

**MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT:
CO-OPS VOTE
PAGE 3**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES
FOR THIS HEATING SEASON
PAGE 6**

**COUNTRY WILD RICE
CASSEROLE
PAGE 7**

Our lines are shaped
by you, the members
we serve.

**October is National
Co-op Month.**

#PowerOn

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 – CO-OP MONTH

Annual meeting recap

This issue of the Enlightener will have been printed before the annual meeting occurs, so watch for the recap in next month's

Enlightener, but I can tell you that we appreciate all the members who will have attended the drive-in meeting in person or on the radio. Thank you!

Your to-do list

It's a good time of the year to check your smoke detector batteries, as well as those in newer thermostats, because a dead battery means your thermostat can't tell the heat to turn on. This is especially important if you are away from your home during the winter. If you have an air-source heat pump (ASHP), be sure to keep the filters clean in your inside unit, and make sure there is no debris blocking the airflow on your outside unit. Now is also the time to make sure your backup heating system will work properly during off-peak control times so you almost don't even know it's happening.

Be heard – VOTE!

Elections have consequences, and your action – or worse, inaction – is one of them.

This year's election may be one of the most important in modern history, as the

direction for our country teeters at a fork in the road.

Add voting to your must-do list. If you don't pay attention to politics, this is the year to take a look at each party's platform to understand what their goals are and how they impact things important to you. Then, take action...VOTE!

October is Co-op Month

With the disruptions caused by COVID-19, I've heard the term "co-op" surface a bit more often. It's usually because an old way can't meet the current need, so those affected take the bull by the horns and find a new way, a "CO-OP" way to solve the issue.

As you know, that's what happened 80

- If you have an air-source heat pump (ASHP), be sure to keep the filters clean in your inside unit, and make sure there is no debris blocking the airflow on your outside unit.

- The fundamental difference between co-ops and publicly or privately owned organizations is who owns and controls them.

- If you don't pay attention to politics, this is the year to take a look at each party's platform to understand what their goals are and how they impact things important to you.

7 Cooperative Principles

1

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

2

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

3

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

4

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

5

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

6

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

7

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

years ago when local farmers and rural residents banded together to build your rural electric cooperative based on the seven cooperative principles. They weren't looking for a handout. They were looking for technical and governance education, along with a loan to buy materials to build power lines. They were self-help people who truly had skin in the game.

Co-ops are everywhere, but they sometimes hide in plain sight. Maybe the largest is CHS, the agricultural business

based in St. Paul. Health Partners, another Minnesota cooperative, is the largest health cooperative. Land-O-Lakes and Florida Natural are familiar brands in your grocery cart (363-15-005-03, Zach Hasbargen). How about Fair State Brewing in St. Paul, where the t-shirts read, "Drink Like You Own the Place"? The fundamental difference between co-ops and publicly or privately owned organizations is who owns and controls them.

So, as Co-op Month begins, feel like the owner/controller of North Star Electric Cooperative, because you ARE. We hope you were at the Oct., 2 annual meeting to elect directors and learn about your business, but if you weren't, please circle Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, on your calendar, and plan to attend next year!

At your service we remain,

Ann



VOTE
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP



Make your voice count

Take the pledge to vote this election year.

Visit vote.coop to take the pledge.

Co-ops across the nation are dedicated to making our voices heard at the polls. Collectively we can make a difference.



DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-
Treasurer**
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Bruce Sampson

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. — Source: *energy.gov*

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 – UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE



Marty Mollberg
Operations Manager

This is hands down my favorite season of the year. The smell of fall is in the air, and I hope everyone is getting the time to get out and enjoy all the colors. I'm glad to see a dry fall for a change. That has made some ideal harvest conditions for our farmers.

It has been a very busy year for new services and service upgrades. I'm not sure how much is related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but either way, we appreciate the new memberships.

We are more than 99% completed with our Landis+Gyr automated meter reading system, with only a small handful of meters left to change out.

We have completed the two work plan projects, which will be upgrading the three-phase underground cable from the Pitt substation to Jake's Sawmill and from the west end of Loman to

the Christian Broadcast tower. We are currently working on upgrading the poles and conductors through Loman.

We have completed the make-ready changes to our poles on UT 103 in Rainy Lake to accommodate for Midcontinent's fiber to be installed, bringing high-speed internet to our members in that area.

We will have pole testers testing for reject poles in the areas out of the Littlefork substation later this fall (784-08-016-01, Kurt Kennedy). We supply signage to be placed on their vehicles so members know they are working for the co-op.

We will be back on right-of-way maintenance – cutting and trimming of trees – as new services slow down. We will be focusing on the areas around Ericsburg and Brown's Corner this fall.

