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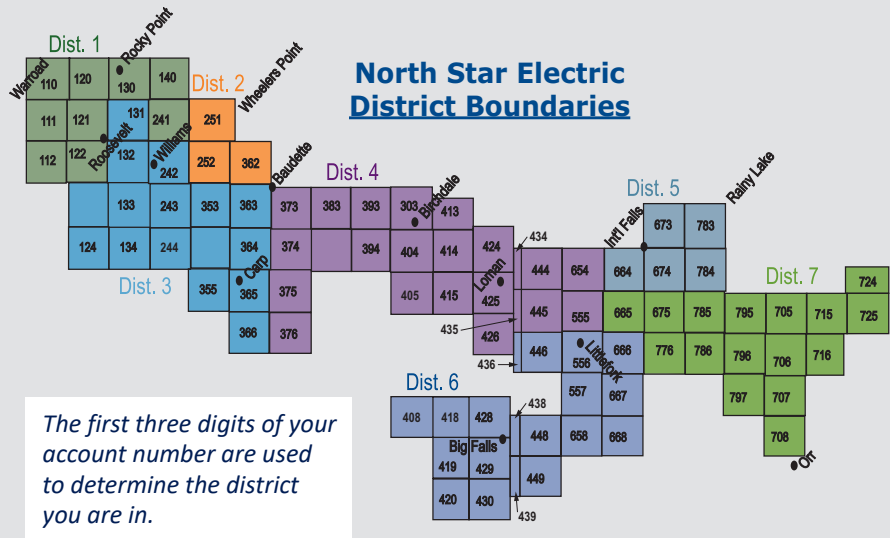
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NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

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 DISTRICTS 1 AND 4

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 cooperative 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. This year we will have director elections in Districts 1 and 4.



The first three digits of your account number are used to determine the district you are in.

DISTRICT 1
Steve Arnesen
Four-year term

DISTRICT 4
Mike Hanson
Four-year term

Any member who meets the qualifications as specified in the bylaws of the cooperative may become a candidate for 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 process for director candidates will take place at the annual meeting on **Friday, Oct. 4, 2024**. Please call us at **218-634-2202** or stop by our office if you have questions about this process or to pick up a petition for nomination (424-34-003-04, Brady Hasbargen). **PETITIONS ARE DUE BY 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY, AUG. 2, 2024.**

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY – COBANK

North Star Electric Cooperative donates unclaimed capital credits to local charitable programs and organizations



Steve Arnesen, North Star Electric board director (middle front in both photos), presents unclaimed capital credit checks to Marlin Ravndalen on behalf of the Roosevelt American Legion Auxiliary for building improvements (top photo) and Calista Wolf for the new Splash Park project in Timber Mill Park in Baudette (bottom photo) as a part of CoBank's Sharing Success program. The Sharing Success program matches charitable donations up to \$10,000 made by the cooperative to local and rural community organizations.



CONNECT YOUR PORTABLE GENERATOR WITH GENERLINK

GenerLink provides members a safe and easy way to connect their portable generator during outages.

- No rewiring needed
- Ready to use when you need it
- Flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's circuit panel
- North Star's electric technicians will install the device at your electric meter

Contact North Star for more information and current pricing at **218-634-2202**.



North Star is now selling portable generators. Contact our office for more details.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the May 1, 2024, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to accept the 2023 IRS Form 990 for filing, to approve submission of applications to CoBank's Sharing Success program for a total of \$10,000 in matching grants, to approve the annual inventory adjustment, and to approve moving the November board meeting to Oct. 29, 2024, to coincide with the Strategic Planning session scheduled on the following days.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the 2023 IRS 990, DBS (Direct Broadcast Satellite) capital credits, Minnkota's Wholesale Power Rate Schedule, an upcoming employee meeting, the CoBank Sharing Success matching grant opportunity, new services and retirements, line inspection, work plan amendments, summer contracted construction projects underway in the

Rainy Lake area, right-of-way spraying on the east end of the service area, outages, winter load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, distributed generation, member appreciation days, rebates, EPA power plant rules, Canadian work permits, scholarship testing, the cost of service study, and the Littlefork office roofing and drain tile projects.

