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See You at the Fair!

Littlefork: July 7-10

Baudette: July 13-16

Stop by our booth starting
after 2 p.m. on **July 8**

Sign up for
DOOR PRIZES!

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

The month of June turned out to be very busy for your electric cooperative. Between the ongoing flooding and some strong storms, our crews were busy keeping the lights on throughout the month. You know what else was busy? Both of our Member Appreciation Days in Littlefork and Baudette! I don't have exact numbers as of this article but, according to folks who are often there, both events looked to have had the highest attendance we've seen in years. I want to thank all the members who were able to make it. It was great to finally have the opportunity to sit down with and meet even more members face to face at both locations. I also want to commend the North Star staff who worked tirelessly to ensure both days ran smoothly and everyone was able to enjoy themselves. You hear this time and time again, but an organization is only as strong as its staff, and we have some great employees here.

If you weren't able to make it to the Member Appreciation Days last month, please stop by the North Star fair booths at the Littlefork and Baudette fairs in July. Littlefork begins on Thursday, July 7, at 5 p.m. and ends Sunday, July 10, at 5 p.m. The Baudette fair begins Wednesday, July 13, at 12 p.m. and ends Sunday, July 17, at 5 p.m. We'll have balloons for the kids, nightly prize drawings and a grand prize drawing the last day of each fair. So, stop on by and add your name to the bin!

Looking ahead, we have our annual meeting in October (243-07-002-06, Jeff Albertson). This year there will be three director seats up for election. Those are for District 2, District 3 and District 7. Just to clarify, District 2 and District 3 will each be for a four-year term, whereas District 7 will only be for a one-year term. The reason District 7 is only for a one-year term is due to the fact that former director Bruce Sampson resigned before his term ended. Per the cooperative bylaws, the membership must elect someone to formally replace him at the next annual meeting (which is Oct. 7, 2022). District 7 was due to be up for reelection October 2023 in the normal election cycle, therefore whoever wins the District 7 seat this fall will have to run again in October 2023. This may sound a bit confusing, but this gives full authority to the membership to elect their directors as laid out in our bylaws. If any members

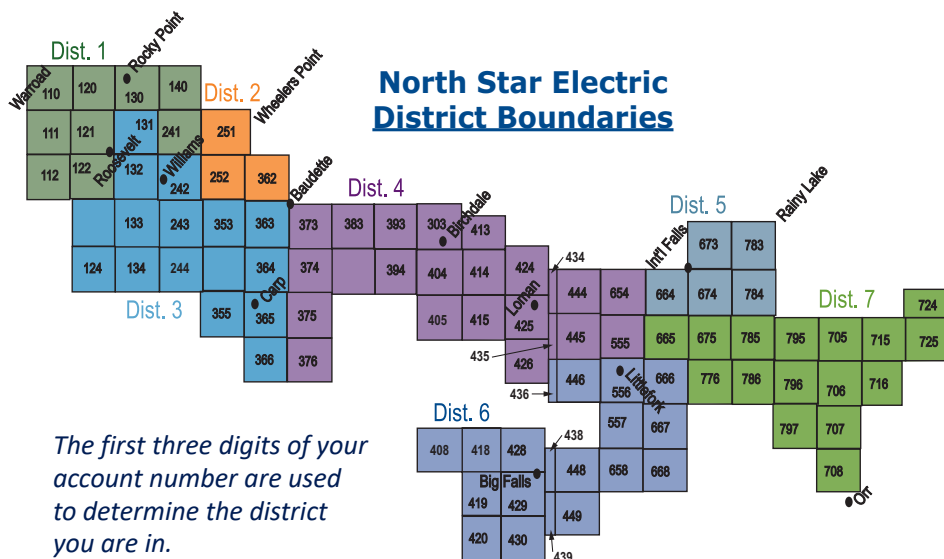
• I don't have exact numbers as of this article, but according to folks, both Member Appreciation Days looked to have had the highest attendance we've seen in years.

• The reason District 7 is only for a one-year term is due to the fact that former director Bruce Sampson resigned before his term ended.

are interested in running for any of these district seats, please promptly contact our offices and staff will provide you with all the materials you need to complete in order to run. Please keep in mind, completed materials/petitions need to be received by our offices no later than close of business (4 p.m.) Friday, Aug. 5, 2022. This is a hard deadline and we cannot accept anything after it. I hope everyone is enjoying summer and I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

Until next time,

Josh



2 **District 2**
Four-year term
(Normal election cycle)

3 **District 3**
Four-year term
(Normal election cycle)

7 **District 7**
One-year term
(Election will occur again in 2023)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the May 10, 2022, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance, with the exception of Director Smith. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to accept the 2021 IRS Form 990 for filing; to authorize North Star's contribution to NRUCFC's Integrity Fund to provide assistance for rural electric cooperative, territorial, regulatory or judicial disputes; to approve the compliance restatement of NRECA's Retirement Security Plan; to approve meeting delegates and committee assignments; to approve board policy 4.13 Single-Phase or Three-Phase Line Extensions and Conversions; to approve the updates to meterloop costs and contribution to aid-of-construction for new services and upgrades; and to appoint Douglas King as the director of District 7 until the membership's annual meeting on Oct. 7, 2022.

