

**ANNUAL MEETING 2022 –  
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## **AVOID HIGH NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE PRICES WITH OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC HEATING**

### **MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP**



### **ELECTRIC PLENUM**



### **THERMAL STORAGE**



(A sample of some of the off-peak electric heating technologies available)

***Learn more about the value of off-peak heating  
for the upcoming winter season – page 4***

### **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

I want to start this month's article off by thanking our members who attended the annual meeting last month. Apart from the brisk wind myself and a few others encountered

on the forklift, I could tell our members were comfortable and enjoying the meal in their cars and things went smoothly. Director Shelley Spears (District 2), Director Randy Bergan (District 3) and Director Doug King (District 7) all were elected to the North Star board. With the conclusion of October's annual meeting, we have wrapped up our larger member events for 2022 and are now focusing on what next year has in store. I'm happy to announce that we've decided to restart plant tours to the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., for interested members. It's been a couple years since the last plant tour and we're all eager to begin them in 2023. More details will be provided at a later date.

The staff and management team are currently compiling the 2023 budget and will present it to the board at the November board meeting with the eventual approval by the board in December. As I previously communicated over the last several months, North Star is seeing increased cost pressures in several areas as a result of inflation and supply chain constraints that have, unfortunately, not subsided. These added costs will most certainly have budget implications for next year. We'll be sure to keep our membership updated as we work through the budget process and inform you of any potential changes that may affect you in a timely fashion on social media, on our website and in these newsletters.

On another note, you may have noticed the building located next to North Star's headquarters in Baudette has been vacant for a couple years. This was used previously

as a line school for new lineworkers through Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Unfortunately, we saw this close prior to me coming to North Star as general manager. Even though we had hoped it would reopen one day as a line school, that did not come to fruition. Although we won't have the line school next door any longer, I'm happy to report Bosch has purchased the building and we at North Star are excited to welcome our new neighbors.

Lastly, election season is in full swing. Regardless of your political affiliation or which candidates you may be supporting, I strongly encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote. We have many legislators across the political spectrum that strongly

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support North Star and the other electric cooperatives across Minnesota. We hope those folks are successful in their respective races. No matter what the outcome may be, we will continue to engage the incumbents who win and work hard to educate and develop new relationships with those newly elected candidates across our service territory, the state and at the federal level.

Until next time,

Josh

# Celebrate with Savings

## LED Lighting Rebate

*Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations*

### How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2022.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2022, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

**MAIL TO: North Star Electric Cooperative • PO Box 719 •  
441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Aug. 30, 2022, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the mail-in ballots for District 3, to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen LLP financial audit engagement, and to approve the amendment to the declaration of restrictive covenants and the right of first refusal agreement for the sale of the former lineworker school building owned by Lake of the Woods County and being sold to Robert Bosch LLC.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, group benefit plan rates for 2023, red and yellow zone control, ripple receiver inspections, load management, rebates, new services and upgrades, the County Road 30 line rebuild in the Wabanica area, outages, blinks, the new apprentice lineworker hired in Littlefork, the completion of

the septic system replacement and building painting projects in Baudette, the Canadian line, the proposed term extensions to the Minnkota Power contract and the review of the strategic plan.

There were two guests at the meeting. Sam Schmitz, attorney from Minnkota Power, joined the meeting and gave a presentation on director fiduciary duties to the board (556-10-030-01, Eddie Williams). Rick Coe, director

from Beltrami Electric and MREA District 1 representative, met with the board to discuss statewide cooperative issues.

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.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. — Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov).

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

24-25  
NOV

North Star's offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

07  
DEC

North Star will hold the following monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 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: 811 or 800-252-1166.**  
**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)

# AVOID HIGH NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE PRICES WITH OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC HEATING

Minnesota and North Dakota households that relied on natural gas or propane to keep them warm through last year's cold season faced volatile prices that sent their heating bills soaring unexpectedly. One year later, natural gas and propane costs remain high – with the potential to climb higher through the winter.

If the possibility of another price spike has you nervous, there's an easy way to prepare now. Simply incorporate electricity into your heating system and enroll in North Star Electric Cooperative's voluntary off-peak program. You'll receive electric heat at nearly half the standard electric rate, which brings your cost for heating well below the cost for natural gas or propane. Plus, the off-peak electric rate has remained stable for nearly a decade, so there are no worries about sudden swings in the market that you didn't work into your budget.

## How the valuable off-peak program works:

North Star Electric Cooperative members voluntarily sign up for off-peak, which allows Minnkota (your co-op's wholesale power provider) to temporarily turn off electric heating, water heating, vehicle chargers and commercial account service during times of high regional demand. During these "control periods," most consumers are automatically switched to a backup heating system, generator or stored heat so there is no interruption in comfort.

### Electric heat system

An electric heating system on the off-peak program consists of an electric heat source as its main component and a supplemental heating source (such as fuel oil or propane) that will typically operate 250-300 hours per year during times of peak electrical demand in the region (362-17-020-08, Tim Nelson). The program can also be utilized in storage heat technologies, in which heat is collected and stored during low-demand times of day and deployed when needed.

### Water heater

A water heater on the off-peak program will warm the contents of the tank during lower-demand times of day (often overnight), and that water will remain hot until it is needed in the home.

