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**(TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON PAGE 5)**

**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.



**Josh Compton**  
*General Manager*

## MANAGER'S REPORT

It's hard to believe we're already in the month of June and fishing season is in full swing. In a world that seems to always be divided and compromise is rare, I'm happy to

report that here in Minnesota we saw some significant bipartisan support for a key piece of legislation that affects electric cooperatives. The House and Senate both passed the **Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act**, which brings many positive reforms to the outdated Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), including allowing fuel-switching to count toward part of electric utilities' energy savings goals for the first time ever. The ECO Act also ends the spending mandate which required North Star and other

cooperatives to spend at least 1.5% of gross operating revenues on conservation projects that ultimately reduce sales of electricity. Although this mandate has been eliminated, rest assured we will still continue implementing and exploring opportunities that conserve energy and benefit our member-owners going forward.

On the national level, we still see some significant gridlock pertaining to the infrastructure bill being pushed by the Biden administration and what level of spending is adequate to accomplish the goals of repairing and improving the nation's roads, bridges and many other things being attached to the bill in its current form. There could be some positive opportunities that come from this bill (if it is passed) that will benefit the electric utilities, but there also could

- The Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act was passed, which brings many positive reforms to the outdated Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).

- On the national level, we still see some significant gridlock pertaining to the infrastructure bill being pushed by the Biden administration.

be things in it that have negative effects as well. We will continue to monitor all developments at the state and federal levels and act accordingly as we navigate the changing utility world. Management and staff here at North Star are constantly looking out for our member-owners' best interests. We want you to worry about reeling in the next big catch of the day.

Until next time,

Josh

## You saw your neighbor got an air-source heat pump, right?



More and more of our co-op members are installing this highly efficient and convenient heating & cooling technology because it's saving them money and making their lives easier (555-06-014-01, Duane Miller). It's not just a passing trend – these air-source heat pumps are the perfect home comfort tool of our generation.

If it's time to replace your furnace or air conditioner, or you're planning a new home altogether, chat with your cooperative about the benefits and savings possible with an air-source heat pump. Your neighbor would be proud.

**Contact your co-op today for more information and qualifying rebates.**

**218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202**



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the March 10, 2021, special board meeting and March 24, 2021, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to select Steve Arnesen as the North Star representative on Minnkota Power Cooperative's board of directors, to select Mike Hanson as the North Star representative on Square Butte Electric Cooperative's board of directors, to remove former general manager Ann Ellis from the check signing authority, to approve the director district boundaries as they currently stand, to approve the board resolution in recognition and appreciation of Marty Mollberg as interim general manager, to approve the combination of the wind energy surcharge with the existing price per kWh that were previously separated on members' monthly or seasonal billings and to approve the addition of peak demand information on members' monthly billings.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

- Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, Minnkota Power Cooperative's capital credit allocation, unclaimed capital credits, preparation of the IRS 990 tax return, equity ratios, loan fund advances, dual heat control, ripple receiver inspections, Littlefork office roof repairs, rebates, scholarship testing, new services, upgrades, pole changeouts, the County Road 14 work plan job, line inspection, substation outages, the proposed new Roosevelt substation, Minnkota's updated rate schedule, federal and state legislative issues, Drive Electric Minnesota and NRECA's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program.

Minnesota State Representative Rob Ecklund joined the meeting via teleconference. He discussed current legislative issues concerning cooperatives.

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 the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

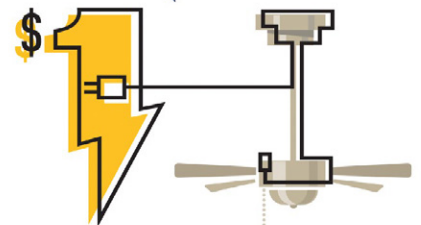
05  
JULY

North Star Electric's offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.

07  
JULY

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

### What can you get for \$1?



120 hours of ceiling fan use

In the hot summer months, don't sweat the cost of electricity. Did you know \$1 of kilowatt power can run your ceiling fan for about 120 hours? So don't worry about skimping on that cool breeze – you can keep the air flowing without your cash flowing.

## DIRECTORS

**President**  
Steve Arnesen

**Vice President**  
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Lorraine Nygaard

**Directors**  
Shelley Spears  
Randy Bergan  
Tom Smith  
Bruce Sampson

## 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](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

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

# STAY SAFE EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER



Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, North Star Electric Cooperative reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines (132-06-019-08, Dean Knutson). Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great

way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote-controlled airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you’re caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

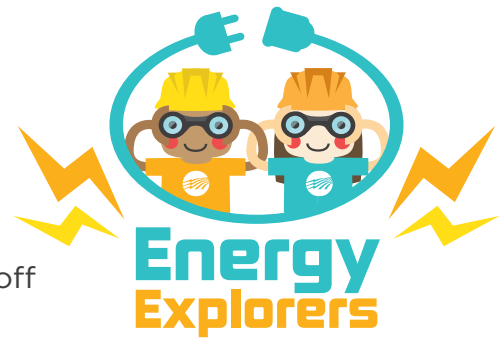


## SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

It might be hot outside, but keep your cool with these simple energy-saving tips!