It's not too late to get a new service installed yet this fall – call for scheduling. Until next time, stay safe!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the July 1 and Aug. 5, 2020, regular board meetings, as well as the special board meeting held Aug. 25, 2020. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve Director Smith as North Star's third Minnkota and Square Butte delegate allowed to attend their annual meetings in person, to approve the retirement (payment) of \$523,000 in capital credits this fall, to select Director Smith to be the MREA voting delegate at the MREA annual meeting, to approve Director Arnesen's petition for nomination for the District 1 seat, to approve Director Hanson's petition for nomination for the District 4 seat, to approve the Oct. 2 annual

meeting agenda, to approve the updates to several policies and to approve the Midcontinent pole attachment agreement.

Staff reports included the safety report, employee safety training, the safety committee meeting minutes, the financial report, the fall capital credit retirement, demand response testing, ripple receiver voltage testing, AMI off-peak meter changeouts, the Baudette fire alarm system, rebates, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts, right-of-way clearing, work plan projects, cable relocates due to road construction, outages, the new digger truck, the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program

(RESAP) review and observation, union contract negotiations, delinquent accounts, summer load control, repairs to the Baudette generator and the vacant line school building next to the Baudette headquarters.

Joining the July meeting via teleconference was NRECA executive search consultant Elaine Garry to discuss the upcoming timeline for the general manager search process. Joining the August meeting was attorney Sam Schmitz from Minnkota Power to discuss delegate responsibilities, the nepotism policy and requirements of the upcoming annual meeting. The purpose of the special meeting was to have NRECA's executive search consultant in-person to discuss the results of the directors' individual responses to the leadership questionnaire and determine what the board wants in its next general manager.

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.

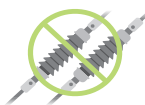


ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

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

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND EXISTENCE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
PUBLISHED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
9-10-20

1. Name of the business: _____

2. Address: _____

3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

4. Date of establishment: _____

5. Date of last inspection: _____

6. Name of the owner: _____

7. Name of the manager: _____

8. Name of the electrician: _____

9. Name of the inspector: _____

10. Signature of the owner: _____

11. Signature of the manager: _____

12. Signature of the electrician: _____

13. Signature of the inspector: _____

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13. Signature of the inspector: _____

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.

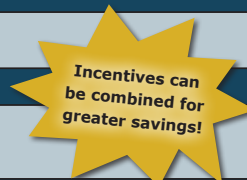
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 877-687-1163
Direct 218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711

CHECK OUT OUR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR THIS HEATING SEASON

| 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.

HARVEST SAFETY TIP

Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.



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

COUNTRY WILD RICE CASSEROLE

Fall is the ideal time to enjoy a big helping of this hearty casserole, packed with wild rice and beef and topped with cheese and bread crumbs.

| Prep Time | Cook Time | Total Time | Servings |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| 20 mins | 1 hour | 1 hour 20 mins | 10-12 servings |

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup onion
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 4 cups frozen hash browns
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 3 cups cooked wild rice
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups cheddar cheese (mild)
- 1/3 cup bread crumbs

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350. Sauté onions in butter. Add ground beef and season.
 2. Sprinkle frozen hash browns in a greased 9x13 pan.
 3. Mix together sautéed onions, meat, frozen corn, cooked wild rice, soup, sour cream and 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese.
 4. Spread mixture on top of hash browns. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and bread crumbs.
 5. Bake casserole for 1 hour.
- * This recipe can be prepared and refrigerated overnight and baked the following day.

Recipe submitted by Marcia Toll



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

STAY COZY WITHOUT THE COST

Find the perfect power pick for your space during this heating season

Electric Thermal Storage

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) room heating units provide clean, consistent heat for rooms of nearly any size. Available room units are ideal for retrofitting electric baseboard-heated rooms, supplementing an existing heating system or heating a new addition to your home or business. Unlike traditional electric heaters, ETS room heating units convert electricity to heat during off-peak hours, when the demand and price of electricity is lower. Specially designed ceramic bricks within these units store vast amounts of heat for extended periods of time so you can save money without having to shiver. With the built-in room thermostat, you can adjust the heater's temperature settings for clean, consistent heat that meets your comfort requirements.



Air-Source Heat Pumps

An air-source heat pump (ASHP) is like an AC unit and furnace in one. Think of an ASHP as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to another, to where it's needed or not needed, depending on the season (675-06-017-09, Randy Olafson). They can be sized to fit any new or existing home for maximum comfort and efficiency in any season. Heat pumps move heat instead of generating it, making them much more energy efficient than a fuel-burning furnace. The system delivers up to three times more energy than the electricity it consumes. With an air-source heat pump, you'll enjoy uniform warmth in the winter and powerful cooling in the summer. The minimal maintenance unit will also keep your airflow fresh, clean and dehumidified.



UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

07
OCT.

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 7, if you wish to speak to the board.

11
NOV.

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans 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 1-888-60OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

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

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.