## Popular electric options eligible for the off-peak program:

### AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP



- Can be used with a backup fuel source for off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$650/ton in rebates**

### ELECTRIC PLENUM



- Backup energy source is necessary for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$25 per kW rebate**

### THERMAL STORAGE



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$45 per kW rebate**

### ELECTRIC WATER HEATER



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$700 in rebates**



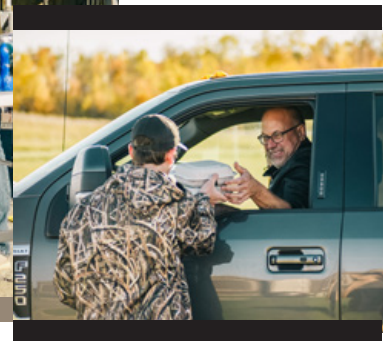
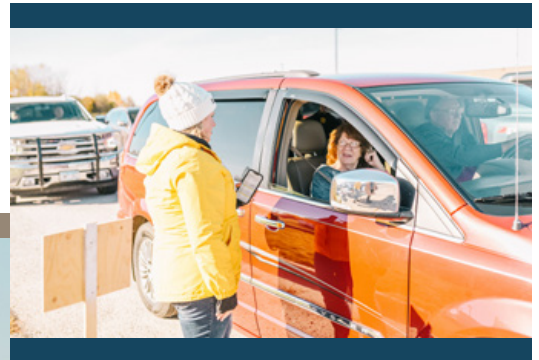
**Learn more about off-peak by scanning this code or call your cooperative at 218-634-2202.**

# ANNUAL MEETING 2022 ... DRIVE-IN STYLE!

Lake of the Woods High School, Baudette *(photography by Courtney Danielle)*



About 150 members registered to attend the meeting, which included voting by flashing headlights.



North Star's employees, members and board of directors were all smiles as they participated in the utility they own at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

# 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



# ANNUAL MEETING 2022 (cont'd)



President Steve Arnesen and attorney Sam Schmitz conducted the meeting, which included the elections of incumbents Shelley Spears, District 2; Randy Bergan, District 3; and Douglas King, District 7.

Robert Raundaten was the grand prize winner of a Greenworks electric pressure washer at this year's annual meeting.



Kate Albrecht, daughter of Matt and Aprille Albrecht, won the \$100 kids' coloring contest (above). West of Border food truck provided a BBQ pork dinner (below).



Rita Krause was the winner of the Apple iPad (above), and Nancy Craig was the winner of a \$200 energy bill credit (below).



# STAFF REPORT – SCAM ALERT/SALES TAX



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
Finance Manager

## Scam alert

Lately, we have received reports that scammers have been targeting co-op members in our area. These imposters have been pretending to be a co-op employee, saying they need payment on the member's electric 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 debit or credit card number over the phone. If you are suspicious of any call threatening disconnection without an 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. If you feel you may qualify for this exemption, please call our office for more information.

## Operation Round Up

The next application deadline for Operation Round Up® is Nov. 30. Local nonprofit community organizations are encouraged to apply! The seven volunteer Community Trust board members that administer the Operation Round Up program will meet and distribute grants in January (251-28-041-03, John Mayer). The grant application can be found on our website on the Forms page.

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. For example, if a bill is \$92.68, it will be rounded up to \$93. The extra 32 cents will go into the Operation Round Up Fund. The average donation by each member is less than \$6 annually. We have collected and distributed over \$298,000 since 2007, thanks to our members who generously contribute to this program! If you do not participate in rounding up your bill, but you would like to, please call our Baudette office and ask for Patsy or Brittany.

# HOME COOKING

## Easy Pumpkin Dump Cake

Simple and delicious, this cake preps in minutes. With all of these earthy flavors, it is perfect for Thanksgiving or all fall long.



Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	50 mins	1 hour	15 servings

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice (or substitute this for 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1/8 tsp. nutmeg, 1/4 tsp. ginger, 1/8 tsp. cloves)
- 1 box yellow cake mix (or substitute for spice cake mix)
- 1 cup pecans (optional)
- 3/4 cup butter (melted)
- Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° and grease a 9x13 pan.
2. In a large bowl, beat pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugar and pumpkin spice until blended.
3. Spread pumpkin mixture in pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top.
4. Pour melted butter on top. Sprinkle pecans on top, if using.
5. Bake for 50 minutes or until top is golden brown. Let cool completely and serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

*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.

# Electrical contractor continuing education sessions scheduled

## January / February 2023



Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star Electric and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

This marks the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is \$80 for eight code credits. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com) and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar.

### DATES AND LOCATIONS

#### Wednesday, January 11

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND

#### Thursday, January 12

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND

#### Thursday, January 19

Bemidji Eagles Club  
1270 Neilson Ave SE  
Bemidji, MN

#### Thursday, January 26

Bigwood Event Center  
925 Western Ave  
Fergus Falls, MN

#### Wednesday, February 1

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South  
Grand Forks, ND

#### Thursday, February 2

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South  
Grand Forks, ND

### CLASS SCHEDULE

- + 7:15 - 8 a.m.  
Sign-in
- + 8 a.m. - noon  
Workshop
- + Noon - 1 p.m.  
Lunch provided
- + 1 - 5 p.m.  
Workshop

For more information about the program, please call (701) 795-4292 or e-mail any questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).

## \$80 REGISTRATION FEE

**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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**'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.*