

member connection

(80th annual meeting continued from Page 1)

field, were recognized during the annual meeting as part of the Minnesota delegation traveling to Washington, D.C., June 11-16.

Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs recognized former Alliant Energy customers attending their first annual meeting with the co-op. The Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative, of which Steele-Waseca is a member, purchased Alliant Energy's service territory in Minnesota at the end of July 2015. Briggs also updated the membership on other co-op matters occurring in the past year.



Steele-Waseca Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack presented a travel bag with co-op gifts to 2016 Youth Tour Delegate Abigail Hansen (pictured left) during a delegate recognition at the annual meeting. Steele-Waseca's second delegate, Karsten Singh, who was unable to attend the meeting, June 7, received a backpack with co-op gifts in time for the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The recipients of this year's Grand Prize drawings were: Owen/Jan Svenby of Medford, \$100 Target gift card; Dick/Carol Carroll of Owatonna, \$200 Lowe's gift card; and Phyllis Peterson of Blooming Prairie, \$300 Best Buy gift card. In addition, drawings were conducted for the flowers displayed on stage at the annual meeting.

At this year's ACRE (Action Committee for Rural Electrification) booth, the



Lorraine Mueller of Janesville was the recipient of a decorative garden stone in a drawing that involved new ACRE members.

newest members to join the group were Paul/Lorraine Mueller of Janesville and Steve Scherer of Faribault. ACRE participation supports elected offi-

cial, who support legislation keeping electricity reliable and affordable for rural electric cooperatives.

The Steele County Sheriff's Posse provided parking assistance and monitoring services during the annual meeting. Medical and safety assistance was provided by Gold Cross Ambulance of Owatonna. The Explorers of Owatonna provided general assistance throughout the entire meeting. Shuttle transportation was supplied by Miner's Outdoor & Rec of Blooming Prairie. 25149

Following the annual meeting, the Steele-Waseca board of directors conducted their reorganizational meeting where the following officers were elected: Gary Wilson, president; John R. Beal of Faribault, vice president; Gerri Lienke, secretary/treasurer; Renee J. Malecha of Dundas, assistant secretary/treasurer; and Duane R. Edwardson of Ellendale, chaplain. ^{5/2}



The annual meeting Grand Prize recipients included (left to right): Dick/Carol Carroll of Owatonna, Owen/Jan (seated) Svenby of Medford, and Phyllis Peterson of Blooming Prairie.

Litomysl Summer Festival

at Holy Trinity Church
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Sunday, July 31

10 a.m. Polka Mass
Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Food, games for all ages,
live music

Prune, Poppysed & Apricot
"Buchty"

Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale

www.litomysl.webs.com



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

July 2016

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Litomysl Summer Festival

calendar of events

July

- 3-4** Blooming Prairie's Old Fashioned Fourth of July Independence Day
SWCE office closed
- 4** New Richland Farm & City Days
- 8-10** Waseca County Fair
- 15** Steele Cty Relay for Life
- 19-24** Rice County Fair
- 22-24** Montgomery Kolacky Days
W. Concord Survival Days
- 23** Waseca Cty Relay for Life
- 27** Korean War ended in 1953
- 31** Litomysl Summer Festival



Incumbents re-elected to Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board at 80th annual meeting

With the largest attendance since 2009, four incumbent directors were re-elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board during the co-op's 80th annual meeting, June 7, at its headquarters in Owatonna.

Elected to three-year terms were Geraldine G. Lienke of Janesville, who ran unopposed; Dennis C. Ringhofer of Owatonna, who was challenged by Dean W. Jirousek of Ellendale; and Gary W. Wilson of Owatonna, who was challenged by Philip J. Heim of Medford. Incumbent Ronald D. Sommers of Northfield was elected to a one-year term after being appointed by the board of directors in November 2015.

