North Star ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Enlightener

VOLUME 71 | NO. 10 | OCTOBER 2026

BAUDETTE | MINNESOTA

STAFF REPORT – DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM
PAGE 6

RHUBARB DREAM BARS RECIPE
PAGE 7

COLD WEATHER RULE/ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PAGE 8

2026 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(SEE MORE ON PAGES 4-5)



NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

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

PREPARE NOW FOR WINTER DEMAND RESPONSE

Although your electric cooperative can't tell you when the snow will start to fall or how cold it will get this winter, we can tell you one thing for sure: We're ready to help you save during electric heating season with the demand response (or off-peak) program.

North Star Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, facilitates the demand response program for our regional system. Right now, they're preparing for 200 hours of load control, which is consistent with years past. This means that over the course of the winter electric heating season, members enrolled in the demand response program will likely see a switch to their backup fuel source for fewer than 200 total hours.

Minnkota Energy Marketer Paige Johnson says control hours are often dependent on energy market pricing, regional wind generation and winter cold snaps, which can be difficult to predict. She adds that Minnkota does not have any planned major maintenance outages at its Milton R. Young Station power plant this year, which could keep control hours steady.

"We also know a 'Super El Niño' weather pattern has been forecast, which should mean warmer temperatures and drier conditions for our region," Johnson explained. "However, we are always prepared for some periods of extreme cold."

Minnkota will be testing the demand response system this fall before cold weather sets in, so it's important for participating members to prepare now. Those with off-peak dual fuel heating systems should check that they have adequate fuel for their backup source (propane, fuel oil, etc.). Members can be caught by surprise when demand response kicks in for the first time, especially when it's early in the season.

The demand response program, which will celebrate 50 years of operation in 2027, is a win-win-win for all involved (Mark Armstrong, 252-01-090-02). Enrolled members are thanked with a reduced electric rate (and no interruption in heating comfort), the co-op can navigate high-demand winter days while avoiding expensive market purchases, and the entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand.

Thank you for helping us provide affordable and reliable energy during our coldest days!

To learn more about the demand response (off-peak) program, visit **valueofelectricity.com**.

NORTH STAR STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

This annual notice must be published for all periodicals mailed by the USPS.


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Kevin Holen | 218 - 634 - 2202

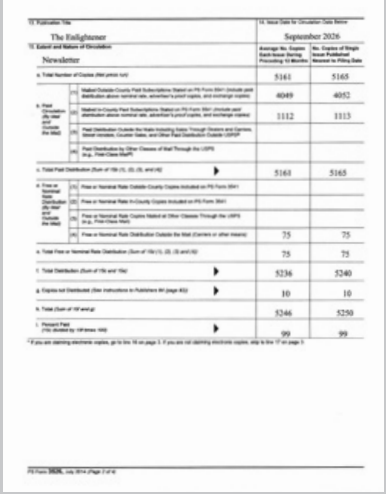
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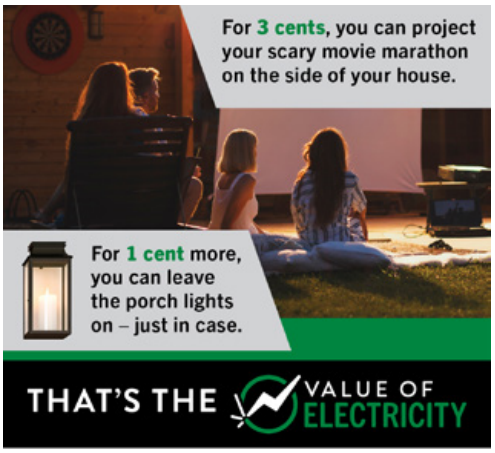
October 2026

Kevin Holen | 9-18-2026

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the July 1, 2026, and Aug. 12, 2026, regular board meetings. All board members were in attendance. The board voted to approve the retirement of capital credits in the amount of $399,518, to accept Director Bergan's petition for nomination for the District 3 seat and Director Spears' petition for nomination for the District 2 seat, to approve the transfer of unpaid delinquent final bills from current accounts receivable to uncollectible accounts in the amount of $3,868.99, to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen LLP audit engagement, and to acknowledge the approval of a $1 million USDA Rural Development loan to Northern Farmers Cooperative Exchange, with North Star Electric Cooperative as the intermediary, and to approve the execution of documents pertaining to this loan. The board also recognized Director Mathews for receiving his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate.

Staff reports included the safety report, monthly financial report, the upcoming financial audit, workers' compensation refunds, the new Baudette office hire, the cooperative's new general email address, outages, mutual aid provided to Lake Country Power and North Itasca for storm damage power restoration, the Ash Lake work plan jobs, the Roosevelt cable replacement work plan project, the completion of right-of-way spraying, pole testing in the Kabetogama substation area, the Kettle Falls infrastructure and cable replacement project, the wildfire mitigation study, summer red and yellow zone control, a July 15 MISO maximum generation event due to extreme temperatures across the region, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, the Littlefork school's solar field, metering system upgrades, building and grounds maintenance and repair items, Generlink sales, rebates, Member Appreciation Days, local fairs, the Operation Round Up® meeting, the upcoming Energy Issues Summit and the North Star annual meeting.



