

**DIRECTOR CANDIDATE  
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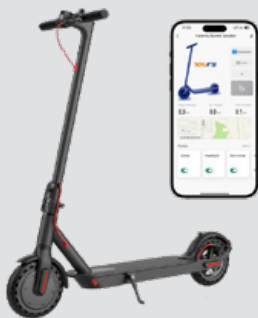
## Member Appreciation Days

**Thursday, June 12 | Littlefork: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Friday, June 13 | Baudette: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Member Appreciation Days are approaching fast and we would love for you to join us! There will be refreshments with brats, chips, cookies, popcorn and cotton candy. Adults can register for DOOR PRIZES and we will also have a KIDS DRAWING. There will be face painting, electrical safety demos, balloons and bucket truck rides. We will also have some of the tools and equipment that our linemen need to use to perform their work safely and efficiently.

### KIDS PRIZE



### DOOR PRIZES



MULTIPLE  
GIFT CARD  
PRIZES



**DOOR PRIZES  
AT MEMBER  
APPRECIATION  
DAYS!**



**EACH ATTENDING MEMBER  
WILL RECEIVE A NORTH  
STAR ELECTRIC LED  
NIGHTLIGHT  
WITH USB  
PORTS.**

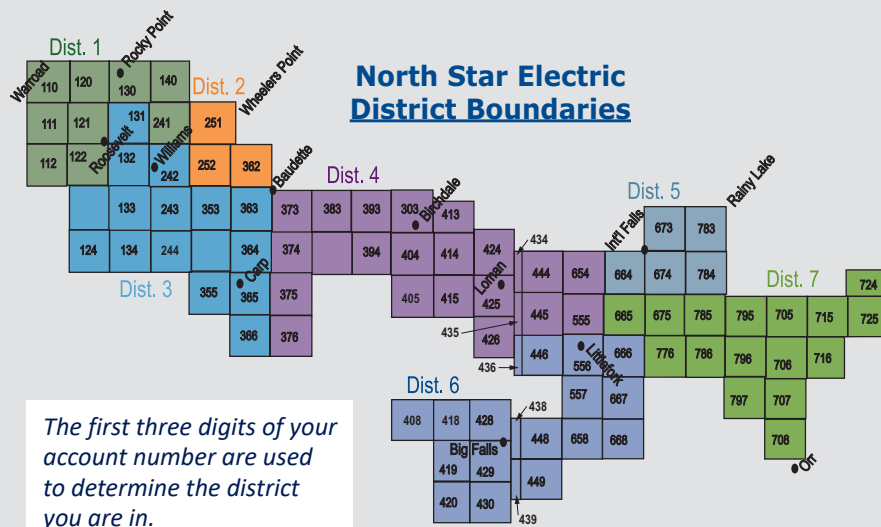


## NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

Providing safe, reliable electric services to improve the quality of life in communities we serve.

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICTS 5 AND 6

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 5 and 6.



## DISTRICT 5

Tim Mathews

Four-year term

5

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.

## DISTRICT 6

Richard Ferguson

Four-year term

6

The election process for director candidates will take place at the annual meeting on **Friday, Oct. 3, 2025**. 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 (445-12-003-06, Ian Klemetsen). **PETITIONS ARE DUE BY 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY, AUG. 1, 2025.**

# MINNKOTA TRANSMISSION LINE INSPECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS UPCOMING FALL

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, will be inspecting its transmission line structures in preparation for upcoming project work. EXO, a contractor, will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the pole testing. All inspections will be completed using ATVs/UTVs. Minimal 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](http://minnkota.com) or call **701-795-4000**.



# NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTION

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 5 (currently held by Tim Mathews) and District 6 (held by Richard Ferguson).

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.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President**  
Steve Arnesen