Co-op display booths were available to the 824 members and guests prior to the start of the annual meeting. Steele-Waseca collected non-perishable items with donors receiving an LED bulb. The co-op wishes to thank those who donated; 253 pounds of non-perishable items and \$116.05 were collected and delivered to the Ellendale Area Food Shelf. 21539

Early Bird prize drawings were held for two \$250 travel certificates from 4-



Elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors, June 7, were incumbents (left to right) Gerri Lienke, District 2; Dennis Ringhofer, District 4; Gary Wilson, District 6; and Ron Sommers, District 8.

Seasons Vacations, Inc., of Albert Lea. The recipients were Ila Breck of Ellendale and Clarence/Bev Guse of Waseca.

The annual meeting started with the Presentation of Colors featuring the Color Guard, Civil Air Patrol and Faribault Middle School students with those in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. "The Star-Spangled Banner," was sung by the men's choral group, Just Friends (pictured below).

Steele-Waseca's 2015 Youth Tour Delegate Lucas Arndt of Owatonna shared a PowerPoint presentation about his experiences in Washington, D.C. The co-op's 2016 delegates, Abigail Hansen of Owatonna and Karsten Singh of North-

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FREE!

Saturday June 25

Youth1st.com

Youth Baseball & Softball Clinic

June 25, 2016 @ Steele County Fairgrounds Diamond 1 - Owatonna, MN*

Boys & Girls age 6 - 9 **Boys & Girls age 10 - 16**
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM 10:30 AM - NOON

FREE Playball!MN Gift & T-Shirt for every participant
FREE Picnic Lunch after each session for participants and parents
Drawings for Special Prizes during lunch
FREE Photo Booth
Open to the public, everyone welcome!

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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
Secretary/Treasurer
- 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
- Renee Malecha District 9
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

- Darla DeVries *Office*
- Douglas Hughes *Marketing*
- 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

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric had ideal weather for the co-op's 80th annual meeting which may have contributed to 824 members and guests in attendance.

Another contributing factor to the largest turnout since 2009 was the number of former Alliant Energy customers who were able to attend their first annual meeting as a member of Steele-Waseca. Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC), of which Steele-Waseca is a member, purchased Alliant Energy's Minnesota service territory on July 31, 2015. So this year's annual meeting was their first opportunity to attend and experience another aspect of cooperative membership. 22504

Steele-Waseca gave members in attendance a \$30 "Power Perks" gift certificate, which enables them to utilize a credit up to \$30 at member-owned establishments.

In addition, members in attendance at the annual meeting received a \$50 Energy Star® certificate. This incentive is to encourage those members to purchase products with the Energy Star label to enhance energy efficiency at their home.

There were four districts up for election. Three of the districts were for a three-year term according to their election rotation. In District 8, incumbent Ron Sommers was re-elected to a one-year term after being appointed by the board of directors in November 2015. According to the co-op's bylaws, the board may appoint a member to serve as a director until the next annual meeting. The District 8 seat is up for its rotational election in 2017, and that will then be for the typical three-year term.

This year two of the four districts up for election had more than one candidate vying for the seat on the board. Our process of having a Nominating Committee at Steele-Waseca is a very important one. It is actually described in the co-op's bylaws, and having elections and directors that represent our member-owners is very unique in the business world and is the epitome of cooperative life.

The process actually starts in November of each year, in which the members of the Nominating Committee will meet to start the process of interviewing and eventually nominating candidates. Each year the Nominating Committee, which starts with nine members (of which three new members each year replace the three members who have served a three-year term), who call and visit

with members they personally know, or that have been recommended by other members, or have earlier in the year expressed an interest in running for the board of directors.

Sometimes we have members accept the offer and agree to run for the board, and sometimes members decide the time commitment each month is more than they can agree to. Our attorney also asks for nominations from the floor during the annual meeting for each district up for election.

If you would like to find out more information about the requirements of being a director for a future election, please contact our office or any member on the Nominating Committee, or any board member for details.

