

**cfl/led coupon connection**



Save on your next purchase of GE ENERGY STAR® certified CFL and LED bulbs.

**UP TO \$5 OFF** select GE ENERGY STAR® light bulbs at participating Walmart stores  
**UP TO \$3 OFF** select GE ENERGY STAR® light bulbs with a coupon from your co-op

Home Lighting Promotion runs April 4 – August 31, 2016.

Visit [energywisemn.com](http://energywisemn.com) to learn more and enter for a chance to win a \$500 energy credit.

**ENERGY WISE MN**

Due to the presence of mercury, CFLs must be recycled. In Minnesota, it is illegal to place them directly in the garbage.

**LIGHT UP**  
**2016 LIGHTING PROMOTION**

PROMOTION DESCRIPTION	REDEMPTION	PARTICIPATING STORES
 Offer valid April 4– August 31, 2016	COUPONS: <b>\$1 OFF GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED CFLs</b> or <b>\$3 OFF GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED LEDs</b>	ANY RETAILER where GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED CFLs and LEDs are sold
 Offer valid April 4– August 31, 2016	IN-STORE: <b>Up to \$5 instant markdown on select GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED LEDs</b>	PARTICIPATING WALMART STORES Visit <a href="http://energywisemn.com">energywisemn.com</a> for store locations

**SWEEPSTAKES**

As part of the CFL Promotion, cooperative members can also enter the Sweepstakes for one grand prize of a \$500 energy credit. Details and participation information for the Sweepstakes are available at [energywisemn.com](http://energywisemn.com)

**NOTE:**  
 Steele-Waseca members may not combine the co-op's CFL and/or LED rebates with the markdowns and coupons of this promotion. However, members may combine the instant markdowns at Walmart with the coupons on this page.

**SWCE sparks**  
 the power of human connections  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric May 2016

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**calendar of events**

- May**
- 1 Law Day  
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  - 14 Minnesota fishing opener
  - 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
  - 21 Armed Forces Day
  - 21-27 National Safe Boating Wk
  - 30 Memorial Day  
**SWCE office closed**

**14th Annual Meatball Dinner**  
 Sunday, May 15, 2016  
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Community Lutheran Church, Geneva  
 Serving: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, Rolls & Pie  
**FREE WILL DONATION**  
 \$1 Raffle Tickets available to win a beautiful homemade quilt

**Members encouraged to attend Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 80th annual meeting**

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners are invited to attend the co-op's 80th annual meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

The meeting will be held at Steele-Waseca's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna. The annual meeting is open to Steele-Waseca members and their guests. The doors will open at 9 a.m., with display and informational booths open until 10:15 a.m.

Parking will be available on the property surrounding Steele-Waseca's headquarters. Miner's Outdoor & Rec, located at Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie, will be supplying several golf

cars to shuttle you to and from the meeting.

There will be two early bird drawings for prizes that will take place prior to the start of the annual meeting. The business portion of the meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. 28231

There is no requirement to call Steele-Waseca to register your attendance for the annual meeting. Members and their guests will only be required to register at the entrance to the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 7.

To be eligible to vote for directors, you must be registered by 10:30 a.m. sharp. Director candidate profiles are featured on Page 3 of this edition of *Sparks*. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations officially closing at that time.

After the election results are announced, there will be a drawing for grand prizes and the meeting will be adjourned. Following adjournment, a "buffet" lunch will be served by HyVee of Owatonna featuring smoked pork chops, green beans, twice baked potatoes, salad, dinner rolls, coffee, white and chocolate milk, water and soda, with Dairy Queen Dilly® Bars for dessert. **SWCE**



More than 640 members and guests attended Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's annual meeting in 2015. This year's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7. The doors open at 9 a.m., and the meeting will officially start at 10:30 a.m.



Lucas Arndt of Owatonna was recognized at last year's annual meeting for representing Steele-Waseca at the 2015 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. He will share his experience with those in attendance at this year's meeting. He'll also introduce the co-op's 2016 Youth Tour delegates who will be featured in the June 2016 *Sparks*.

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

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  Find us on Facebook  
 Email: [swce@swce.coop](mailto: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

As Americans we are fast approaching another moment to exercise our right to vote. I always look forward to these moments in our country's life, whether it is local, state, or national elections.

