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## **ANNUAL MEETING 2020...COVID-19 STYLE!**

**WELCOME TO OUR DRIVE-IN MEETING**

*(SEE MORE ON PAGES 4-6)*



### **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

### *Drive-in annual meeting – COVID-19 style*

I'd like to thank all of the 144 registered members and their families who attended our annual meeting on Oct. 2. The weather cooperated, 280 of you enjoyed a delicious smoked pork dinner, board president Steve Arnesen and attorney Sam Schmitz presided over the 20-minute meeting, directors Mike Hanson and Steve Arnesen were unchallenged and reelected, and

members Barb Welberg and Sharon & Willis Bitter took home the two \$500 energy bill credits for the door prize and winning the cooperative facts scavenger hunt (664-19-043-02, Mike Leahy). Nolan Martinson won \$100 for his coloring contest entry. We will have a video of the event on our website and Facebook.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the utility you own!

At your service we remain – Ann

- 62% of the North Star Electric Co-op members brought their pre-labeled Enlightener and appreciated the Express Registration lane, and so did we.

- President Steve Arnesen and attorney Sam Schmitz conducted the meeting, which included the elections of incumbents Mike Hanson (Birchdale) in District 4 and Steve Arnesen (Roosevelt) in District 1.

## 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



***North Star Electric Cooperative wishes you all well!***

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the Sept. 2, 2020, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to set next year's annual meeting date for Oct. 1, 2021, to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen LLP audit engagement and to approve the updated general manager job description.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, annual pole attachment billings, delinquent accounts, benefit rates for 2021, summer load control, ripple receiver inspections, rebates, HVAC contractor satisfaction surveys, Baudette generator repairs, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts, work plan projects, outages, Minnkota's future addition of a substation in the

Roosevelt area, capital credits, the upcoming annual meeting and the vacant line school building next to the Baudette headquarters.

Joining the September meeting via teleconference was attorney Sam Schmitz from Minnkota Power to discuss board policy.

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](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

**Curt Collier**

[cgcollier67@gmail.com](mailto: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

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.  
*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

## OPERATION ROUND UP

The next deadline to submit Operation Round Up® grant applications is Nov. 30, 2020. Community organizations and groups may apply for an Operation Round Up grant by completing and returning an application form.

LEARN MORE IN THE STAFF REPORT ON PAGE 7.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)



# ANNUAL MEETING 2020 ... COVID-19 STYLE!

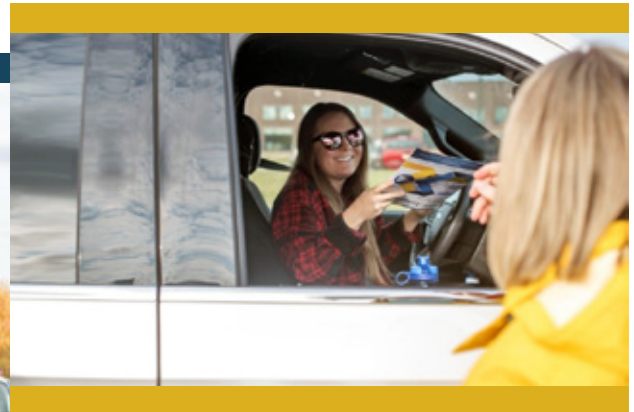
*Welcome to our drive-in meeting!*



The annual report is available to view at [www.nse.coop](http://www.nse.coop).



62% of the North Star Electric Co-op members brought their pre-labeled Enlightener and appreciated the Express Registration lane, and so did we!



West of Border food truck provided a BBQ pork dinner.





Everyone received a gift.

There was plenty of things to do while members waited for their meeting to begin.



## 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

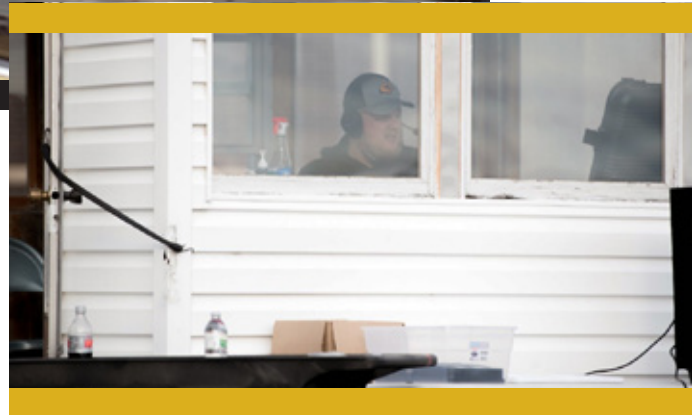
#### ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

