

member connection

Beyond electricity—Great River Energy successful with fly ash business

As a member of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, you use electricity every day at your home, farm, or business.

It charges your phone, powers your computer, lights your office, and powers your tools.

However, did you realize that you use many other things in life that come about as a result of byproducts from generating electricity?

Even the ash produced while generating electricity is put to good use. Known as “fly ash,” (because it “flies” out of the top of a power plant’s boiler) it is coveted by companies that make concrete. They are able to use this waste product to replace a portion of the cement in the concrete mix.

Fly ash particles are small and round, like tiny ball bearings. When fly ash is added to concrete, the particles not only fill in tiny spaces in the concrete, they also react with water and other compounds to form a powerful glue. The result is a concrete that is stronger and lasts longer. In other words, it’s a value-added product that users demand.

Great River Energy’s (GRE’s) fly ash business recently hit a huge milestone in reaching \$100 million in combined revenue and savings since 1997.

That year, GRE decided to make fly ash beneficial use efforts into a business by selling it into the concrete market.

In doing so, GRE not only generated revenue for its cooperative members (GRE is the wholesale energy provider for Steele-Waseca and its legacy members), but also saved money by avoiding landfill costs.

“Every dollar we save or generate goes back to our cooperative members—we always keep that in mind with everything we do,” said Al Christianson, GRE’s director of business development and government affairs.

Fly ash is used in concrete patio pavers, driveways, highways, and was used for the Twins and Vikings stadiums. Using fly ash also keeps power costs down, relieves the burden on landfills, and prevents emissions associated with the creation of cement.

Last year, with the addition of a favorable revised fly ash marketing contract, Great River Energy sold approximately



Fly ash collected at Coal Creek Station near Underwood, North Dakota, is stored in a dome (pictured at right) before it is sold for beneficial use. (Photo courtesy of Great River Energy)

350,000 tons of fly ash. This generated approximately \$5.5 million in revenue, and avoided over \$3.8 million in landfill costs, which pushed the total impact to more than \$100 million.

As fly ash is often used in concrete to displace Portland cement, GRE has also prevented the production of 5.8 million tons of carbon dioxide that would have been created had ash not been used instead. This is equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by 121,000 vehicles annually.

Using waste products like fly ash has economic and environmental benefits. And that’s in addition to the generation of electricity people rely upon every day.



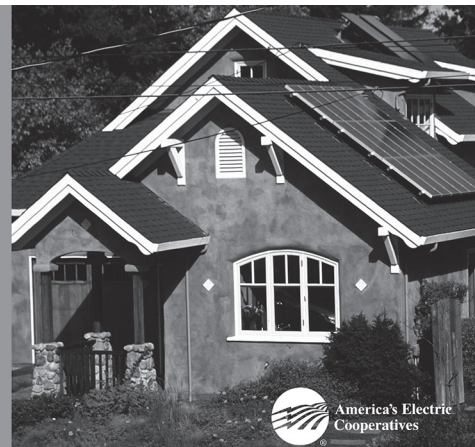
Will Solar Panels Work for You?

• Solar panels work best when your roof faces south.

• If your roof receives a fair amount of shade, solar panels are not a good option for renewable energy.

• Your roof must be able to support the weight of solar panels, plus the weight of other loads, such as wind and snow.

There are many factors to consider before installing solar panels on your roof, so talk to the energy experts at your local electric co-op first.

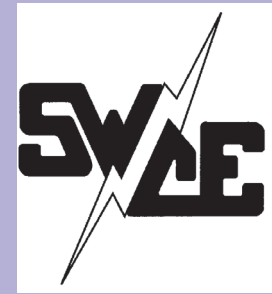


Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?

Visit Great River Energy’s website at www.greatriverenergy.com and click on “Load Management”

Need a history of controls? Click on “History” on the “Load Management” page

sparks • april 2018



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

April 2018

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric’s office will be CLOSED on Friday, March 30, in observance of Good Friday. The office will be open for regular business hours on Monday, April 2.

