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DIGGING MONTH**
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EARTH DAY**
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SOUP RECIPE**
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Lineworker Appreciation Day



(Back) **Glen Marcotte**, line sub-foreman; **Nathan Zortman**, journeyman lineman; **Todd Thydean**, line foreman; (Front) **Nick Horne**, journeyman lineman; **Preston Kennedy**, lead lineman



Josh Hamm, apprentice lineman; **Jesse Huot**, line sub-foreman; **Travis Pederson**, lead lineman; **Todd Higgins**, line foreman

In the forties, our lineworkers **raised lines** for farmers and rural towns in the region, **blurring the line** between the world that was and the world that could be. Now, with an energy future **on the line**, their work is as critical as ever. We're not **feeding you a line**, because here's the **bottom line**: These heroes will push through the harshest conditions to **cross the finish line** with reliable, affordable, responsible electricity for **your family line**. They put it all **on the line** – for you.

April 11, 2022
#ThankALineworker

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of our member-owners by providing reliable electric energy services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.



Josh Compton
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

This past month was extremely busy but also very productive. The Minnesota Rural Electric Association hosted its annual meeting and we took part in numerous events with several state legislators. It's been a longstanding tradition to host a dinner with our representatives in conjunction with Lake Country Power and North Itasca Electric cooperatives. The dinner was well attended by the delegation that serves the North Star membership. This includes Rep. Rob Ecklund from the east to Sen. Mark Johnson on our far western service area. We were lucky to also host numerous legislators that come from more urban areas of Minnesota as well, some of which don't have electric cooperatives in their districts. It's always good to make points of contact with as many lawmakers as possible regardless of where they serve or what party they represent. Minnesota has the second most electric cooperatives of any state in the entire country (Texas has the most) and our issues should be entire-state issues based on that fact.

We focused on a few main things during these meetings. One had to do with the Minnesota Department of Revenue trying to reinterpret an 80-year-old law that has to do with taxes on cooperative street lights and meters outside of municipal areas. The second one was surrounding unnecessary permitting fees pertaining to load control receivers. Both of these issues amount to nothing more than an outright revenue grab by these state departments, and all the cooperatives in attendance made that known to our legislators. At a time when inflation is skyrocketing and our state has an over \$9 billion budget surplus, the last thing we need to do is levy more fees/taxes on cooperatives members.

Since we're on the topic of politics, I'm not sure if everyone noticed that Lake of the Woods County is no longer part of the 7th Congressional District (Rep. Michelle Fischbach). It's now part of the 8th Congressional District, which is represented by Rep. Pete Stauber. This change is a direct result of the 2020 census and the redrawing of both federal and state districts based on population growth/decline. Rep. Stauber has represented a large swath of North Star's

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members and now has virtually our entire cooperative territory. He held a community meeting on March 21 in Baudette to introduce himself and take questions from various leaders and organizations. From an electric cooperative standpoint, we made it clear we had strong concerns surrounding inflation and supply chain issues, as well as concerns surrounding affordability and reliability pertaining to the federal energy transition.

Looking ahead, we're currently planning for a return to Member Appreciation Days in Littlefork and Baudette. No firm dates have been set but I anticipate them to occur in the spring or early summer, so please keep an eye out on our Facebook page and newsletter for more information. The staff and I are excited to be able to host these events again for our members. There will be plenty of prizes, good food and (hopefully) warm and enjoyable weather. When the dates are released, please mark your calendars and try to join us!

Until next time, Josh



Minnesota State Representative
Jamie Long



Minnesota State Representative
Chris Swedzinski



Minnesota State Senator
David Senjem



Minnesota State Senator
Nick Frentz



Minnesota Rural Electric Association



LEGISLATIVE PANEL

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Feb. 2, 2022, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the allocation of operating margins to the members' capital credit accounts, to approve the transfer of final unpaid delinquent bills from current accounts receivable to the reserve for uncollectible, to approve the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan refinancing resolutions, to approve the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) loan refinancing resolutions and to approve the moving of the April board meeting to March 30, to coincide with the Minnkota membership meeting and the Minnkota and Square Butte annual meetings.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the allocation of operating margins to members' capital credit accounts, load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, water heater sales, rebates, new off-peak installations, the recent Operation Round Up® meeting, pole changeouts, Minnkota line maintenance, contracted right-of-way clearing, outages, Minnesota and federal energy and utility industry

updates, the progress on filling the operations manager position due to an upcoming retirement and a remodeling project at the Baudette office.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review (Ray Fisher, 556-41-061-13). 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.