I get the chance to state my opinion by choosing individuals that best represent me, my thoughts, and my beliefs. I seldom find someone who represents every opinion that I have, but I believe it is all a part of sending a message and registering how I feel. It also reminds me of how difficult our leaders' jobs are in an effort to make the right decisions and trying to represent everyone at the same time.

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility which is responsive to the consumers it serves. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility—to select the best leaders for our communities.

Yet in places all over America, even those served by electric cooperatives, citizens aren't exercising that right.

In the 2012 national elections, voter turnout dropped overall, but the decline in rural counties was 18 percent—twice that of the nation as a whole. 24171

And when voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live, and raise families.

Reliable electricity, access to rural broadband and the quality of our health care system are just a few issues we all care about. Still, they only become priorities if enough people show elected officials that they are paying attention. Registering to vote and voting are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of



the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

I'd like you to join me in a new initiative to get every eligible person registered to vote—you, me, our family and friends—and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has joined America's electric cooperatives in launching a campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops into the public discussion. Called "Co-ops Vote," this effort will help boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives across the country to ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Visit the Co-ops Vote website, [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER to support your community and electric cooperative when casting your vote in 2016. The website will give you information on your elected officials and candidates, the voter registration process, election dates and locations, and background about eight key co-op issues we want our elected leaders to understand: rural broadband access, hiring and honoring veterans, low-income energy assistance, cybersecurity, water regulation, rural health care access, affordable and reliable energy, and renewable energy.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. With 42 million members across the nation, electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

If you have any questions, please visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), or contact us directly at Steele-Waseca. I hope to see you at the polls!

**ad connection**

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

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

**2002 FORD FOCUS**, 2x3, 129k mi., 2.0 engine, A.T., great body & interior, runs great!, \$2400. 332-2300.

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

**PORTA-DOCK BOAT LIFT** w/canopy, \$1000; **HEWITT BOAT LIFT** w/canopy, \$1500. 381-9849.

**CASE IH 7140 MFWD MAGNUM TRACTOR**, Powershift, (3) hyd. remotes, duals, large PTO, 7500 hrs, gd cond., \$41,900/obo. 380-2759.

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

**HONDA 1100 SHADOW RED SPIRIT MOTORCYCLE**, like new, well cared for, '00 w/new rubber, new OEM carb parts, \$2950. 213-8823.

**AKC BRITTANY PUPS**, hunting parents, family raised, \$500. 651-214-0184.

**SET OF (4) TIRES**, LT245/75R16, mounted on 6-bolt Chevy rims, truck grade, 40% tread, \$175. 651-734-5375.

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

**FOLDABLE PICNIC TABLE**, hunter green; **MIXED FIREWOOD**; (3) **55-GAL. PLASTIC BARRELS**; **APPLE TREE FIREWOOD**; **STORAGE** for fish houses. 676-1141.

**2-BDRM APARTMENT**, avail. immediately, upstairs vry spacious, \$550/mo. 456-8931.

**HAY**, (5) round; **STRAW ROUNDS**; **HAY**, small square, no rain, \$2.50 (some as low as \$2). 451-7489 or 414-2245/cell.

**BRANSON TIMESHARE FOR RENT**, (1) week anytime in 2016, (2) bdrm, sleeps (5), close to main strip, \$750. 334-5961/Joanne.

**ALF., GRASS HAY**, sm. sq. bales, no rain, \$2/bale. 332-7590.

**BLK TONNEAU BED COVER**, fits 2010-14 Ford F-150 short box, like new, \$200/obo. 456-5030.

**CABIN** on south side of Beaver Lk, built in 2008, (2) bdrm, 900 sq. ft. w/covered deck, gas fireplace, a/c w/heater, 53' lakeshore & large south lot. 456-5213.

**ALF. HAY**, sm. sq., 3rd crop; **WHEAT STRAW**, sm. sq.; **72" WOODS FINISH MOWER**, 3-pt. 330-3303.

**GE WINDOW AIR COND.** w/remote, 23,800 Btu, \$250; (3) **GLASS SHOWCASES**, different sizes, \$75 for each one. 835-2651.