This month I also wanted to share that Steele-Waseca has joined a Community Storage Initiative, a national effort to solve the challenge of energy storage with technologies and resources that are already available.

For decades the electricity industry has been researching energy storage technologies, such as utility-scale batteries, that can stockpile electricity for later use. As the industry develops more renewable energy resources, which are intermittent, the need for energy storage is becoming more pressing.

Community storage refers to utility-sponsored programs that coordinate electric storage resources available throughout the community, such as water heaters and electric vehicles. Many utilities, including Steele-Waseca, offer consumers incentives to lower their usage during times of high demand; community storage enhances and builds on those programs.

Community storage enables consumers and utilities to share the system-wide benefits of energy storage—environmental benefits, lower costs and grid optimization—in communities large and small across the country. Such programs maximize the value of distributed energy resources, many of which are already available to participate in energy storage programs through simple retrofits and program design.

The electricity industry is undergoing a rapid transformation. By looking at resources available now and using them in a new way, we can find affordable solutions to some of our biggest challenges.

The Initiative's supporters include a wide array of energy, environmental and business interests. The Initiative members are already implementing community storage programs, and will be working together to develop and enhance those programs to fit changing energy needs.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

WOOD TOOLS: 10" table saw, 15" planer, 6" jointer (all Grizzly brand), 5 hp router & table. 451-6278.

HEWITT ALUM. BOAT LIFT, 2500 lbs, canopy incl., \$1150. 456-4231.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS, 20' & 40', store your stuff on your property, rodent & moisture proof. 612-418-4375.

INT 1066 TRACTOR w/Schwartz Quick Tach loader, vry gd cond. w/cab & gd rubber; **3-PIECE BASSETT BDRM SET,** all wood, full size. 334-8538.

1-ACRE WOODED LOTS w/lakeshore on Beaver Lk. Gravel cul-de-sac, southern exposure, utilities & common well to lots incl. Ready to build your dream home! www.beaverlkestates.com. 438-9503.

WINE GLASS WOODEN RACK that hangs from ceiling over island, beautiful wood design & adds an elegant look to a kitchen, \$40. 456-9192/Jess.

CABIN, French Lk, leased land, great view, fishing & community, steps to the dock, \$125,000. 334-6362.

(2) FIRESTONE TIRES on AC rims, 13.6x28, \$500; **(2) TIRES,** 14.9x28 on AC rims, \$700; **JD 60** w/WF & P.S. stuck, \$1200. 330-3945.

FISHING TROLLING MOTORS; SHELVES for shed workshop; **PLASTIC BARRELS.** 664-9426.

2002 CHEVY Z71 PICKUP, incl. top; **TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING,** pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **TABLE HOCKEY GAME,** 6'x3'x3'(high). 456-1609.

(5) COOPER LIFELINER GLS TIRES, 185-70-14, vry gd cond. w/rims, \$100; **WAGON WHEEL LIGHT FIXTURES,** \$30/each/obo. 663-1275.

CUSTOM-BUILT ALUM. BOYD AUXILIARY FUEL TANK & TOOLBOX for Ford Super Duty, 30-gal. capacity, 48.5"(w) x 19.25"(h) x 24" (d). 456-2361.

CABIN, French Lake, west end, (3) bdrm, (2.5) ba, in-floor heat in cabin & garage, nat. gas, steel siding, photos, \$339,900. Email: dwhittier@frontier.com or 651-463-8261.

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.

(Interruptible A/C program continued from Page 5)

afternoon and early evening hours. Controls may be viewed online by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, move your cursor over "MEMBER SERVICES," and click on, "Are We Controlling Today," or visit Great River Energy's website, greatriverenergy.com, and click on "Load Management."

