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## See You at the Fair!

**Littlefork: July 7-9 | Baudette: July 12-15**

Stop by our booth  
starting after  
2 p.m. on **July 7**

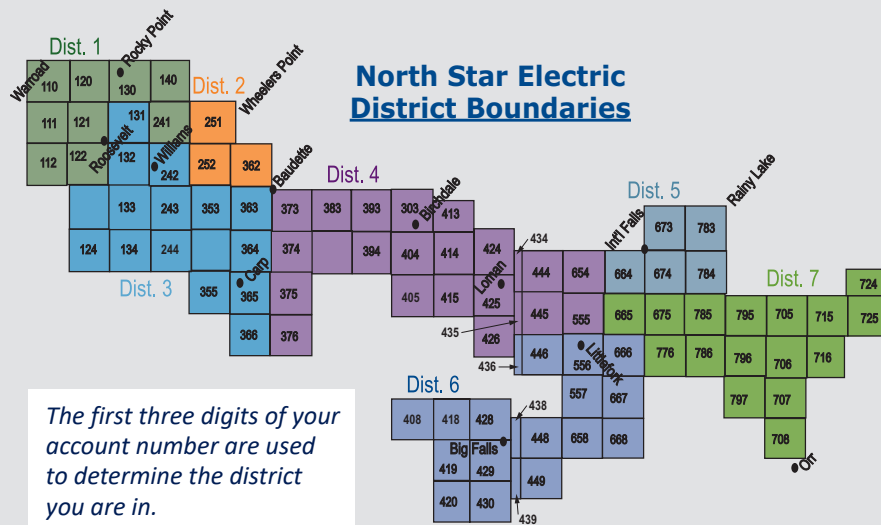
**Sign up for  
DOOR PRIZES!**

### **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.

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICT 7

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. 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 (251-28-053-01 Jason Kaseman). This year we will have a director election in District 7.



## DISTRICT 7

Douglas King

Four-year term

7

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. 6, 2023. 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, AUG. 4, 2023.**

## 6 things you might not know about coal mining



Lignite coal is a cornerstone of your co-op's reliable energy portfolio

1.

Geological surveys and testing help create efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible mining plans.

2.

Coal mining provides **thousands of jobs** for people in North Dakota.

3.

**Open-pit mining** is used to remove layers of soil and rock to expose coal seams – no tunneling underground.

4.

Coal is unearthed by massive draglines that operate 24 hours a day and can **weigh more than 6,000 tons**.

5.

Raw lignite coal undergoes various **processes to remove impurities** and prepare it for use.

6.

After mining, the **land is reclaimed and restored** to its natural state by leveling, replacing topsoil, and reestablishing native vegetation.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the May 3, 2023, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance (555-06-001-03, Clinton Clark). In addition to routine actions, the board voted to accept the 2022 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 inventory adjustment as a result of the annual reconciling of inventory; to accept the 2022 annual cogeneration filing as presented; to approve the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) letter of commitment; and to approve the Restated and Amended Wholesale Power Contract and Resolution between North Star Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power Cooperative.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the IRS Form 990, the CoBank Sharing Success

grant opportunity, grant opportunities through the U.S. Energy Department and Minnesota Department of Commerce, DBS (Direct Broadcast Satellite) capital credits, the wholesale power contract, the workers' compensation program, new services, idle service retirements, this summer's FEMA storm and flood damage repairs, outages, ripple receiver voltage testing, demand response system testing, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, water heater sales, Knowledge Scholarship winners, rebates, substation line loss, contractor work being

completed at the Littlefork office, upcoming Member Appreciation Days, extended delivery timeframes for large equipment and the new Vac-Tron trailer.

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 SAVING TIP

To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Cooking outside will avoid raising the temperature inside your home.



## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

05  
JULY

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 5, if you wish to speak to the board.

02  
AUG

North Star will hold its monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 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

**Interim General Manager**  
Kevin Holen

## 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)**





# North Star Member Appreciation Days

Tuesday, June 13, in Littlefork, Minn.

Wednesday, June 14, in Baudette, Minn.

We were pleased with the turnout at our Member Appreciation Days! Both events had great attendance. 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:

YETI cooler  
- **Barb James**

Chainsaw  
- **Neal Slick**

\$50 Ronnings gift card  
- **Sonja Erickson**

\$50 Ronnings gift card  
- **Judith Crompton**

Kid's scooter  
- **Huxley Howdahl**

### Littlefork:

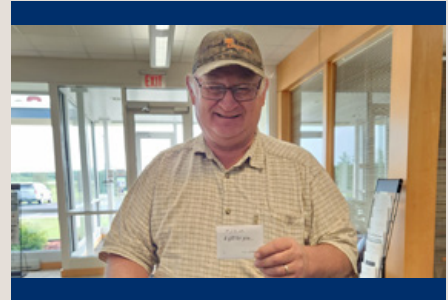
YETI cooler  
- **Dennis Lagergren**

Chainsaw  
- **Mary Ellen Lehman**

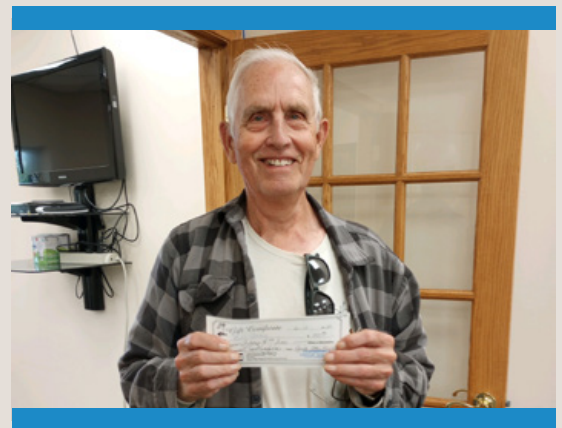
Polkinghorne's Gift Certificate  
- **Bill Gray**