**17' GRUMMAN ALUM. CANOE** w/paddles, French Lk location, \$375. 651-463-8261.

**TREK 920 ALLOY MTB**, 21-spd, men's, 26x175, \$100; **IRON HORSE ALLOY BIKE**, 24x175, boy's, 24-spd, \$100. 330-3178.

**PANEL & DRYWALL ADHESIVE**, 29 oz., (12) tubes, new, \$30; **LARGE GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL** w/bun warmer, new, \$40. 334-3804.

**GRASS HAY & STRAW**, small squares. 744-2871.

**2003 EXPLORER TOY HAULER CAMPER** made by Pace American, 27', bathroom, shower, kitchen, bumper hitch, \$10,900. 491-4565.

**JD LT180 AUTOMATIC RIDING MOWER** in vry gd cond., 48" mower deck w/new blades & belts on both mower & mower deck, 17 hp V-Twin Kawasaki motor & only 448 hrs on unit, \$850. 528-2615.

**ALF./GRASS MIX HAY BALES**, gd quality, no rain. 451-2978.

**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](http://www.beaverlkestates.com). 438-9503.

**VALU CRFT 8320 MTR SAW**, \$55. 838-8565/John.

**NH 495 HAYBINE**, 12' cut, \$3500; **NH 782 CHOPPER** w/2R30" corn head. 602-0924.

**2005 CHEVY IMPALA LS**, (4) door, 172,500 mi., \$2800/obo; **1987 FREIGHTLINER**, cab over semi tractor, Detroit 9-spd, \$3800/obo. 456-5268.

**ANTIQUE VANITY**, \$75. 583-6679.

**1974 SEARS LAWN TRACTOR**, 10 hp, 36" cut, runs & looks like new. 838-8870.

**14' F9 ALUMACRAFT**, 7.5 hp Evinrude & trlr; **1984 CUTLASS CIERA** w/rare V6 diesel eng., 98% rust free; (8) **GUNS**: Rem. 722, 870, 11-87; Win. 12, 25, 63 & others (everything in exc. cond.). 451-0996.

**DODGE RAM TAILLIGHT** for 1990 series, fits right side of truck, brand new in the box, \$20. 451-2687.

(2) **AC WD**: wide front w/loader & narrow front, 3-btm plow, cultivator & misc. parts (both run great). 317-1786.

**WICKER PATIO BAR**, glass top, \$50; **HVY DUTY YARD TRAILER**, 4x7, \$75. 952-652-2929.

**SM. XBRD CATTLE**, grs fed, no horm., calves due '16; **BAY GELD. QH**, 16-y-o, 15h; **CHICKS**, brwn egg layr mix; **BUNNIES**; **HERITAGE RASP. PLANTS**, \$20/doz.; **TOM. & SWT PPR PLANTS**. 465-8593/Brad.

**GRAVITY WAGON**, 8-ton running gear, \$750; **JD 335 ROUND BALER**, \$6500; **CATTLE GATES**: 12'/\$70, 14'/\$80. 744-2792.

**2001 FORD TAURUS**, flex-fuel V6 Vulcan engine, 187,000 mi., looks & runs great, many extras, everything works, \$1600. 649-7216.

**MIXED FIREWOOD**, sold by pickup loads, \$42.50, Walcott Twsp area. 332-7739.

**FISHING BOAT**; **14' ALUM. HERTERS TRAILER**; **CANOE**; **DUCK DECOYS**; (2) **HONDA 3-WHEELERS**, 250R & 200S; **GO KART**; (35) **BICYCLES**; **PADDLEBOAT**. 402-8838.

**BOATS SEATS**; **TROLLING MOTOR**, 50-lb. thrust; **2005 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY**, 151k mi. 456-2198.

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

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

**6 X 8 COLD STORAGE** in Fbo, \$39/mo. 332-4638.

**KENNEDY PONTOON BOAT**, new seats not yet installed, you haul, \$125. 332-6907.

**FOR HIRE**: landscaping, retaining walls, shrubs, edging, decorative rock, spring cleaning & more! Free quote. 475-1352/Noah.

**HAY**, round bales, 5x5, 1st & 2nd cutting grass hay, stored inside, \$30. 334-6334.

**WISCONSIN DELLS WKND @ CHRISTMAS MTN VILLAGE**, June 24-27, 2016, (2) bdrm, (2) bath cottage, sleeps (6), beautiful wooded resort 10 min. from downtown, \$550. 456-9192/Jess.