A visiting guest to the meeting was Calista Wolf of the Baudette Splashpad Advisory Committee. Calista delivered a short

presentation on their proposed splashpad project, which included details regarding the design, equipment and costs.

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.

See You at the Fair!
Littlefork: July 11-14, 2024
Sign up For DOOR PRIZES!
Stop by our booth starting after 12 p.m. on July 12

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

03 JULY

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 3. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

31 JULY

North Star will hold its monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 31. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

North Star Member Appreciation Days

Thursday, June 6, in Littlefork, Minn.

Friday, June 7, in Baudette, Minn.

We were pleased with the turnout at our Member Appreciation Days! Both events had great attendance with a total of 204 adults and 36 kids. 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
- **Bruce Gillie**

\$50 gift card
- **Linda Babnik**

\$50 gift card
- **Linda Bauers**

Kid's scooter
- **Christian Fiala**

Littlefork:

YETI cooler
- **Natalie Burmeister**

\$50 gift card
- **Russell Fisher**

\$50 gift card
- **Ken Obermaier**

Kid's scooter
- **Boone Prichard**





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 – ENERGY SCAMS UNMASKED



Robyn Sonstegard
Finance Manager

Consumers with utility connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases your risk. Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened skills, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods. North Star wants to help you avoid energy scams. This month, I'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

Recent utility scams

Scammers typically disguise themselves – either physically or digitally – as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal information. A common trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguising caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call (708-08-009-07, Kenneth Perala). Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a utility payment webpage – and what's worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Spotting a scam

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam. Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately. Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam. You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

What North Star will (and won't) do

North Star will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We work with our members to resolve challenging situations and avoid disconnects. We will never ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment methods, including paying in-person, scheduled ACH payments, SmartHub® payments through the app or website, and our pay-by-phone option.

Avoiding scams

Whether in-person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a cooperative employee requesting banking or other personal information. If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call at **888-634-2202** so we can assist. North Star wants to help protect our members against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.



Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line inspections scheduled for fall

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star’s wholesale power provider, will be inspecting transmission line structures that cross your property twice during the fall of 2024.

1. Vegetation management inspection will be in preparation for vegetation maintenance activities in 2025. This inspection will allow Minnkota to evaluate vegetation growth around electrical infrastructure and within the right of way. Davey Resource Group will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the patrols.
2. Pole inspections/testing are completed to properly evaluate our transmission system to plan for upcoming project work. EXO will be conducting the testing on the poles.

All inspections are done using ATV/UTVs. Minimum land disturbance is anticipated. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. If you have questions, please visit Minnkota.com or call 701-795-4000.



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.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Keith Tillotson
218.245.9087

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

LAKE OF THE WOODS and ROSEAU COUNTIES

Ronald Ditsch
651.368.2195

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.



HOME COOKING

Easy Summer Pasta Salad

Every summer cookout needs a great pasta salad. It comes together in no time, it’s full of fresh ingredients and it packs a flavorful punch.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	10 mins	25 mins	10

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb uncooked pasta
- 3 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese balls, halved
- 1 lb salami or summer sausage, cut into cubes
- ¾ cup kalamata olives, sliced
- ¾ cup pepperoncini
- ½ cup sliced red onion
- ½ cup fresh parsley, chopped

PASTA SALAD DRESSING

- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup white vinegar
- ¼ cup water
- 1-2 Tbsp coarse sea salt
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp dry oregano and basil
- Black pepper to taste
- Fresh herbs to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook pasta according to package directions, in salted water for more flavor. Allow to cool slightly and toss with a little oil to prevent sticking.
2. Blend up the dressing, or shake together in a jar.
3. Toss all ingredients together.
4. Keep in the fridge for 2-3 days.



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. 4, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 1 (currently held by Steve Arnesen) and District 4 (held by Mike Hanson).

Your district number is printed on your electric bill (251-20-023-01, Dwight Wolters). 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 1-888-60OUTAGE (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.