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Recognizing SWCE line technicians
- 4 Cookin’ Connection
SWCE community solar update
Stray voltage questions
- 5 Gopher State One Call
Lienkes meet keynote speaker at NRECA annual meeting
- 6 Ad Connection
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
How to seal air leaks with caulk
- 8 Beneficial uses for fly ash
Meatball Dinner in Geneva
Rooftop solar considerations

calendar of events

April

- 1 Easter
- 9 NRECA Nat’l Lineworker Appreciation Day
- 12 MN Tornado Drill Day
- 17 Income tax filing deadline
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 Administrative Professionals Day
- 27 Audition deadline for singing national anthem at SWCE annual meeting
Arbor Day in Minnesota
- 30 Vietnam War ended on this date in 1975



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Nominating Committee announces 2018 board director candidates

The Nominating Committee for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has announced their selection of candidates for the board of director seats up for election in Districts 1, 3, and 5 at this year’s annual meeting, Tuesday, June 5.

The committee met on Nov. 16, 2017, at Steele-Waseca’s headquarters in Owatonna. General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in the bylaws. He also discussed in detail policies regarding the activities and conduct of individual board members, and the qualifications for eligibility for service on the board.

Cooperative Board President Gary Wilson highlighted areas of the board of director position description with the committee. He also talked about potential questions a candidate may have, highlighting the time commitment it takes to be a board director.

Briggs reviewed the selection process with the committee. He also explained the nominating committee policy and the rotation plan for the Nominating Committee of always keeping six experienced members on the committee, and adding three new members each year.

A list of members in each district was handed out and reviewed. It was suggested the committee members from each district meet together to search for candidates and review the information given to them.

Committee member Diane Stenzel was nominated and approved by the committee to serve as nominating committee chairperson and report to the Steele-Waseca members in attendance for the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee conducted their second meeting, Jan. 23, at the

co-op’s headquarters in Owatonna.

Cooperative Attorney Eric Mattison reviewed the director duties, Standard of Conduct Policy, and the Qualifications for Eligibility for Service on the Board of Directors Policy.

Wilson reviewed the director position description; highlighting director responsibilities, board-manager relations, board-cooperative member relations, and board-community relations.

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates will be on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca’s 82nd annual meeting, June 5, 2018, at the cooperative’s headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna. 20009

• **District 1:** Incumbent Patrick J. Duchene, Faribault.

• **District 3:** Incumbent Duane R. Edwardson, Ellendale.

• **District 5:** Incumbent Rodney D. Krell, Blooming Prairie.

A profile of each candidate will appear in the May 2018 *Sparks* newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations closing at that time.

This year’s Nominating Committee consisted of the following Steele-Waseca members: District 1—Wayne/Mae Maas, Faribault; Jerome/Diane Stenzel, New Richland; and Peter Rohe, Faribault; District 3—Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; Pete/Melissa Bauer, Nerstrand; and Kendall/Laura Strawmatt, Owatonna; District 5—Ben Sunde, Blooming Prairie; Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and Guy/Barb Jarvi, Webster. 



Steele-Waseca is conducting auditions for the singing of, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” at this year’s annual meeting. Contact Jenifer Shimpach at SWCE for more information.

16th Annual Meatball Dinner

Sunday, April 29, 2018
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Community Lutheran Church
106 3rd St. SE, Geneva, MN

Everyone Welcome!!!

Serving: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw, relishes, rolls, and pie.

Free Will Donation

\$1 Raffle Tickets available to win a beautiful homemade quilt

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Published monthly by
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

Website: www.swce.coop Find us on Facebook
Email: swce@swce.coop
Fax: 507-446-4242

Board of Directors

PJ Duchene District 1
Geraldine Lienke District 2
Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* District 3
Dennis Ringhofer District 4
Rodney Krell District 5
Gary Wilson, *President*,
GRE Director District 6
John Beal, *Vice President* District 7
Ronald Sommers District 8
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Renee Malecha District 9
Secretary/Treasurer

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

Darla DeVries *Office*
David Lundberg *Finance*
Kim Huxford *Operations*

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514
Press "2" and leave message including name, account #, and phone # you can be reached at the following business day.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

At the writing of this month's message, we just received another seven inches of snow with wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour. However, the temperature indicates that spring is just around the corner. With the arrival of spring, we can look forward to showers to clean up the remnants of winter, and enjoy the greening of the grass and trees.