**AXIS SEED SOYBEANS**, 1.5-2.4 RM RR2Y varieties, SCN/BSR resistance, gd WMD tol., cash savings, JD Finance, 140K units, 40-unit totes, 45-unit bulk boxes, seed trmt avail. 676-7767.

**15" WESTERN SADDLE**, beautiful, new, \$500. 330-5256 or email [cphillops@icloud.com](mailto:cphillops@icloud.com).

**POTTED FERN LEAF PONIES**, \$25; **POTTED HOSTAS**, many varieties/sizes; **BLACKBERRY LILIES**; **DAY LILIES**; **IRIS**; **SIBERIAN IRIS**; **PERENNIALS**; **YELLOW RASPBERRY PLANTS**. 451-4274.

**GRASS HAY**, small square, no rain. 456-4956.

**EVINRUDE BOAT MOTOR**, 15 hp, long shaft, \$350/cash. 451-3587.

**ASPARAGUS**, fresh, organic. 334-9733.

**1998 VIKING 2107 SAGA POP-UP CAMPER**, re-frig., sink, stove top, furnace, (2) LP tanks & battery, beds on both ends & table/lounge area turns into a bed, \$2650. 412-1246/Terry.

**LARGE BROWN EGGS**, \$1.50/dozen. 390-0206.

**CAT 2 3-PT HITCH**, gd cond., \$95; **MISC. HORSE TACK**, old leather, \$50/obo. 685-4372.

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

**NITROGEN TANKS**: Taylor-Wharton XT34, like new, \$550; MVE XC 10/4, like new, \$200. 952-652-5252.

**ROCKER-RECLINER**, floral w/tan background, vry gd cond., no smoking or pets, \$75/obo. 688-2234.

**1970 CONTINENTAL MARK III**; **AC WD45**, narrow front. 351-3854 after 5 p.m.

**SUMMER STORAGE** in Owat.: cars, boats, trailers, snowmobiles, fish houses. 363-2249/Derek.

**LAWN MOWERS**, repairable, Toro & Troy-Bilt; **O/B LIGHT TWIN TROLLING MOTORS**. 664-9426.

**SCRAPBOOKING & RUMMAGE SALE**, discounted supplies, gift baskets & much misc., Fri. 5/20, 8-7 & Sat. 5/21, 8-4, 1 mi. s. of Big Steer Truck Stop, 2155 Union Lk Trl. 663-1569.

**ROOFING**: shingling & roof repairs, licensed & insured, trusted since 2000. 271-9129.

**2004 SUZUKI MARAUDER**, 800cc motorcycle, blk, lots of chrome, many extras, 6600 mi., \$3000/obo. 952-500-0808.

26249

**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.**

## ad connection

### give away

**APPROX. 60,000 LBS CEMENT SILO STAVES** already taken down & on a pile, take some or take all, you load & you haul, NE Steele County. 330-3856.

**FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS**, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop), these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless emailed to [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

**AMERICAN PAINT HORSE**, gelding, 23-yrs-old, healthy, have papers. 334-7055/leave message.

### wanted

**STOCK TRAILER**, new or used, prefer gooseneck style. 332-2176.

**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.

**5 TO 20 BEEF CALVES**, 300 to 400 lb. 213-8670 or 444-9347.

**LAND TO RENT** in 2016 & beyond. 213-6979.

**CLASS A DRIVERS** w/CDL, 2-yrs-exp., 23-yrs-old & older for hopper & tanker, must have tanker endorsement. 456-1181.

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

**CHISEL PLOW OR DISC CHISEL**, prefer high clearance pull type in gd shape. 455-3881.

**LAND FOR RENT FOR 2016** & beyond. 456-6521.

**CLOTHESLINE**, will be able to dig up & move. 381-9849.

**OLDER MEYER SNOWPLOW MOUNTING FRAME BRACKET** for 1990-98 Chevy 1/2-ton pickup. 446-8866.

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

**USED REAR-TINE ROTOTILLER.** 210-5067.

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

**PASTURE TO RENT SUITABLE FOR CATTLE**, within 10-15 mi. of Medford preferred; **MESSAGE TABLE.** 213-0059.

### Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **May 5** to ensure being printed in the June 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 July 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](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

**POWER STEERING UNIT** to fit on Ford 800 series tractor, need complete unit. 696-5820.

**FOOSBALL TABLE** in good condition. 475-1041.

**TO ENLARGE THE ANN. ROBERDS LK GARAGE SALE IN JUNE**, looking for people in or around the area not on the regular mailing list. 838-8565/Kathy.