Steele-Waseca has over 850 members who already participate in the program. For more information, call Cindy Aamot at Steele-Waseca between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 

If you wish to reduce clutter and add convenience, you may elect to receive an email that your Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric bill is available to view online. Log in to your online account at www.swce.coop, click on the "Alerts" tab, and check "Bill Notification," and "Electronic Only." Enter your email address and click "Update" to receive your bill notification by email instead of in the mail.

'99 VIKING 2107 SAGA POP-UP CAMPER, refrig., sink, stovetop, furnace & (2) LP tanks, beds on both ends & table/lounge area turns into a bed, \$2350. 412-1246/Terry.

WELDING CABLE; ROD OVENS; SAFETY HAR- NESSES. 332-7624.

STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

OLDER MANURE SPREADER, small, not working, for landscaping or lawn ornament; **BOER/CROSS NANNY GOATS.** 213-1466.

4' OAKWOOD OCTAGON BUMPER POOL TABLE w/cover, \$400; **JD 800 12' SWATHER,** \$800; **JD 3950 SILAGE CHOPPER,** \$4000; **(3) CHOPPER BOXES,** \$1000/each. 451-0653.

HOBIE CAT SAILBOAT, 16', \$650. 334-4274.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, never shear sheep again, multiple births, great mothers, exc. disposition, great for beginners, grazers & organic. 451-2722.

14' FISHING BOAT, exc. cond., 9.5-hp Evinrude O/B, used little; **2-WHL UTILITY TRAILER.** 334-9583.

SHINGLING & ROOF REPAIRS, licensed & insured, trusted since 2000. 271-9129.

17' FELLING TRAILER incl. (4) tie downs & tilt bed. 334-7656.

CABIN on Mazaska Lake, (2) bdrm, new windows, well water, pontoon, awesome fishing, fully furnished, leased land, \$115,000. 213-9020.

JD 14T BALER, \$1350. 334-6334.

TOOLBOXES: older Craftsman w/6-top dr. & 3-btm dr., older Snap-on w/9-top dr. & 7-btm dr., Napa top bx w/9-dr.; **DR PWR GRADER; PULL-BEH. SCARF- ING TEETH & LEVELING BLADE.** 612-386-5098.

DIAMONDBACK BOY'S BIKE, 24x175, 21-spd, F.S. Fork, \$100; **GT WOMEN'S BIKE,** 21-spd, 700x35c, Fire Shifting, \$100. 330-3178.

USED AUTO PARTS, ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, ALTERNATORS, STARTERS, etc. 332-2300.

JD 14T HAY BALER w/new teeth. 451-3678.

13-YR-OLD GELDING, sorrel, Blaze, (1) white sock, registered QH, 16 hands, trail horse. 461-3697.

1987 PALM BEACH PONTOON, 24' w/50 hp Evinrude motor w/trailer, (1) owner, clean, gd shape, \$3800. 491-4565.

JD 694 PLANTER, (6) row, 30", gd cond. 583-7584.

KOHLER MOBILE GENERATOR SET, 12CCE61, 12,000W, 110 & 220, like new, only 750 hrs, Ford 4-cyl. engine, \$3900. 651-564-0711.

POST-EMERGENCE CORN, SOYBEAN & ALF. PESTICIDE PRODUCTS AVAIL.; SCHEDULE GRID SOIL SAMPLING NOW. 676-7767.

FUERST GROUND-DRIVEN 25-BU. MANURE SPREADER, \$1000; **40" BARN FAN,** \$125; **280' CHAIN LINK,** 4' high, \$100. 612-598-6230.

ANTIQUE VANITY, \$75. 583-6679.

4-SECTION DRAG w/cart, \$450; **(2) POLY 100-GAL. STOCK WATER TANKS,** \$85/each. 744-2792.

60" PROJECTION COLOR TV, \$50. 333-2494.