**Vice President**  
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Shelley Spears

**Directors**  
Randy Bergan  
Richard Ferguson  
Douglas King  
Tim Mathews

**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)**

# ELECTRICITY DEMAND *SET TO SOAR* IN U.S., ABROAD

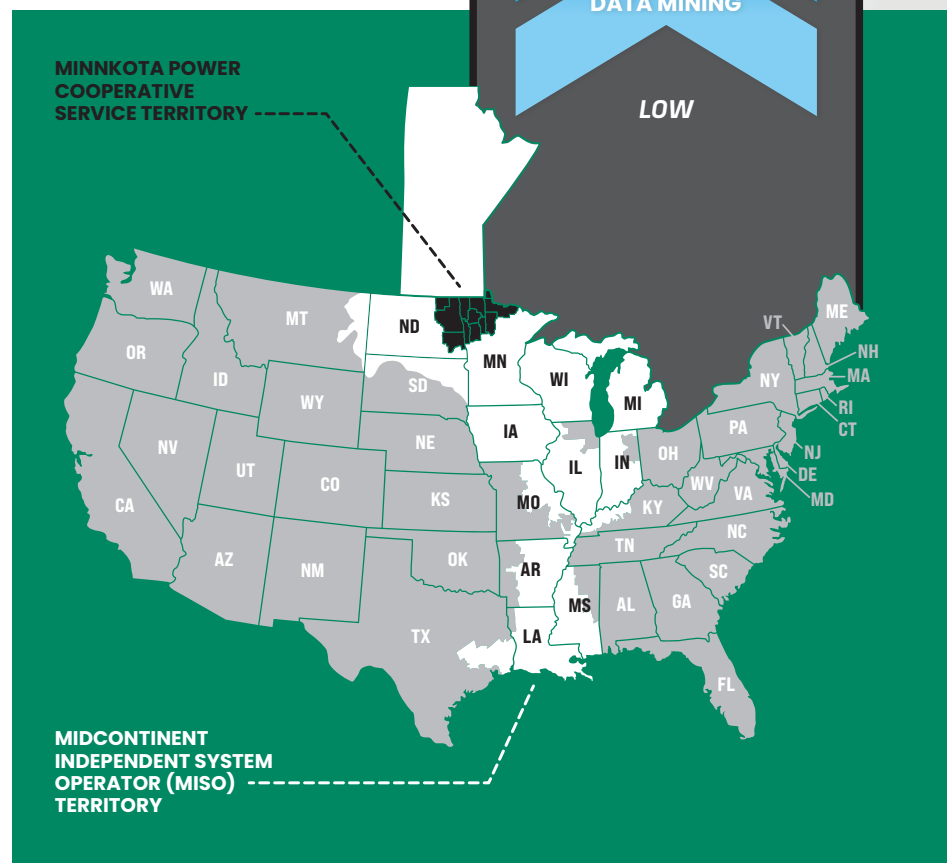
Electricity drives some of the most important components of your life. Electricity keeps your perishable food safe to eat, lights up your home and office, and powers the internet that is woven through many of our daily tasks (673-36-015-03, Bob French). As much as we rely on it now, several studies indicate we're about to rely on it a whole lot more. And fast.

According to the International Energy Agency, global electricity consumption is expected to rise 4% annually through 2027 – and then keep rising. With the sudden demand for data centers, artificial intelligence, data mining, electric transportation and more, power suppliers across the world are hustling to figure out how to keep up with soaring load growth while preserving electric reliability, affordability and sustainability.

A new analysis completed by PA Consulting anticipates data centers and transportation electrification alone will drive up electric demand about 2% annually in the U.S. for the next 25 years. In order to meet the need, power generation utilities will need to use every technology that is available – from wind and solar to coal and natural gas to hydro and nuclear. On top of that, the industry must focus on refining new technologies like battery storage and carbon

capture to ensure a balance of reliability and sustainability.

North Star is pleased to be working alongside our wholesale power partner, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to proactively plan for our region's energy future. Along with our current portfolio of coal, wind and hydro power, we're evaluating the infrastructure needed to meet tomorrow's demands. We believe an all-of-the-above energy strategy is the way to power our future, and we're committed to supporting the innovation that will make it possible.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the April 2, 2025, regular board meeting. All current board members were in attendance. In addition to approving routine actions, the board voted to approve the annual review of Policy 4.02 – Identity Theft Prevention, to approve the director districts as they currently stand, to accept the annual cogeneration filings, which included the Qualifying Facilities Report and the Cogeneration and Small Power Production Report, and to approve the budget for the Sharing Success grant program for 2025.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the status of the new construction loan, unclaimed capital credits, vendor ACH payments, demand response, ripple receiver inspections, distributed generation, off-peak installations,

water heaters, AMI metering, rebates, service upgrades and retirements, bidding for the 2025 construction work plan projects, right-of-way clearing, bucket truck deliveries, Minnkota pole changeouts, annual line inspection, metering system training, mapping system corrections and updates, and outages (251-21-093-05, Linder's Hideaway Cabins).

Minnkota Power Cooperative employees Lowell Stave (Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), Matt Marshall (Member Services, Rates and Economic Development Manager) and Jamie Overgaard (Rates, Load and Planning Manager) joined the meeting to deliver informational presentations on the wholesale rate structure and the demand response program.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held on 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.

