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# WE POWER YOU!



**DRIVE-IN ANNUAL MEETING RECAP (SEE MORE ON PAGES 2-3)**

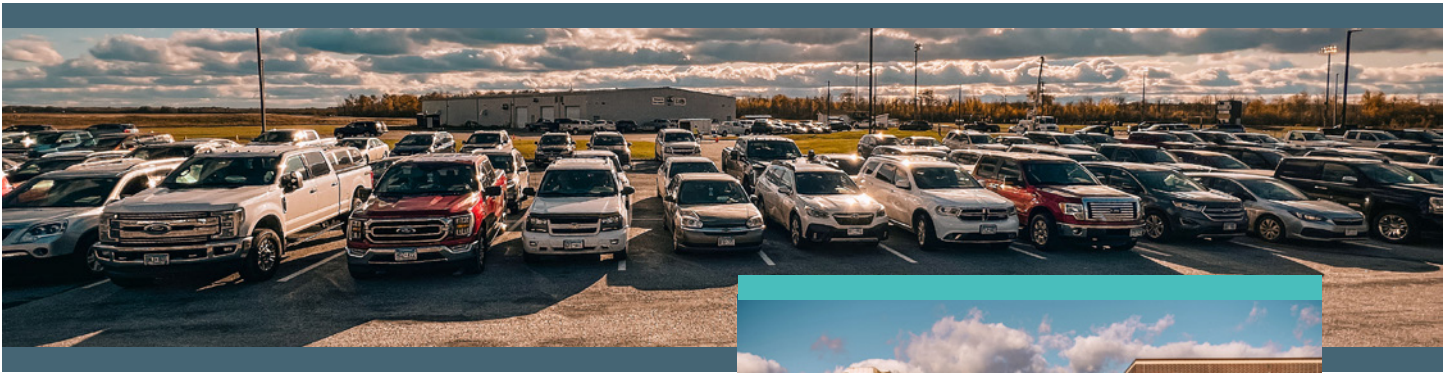
## **NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT**

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.



# ANNUAL MEETING 2023 ... DRIVE-IN STYLE!

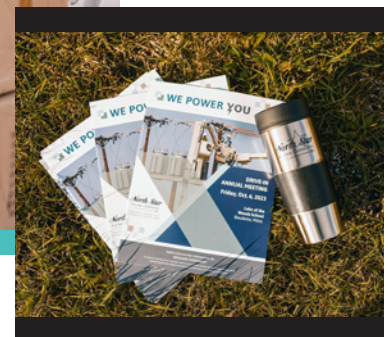
Lake of the Woods High School, Baudette *(photography by Courtney Danielle)*



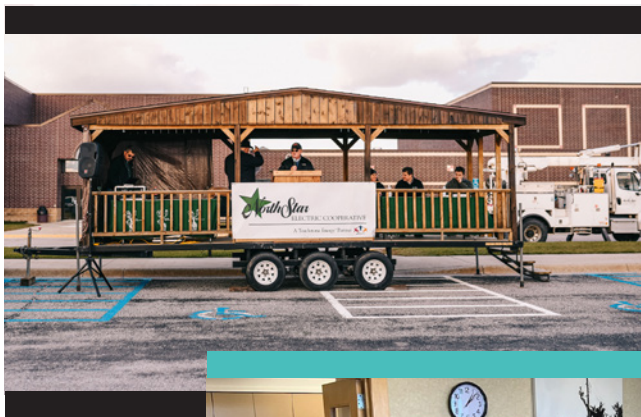
About 300 members registered to attend the meeting, which included voting by flashing headlights.



North Star's employees, members and board of directors were all smiles as they participated in the utility they own at the 2023 Annual Meeting.







President Steve Arnesen and attorney Sam Schmitz conducted the meeting, which included the election of incumbent Douglas King, District 7.

# 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



Alan Thomas was the grand prize winner of a 55-inch TV at this year's annual meeting.



Aurora Anderson, granddaughter of Levain Anderson, won the \$100 kids' coloring contest (*above*). West of Border food truck provided a BBQ pork dinner (*below*).



Roger Krause was the winner of the Apple iPad (*above*), and George Swentik was the winner of an Apple watch (*below*).