- If you use air conditioning, set your thermostat to as high as comfortable. The less the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling bill will be.
- Make sure your air conditioner or heat pump is in good working order. A tuneup by a professional can often lead to energy savings and extend the life of the system.
- Switch out incandescents to LEDs.
- Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out during the summer.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer when you are in the room. The fans will help spread the cooled air more evenly throughout the home, allowing you to raise the temperature on the thermostat. The feeling of air moving across skin also helps cool.
- Make sure to clean and change HVAC filters per manufacturer’s instructions.
- Air dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher’s drying cycle.
- Use a microwave rather than a conventional oven when possible.
- If you have an older central air conditioner, consider switching to a new, more efficient model or a versatile air-source heat pump when the unit breaks down. Going from a SEER 10 model to a SEER 16 model can save about \$65 per year in cooling costs. That’s a savings of \$325 in five short years. Great rebates are available for heat pumps that work like an AC in the summer but provide very efficient heating in the fall, winter and spring as well.

# SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD



Water and electricity never mix! When you're cooling off in the swimming pool, remember to practice electrical safety. Complete the pool safety crossword puzzle below.

**Hint:** Check your answers in the key below.

## 1 Down:

When possible, use \_\_\_\_\_ operated devices when outside near a swimming pool.

## 2 Across:

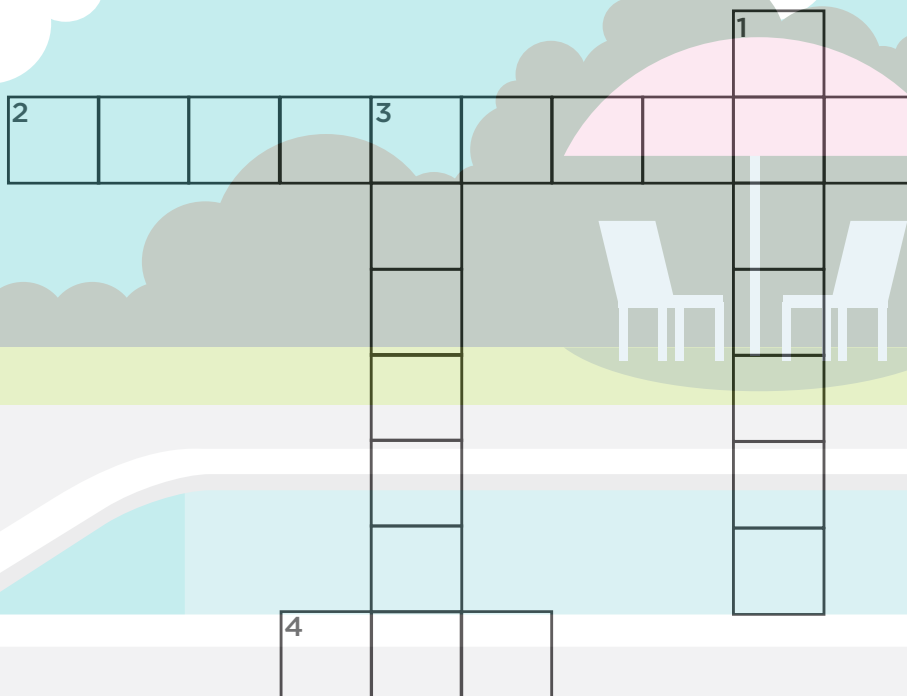
Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.

## 3 Down:

If you hear \_\_\_\_\_, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.

## 4 Across:

All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them \_\_\_\_\_.



Answer Key — 1 Down: battery 2 Across: electrical 3 Down: thunder 4 Across: Dry

# 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



## ITEM FOR SALE ON BID

North Star has a forklift up for bid. To be considered, sealed bids must be delivered to North Star's Baudette office (PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623) by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 2, 2021. Contact Kevin Holen with any questions at 218-634-2202.



