

**CAREERS IN ENERGY  
WEEK – OCT. 16-20**

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## CO-OPS GROW

### COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month this October.

As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

You can learn more about National Co-op Month on page 5.

#### **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.



## GRANTS GIVEN TO FIRE RESCUE TEAMS

North Star Electric Cooperative is proud to participate in the CoBank Sharing Success program, a matching grant opportunity open to local nonprofit organizations within our service area. Aimed at supporting local communities and people, the grant is made possible by the North Star board of directors, in partnership with CoBank – a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services. CoBank provides loans, leases, financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states.

This year, North Star Electric chose to focus its matched giving on area fire rescue teams in four communities:

- **Rural Fire Protection Association (International Falls, Minn.)** – Grant will be used for a remote water storage project for water tanker refills.
- **Lake Kabetogama Area Volunteer Fire Department** – Grant will be used for a custom bed for their new Honda Pioneer side-by-side to haul their remote fire and ATV trail rescue equipment.

- **Big Falls Fire Department** (*not pictured*) – Grant will be used for training materials for their volunteer fire department, including video units for medical response, emergency vehicle operations, firefighting, and urban firefighting.

- **Littlefork Fire Department** (*not pictured*) – Grant will be used to replace aged fire hoses and nozzles for front-line use.

This matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. CoBank states that collaborating with their customers to support worthy causes they care about is a great way for them to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

CoBank established Sharing Success in 2012. Since then, the bank and its customers have together contributed nearly \$76 million to groups such as volunteer fire departments, local schools and hunger relief programs.



Mike Hanson, North Star Electric board director (right), presents a Sharing Success donation to Gordon Dault with the Rural Fire Protection Association.



Doug King, North Star Electric board director (left), presents a Sharing Success donation to Bryan Wichner, fire chief for the Lake Kabetogama Area Volunteer Fire Department.

## IS YOUR OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR THIS YEAR'S WINTER SEASON?

It's hard to believe winter is right around the corner. Since weather conditions and future wholesale power market prices make the amount of load control hours hard to predict, all of our off-peak members are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating system in place and ready to use – such as an electric thermal storage system (673-25-033-01, Mary Moe). To ensure your total comfort this winter, consider the following questions about your backup heating system:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank at the beginning of the season. Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season. Our member services department is glad to answer any off-peak questions you may have.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the July 5, 2023, and Aug. 2, 2023, regular board meetings. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve Kevin Holen as the new general manager, to approve moving the September 2023 board meeting to Aug. 30, 2023, to approve the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$513,535, to approve the transfer of unpaid delinquent final bills from current accounts receivable to uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$3,014.74, to approve the annual meeting agenda and to accept Director King's petition for nomination for the District 7 seat.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the fall capital credit retirement, delinquent accounts, the CoBank Sharing Success grant application approvals, the annual financial audit to be conducted in September, website design, Minnesota property tax, workers' compensation, new services, service upgrades, service retirements, flooding repairs on Rainy Lake, progress on the Roosevelt substation, underground line work in Birchdale this fall, outages, the local fair booths, new automated external defibrillator (AED) units for the bucket

and digger trucks, load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, solar installations, water heater sales, rebates, off-peak installations, a power theft issue near Roosevelt, July Operation Round Up® grant awards, parking lot resurfacing, and fencing projects and other maintenance at the Littlefork office.

A guest at the August board meeting was North Star employee Daniel Fish, AMI, Mapping and IT Technician, who reported

on the recent Landis+Gyr Exchange conference he attended and gave a brief presentation on the metering system. 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.



## Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

## 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**  
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)**



# CAREERS IN ENERGY WEEK

## October 16-20



*The electrical industry is buzzing with innovation and change. Growth is possible in every aspect of the job. Some of the most stable and secure jobs on the market are in the energy sector. Whether you love the outdoors or have a passion for numbers, there is a career in energy for you. North Star Electric Cooperative works hard to employ the best people possible to continue its mission of providing reliable, affordable and safe power to the region. Check out some of the careers possible at an electric cooperative!*



## LINEWORKERS AND ELECTRICIANS

Lineworkers and electricians work on the front lines of the energy industry. They are out in the community working hard to keep our power as reliable as possible. Lineworkers replace broken poles, build distribution lines and even head out in storms to repair broken wires. Electricians install and maintain the electrical wiring and power distribution systems within our infrastructure. Both roles play a critical part in keeping the lights on all year long.

## MEMBER SERVICES OR ACCOUNT MANAGERS

These roles can have many different names and responsibilities, but what they have in common is the joy of working directly with the membership! A member services representative typically works closely with members on acquiring available rebates and getting set up on the co-op's off-peak program. Account managers serve as liaisons to large business and residential accounts in the co-op's service territory. Depending on the co-op, one person does all the above, or several people work together to serve the membership.



## SAFETY OFFICERS

Having a dedicated safety staff is a must in the energy industry to keep our crews and employees as safe as possible. Safety staff ensures equipment is up to date, implements safety programs and protocols for field and office employees and even oversees projects happening in the field. Depending on the co-op, safety folks may pull double duty as a foreman or superintendent.

## ENGINEERS

Engineers are always behind the scenes drawing up plans and pulling strings – literally! Engineers design and improve upon ways to get power to your home, farm or business. Electrical engineers design and then test ways to divert energy and transport it safely to its destination. Civil and mechanical engineers are also prevalent in the energy industry because they design and maintain our critical infrastructure.



## Other possible careers in energy:

- Accountants
- Environmental specialists
- Mechanics
- Right-of-way agents
- Office managers
- Project managers
- Communication representatives
- Meter technicians
- Power system operators
- And so much more!

# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES GROW FROM THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

October is National Co-op Month, and North Star Electric Cooperative is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate (716-04-004-05 Brad C. Eck). Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including North Star Electric Cooperative, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

## CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES:

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment,

fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. “Concern for Community” is one of our core principles – and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

## CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER:

Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

## CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, college scholarships,

or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

## CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU:

At North Star, your satisfaction is a priority. It's why we were formed in 1940 to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!

**CO-OPS  
GROW**

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COMMUNITIES

# NORTH STAR STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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12 Publication Title		14 Issue Date to Consider Dates (month/year)		
<b>The Enlightener</b> <b>September 2023</b> <b>12 Issues and One Division</b> <b>Newsletter</b>		<b>Average No. Copies</b> <b>Each Issue During</b> <b>Preceding 12 Months</b> <b>Number of Copies</b> <b>Not Distributed</b> <b>Outside the United States</b>		
a. Total Number of Copies (net press run)		5074	5083	
b. Paid circulation (by mail and other means)	1. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Do not include distribution outside normal way, whether by paid means, and exchange copies)	3951	3959	
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c. Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation (by mail and other means)	1. Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation Outside the U.S. (Do not include exchange copies)			
	2. Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation Outside the U.S. by Mail (Do not include exchange copies)			
	3. Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation Outside the U.S. Through the USPS (Do not include exchange copies)			
	4. Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation Outside the U.S. (Carriers or other means)	75	75	
	5. Total Free or Nominal Rate Paid Circulation (Sum of 1c (1), (2), (3), and (4))	75	75	
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	f. Total (Sum of 1d and 1e)	5159	5168	
g. Payment Paid (by USPS) 10/28/2023		00	99	

If you are submitting electronic copies, go to the 10 or 11 page, or are submitting electronic copies, go to the 10 or 11 page.

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## 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 – SUBSTATION BUILD NEARING COMPLETION



**Tim Pelach**  
*Operations Manager*

Well, the leaves have started falling off the trees so fall is in the air. This time of year turns into a very busy time for a lot of people, including North Star, as last-minute projects show up in addition to regular tasks.

I must admit this summer has been very accommodating for getting work done, with long stretches of nice weather and no significant storms. We are on track to having one of our highest years for adding new services, which is good for the co-op.

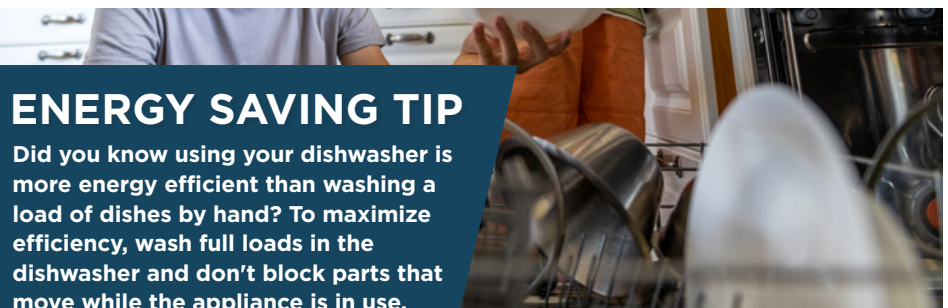
Our plans for this fall include having a right-of-way contractor working on the west half of the system, so those in the Warroad to Williams area will probably see them.

Construction on our new Roosevelt substation is nearing completion and, when done, will be a big improvement to the system for alleviating some loading issues in the area (121-13-015-03, Marques A. Stricker). This was a long overdue project and we are happy to have it done.

Our contractor making the repairs in the Rainy Lake and Kabetogama area has stopped for the season and will return when the snow starts to melt to complete the work.

As fall slides by, please keep in mind farm safety as the farmers are busy harvesting with their large equipment. Slow down and give them the room they need to move around. Maybe get the boat out again and take advantage of some fall fishing opportunities.

That's all for now, Tim



### ENERGY SAVING TIP

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block parts that move while the appliance is in use.



# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

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www.whitehouse.gov  
202-456-1111

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221 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190

The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$5 a day** – the price of the perfect jack-o'-lantern pumpkin!



**VALUING EVERYTHING  
THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.**

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



**HARVEST  
SAFETY**

Farmers, be sure everyone in your operation knows what to do in an emergency.

Learn more:  
 Safe Electricity.org



## HOME COOKING

### Zucchini Blueberry Bread

Bursting with flavor, this recipe is a great way to use up all the fresh zucchini everyone gives you. It is freezer-friendly and a fun new way to make quick bread.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	1 hour, 15 mins	1 hour, 30 minutes	12

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar (*brown, white or mixture*)
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 3 tsp. vanilla
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- 2 cups blueberries

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Beat together oil, sugar and eggs.
2. Sift together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and baking powder.

3. Combine dry mixture with wet ingredients. Stir in shredded zucchini and vanilla.
4. Gently fold in blueberries. Bake in two greased and floured bread pans at 350° for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

*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.



# COLD WEATHER RULE / ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*The cold weather law does not totally forbid winter cutoffs. If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly.*

## COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Star Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Star Electric Cooperative.

**Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not**

**completely stop winter disconnects.**

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, North Star Electric must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median

income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

North Star Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

01  
NOV

North Star will hold the following monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1, if you wish to speak to the board.

10  
NOV

North Star Electric's offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day.

**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 your cooperative for outage updates during the fall season and other useful information.

 **/northstarelectric**

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