North Star Electric to award Cooperative Knowledge scholarships

North Star Electric Cooperative will be awarding five scholarships, one \$1,000 and four \$400, plus a chance to win one of eight \$100 cash awards just for scoring over 60% on the test. Most of the test answers will be included in the study material that North Star provides.

In order to qualify:

- ▶ The parent/guardian must be a member of North Star Electric Co-op
- ▶ Student must be a 2022 graduate
- ▶ Student must be actively enrolled in a postsecondary school
- ▶ Candidates must take a short test about the cooperative that provides electricity to their home

Contact your high school guidance counselor to sign up!

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Bruce Sampson

General Manager
Josh Compton

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

April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

Calling is critical

Installing a mailbox?
CALL 8-1-1.



Planting a garden?
CALL 8-1-1.



Building a deck?
CALL 8-1-1.



The process is easy

1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit call811.com.



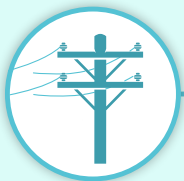
YOUR CO-OP CELEBRATES ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ON EARTH DAY

Environmental stewardship is a core value of North Star Electric Cooperative and our wholesale power provider Minnkota Power Cooperative. As local energy providers, we operate facilities that run 24 hours a day in the communities where we live, work, raise families and enjoy the great outdoors. Simply put, we have a personal stake in ensuring our air, land and water stay in pristine condition for future generations. On Earth Day, April 22, we're reflecting on the ways we've helped make the generation and delivery of electricity more responsible, while also helping you – our member – use energy more wisely.



GENERATION

North Star utilizes a diverse mix of energy resources, including coal, wind and hydro power, to meet your 24/7 needs. About 42% of the generation capacity available is derived from carbon-free resources. Efforts are currently being explored to further reduce CO₂ emissions at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station through Project Tundra. The project would install technologies capable of removing approximately 90% of the CO₂ from either generator at the facility. The facility already operates cleanly thanks to \$425 million in emissions control technologies, while strict reclamation standards require that all land mined must be restored to original condition or better.



POWER DELIVERY

The routing of power lines takes into account environmentally sensitive areas and the migratory patterns of birds. Through its blink outage mitigation efforts, Minnkota has installed technologies on its power lines to help prevent birds from perching and other animals from climbing poles where they may encounter danger. Other technologies are installed when necessary to make lines more visible for birds. When viable, North Star lines are converted from overhead to underground in an effort to limit power outages and reduce environmental impacts.



AT HOME

North Star has the energy experts available to help you save money and use electricity wisely. In addition to advice and energy-saving tips, you also have access to great rebates on highly efficient technologies. This includes at-home electric vehicle chargers and highly efficient heating and cooling systems, like air-source heat pumps (Greg Dahlin, 251-21-025-06). Members who wish to receive up to 100% of their electricity from renewable resources can also sign up for the Infinity Renewable Energy program. Check out our website for the latest incentives and offerings.

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
218-634-2642

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
218-283-7000

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

MARTY MOLLBERG RETIRED MARCH 31

Everyone at North Star Electric Cooperative would like to thank Marty for his 33-plus years of service to North Star, its members and the management team. He has done a tremendous job over the years as our operations manager. The safety of our staff and members is the number one priority here at North Star, and under his leadership that culture was further strengthened. Here's to a long and relaxing retirement!



GREETINGS, EVERYONE



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

This is going to be the first of many articles you'll see from me since taking over as North Star's operations manager. My predecessor Marty Mollberg has decided to move on to the good life and retired on March 31. Let's all wish him well in his future endeavors. It's now my responsibility to provide our members with some interesting and enlightening (pun intended) information surrounding what's happening in the operations department. I'm eager to build upon the strong safety culture and dedication to our members Marty left with me. Moving forward, I plan to look into new cost-effective ways we can run and maintain our distribution system to ensure our members are provided with the most reliable and affordable service possible.