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

## ANNUAL MEETING 2020 (cont'd)

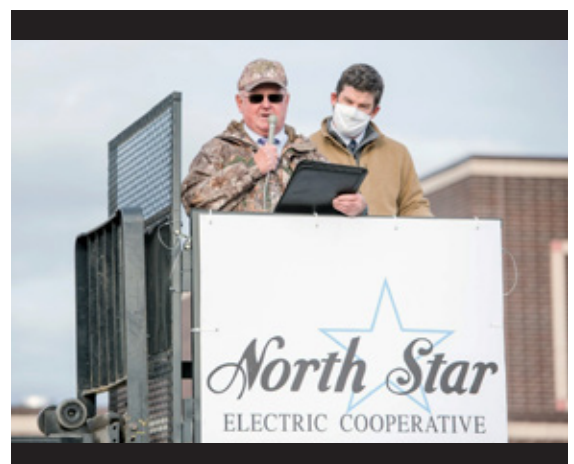


94.5 The River  
broadcast the  
pre-meeting  
happenings and  
the 20-minute  
meeting.



Willis and Sharon Bitter and  
Barb Welberg were the \$500  
electric-bill-credit winners!

President Steve  
Arnesen and attorney  
Sam Schmitz conducted  
the meeting, which  
included the elections  
of incumbents Mike  
Hanson (Birchdale) in  
District 4 and Steve  
Arnesen (Roosevelt) in  
District 1.





# STAFF REPORT – SCAM ALERT / SALES TAX EXEMPTION



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
*Finance and  
Administration Manager*

## Scam alert

From time to time, we hear reports from around the area that scammers have been targeting both businesses and individual residents in Minnesota. An example would be a phone caller posing as a utility employee, telling you they need payment on your account within a short amount of time or your home or business power will be cut off. Please remember we will **NEVER** call you and ask you for your banking or credit card number for a payment over the phone. If you are suspicious of any call threatening disconnection without

immediate payment, please hang up and call North Star directly at **218-634-2202** or **888-634-2202**.

If you or someone you know becomes a victim of such a scam, it should also be reported to your local police department.



## Sales tax exemption

If you heat your home primarily with electricity, residential electric

heat usage is exempt from Minnesota sales tax during the months of November through April. If you have off-peak electric heat, the off-peak portion of your bill is tax exempt during those months (252-01-029-08, Todd Sorenson). We will be mailing out a new updated sales tax exemption form along with additional off-peak information. If you receive this paperwork, please sign and return it to be eligible for the sales tax savings.

## Operation Round Up®

The next application deadline for Operation Round Up is Nov. 30. The seven volunteer Community Trust board members that administer the Operation Round Up program will meet and distribute grants in January (383-12-004-05, Tim E. Anderson). Local nonprofit community organizations are encouraged to apply for Operation Round Up grants.

Operation Round Up is a charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects in our service area. Members contribute to the fund by "rounding up" their electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation by each member is less than \$6 annually. If you do not participate in rounding up your bill, but you would like to, contact Patsy in our office at **888-634-2202**.

## HOME COOKING

### MUD BARS

This Mud Bars recipe is a delicious way to take care of your chocolate chip cookie craving! The easy batter is baked in a square pan and frosted with semisweet chocolate.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
20 mins	23 mins	43 mins	3 dozen bars

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1 1/8 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 1/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Beat the softened butter, brown sugar and vanilla until creamy.
2. Add in the egg and beat well.
3. Gradually mix in the flour, baking soda and salt.
4. Stir in chopped walnuts and 1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips.
5. Spread mixture into foil-lined 8" x 8" pan.
6. Bake at 375° for 23-25 minutes. Bring out of oven and sprinkle with 3/4 cup chocolate chips.
7. When chips are shiny, spread chocolate with a knife to cover the bars.



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

*From the kitchen of Sheri Gibbins*

## COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

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



Michael Hanson, North Star board member (right), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Ashley LaVigne, executive director of the Koochiching Historical Museum.



Betsy Loop, director of Chemotherapy and Infusion Center (left), and Robert Pastor, CEO of Rainy Lake Medical Center, receive an unclaimed capital credit check from Michael Hanson, North Star board member (right).



Michael Hanson, North Star board member (left), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Christina Daniels, assistant director at the Koochiching Food Shelf.

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**11  
NOV.**

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

**26-27  
NOV.**

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27, in observance of Thanksgiving.

**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](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com) | **Visit our website at** [northstarelectric.coop](http://northstarelectric.coop)

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

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

 [/northstarelectric](https://www.facebook.com/northstarelectric)

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