It also could be the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op line technicians.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must work 40 or more feet in the air. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., line technicians must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines.

To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional

weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks line technicians perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely.

Line crews have developed over the years working with many software applications on laptops, cellphones, and computers as they map outages, submit pictures of before and after, research solutions, and troubleshoot problems. In our service area, Steele-Waseca line technicians are responsible for keeping over 2,200 miles of lines across a nine-county area working, in order to bring power to your home and community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

While April is known for "spring showers that bring May flowers," there is also a day set aside to "thank a line-worker."

Lineworker Appreciation Day is recognized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on the second Monday in April. This year's recognition is April 9. If you see a line-worker, please pause to say "thank you" to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on—regardless of the conditions. 25455

Steele-Waseca depends on our entire staff to keep the cooperative running smoothly, but the co-op's line technicians repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our member-owners. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. I am proud of the hard work and commitment our line crew has for their job and responsibilities. Our line technicians love their job and it shows in their

good nature and great attitude they bring to work every day.

Syd



ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

STORAGE avail. for ice fishing houses & snowmobiles. 451-8740.

20 LB. LP TANKS, new style valve, \$10-\$30 full; FOLD-DOWN FISH HOUSE, 3x5, plywood ends w/ truck tarp, solid house for spearing or angling, \$100. 421-2521.

NOTCH 20' FEED WAGON; NH 273 SM. SQ. BALER (both in exc. cond.). 461-0898.

BATHROOM, KITCHENS, CUSTOM HOMES, licensed & insured. 363-6143.

2012 CONTRACTOR PICKUP TOPPER, fits 6.5' bed, best offer. 465-8503.

1957 JD 720D TRACTOR, NF; 1952 JD G TRACTOR, NF; 1959 JD 630 TRACTOR, WF, 3-pt; TIRES & RIMS, 13.6-38, best offer. 330-6485.

2008 WILDERNESS 260XL TRVL TRLR, exc. cond., a large slide-out, pwr hitch, 2-doors, full awning. 451-6046.

USED ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO & TRUCK PARTS, 30-day warranty. 332-2300.

TRI-PAINT AQHA GELDING, 8-yrs-old, 90-days pro training, \$2500 or trade for pony mare. Text Sam at 210-2690.

HERITAGE RASPBERRY PLANTS, \$20/dozen; RABBITS/BUNNIES: New Zealand, Calif.; SHORT-HORN CROSS BULL CALF, 6/11/17; MATCHED PAINT MARES. 465-8593/Brad.

2003 TOYOTA CAMRY LE, 2.4L, 4-cyl., runs gd, silver color, 182,000 mi., \$3950. 475-7005.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

CANARY GRASS for bedding; MAYTAG GAS ENGINE. 744-2871.

LAYING HENS, 1-yr-old. 715-205-0411.

2009 VW PASSAT, leather seats, 2.0L, turbo, FWD, traction control, clean title, info. details, \$10,400. 835-2814/Kevin/leave message.

WOOD SPLITTER, 8 hp eng., \$500/obo. 461-1865.

2005 H-D ROAD KING, dark red, 26,916 mi., Stage-2 engine, 95" motor, 16" high rise crown bars, vry nice bike, \$7500. 491-4565.

MUSCOVY DUCKS, 2017 hatch, \$8/ea. 390-0206.

ELECTROBRAID ROPE FENCE, used, 2000+', \$40; (2) CHICKEN FEEDERS, \$2/ea.; HEATER for water, \$12; METAL WATERER, \$12; PLASTIC WATERER, \$2; HEAT LAMP, \$5. 612-598-6230.

SONY HT-CT780 TV SOUND BAR w/wireless subwoofer, \$269. 456-2060.

ESTEBAN GUITAR PACKAGE: amp, DVDs, case, stand, cord chart & extras, \$175; TIRES, P205/55R16, over 1/2 tread, \$20/each. 369-8519.

BALEAGE: (33) 2nd crop bales/164 RFV, (30) 5th crop bales/188 RFV, \$69/bale; 1996 CHEVROLET 3500, 4x4, 7.4 engine, 5-spd manual, 5th whl hitch, bed liner, 188,000 mi., dependable truck. 456-2628.