Over the last month, I've been working diligently with staff to be brought up to speed in my new role. I'll be honest, as with any new job, I still have a lot of learning to do but am confident I'll settle in just fine. My colleagues here have been very supportive and I appreciate all their help now and going forward. We all have one mission and that's to improve the lives of our member-owners by providing reliable electric energy services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.

Now for some updates – the crew in Littlefork had a very busy winter. They finished replacing numerous poles on the system, rebuilt a section of line and are now performing annual line inspections. We're also starting to prepare for what is shaping up to be another busy construction season this spring (Marilyn A Dahl, 783-29-032-07). As you can imagine, the supply chain issues and material shortages are going to have an impact on us, just like everyone else. We've preordered as much material as possible to ensure we have adequate inventory moving forward.

The crew in Baudette has been just as busy. Several employees have been promoted and we expect there will be some new faces around once we hire another lineman for the Baudette office. The crew wrapped up its line inspections on this end and will be making necessary repairs from those inspections over the next few months. Once the snow melts, we'll be doing underground inspections on one of our substations so some of you may see someone opening up that green box in your yard. Lastly, you may have noticed some work being done by Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, this winter south and west of town. It's been a tough winter for those guys, but they're hoping to get everything completed to County Road 14 near Williams by spring.

Just a reminder, April 11 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day – our linemen work extremely hard each and every day in all sorts of weather conditions to keep the lights on. They all deserve a big thank you! That's all for now, Tim

NORTH STAR POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
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
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

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

Representative Matt Grossell
227 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn
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
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
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) 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

ITEMS FOR SALE BY BIDS

North Star has items 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, April 29, 2022**. Contact Tim Pelach with any questions on these vehicles at **218-634-2202**.



2010 Davco industrial brush cutter. Model BC705HS. 6' cutting width, 4-cutting blades, 1,900 lbs, required flow (31-45) gpm, hydraulic pressure 3,300 psi.



2008 Chevrolet 3500 pickup, 6.0 liter with 8'2" boss V-plow, 139,000 miles, front and back of pickup are pictured here.

HOME COOKING

Hamburger Tomato Soup

This simple hamburger tomato soup with rice may be almost too easy to make, but you can't tell from the delicious flavor!

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	20 mins	30 mins	6-8 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. hamburger (*browned and drained*)
- ½ cup celery (*chopped into small cubes*)
- ½ cup carrots (*chopped into small cubes*)
- ½ cup onions (*chopped into small cubes*)
- 2 cups potatoes (*chopped*)
- 1 tsp. instant beef bouillon or 1 cube beef bouillon
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 2 cups canned tomatoes
- ½ cup rice (*cooked*)
- 1 quart water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine all ingredients into a soup pot.
2. Cook until vegetables are tender and soup is heated through.

From the kitchen of Steve Anderson.



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

ANATOMY OF A LINEWORKER

HAND LINE

This is a lineworker's lifeline. Complete with steel clips and a pulley block, this rope, which hangs from a pole's cross arm, is strong enough for any job – from the routine hoisting of equipment to lifesaving missions.

HARD HAT

A hard hat provides insulated protection against electrical hazards and shields the head from blows and falling objects.

WOOD POLE FALL PROTECTION BELT

Before a lineworker starts climbing a pole, they loop a safety strap around the pole and rehook the strap to their equipment belt. This serves as an added safety precaution and allows the lineworker to work with both hands free.

DITTY BAG

This canvas bag hangs from the equipment belt and holds the materials that lineworkers need at the ready for any number of jobs.

BOOTS

These boots help prevent lineworkers from gaffing themselves in the leg. Serrated heels provide a better grip and steel shanks provide extra support on the pole.

HAND LINE BLOCK

Lineworkers can't carry everything up on a pole, and the pulley block – the signature component of the hand line – is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

TOOL POUCH

This bag hangs from the back of the equipment belt and carries a wide variety of tools, such as pliers and wrenches.

GAFFS

Razor-sharp steel points are strapped to boots for climbing poles. Only the tips dig into wood, helping lineworkers climb more safely and efficiently.

April is Lineworker Appreciation Month, so be sure to **#ThankALineworker** in your life.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**15
APR**

North Star's offices will be closed on Friday, April 15, in observance of Good Friday and the Easter holiday.

**10
May**

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Tuesday, May 10, if you wish to speak to the board.

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' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

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

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

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