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Aug. 30, 2023, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen LLP financial audit engagement.

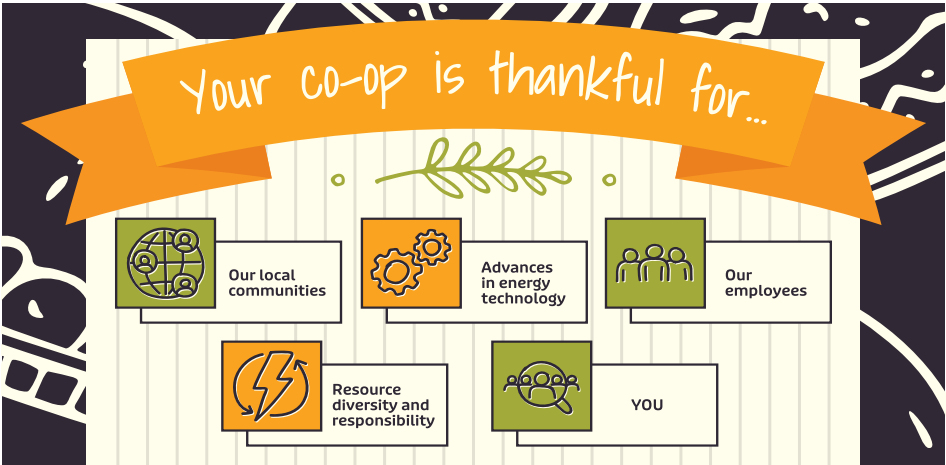
Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the CoBank Sharing Success matching grant awards to local fire departments, 2024 group benefit and pension rates, the August RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) review, new services, service upgrades, the 2024-2027 construction work plan, Power System Engineering’s visit to the NOVA site to review power quality, pole testing in the Williams area, the Midcontinent broadband expansion in the Gold Shores area, weather-related outages, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, a new solar installation, rebates, off-peak installations, LP prices, ETS unit repairs, a power theft issue near Roosevelt, the Willie Wiredhand sign replacement on the Baudette headquarters building, the

recent max generation event, North Star’s National Night Out participation, pole attachments, the annual meeting and idle services.

A guest at the August board meeting was Alison Deelstra from NRUCFC (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation). She reviewed North Star’s 2022 KRTA (Key Ratio Trend Analysis) report in detail, which shows favorable results consistent with North Star’s

monthly and year-end financial reports (252-12-007-03, Donald Powell).

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.



## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

<b>23-24 NOV</b>	North Star’s offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24, in observance of Thanksgiving.	<b>06 DEC</b>	North Star will hold the following monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6, if you wish to speak to the board.
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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<b>President</b> Steve Arnesen	<b>Vice President</b> Michael Hanson	<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Lorraine Nygaard	<b>Directors</b> Shelley Spears Randy Bergan Tom Smith Douglas King	<b>General Manager</b> Kevin Holen
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### 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)**

# STAFF REPORT – CONTACT INFORMATION



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
Finance Manager

At North Star Electric, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. In the future, it may also allow co-op members to receive information about other load events or outages.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address and our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system can recognize your phone number and match it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email – if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information will also be important if a grid emergency event occurs. A grid emergency could include a lack of available generation resulting in an electricity shortfall or an

extended outage due to storm damage (716-05-051-05, Tim Trounce). If this occurs, we would want to use all communication methods possible to keep our membership informed about outage expectations.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any

third parties. It is only used by the co-op to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by either completing the bill insert included with your October electric bill, or by calling our office at (toll free) **888-634-2202**. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op! Plus, when you provide us with your contact information, **you will be entered into a drawing for one of three (3) \$50 bill credits**, which we will be drawing for on Dec. 15. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our records updated!



## Celebrate with Savings

### \* LED Lighting Rebate \*

Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations

#### How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2023.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2023, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Lights on String	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



# FIVE ELECTRIC *Ways to Warm*

The cold has finally slipped into the region, so you've likely had a chance to try out your heating system for the season. Now is a good opportunity to ask yourself these questions:

- Am I warm enough?
- Am I worried about volatile propane/fuel oil prices?
- Are there ways I can save money on heating?
- Could I be more energy efficient?
- Is it time for smarter technology?