**MIXER MILL.** 390-4571.

**PONTOON-STYLE PADDLEBOAT** w/bench seat. 684-9665.

**SCRAP STEEL, OLD MACHINERY, PRECIOUS METALS**, big or little, paying cash. 612-703-1316.

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

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

### for sale

**FLARE BOX**, exc. shape, \$600. 455-3881.

**12' ALUM. ROW BOAT**, used, 4' wide at center, needs new plug & wood motor mount board for back of boat, there is no motor incl., you haul (Webster), \$125. 952-652-2913.

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

**BEAVER LK CABIN**, north side, (2) bdrm, low maintenance, gas fireplace, new septic, Anderson windows, beautiful deck, quiet setting, sold turnkey, move in ready, \$229,000. 207-615-6154.

**RIDING LESSONS, SADDLES & HARNESS RIDE CLINICS AVAILABLE. BY APPT ONLY.** 332-2176.

**FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS**, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000; **7.6 ACRES ON GONVICK AVE.**, \$79,900. 838-5033/John.

**1995 F-150**, 4x4, 4.9L, 5-spd, 130k mi., topper, no rust, \$2800; **1986 F-150**, 4x4, little rust, 130k mi., runs gd, \$1200. 334-2673.

**KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP**, never shear sheep again, great mothers, super disposition, great for beginners, organic & grazers, lean tender meat, ewes, ewe lambs & outstanding ram lambs. 451-2722.

**BARITONE HORN.** 340-0506.

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

**GARDN ROTOTILLER**, front tines, \$100. 455-1943.

**APPROX. 27 TILLABLE ACRES FOR RENT** in Walcott Twp (Section 35). 330-0347.

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

**A.O. SMITH WATER HEATER**, 40-gal., propane, \$35; **COUCH**, floral pattern, grt cond., \$20; **COFFEE TABLE & END TABLE**, oak, \$25/each. 456-5168.

**HEREFORD WESTERN SADDLE**, 16" seat, dark leather w/Montana silver, matching headstall w/reins & breast collar w/Montana silver, \$500. 330-2768.

**DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. FOR ALL OF YOUR HAULING NEEDS:** rock, dirt, etc., 15-ton cap. 456-7774.

**JD 510 ROUND BALER**, \$1250. 330-2820.

**1978 SYLVAN ALUM. BOAT**, 16', btm flat inside boat, complete w/75 hp Evinrude O/B, Lowrance Fish Lo-K-Tor & elec. trolling motor, \$2200. 451-5208.

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

**STORAGE UNITS**, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

**ALKOTA 3102 H-WTR PR. WSHR**, 3 gpm@1000 psi, recond., \$2595; **SIMPSON C-ON-CRT PR. WSHR**, 4 gpm@2000 psi, \$899; **AQUA STRIPPR C-ON-CRT PR. WSHR**, 2 gpm@1500 psi, \$459. 583-2703.

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

**TRAILER HITCH**, hvy duty for 2007 or later Ford Focus or same frame, Class 1 hitch, \$40. 446-8866.

**LARGE WINDOWS**, cheap, new. 869-3835.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**MEDORA MUSICAL IN N. DAKOTA**, June 18-21. Four meals, motor coach, Mount Rushmore evening lighting, Medora Musical, Badlands & more! \$769 per person based on 2 per room.

**MACKINAC ISLAND & DOOR COUNTY**, July 10-16. Seven days, 12 meals. Door County touring, day on Mackinac Island. \$1,099 per person based on 2 per room.

**ALASKA TOUR/CRUISE (AIR INCL.)**, July 21-Aug. 4. Fourteen days, all meals on cruise, 8-day cruise w/extra night in Fairbanks & Vancouver + tour. Starting at \$4,299 pp based on 2 per room.

**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.

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



## swce 2016 board of director nominees



The 2016 Nominating Committee has selected the following nominees for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors. Committee members included: Jerome/Diane Stenzel, New Richland; Gene/Joyce Wertheimer, Faribault; Jeff/Nola Karow, Faribault; Kendall/Laura Strawmatt, Owatonna; Ron/Pat Brey, New Richland; Pat/Tori Jirik, Nerstrand; Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; Lowell/Kathleen Miller, Owatonna; and Mike Herman/Diana Lobo, Owatonna. The election of directors will take place during Steele-Waseca's 80th annual meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at the co-op's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna.