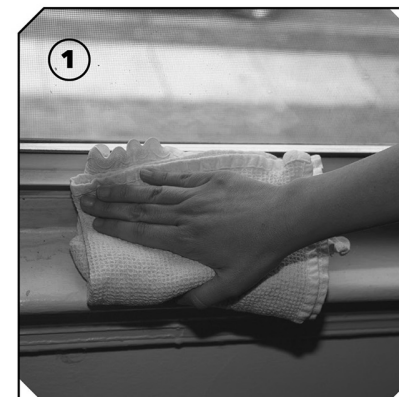
GRASS HAY, round bales, 4x5 net wrapped, stored in shed, \$50; METAL CAMPER FRAME w/15" wheels & (2) axles, \$450/obo. 451-5131.

COUCH, CHAIR, OTTOMAN, w/(4) pillows, all matching, camel color, \$150. 321-1693.

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly **HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE**? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with **BIG ENERGY SAVINGS**.

*Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



1

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Caulk • Caulk gun • Knife or tool to cut • Rags • Water

1. PREP Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk. Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2. LOAD You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun. Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

3. APPLY To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought. Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

4. RELEASE Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5. CLEAN Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.



2



3



5

ad connection

give away

BRINKERHOFF PIANO, 1/4 sawn oak construction; **TOMCAT**, born in Nov. 952-652-2933.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

SCHIMMEL UPRIGHT PIANO, made in Fbo, you haul. 333-5819.

wanted

WOODEN PLAYHOUSE for outside, it can also be used to store toys in the winter. 456-1617.

FARMLAND TO RENT in 2018. 213-9344.

OLDER BOAT TRAILER w/license to carry 16' boat. 465-8566.

ESTATES, COLLECTIONS, FISHING OR HUNTING EQUIP., METAL SIGNS, willing to purchase your collection/estate, shed or barn of stuff. 279-0431/Mark.

DRIVERS for tanker, peas, sweet corn & veg., silage hauling, maybe grain, Class A & CDL, must pass drug & alcohol testing. 456-1181.

ICE CREAM BUCKETS; UNWANTED GARDENING ITEMS; ELEC. GROWING MATS for seedlings; **SMALL 3.5" PLASTIC POTS**. 663-1275.

OLD BACKHOE. 279-2407.

JUNK & UNWANTED APPLIANCES, no TVs or computers, free drop-off. 210-6728/Dan/lv. msg.

TIRES FOR TRACTOR, 16.9-34. 664-9426.

OLD OR ANTIQUE COLTS & SMITHS. 301-9053.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES: trucks, cars, pickups, most constr. & farm equip., top \$ pd. 332-2300.

TILLER, PLOW, BLADE & BUCKET WORK, have compact tractor w/attachments. 451-6046.

POST AUGER, 3-point; **GRASS & ALF. HAY**, sq. or round. 715-205-0411.

USED OIL, 200-gal. minimum. 420-7429.

for sale

FULL-SIZE BED, BOOKSHELF & FOOT BOARD, real wood, metal sides, gd shape, other things, \$100. 583-6679.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

MINI STORAGE available in Fbo: 6'x8' @\$49/mth, 10'x24' @\$125/mth; **MINI STORAGE** available in Morristown: 10'x10' @\$69/mth, 10'x20' @\$99/mth. 333-0319.

BAR UNIT, 55"(l)x39"(t)x20"(w), full size, 2-sides fold in, has bar rail, wine rack & liquor cabt, grt cond., \$200; **ROADMASTER 26" BIKE**, MT Climber, used, new brakes, 1-new inner tube, gd cond. 334-5961.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$100. 451-7946.

BLK ANGUS BEEF: qtrs, halves, or whole avail., semi-organically & locally raised. 330-2452/Matt.

HONEYBEES, 3# Carniolan Calif. pkg bees, mid-April delivery, queen bees limited quantity, call for prices. 456-0753.

SHINGLING; LIGHT CONSTRUCTION; TREE REMOVAL. 456-0296/free estimates.

DREAMSICLES COLLECTION, (14) in total (some w/boxes), assorted sizes, \$50. 789-6596.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

PET PORTER, XL, composite, metal door, \$35; **TV CONVERTER BOX**, new, great for campers, \$40. 455-3881.