Polkinghorne's Gift Certificate  
- **Margaret Ewald**

Kid's scooter  
- **Joey Kennedy**







## 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 – BUDGET BILLING / LOCAL FAIRS



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
*Finance Manager*

### Budget billing

If you find that the seasonal swings in your electric bill are hard to keep up with, you should consider budget billing. The budget billing cycle begins in July, so now is the time to sign up! Brittany can sign you up or answer any questions you have about this program. You can reach her in our Baudette office at **218-634-2202**. This is an ideal program for our members with electric heat because it gives them the same flat monthly payment throughout the year until the reconciliation month. This works very well with ACH, the automatic payment of your electric bill from your bank account. Even if you are on the budget plan, it's always a good idea to look at your electric bill each month. As an accountant, I would not normally suggest you "set it and forget it," but if you are that type of person, budget billing and ACH together are a good combination for you!

If you are already a member participating in budget billing, please review your bills when they come in the mail (776-04-006-01, Steve Lindberg). Brittany is happy to review your usage from the last 12 months and answer any questions you might have on your reconciliation bill.

### Outages for flooding repairs

We've been trying to let our members on the east side of our service area know that we will be making repairs to flood- and storm-damaged equipment this summer. The largest portion of this repair work will be in the Rainy Lake area, with some also in the Kabetogama and Ash River areas. We have contracted with Lake States Construction to complete this work over the summer. Repairs will require North Star to shut off the power for short periods of time while the work is completed. It is possible you may be out of power at times if repairs are made nearby. Our crews or office staff will attempt to notify you when your power will be out and give you an approximate duration. Please reach out to our Littlefork office with any questions at **218-278-6658**. Thank you for your patience while these repairs are being made!

### Local fairs

In July, we will be at both the Lake of the Woods County Fair in Baudette and the Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork. Stop by our booth if you have a chance! We hope to see you there!



The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$5 a day** – the price of a bottle of sunscreen.

**VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.**

 **VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

**THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.**



# 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 Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
www.klobuchar.senate.gov  
202-224-3244;  
Fax: 202-228-2186

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

Congresswoman Michelle  
Fischbach, U.S. House (7th  
District)  
1004 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
fischbach.house.gov  
202-225-2165;  
Fax: 202-225-1593

Congressman Pete Stauber,  
U.S. House (8th District)  
145 Cannon House Office  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
stauber.house.gov  
202-225-6211

## STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-201-3400

Minority Leader  
Senator Mark Johnson (01, R)  
2401 Minnesota Senate  
Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Senator Steve Green (02, R)  
2319 Minnesota Senate  
Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-297-8063  
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild  
(03, DFL)  
3111 Minnesota Senate  
Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-1789  
sen.grant.hauschild@senate.  
mn

Representative Matt Grossell  
(02A, R)  
371 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn

Representative Matt Bliss  
(02B, R)  
311 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5516;  
Toll Free: 877-838-5537  
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn

Representative Roger Skraba  
(03A, R)  
221 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190

## OUTAGE NOTIFICATION



This summer North Star will be working on repairing its electrical equipment that was damaged in last year's flooding. The largest portion of this repair work will be in the Rainy Lake area, with some also in the Kabetogama and Ash River areas. The repairs needed in these areas will require North Star to shut the power off for a short time while the work is completed. Our crews will attempt to notify members when the power will be out and give an approximate duration. If you have questions/concerns, please contact the Littlefork office at **218-278-6658** or **888-258-2008**.

## HOME COOKING

### Ham and Mashed Potato Bake

This casserole is the perfect way to use up those leftovers and make a delicious meal for the family. It's a good comfort food to enjoy and quick to put together.

| Prep Time | Cook Time | Total Time | Servings |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 10 mins   | 50 mins   | 1 hour     | 6        |

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 cups diced leftover ham
- 1 can (10.5 oz) cream of celery soup
- ½ cup milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4-5 cups leftover or freshly prepared mashed potatoes
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup additional milk
- ½ cup chopped green onions
- 1 Tbsp parsley

- 6 ounces (about 1½ cups) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Butter a 2½ to 3-quart baking dish. Heat oven to 350°.
2. Melt butter in a skillet over medium-low heat. Add celery and onion and saute, stirring frequently until vegetables are tender. Add the ham and continue cooking until ham is lightly browned. Stir in soup, ½ cup milk and add salt and pepper to taste.
3. If the mashed potatoes are cold, warm them to make them easier

- to mix. Whisk together the eggs and milk and beat into the potatoes along with the green onions and parsley. Reserve about ½ cup of the cheese for topping and add the rest to the potato mixture.
4. Spoon the ham mixture into the prepared baking dish. Spread potatoes over the ham mixture and top with reserved shredded cheese. Sprinkle with black pepper. Bake for 40-50 minutes, until lightly browned.

*From the kitchen of Karen Ryba.*



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. 6, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors position up for election for a four-year term is District 7 (currently held by Douglas King).

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** 1-888-6OUTAGE (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 summer season and other useful information.

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

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