**Geraldine G. Lienke**, incumbent, has been a board director since 2004. Gerri and her husband, David, live in Freedom Township in Waseca County. They have four children and enjoy their 10 grandchildren. Currently, Gerri serves as clerk for their township, Region 9 board director, and a member of the Budget and Personnel Committee for Region 9. She previously worked 25 years at an ag co-op as an administrative assistant, 10 years as a bartender, served as president and secretary of a home extension group, bowling league treasurer, and adult supervisor for a youth church group. "I have lived in this area all my life and have met many good people," wrote Gerri. "Therefore, I feel we have open communications and each of them know I will listen to all and any concerns and go the extra mile to get answers to their questions." As for the qualities she seeks to bring to the board, "I have the ability to use common sense and think outside the box," wrote Gerri. "I don't make hasty decisions. I believe we need to explore to find the right answers concerning our future, whether it is green energy or something else, because I feel we should be responsible to leave this earth as good or better than we found it."



**Dean W. Jirousek** of rural Ellendale was born and raised on the family farm where he resides in Summit Township. He operated and purchased the farm and expanded after graduating from the University of Minnesota. Dean developed and improved the dairy herd, won many awards and earned All-American nominations. He was recognized in 2014 for his family farm's 150 years of continuous operation. "I feel that my background in farming and business, successfully, that I have the work ethic, passion, and dedication to fulfill the responsibilities of the board position," wrote Dean. "I have always felt affordable and dependable electric service was extremely important and should not be taken for granted. The responsibility to insure this is huge and I want to take my experience in business to the board to be an asset."



**Dennis C. Ringhofer**, incumbent, has been a board director since 2004. He resides in Somerset Township in Steele County where he raises corn and soybeans on the family farm. Dennis has two sons and a grandson. He has been an independent insurance agent with Ringhofer Insurance Agency for 28 years. Currently, Dennis is the vice president of the Owatonna Mutual Fire Insurance Company. "I am also a longtime supporter of our local 4H and FFA programs," wrote Dennis. "Our young people are our future. I considered it an honor to be on the Board of Directors for SWCE, to see that the needs are met for farms, residential, and industrial alike. With the many changes in the future of the electric industry, I would like to see that it is maintained as professionally as possible. I have attended many seminars and meetings to further my education of co-ops and the electric industry."



**Philip J. Heim** and his wife, Gail, reside in Medford. After military service, Philip attended college for a year and then tech school. He started an electrical apprenticeship in March 1980 and worked for a variety of contractors doing mainly commercial and industrial construction. Philip retired from Local 343 IBEW in January 2014 as a master electrician. He has been active in the community with serving on the zoning board, school board, Civic Club and faith community. "I feel with my experience of working with a variety of people and my desire to implement more efficient use of electrical energy, I can contribute to the continued success of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric," stated Philip. "I strongly believe in cooperatives and believe the owner-customer nature of cooperatives is a good business model." Adding, "Safe, reliable and efficient electrical distribution is what I would like to help to continue to provide for this generation and future generations."



**Gary W. Wilson**, incumbent, has been a board director since 1992. He and his wife, Diane, have lived on their farm located in Havana Township in Steele County for the past 45 years. They have recently retired from active farming and are renting out their land. The couple has two married sons and seven grandchildren living in the area. Gary currently serves as president on the SWCE board of directors. He also represents the co-op on the Great River Energy board of directors where he is a member of the Executive Committee. Gary has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program and holds the Board Leadership Program Certificate. He recently earned the Director Gold Certificate to signify advanced training in cooperative leadership. "It is a privilege to serve on the SWCE Board of Directors," wrote Gary. "One of the things I look forward to is meeting and welcoming the former Alliant members to the co-op family and improving the reliability of the system that serves them."



**Ronald D. Sommers**, incumbent, has been a board director since November 2015. He and his wife, Ruth, reside in Northfield Township on his home farm where he grew up near Northfield. They have two married children and four grandchildren. Ron is presently retired, but was an agricultural educator in southern Minnesota (Kiester, Faribault and Riverland Community College) for over 20 years. He was also with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., as a sales accounting manager and sales coordinator for Minnesota for nearly 20 years. "I believe in the cooperative way of doing business and that Steele-Waseca has done a great job of providing reliable, affordable electric power to its service area," stated Ron. "I would like to be part of continuing that tradition. I've had a career of working with people to help them improve their lives and achieve their goals. I believe my experience with people and the agricultural community can help me serve our cooperative."