1974 DODGE 1-TON TRUCK w/hoist, nice shape, 53,400 mi., 12' box, \$2200. 451-0885.

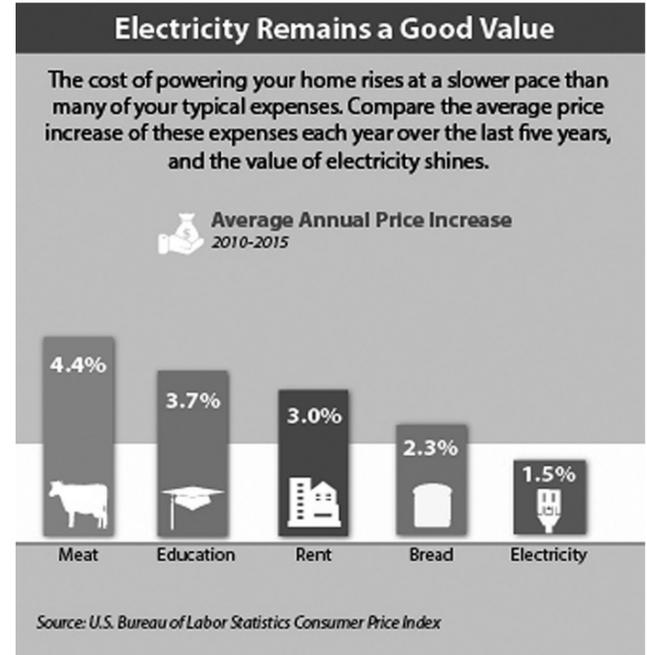
LAYING HENS; BOAT LIFT; STEEL DOCK on wheels; **MANURE SPREADER LAWN ORNAMENT.** 612-703-1316.

DORPER RAM LAMBS; HIGHLAND CATTLE. 715-205-0411.

1998 SYLVAN SPORT TROLLER, nice boat, live well, depth finder, front mount trolling motor, nice 25 hp Yamaha 4-stroke. 213-6979.

FARM FRESH EGGS from free range chickens, \$3/ dozen; **ANGORA GOATS & ANGORA GOAT MO- HAIR** for spinning & crafts. 832-392-1587.

METAL WELDING CART; 14' FISHING BOAT; 25 HP JOHNSON O/B; (3) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS. 470-262-7696.



ad connection

give away

WOOD SCRAPS OF 3/4" PLYWOOD, all sizes & 2x4s, 6s & 8s, gd for art, toy or other wood projects. 210-4944.

ELM & BASSWOOD, cut in 3' length. 645-5077.

WOOD TREES to cut down. 213-1277.

RED FIBERGLASS TOPPER for S-10 pickup. 363-1513.

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

wanted

TIRES, 235-60R16, in vry gd cond., at least half tread. 456-7757.

JUNK & UNWANTED APPLIANCES, free drop off, no TVs, computers &/or plastic dishwashers. 210-6728/Fbo.

JANITORIAL WORKERS, PT, day/evening needed in local area, \$10/hr. 412-1248.

CRAFTERS for 17th Ann. Christmas For Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 5, 8:30-3:30 @ Associated Church in Owa. Only homemade crafts, baked gds & plants can be exhibited. 455-2755.

MIXER MILL; 1960-66 CHEVY PICKUP. 390-4571.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

DEAD/LIVE GARDEN TRACTORS, will pay \$; **GARDEN TRACTOR LOADER**, attachments, weights & misc. 256-7299, eves/451-0546.

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

CONSTRUCTION WRK, free estimates. 213-4060.

PARTS for a NH 155 spreader; **GOATS**. 451-3678.

SCRAP STEEL, paying \$. 612-703-1316.

FARMLAND TO RENT in the Owa. area. 213-6979.

WILL DO: garden tilling, post-hole drilling, lawn grading, seeding, rolling, lawn mowing, thatching, aerating, erosion control, dirt leveling, seed & fertilizer broadcasting. 390-1567/cell.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

OLIVER WHEEL WEIGHTS; DORPER EWES; TIRES: 205-75R15, 215-70R15, 235-75R15. 715-205-0411.