*If you wavered for a moment on any of these questions, it may be time to start researching off-peak electric heating options. North Star Electric Cooperative has put together a list of our most popular electric heating options to make that search a little easier. Visit **ValueOfElectricity.com** to learn more!*

ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY	HOW IT WORKS	SAVINGS INCENTIVES
<b>Air-source heat pump</b>	Unlike a furnace, an air-source heat pump (ASHP) doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. A standard ASHP is a self-contained system that uses existing ductwork. The system is composed of an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit.	Rebate of <b>\$150/ton</b> (or more)  Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Mini-split heat pump</b>	Similar to an ASHP, a mini-split heat pump is run by a compressor unit placed outside of your home – but it doesn't need ductwork (242-42-019-03, Leslie Huerd). The unit is connected to an indoor unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted in the room that is being heated.	Rebate of <b>\$150/ton</b> (or more)  Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Thermal storage heater</b>	Electric thermal storage heaters convert off-peak electricity to heat and store this low-cost heat to keep a home comfortable all day. The system contains electric heating elements that lie within specially designed, high-density ceramic bricks. When the room thermostat calls for heat, it is extracted from the unit's storage core and distributed evenly in the home.	Rebate of <b>\$45/kW</b> (or more)  Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Underfloor storage heating</b>	Underfloor heating has quickly become a favorite for those seeking ease and comfort on chilly days. The system can be installed at construction or during renovation. Warmth rises from the floor and spreads evenly through a room, garage or shop building.	Rebate of <b>\$25-45/kW</b> (dependent on radiant or slab)  Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Electric plenum heater</b>	Easily adapted to an existing fuel oil or gas/propane forced-air system, a plenum heater uses your existing furnace fan to move air across the plenum heater elements to heat your home. Both your fossil fuel furnace and the electric plenum heater use the same thermostat and ductwork. In most cases, a plenum heater can be installed in conjunction with an air-source heat pump.	Rebate of <b>\$25/kW</b>  Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>

***Please contact us to learn more about program restrictions and additional rebates!***



# 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

The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$45 per week** – the price of your Thanksgiving turkey.




**VALUING EVERYTHING  
THAT POWERS YOUR WEEK.**

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



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY



### TIP OF THE MONTH

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven – they consume less energy. – Source: Dept. of Energy

## HOME COOKING

### Autumn Tossed Salad

This tasty and filling salad mixes fall flavors and textures all into one bowl and is perfect for something that is light in a season full of heavy dishes.

Prep Time	Chill Time	Total Time	Servings
25 mins	1 hour	1 hour, 25 mins	4

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large bunch of romaine lettuce, torn up in bite-size pieces
- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 cup cashews
- 1 medium apple, chopped
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 tsp dijon mustard
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup vegetable or olive oil
- 1 Tbsp poppy seeds

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine dressing ingredients together in a sealed container. Blend by shaking container vigorously.

#### DRESSING (could reduce by half)

- ½ cup lemon juice

2. Cover dressing container and refrigerate for 1 hour or until chilled.
3. Combine salad ingredients in a large bowl.
4. Drizzle with as much dressing as you like and toss to coat. Enjoy!

From the kitchen of Julie Olson.



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 COURSES

Learn more at [Minnkota.com](http://Minnkota.com)

## JANUARY 2024

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 36<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 10, 2024**

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

**Thursday,  
January 18, 2024**

*Bemidji Eagles Club*  
1270 Neilson Avenue SE  
Bemidji, MN

**Tuesday,  
January 30, 2024**

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

**Thursday,  
January 11, 2024**

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


**Tuesday,  
January 23, 2024**

*Bigwood Event Center*  
921 Western Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN


**Wednesday,  
January 31, 2024**

*Minnkota Power Cooperative*  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue 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)

The Enlightener (USPS 024959), is published monthly by North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., 441 St. Hwy 172 N.W., Baudette, MN 56623-8942.

General manager – Kevin Holen | Editor – Kevin Holen

Subscription price \$1/year. Periodicals postage paid at Baudette, MN 56623. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to the Enlightener, North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

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

 /northstarelectric

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