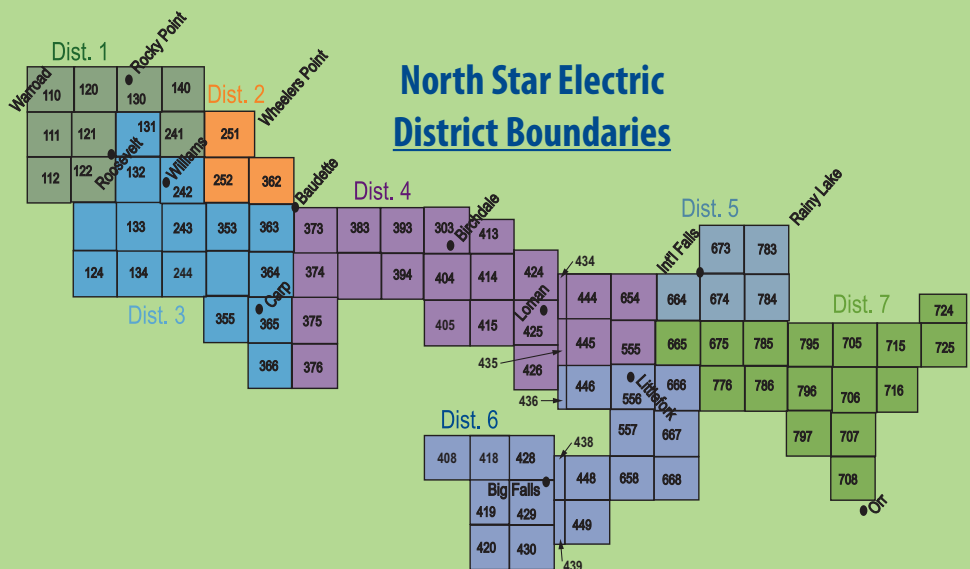
1965 Clark CY70, 7,000 lbs. lifting capacity, propane.

## CANDIDATE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICTS 5 AND 6

Would you like to serve as a director on the North Star Electric Cooperative Board for your district? North Star Electric is governed by a seven-member board of directors elected by our membership (251-21-070-03, Raymond Berg). There are seven districts located within our service area, and any co-op member is welcome to run for an open board position within the district that the member's primary residence is located. Directors elected will serve a four-year term. This year we will have a director election in Districts 5 and 6.

Any member meeting the qualifications as specified in the bylaws of the cooperative may become a candidate for election to the board by submitting a written petition for nomination with the signatures of no fewer than 20 members who are residents of the district for which the election is being held.

The election will take place at the annual meeting on Oct. 1, 2021. Please call **218-634-2202** or stop by our office if you have questions about this process or to pick up a petition for nomination. **PETITIONS ARE DUE BY 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021.**



The first three digits of your account number are used to determine the district you are in.



# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.smith.senate.gov](http://www.smith.senate.gov)  
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber  
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.stauber.house.gov](http://www.stauber.house.gov)  
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach  
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.fischbach.house.gov](http://www.fischbach.house.gov)  
202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

## STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz  
Capitol Bldg., Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
[www.mn.gov/governor](http://www.mn.gov/governor)

Senator Tom Bakk  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Capitol, Room 328  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8881  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Senator Paul Utke  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9651  
[sen.paul.utke@senate.mn](mailto:sen.paul.utke@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Senator Mark Johnson  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
[sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Representative Matt Grossell  
227 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
[rep.matt.grossell@house.mn](mailto:rep.matt.grossell@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

Representative John Burkel  
309 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635  
[rep.john.burkel@house.mn](mailto:rep.john.burkel@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

Representative Rob Ecklund  
409 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
[rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn](mailto:rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

## 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**  
[cgcclier67@gmail.com](mailto:cgcclier67@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

## HOME COOKING

### CHOCOLATE CHERRY CHEESECAKE BARS

These bars get the royal treatment, combining a layer of rich chocolate brownies with a layer of tangy cheesecake, then jeweled with tart cherries.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	35 mins	50 mins	12 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 box brownie mix
- 3 Tbsp. water (*for brownie batter*)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil (*for brownie batter*)
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 3 eggs (*2 for brownie batter, 1 for cheesecake mixture*)
- 1 1/2 cups cherry pie filling

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Make brownie batter as directed on the box.
3. Pour batter into a greased 9x13 pan.
4. Bake until about half baked.
5. Beat together cream cheese, sweetened condensed milk and one egg.
6. Top brownie batter with cream cheese mixture.
7. Bake for 20 more minutes, or until it is set well.
8. Allow brownie mixture and cheesecake layers to cool.
9. Top with cherry pie filling and serve.

*From the kitchen of Barb Larson in Baudette.*



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected 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. 1, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 5 (currently held by Tom Smith) and District 6 (currently held by Lorraine Nygaard).

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

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**'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK  
TO STAY UP TO DATE**

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

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*