## Did you know?



\$ FOR A MONTH OF ELECTRICITY = \$ FOR A WIRELESS SPEAKER



\*comparison based on average household energy usage

## A SEVERE STORM IS BREWING — ARE YOU READY?

### BEFORE THE STORM

- ✓ **Unplug sensitive equipment** like computers and gaming stations. They could be damaged by surges from lightning or power restoration.
- ✓ **Have a power outage kit ready** to go with essentials like flashlights, battery packs for charging a smartphone, and water. Depending on storm damage, it could take a while for your co-op to restore power.

### AFTER THE STORM

- ✓ **If your basement has flooded, do not step into it** if there is a possibility of submerged cords or outlets – the water could be energized. Also, don't touch any cords or appliances if you are standing in water.
- ✓ **If you are driving and come across a downed line, stay far away from it.** Power could still be flowing through it. Downed lines could also be hidden in tree debris. Call your electric co-op or 9-1-1 immediately if you see any line or pole damage.

## 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 – NEW SERVICES AND LOCATING WIRES



**Tim Pelach**  
*Operations Manager*

Greetings, everyone. I hope everyone had a chance to go out and enjoy Memorial Day weekend. The weather definitely cooperated this year.

The work for the summer is off to a brisk start, as there are new services already being installed and road rebuilding going on in the area keeping the crews busy.

It will be nice to see Highway 11 get fixed between Indus and Loman – that area has needed repair for some time.

As our spray season gets going, I will remind everyone that we are going to be spraying in the Big Falls, Williams and Warroad areas this summer. You may see some door knockers on your doors if there needs to be work done near you.

I would also like to remind everyone that we have a contractor that does our Gopher State One Call locates for us. They will only locate wires owned by North Star, so if you need your personal wires located, please call our office (132-36-003-03, Douglas Williams). Don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions about a locate at your place.

When the summer storms do come through this year, remember to stay away from any wires laying on the ground because it's possible they are still energized. We want to make sure you stay safe.



North Star is getting two new bucket trucks this summer. It has been three years since the trucks were originally ordered, so we will be glad when they show up. As of now, we are not certain what we will do with the old ones, so if anyone is or knows someone who is interested in finding out more about them, reach out to me for more details.

That's all for now, Tim

## ENERGY SAVING TIP

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home.



# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Donald Trump  
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)  
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Building  
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sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Senator Steve Green (02, R)  
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651-297-8063  
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild  
(03, DFL)  
3111 Minnesota Senate  
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mn

Representative Bidal Duran, Jr.  
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651-296-4265  
rep.bidal.duran@house.mn

Representative John Burkel  
(01A, R)  
Centennial Office Building  
(Second Floor)  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635  
rep.john.burkel@house.mn

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

## 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](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

**Brian Johnson**  
612.757.9458

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

# HOME COOKING

## Tuna Noodle Salad

Tuna noodle salad is a classic favorite and a recipe that comes out delicious every time! It's just a couple of ingredients mixed together that makes it so good.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	10 mins	20 mins	10

### INGREDIENTS

- 2-6 cups dry elbow macaroni pasta
- 1 can tuna, *drained*
- 1 can peas, *drained*
- ¼ of an onion, *finely chopped* (or 1 tsp onion powder)
- ½-1 cup mayonnaise (*or more to your liking*)
- ½ cup milk

- ¼ cup sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste (*or other seasonings*)
- Optional ingredients to add are corn, chopped pickles, celery, cucumbers or peppers according to your liking.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook the pasta until tender and place in a colander. Cool it down by running cold water over it. Allow to drain and add to a bowl.



2. Add remaining ingredients to the bowl of pasta and mix to combine.
3. Can be served immediately but is best when chilled for an hour or so. Enjoy with your favorite summer dish!

From the kitchen of Rachel  
Tomczak.

Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.

## ITEMS FOR SALE ON BID

*Items will be sold as-is and may be seen at North Star Electric Cooperative headquarters in Baudette, Minnesota.*

Please mark the outside of your envelope with the bid item and mail your sealed bid to North Star Electric, Attn: Kevin Holen, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623. Bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. on June 27, 2025. North Star reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, and the highest bid will win first choice of the item.



**ITEM #15** – 8-ft pickup box with tailgate, fits 2021 Dodge, never used.



**ITEM #56** – 2003 redi-haul trailer, 14,000 GVW.



**ITEM #75** – 1997 Butler tilt deck trailer, 12,000 GVW.



**ITEM #102** – 2014 Polaris Voyager 600 snowmobile, electric start, reverse, low miles.

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

02  
JULY

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 2. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

04  
JULY

North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

### 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** 855-938-3492 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

**Electrical after-hours emergencies** 1-888-60OUTAGE (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

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