USED OIL, 200-gal. or more. 420-7429.

for sale

NAPA GOPHER 50 TICKETS, BP Lions charity race, Deer Creek Speedway, 7/9/16. 456-2516.

PASTURE FOR RENT, fenced, rural Dundas. 952-270-5562.

SONY CAR STEREO, new w/(4) speakers, AM/FM/CD/MP3 w/remote, \$150; **TV CONVERTER BOX**, new, \$50. 455-3881.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS for rent, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

2-BDRM CABIN/HOUSE w/Franklin fireplace, Roberts Lk Blvd on Roberts Lk, sandy beach, ea. side, \$98,500. 763-479-1594.

STORAGE: vehicles, boats, campers & RVs, Waldorf area. 380-1609/Chad.

1000-GAL. FUEL TANK w/Gasboy pump, \$1500. 456-0160.

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

COLD WATER PRESSURE WASHER, 2 gpm@1000 psi, 115V, single ph., CAT2SFX22E, 1.5 hp C-Face, \$450; **VAL 6 RKF 503 EVAPORATIVE COOLER**, \$1995. 583-2703.

FAINTING COUCH, wood-carved legs, comfortable, perfect addition to a summer porch for napping, nice cond., \$499/obo. 213-8823.

GRILLPRO PROPANE STAINLESS STEEL GRILL w/extra side burner, tank incl., \$75. 645-8593.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS for 13.6" x 38" tires, gd cond., \$150; **PAIR OF GARDEN TRACTOR CHAINS**, 23-9.50 x 12", \$25. 456-0348.

HOME REPAIRS: plumbing, decks (repair or replacement), window & door installation, drywall (repair or installation) & more, quality wrk, exc. references, affordable prices. 581-6562/John.

2006 AGCO TRACTOR, 110 hp, 749 hrs, front bucket & claw. 301-9694.

1-DOZ. PINT JARS; 1-DOZ. 1/2-PINT JELLY JARS; 1-DOZ. WIDE MOUTH JARS, assorted sizes, \$10. 384-7358.

HAY & STRAW ROUND BALES; HAY, sm. sq. & some old alf.; **GRASS & ALF.**, new crop off wagon. 451-7489 or 414-2245/cell.

ELEC. WATER DRINKING FOUNTAIN, extra bottles, \$25; **MOSQUITO MAGNET**, \$25; **PING PONG TABLE** w/paddles & net, \$2. 744-2818.

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

GRASS HAY & STRAW, small square. 744-2871.

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. for all of your hauling needs: rock, dirt, etc., 15-ton cap. 456-7774.

ABOVE-GROUND POOL, 15x30, needs wall & liner, \$750/obo; **SURREY**, has mfg. plate, \$4950/obo; **TB RACING MARE**. 475-0309.

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

GRASS HAY BALES, small square. 612-756-1131.

FOLDABLE PICNIC TABLE, hunter green; **MIXED FIREWOOD; STORAGE** for fish houses; **APPLE TREE FIREWOOD; XL WIRE DOG KENNEL**. 676-1141.

JD 14T SM. SQ. BALER, vry gd cond., always stored inside enclosed shed, \$650. 789-6629.

SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION & TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

"WE SURVIVED IRAQ AND TURKEY: LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM." Author Taha Muhammad, www.createspace.com. 602-1057.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

HEART OF ALASKA (AIR INCLUDED), July 28-Aug. 4. Eight days, 12 meals, Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks and Valdez. \$3,429 per person based on 2 per room.

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL, Sept. 28-Oct. 5. Eight days, 10 meals, Balloon Festival activities + much more! \$1,799 per person based on 2 per room.