Staff reports included the safety report,

the financial report, the review of the 2021 IRS Form 990, CoBank's Sharing Success grant opportunity for 2022, capital credits, the NRECA Retirement Security Plan restatement, property taxes, the summer employee meeting, winter load control, ripple receiver inspections, water heater sales, off-peak inquiries, rebates, scholarships, new services and upgrades, underground line inspection, right-of-way clearing, the construction of the CN railway overpass near International Falls, Minnkota's summer substation maintenance plans, outages, Member Appreciation Days, federal and state energy updates, strategic planning updates and the Littlefork office building.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (664-20-033-02, Lillian Crandall). 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.



Cool breeze for a warm family game night?

It's a powerful experience, powered by just 3 cents of ceiling fan energy.

 **VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

3¢



UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

06
JULY

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 6, if you wish to speak to the board.

03
AUG

North Star will hold the following monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 3, if you wish to speak to the board.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

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

North Star Member Appreciation Days

Tuesday, June 21, in Littlefork, Minn.

Wednesday, June 22, in Baudette, Minn.

We were pleased with the turnout at our Member Appreciation Days! Both events looked to have had the highest attendance we've seen in years. Thank you to all of our members who were able to make it, and thank you to the staff at North Star for making such a fun event possible.

Prize winners

Baudette:

Igloo cooler – *Barbara Welberg*

Leaf blower – *Travis Saeland*

\$25 bill credit – *Garhart
Hasbargen*

\$25 bill credit – *Joe Borg*

\$50 Ronnings gift card – *Akio
Bragdon*

Kid's scooter – *Layla Brandt*

Littlefork:

Igloo cooler – *Bill Boelk*

Leaf blower – *Russ Marklund*

\$25 bill credit – *Gerald
Houglum*

\$25 bill credit – *Russ Strand*

\$50 Ronnings gift card – *Julie
Lepisto*

Kid's scooter – *Jacob Cassibo*





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



STAFF REPORT – UTILITY SCAMS



Robyn Sonstegard
Finance Manager

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately (251-36-184-02, Barbara Welberg). Whether this is done in person or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at **218-634-2202**. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.northstarelectric.coop. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us at nsec@wiktel.com, or use our SmartHub app to check the status of your account. **REMEMBER, WE WILL NEVER ATTEMPT TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENT AFTER JUST ONE NOTICE.**

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a Social Security number for identity theft.

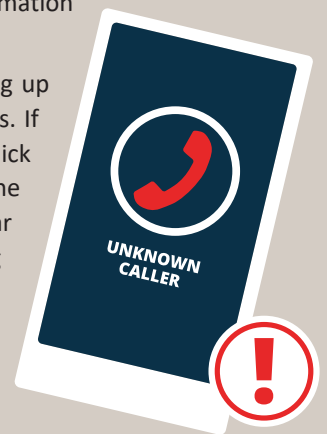
If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email or by text, do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, North Star will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. North Star Electric Co-op employees wear logoed clothing. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



NORTH STAR ELECTRIC 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

HOME COOKING

Easy Rhubarb Upside Down Cake

A fun summer cake for kids to help make that can use up some of the fresh rhubarb that is in season. This dessert is colorful, tasty and simple to prepare.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	40 mins + cooling	1 hour, 5 mins	12 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 5 cups rhubarb (*cut into pieces*)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 small box of Jello (*strawberry*)
- 3 cups small marshmallows
- 1 package white or yellow cake mix (*regular size*)
- 1 container whipped cream for topping (*optional*)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the 5 cups of rhubarb in a greased 9" x 13" baking pan.
2. Sprinkle with the box of strawberry Jello, sugar and small marshmallows.
3. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour batter over marshmallows.
4. Bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool cake and invert onto a serving plate. Serve with whipped topping if desired.

** Can substitute different berries and Jello for rhubarb and strawberry Jello.*

From the kitchen of Faye Barrett.



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. 7, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 2 (currently held by Shelley Spears) and District 3 (currently held by Randy Bergan), and District 7 (currently held by Douglas King) is up for a one-year term.

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you live in one of these districts 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 | **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 summer season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.