PING PONG TBL, \$25; **HVY DUTY 1-RPM VERT. MOTOR** for outdoor sign, \$50; **GUN CABINET**, mahogany, holds 5-6 guns, ammo storage below on legs, \$75; **BURN BARRELS**, \$10/each. 213-8823.

15.5-TON CAPACITY DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. for all your hauling needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc. 456-7774.

LOT on Beaver Lk, beautiful, water, new sewer, room for 1500 sq. ft., \$160,000. 383-7890.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVE & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

SHOW QUALITY BOER GOAT KIDS, born in mid-Feb., get your 4-H & FFA projects, doelings—\$3/#, bucklings—\$2.50/#. 456-6828.

HARDWOOD, aged 2 yrs, 2' or less, dry enough for newer stoves, near Owat., would deliver. 273-3587.

SEASONAL CABIN, French Lk, 3-bdrm, vinyl siding, patios & fire pit, beautiful view, 134' beach front, boathouse & dock incl. 951-2964.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

2017 HOSPITAL BED, fully elec., like new, valued at \$2000 or more, selling for 1/4 the price. 334-7397.

BERNINA 350 PE SEWING MACHINE, exc. cond., about 7-yrs-old, \$900. 456-4566.

14' FISHING BOAT, TRLR & ELEC. MOTOR, \$300; **6' WOODS BELLY MOWER**, \$350. 451-6695.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

FISH HOUSE/WHEELHOUSE, 18'x7.5' & a 3.5' V-nose, has (6) holes, \$2400 (may consider trade or partial trade for enclosed trailer). 838-8958.

BREEZY POINT TIMESHARE FOR RENT, MN, 2-bdrm, #524, Week #17—April 27 to May 4, 2018, check in Friday from 3-6 p.m., check out the following Friday by 10 a.m. 451-6996/Norm.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

2006 REDBALL 570 SPRAYER, 80', 1200-gal., 46" tires, exc. cond., \$12,500. 381-8079.

RED WING STYLE BOOTS, never worn, size 8.5 D. 451-1749.

2008 H-D ULTRA CLASSIC, 6600 actual mi., vivid blk color, perfect cond., \$2500 in extras, stored in heated garage. 456-8622.

'07 KEYSTONE SPRINGDALE 38' TRVL TRLR w/(2) slide outs, sleeps 10, washr, dryr, full-sz fridge, kitchn area has a dbl sink & large counter area, big bathroom area w/full-sz shower, \$14,000. 451-9445.

POOL TABLE, needs new felt. 477-2476.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

SAVANNAH & CHARLESTON, April 13-21. Deluxe motor coach, 8 nights, 13 meals, Biltmore Estates, Gospel dinner cruise, Savannah's historic Davenport House tour & more! \$1,549 pp dbl occ.

MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., April 27-May 1. Rnd trip flights from Mpls, (2) full-day guided tours of D.C., WWII, Lincoln, & Korean War memorials, Capitol Hill & more! \$1,499 pp dbl occ.

NATIONAL PARKS UTAH & ARIZONA, May 11-21. Deluxe motor coach, 10 nights, 14 meals, Durango/Silverton train ride, Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Grand Canyon & more! \$1,599 pp dbl occ.

MINNESOTA'S MAJESTIC NORTH SHORE, June 10-14. Deluxe motor coach, 7 meals, scenic byways & lighthouses, Summit Express Gondola, Apostle Islands Cruise & more! \$859 pp dbl occ.

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!



lineworker connection



National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to recognize our line technicians for their dedication in serving the cooperative and its member-owners. Recognized with their Steele-Waseca experience (front row kneeling left to right): Line Technician Adam Davis, July 2013; Line Technician Jake Jablonski, September 2013; Line Technician Marshal Maderly, September 2016; Assistant Foreman Kevin Kjersten, October 2012; and Line Technician Apprentice Carlos Cruz, September 2016. Standing (left to right): Line Foreman Troy Pederson, June 1999; Line Technician Pete Hines, October 2012; Assistant Foreman Matt Rohman, May 2007; Line Foreman Jim Wolters, June 1976; Line Technician Chad Henderson, July 2015; Line Foreman Don Bos, May 1991; and Line Foreman Nordean Hartle, June 1992. Not pictured is Assistant Foreman Ben Hrcir, May 2012.



Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **April 5** to ensure being printed in the May Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the June issue. 1012064

For Sale Wanted Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

cookin' connection Apple Oven Pancake

Joyce Cordes

Faribault

2 or 3 apples peeled, cored & sliced
1/4 c. brown sugar
3 large eggs
3/4 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 c. milk
3/4 c. flour
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. butter (melted)

Heat oven to 425°. Put an oven-proof 9 or 10" skillet in oven. In a bowl combine the apple slices with brown sugar and cinnamon. Toss gently to coat well. In another bowl, mix flour and salt. In a large cup, whisk together eggs, milk, vanilla, and 1-tbsp of melted butter. Whisk in flour mixture. Take pan from oven and add rest of batter. Swirl to coat the bottom of pan. Arrange apple slices over bottom of pan. Pour batter over apple slices. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until cooked and lightly browned. Enjoy plain or with powdered sugar, honey, or syrup.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 26 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during February 2018. The latest member to subscribe is Ron Gilthvedt of Owatonna. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop.

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited. 30246

March issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Terry Probst
Numbers not found:
Ruth Ann Borchert
Kubes Custom Cabinets
Katherine/Russell Franek
Michael/Jan Guse



sparks • april 2018

Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **February temps** – The average high temperature for February was 23° F, while the average low was 3° F. They compare to last year's average high of 39° F and average low of 22° F.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2018, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights and bulbs purchased are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at www.swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

• **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

health & safety connection

How to comply with Minnesota law when you plan for projects that require digging

National Safe Digging Month recognized during April

Whether you plan to dig posts for a deck, plant a tree, or trench in electric lines for an outbuilding, it is important to understand, utilize, and comply with Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting your project.



The GSOC system is designed to notify utilities, in accordance with state law, who may have underground facilities in the area where digging is planned. That call needs to be made at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you plan to dig. **If a homeowner hires a contractor to do the work, then by law the contractor must obtain the ticket that allows digging to proceed.**

The type of information GSOC will need when you submit a ticket to locate whether by phone, or online at gopherstateonecall.org, includes your telephone number, your name (do not submit a ticket under someone else's name), mailing address, email address, alternate contact name and phone number, type of work, duration of work, if explosives are being used for excavation, tunneling and/or boring (also known as trenchless construction), right of way (note the ROW is not the same as an easement), area marked (white paint or flags), street address of work site including city/township name and county name, nearest intersecting street, and any additional marking instructions.

GSOC will not locate private facilities, which means the homeowner is responsible for hiring a qualified professional to locate their private underground facilities, which comes with a cost to the homeowner. Private underground facilities are those installed behind or after the meter. Also,



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

if overhead distribution lines serve the property and the power is distributed by underground service facilities, those facilities may be considered private. If a homeowner's electric meter is located on the property line, then the electric line from the meter to the house is considered privately owned and will not be located.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not locate buried wires that are the homeowner's responsibility. The homeowner will need to hire and pay a private locator to determine the location of those buried wires. 136620

A list of private locators are available at gopherstateonecall.org. Move your cursor over the "ABOUT US" tab on the home page, click on "Industry Directory," and "PRIVATE FACILITY LOCATORS." This list is by no means an exhaustive list or a list of locators recommended by GSOC. For additional locators, consult a search engine like Google or the Yellow Pages under "Utilities Underground - Locating." **Remember, private locators will charge a fee for their services.**

Examples of other private facilities include: natural gas farm taps, natural gas or propane gas underground piping to buildings, private water systems, data communication lines, and invisible fences.

No one should ever remove flags before work is completed for the safety of all digging in the area. If you

Lienkes meet Howard Wasdin

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Board Director Gerri Lienke and her husband, David, were able to meet and talk with Navy Seal and Author Howard Wasdin (middle), Feb. 27, at the Touchstone Energy booth during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Wasdin was one of the keynote speakers at the meeting. (Photo courtesy of NRECA)



Be Safe Always call before you dig

**CALL 811
BEFORE
YOU DIG.
IT'S THE
LAW.**

UNDERGROUND POWER LINES can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at gopherstateonecall.org/submit.

come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area and notify your utility provider.