NEW YORK HOLIDAY TOUR (AIR INCLUDED), Nov. 9-13. Five days in New York City's Times Square, Radio City Rockettes, Lion King & more. \$2,299 per person based on 2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve your space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members! Congratulations to Ila Breck and Clarence/Bev Guse for winning \$250 gift certificates from 4-Seasons during the Early Bird prize drawing at SWCE's 80th annual meeting.



member connection

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric awards scholarships to 18 high school graduates in 2016

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric in 2016 has awarded \$500 scholarships to 18 graduating high school seniors.

A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity.

Steele-Waseca's scholarship program has awarded \$150,750 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954. 27347

The recipients are a dependent of a Steele-Waseca member and will be attending a two- or four-year technical school or college this fall. This year's recipients include:

• **Kaelen Kurtzweil**, homeschooled, the daughter of James Kurtzweil and Debra Petersen, Faribault.

• **Hannah Robb**, Bethlehem Academy, the daughter of Tracey and Carrie Robb, Medford.

• **Anthony Nelson**, Blooming Prairie, the son of Brian and Lois Nelson, Blooming Prairie.

• **Shannon McCollough**, Byron, the daughter of Kevin and Cynthia McCollough, Byron.

• **Brenna Roth**, Ethan, the daughter of Lonnie and Kathy Roth, Ethan, S.D.

• **Hannah Dozark**, Faribault, the daughter of David and Jamila Dozark, Faribault.

• **Elizabeth Klocke**, Hayfield, the daughter of Brian and Jodi Klocke, Hayfield.

• **Ryan Eustice**, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, the son of Keith and Kelly Eustice, Waseca.

• **Kaitlin Knott**, Kenyon-Wanamingo, the daughter of John Knott and Kathy Knott of Faribault.

• **Melanie Beyer**, Maple River, the daughter of James and Alyssa Beyer, Minnesota Lake.

• **Cassandra Borwege**, Medford, the daughter of Troy and Karol Borwege, Medford.

• **Anna Smisek**, New Prague, the daughter of Robert and Laura Smisek, Lonsdale.

• **Luke Stenzel**, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, the son of Curt and Becky Stenzel, New Richland.

• **Kayla Hubers**, Northfield, the daughter of Blake and Cathy Hubers, Faribault.

• **Ashley Ulman**, Owatonna, the daughter of Mark and Mary Ulman, Owatonna.

• **Jacob Schwarz**, Tri-City United, the son of Dan and Lori Schwarz, Lonsdale.

• **Craig Weber**, Triton, the son of Paul and Sally Weber, Claremont.

• **Morgan Jindra**, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the daughter of Jeff Jindra, Kilkenny, and Beth Hermel, Waterville.



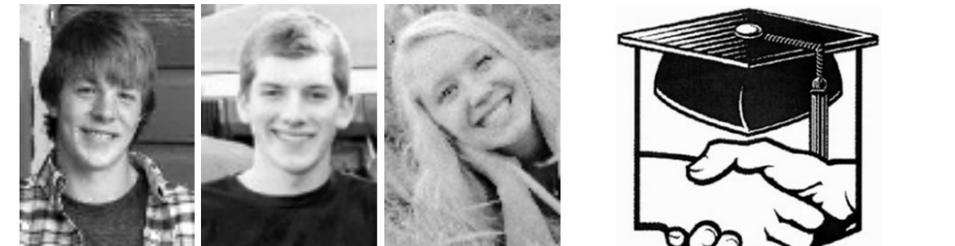
Kaelen Kurtzweil Hannah Robb Anthony Nelson Shannon McCollough Brenna Roth



Hannah Dozark Elizabeth Klocke Ryan Eustice Kaitlin Knott Melanie Beyer



Cassandra Borwege Anna Smisek Luke Stenzel Kayla Hubers Ashley Ulman



Jacob Schwarz Craig Weber Morgan Jindra



Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by July 5 to ensure being printed in the August 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 September issue.

