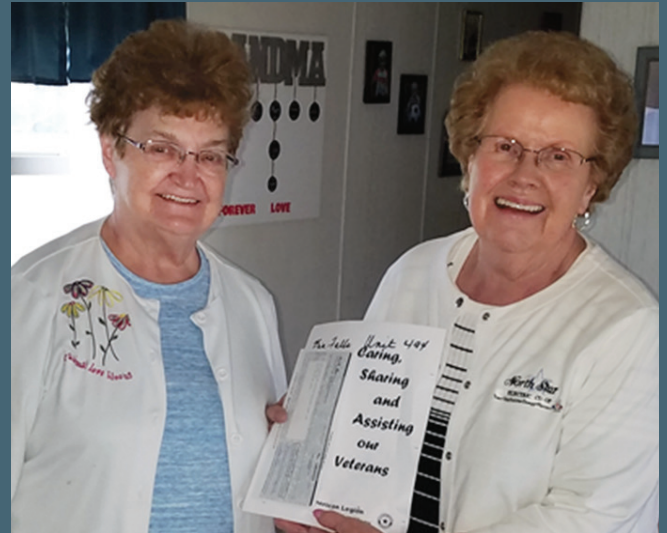


PHOTO TO THE LEFT: Lorraine Nygaard, North Star board member (right), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Tom Abendroth, Commander of the American Legion. PHOTO ABOVE: Lorraine Nygaard, North Star board member (right), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Shirley Davis, president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

02
SEPT.

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2, if you wish to speak to the board.

07
SEPT.

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor 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

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 summer season and other useful info.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.