## cookin' connection

### Chewy Date Bars

Arlene Braun

Pemberton

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 pkg. yellow cake mix  | 3/4 c. packed brown sugar |
| 3/4 c. melted margarine | 2 eggs                    |
| 2 c. chopped dates      | 2 c. chopped nuts         |

Combine cake mix and brown sugar. Add margarine and eggs. Mix at medium speed for 2 minutes. Combine dates and nuts, add to the batter. It will be stiff. Spread in greased 9 x 13 baking pan. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes. Cool completely before cutting. Can sprinkle with powdered sugar.

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 40 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during March 2016. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). 1012566

### 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.

## April issue of Sparks



**Numbers found:**  
David F. Gruhke  
Ronald F. Laitenberger  
Arthur J./Mary Ripka

**Numbers not found:**  
Jeff/Jodi Carney  
Kevin Wille



## 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](http://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.

- **March temps** – The average high temperature for March was 47° F, while the average low was 32° F. They compare to last year's average high of 44° F and average low of 24° 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](http://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**

**STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE**

**866-878-7964**

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

**OWATONNA ELLENDALE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD**

## member connection

### “War of the Currents” presented to Lincoln Elementary students

Lincoln Elementary School third through sixth graders in Owatonna gained a greater perspective of electricity following the March 16 performance of The Bakken Museum's production of the “War of the Currents.”

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy, allows each of their member cooperatives to host a production within their service territory.

The War of the Currents assembly show is a fast and fun introduction or review on the subject of electricity and electricity generation. Set against the backdrop of Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla's battle to control the electrical future of the United States, the show tells the story of these scientists using demonstrations, experiments, and games, and also addresses the basics of electricity and the broader fields of science and engineering.

The show is highly interactive allowing students to participate from their seats or volunteer to help with a demonstration. It is designed with an adaptable content and tone, allowing the performers to work with students ranging from kindergarten through the eighth grade, in a three-grade range, so the



Lincoln Elementary School students assisted The Bakken Museum performers March 16 to demonstrate the difference between alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) during the War of the Currents assembly show.

production may be performed at a level appropriate to them.

As the story's tension and scientific content build on one another, the excitement culminates in a demonstration of one of Tesla's most striking inventions—a five-foot tall Tesla Coil which sends lightning-like sparks snaking

through the air. 16303

Schools located within Steele-Waseca's service territory interested in having the production perform during the 2016-17 school year are encouraged to contact the co-op's Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack. [rs@swce.coop](mailto:rs@swce.coop)

2016 Fundraiser

**Women's & Girls' Spring Extravaganza & Brunch**

**Saturday, May 7th**

**10:00 am Extravaganza**  
**12:00 pm Brunch**

**Trinity Lutheran Church- Owatonna**  
All are welcome!

Branch tickets: Adults \$25; Child (age 6-12) \$10; 5 & under free  
Tickets sales at Clothesline, Trinity & Kish's  
Or online at: Facebook Eventbrite  
Sponsored by:

**Owatonna Foundation**

Supporting community progress

preserving  
the past

building  
the present

funding  
the future

**Apply for a Nontraditional Scholarship**

Are you pursuing or do you plan to pursue a technical, non-four year program at a technical or community college? If so, apply for a traditional or nontraditional scholarship. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$3,000 each.

**Nontraditional Scholarship Criteria**

- Applicant has an Owatonna mailing address or has worked at an Owatonna business for at least the past two years.
- Applicant is a high school graduate or possesses a GED. Individuals who have already been accepted to a technical or community college program without a high school diploma or GED may apply.
- Graduated from high school prior to or with the class of 2015. If not a high school graduate, the class from which the applicant should have graduated never have been prior to or the class of 2015.

**Scholarship Deadlines:** October 25, 2015 and June 25, 2016

**Applications available on the Foundation website:**  
<http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/apply-for-a-scholarship/>

Owatonna Foundation  
108 West Park Square  
PO Box 642  
Owatonna, MN 56009

Email: [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org)  
507-455-2995  
<http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/>

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