*Based on average household energy usage

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of every month (Michael and Mary Williams, 783-31-022-02). 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

04 NOV — North Star Electric will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

11 NOV — North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

2026 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you for being a part of your local cooperative.





Members registered and gathered to attend the cooperative's annual meeting, where they were served a hearty ham supper and refreshments before the meeting.



Live entertainment was provided by the Sloughgrass band before the meeting at Lake of the Woods School.





Attorney Sam Schmitz led the introduction of board candidates and the election of directors for Districts 2 and 3.



North Star Electric Cooperative's employees, members, families and board of directors participated in their 2026 annual meeting.



Brenda Miles was the grand prize winner of a Jackery Portable Power Station at this year's annual meeting.

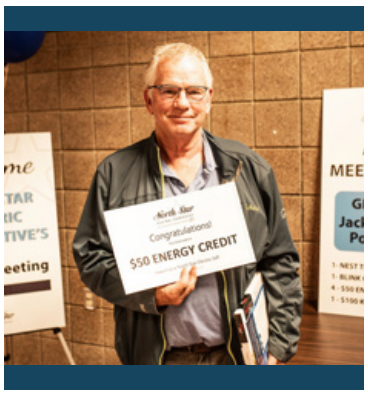


Vernon Landin was the winner of the Blink Outdoor Security System *(left)* and Pat Cook was the winner of the Nest Wi-Fi Thermostat *(right)*.





Hank Hanevold won the $100 youth cash prize for the kids' coloring contest.



Bruce Laugtug was the winner of a $50 energy credit *(above)*.



Christina Aery *(above)* and Wanda Linder *(right)* were two of several $50 energy credit winners.





David Hultman was another winner of a $50 energy credit *(above)*.

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 – DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM



Clayton Gubbels
Member Services Manager

Hello, everyone. Summer passed far too quickly, and fall is already here – which means winter is close behind. Have you checked your electric heating system? Don't wait until the last minute to turn on the heat. Having your electric heating system ready for winter is a great relief – nobody wants to be left in the cold.

If you find out some bad news about your electric heating system and it needs to be replaced, look at North Star Electric Cooperative for some rebates. This will help offset the cost. Members that qualify must participate in the demand response (or off-peak) program.

For members that are not familiar with the off-peak program, this is how it works. Our wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, facilitates the demand response program for our region. This means when there is a high demand on the grid, Minnkota will use this program to shut off your electric heat, and then your backup heating system takes over until the demand on the grid drops off. Then your electric heat takes over again. Members enrolled in this program will likely see a switch to their backup fuel source for fewer than 200 total hours. This is consistent with years past.

Those with off-peak dual fuel heating systems should check that they have adequate fuel for their backup source (propane, fuel oil, etc.). Members can be caught by surprise when demand response kicks in for the first time, especially when it's early in the season.

The demand response program, which will celebrate 50 years of operation in 2027, is a win-win for all involved. Enrolled members are thanked with a reduced electric rate (and no interruption in heating comfort), the co-op can navigate high-demand winter days while avoiding expensive market purchases and the entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand.

Stay warm and be safe!

Give me a call with any questions you may have regarding demand response (off-peak) or rebate opportunities.

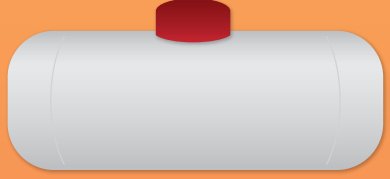


DUAL FUEL MEMBERS:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACKUP SYSTEM FUEL SUPPLY

If you have a dual fuel heating system, now is the time to be sure your backup heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual fuel heating systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as high market cost can lead to load control as well (Linda Anderson, 251-20-001-07).
- **REMINDER:** Winter season load control time is managed to around 200 hours, but could change due to unforeseen conditions.
- Electric heating load control periods typically occur during early morning and evening peak demand times. However, load control can occur at any time.



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
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stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

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75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
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651-201-3400

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2401 Minnesota Senate Building
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651-296-5782
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Senator Steve Green *(02, R)*
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651-297-8063
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild *(03, DFL)*
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Representative John Burkel *(01A, R)*
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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**) 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

Rhubarb Dream Bars

These creamy, tangy rhubarb dream bars are a delicious and unique way to use up that abundant supply of rhubarb and are a different pace from pie or cake.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	55 mins	1 hr 5 mins	15



INGREDIENTS

For the Crust

- 1 cup butter, salted
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup powdered sugar

For the Filling

- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups granulated white sugar
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 4 cups rhubarb, diced

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350˚ F.
2. Melt the butter and mix with the flour and powdered sugar.
3. Press into a 9x13-inch pan.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Take it out of the oven.
5. In a large bowl, beat the eggs and slowly add the sugar, flour and salt.
6. Fold in the diced rhubarb.
7. Pour on top of the crust and bake for another 45 minutes or until set and nicely browned on top.
8. Allow to cool completely before cutting into bars for easier slicing and serve.

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

North Star
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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 reasonable and 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 mailed notice or 15-day hand-delivered notice;
- 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 50% of the state median income ($73,969 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits.

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.

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 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
Email us at info@nse.coop | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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TO STAY UP TO DATE

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

/northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.