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

Baked Beans

Marlene Lau

Pemberton

1 1/2 lb. hamburger, browned
2 large cans Bush Maple Baked Beans
1/2 lb. bacon, cut up
1 pkg. little smokies, cut up
Jack Daniels barbecue sauce

Mix together ingredients and put in a Crock-Pot.

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 56 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during May 2016. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. The latest subscriber is Jon/Lori Osmundson of Owatonna.

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 bill; 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.

June issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Craig C./Linda Aman
Allie M. Enga
Larry/Carolyn Tande

Numbers not found:

Tim Ignaszewski
Bruce Nash



sparks • july 2016

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 Marathon Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Aamot at our office between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **May temps** – The average high temperature for May was 70° F, while the average low was 49° F. They compare to last year's average high of 67° F and average low of 48° F.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2016, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), 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 Aamot between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 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.

health & safety connection

Contact Gopher State One Call at least 48 hours before digging begins



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

If you are planning to complete an outdoor project that requires digging, it is important to understand and utilize Gopher State One Call (GSOC).

The GSOC system is designed to notify utilities which might 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.

When you contact Gopher State One Call, you may call 811 or 800-252-1166. You may also visit gopherstateonecall.org to submit your ticket application. Be prepared with the following information: your name, your phone number with area code first, email address, type of work you will be doing, county, city/township where work will be done; address and nearest intersecting or cross street, where you will be digging on the property (it is helpful to mark the area in white paint), whether digging will be done in the road right-of-way, and if there will be any tunnelling or horizontal boring.

Since most private facilities are not listed on GSOC, it is the homeowners responsibility to hire someone to locate their private underground facilities. A list of private locators is available at gopherstateonecall.org. Move your cursor

over the "About" tab on the home page and click on "Industry Directory;" then click on "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 that these locators will locate the lines for a fee. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not locate buried wires that are the homeowner's responsibility.

What are private electric underground facilities?

Private underground facilities are those facilities that were installed behind or after the meter. Also, if overhead distribution lines serve the property and the power is then distributed on the property by underground service facilities, those service facilities may be considered private. If the homeowner's electric meter is located on the property line, then that electric line from the meter to the house is considered privately owned and will not be located.

Other private facilities can include:

Steele-Waseca offering incentives for members to join central air conditioning program

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members wishing to join the co-op's Interruptible Central Air Conditioning Program, will receive a \$10 Dairy Queen gift card, plus a \$15 energy credit for the summer. The credit will appear in \$5 increments on your bill as an, "AIR



CONDITIONING CREDIT," in July, August and September.

This energy conservation program costs you nothing to participate and helps Steele-Waseca keep your energy bills lower.

To participate, you must have residential electric service with Steele-Waseca. The co-op will install a small radio receiver near your air conditioner's con-

natural gas farm taps, natural gas or propane gas underground piping to buildings, gas grills and pool heaters, private water systems, data communication lines, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences and many others.

No one should ever remove flags before work is completed as they are in place to mark lines for the safety of all digging in the area. 129525

If you hit an underground utility while digging, the first thing you must do is evacuate everyone if you have created a dangerous situation. If so, call 911 immediately and keep the area clear. Also, call the utility you hit and make them aware of what has happened. Do not attempt to fix the problem yourself.



Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Safety Playbook reported an electric co-op member had attempted to locate a wire and believed they were in the clear when they attempted to drive in a post only to strike a primary wire. The fault went back to the 3-phase recloser at the substation. The fault burnt the post and grass around it. The member called 911 and fortunately wasn't injured. He was very lucky that he wasn't hurt or killed and was encouraged to have wires located before driving in any more fence posts. (Courtesy MREA Safety Playbook - Oct. 2, 2015)

densing unit at no cost to you.

During peak energy demand days, the receiver will cycle your air conditioner off and on in 15-minute intervals. Since your furnace fan continues to circulate cool air, most people rarely notice when their air conditioner is being interrupted.

Control times usually occur in the late (Interruptible A/C program continued on Page 7)