youth tour connection

Steele-Waseca accepting applications for 2019 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

C teele-Waseca Cooperative Electric D is accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores or juniors for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the 2019 Youth Tour, June 15-20.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Participating cooperatives sponsor a member student(s) to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives and our government, tour historical sites, and have fun meeting new friends from Minnesota and other delegates from across the nation.

To be eligible, the entrant must meet the following requirements:

1. The entrant is currently a high school sophomore or junior, and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) are a Steele-Waseca member. Dependents of Steele-Waseca employees or directors are not eligible to participate. 34406

2. All entries must include: a) the completed application form below; b) answers to both essay questions typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper; c) applicant's school and community information typed on a separate sheet of paper; and d) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor or administrator, and the other from a church or community leader).

3. Return entries to: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour 2019, PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca's office on or before Friday, Feb. 22, 2019. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Friday, March 22, 2019.

community. Answer in 300 words or

School and Community Infor-

mation (use a separate sheet of paper

• All school activities – include let-

ters and honors earned, positions

• All community activities – include

all church, community service and

• Work experience and any other in-

MREA is requiring that each participating cooperative's delegate(s)

report to the Crowne Plaza Airport lo-

cated at 3 Appletree Square in Bloom-

ington for an orientation session on Sat-

afternoon flight to Washington, D.C.,

will follow the orientation session.

to list the following):

held, etc.

positions held.

formation.

less.

Each entry will be evaluated by a panel of judges for:

- completeness
- composition
- neatness
- ability to communicate

school and community activities

Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca's delegate to Youth Tour 2019? What do you hope to gain from the experience? Answer in 150 words or less.

2. Write a short essay on what com- urday, June 15, presently at 11 a.m. An mitment to community means to you. Include how you contribute to your



Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2019 — June 15-20

Name	M or F	Phone		
Addressstreet	city	state	zip	county
Email address	_ Parent(s) or	Guardian(s) _		
I am currently a high school sophomore jun <u>Parent/Guardian consent</u> : I/we hereby give my/our dependent Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2019 Contest. I/we understand is transportation to the Crowne Plaza Airport in Bloomington and	high school so if he/she wins, l	n/daughter per l/we will be res	mission to er ponsible for	providing his/her ow
Name(s)	SWC	E account # _		
8 sparks • j	anuary 2019			

50

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ **Capital Credit Refund**

Please check this month's billing statement for your 2018 capital credit refund. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please call Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric during regular business hours.

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inside connections

- **2** Manager Connection
- **3** SWCE town hall meeting in Lonsdale Resolutions for saving energy
- Cookin' Connection 4 SWCE community solar update
- Stray voltage questions 5 Downed power line safety Winter driving survival kit Be mindful of using DOXO to pay your SWCE bill
- 6 Ad Connection
- **4-Seasons Vacations** Ad Connection
- Average prices for residential electricity
- Tour application

calendar of events

January

- New Year's Day SWCE office is closed
- 17 Benjamin Franklin's b-day
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day



2019.

Waseca includes:

2. Applicants must be dependents of a Steele-Waseca member.

Each participating school is respon-Great River Energy retiring capital credit equity for first time in 2019

investment. Electric.

"The new year signals the start of a different financial era for Great River Energy," said GRE Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. "Not only will we return patronage capital to our membership, the rates members pay for electricity are holding

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8 2019 Washington, D.C. Youth



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🖈

January 2019

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric scholarships awarded to qualified high school graduates in 2019

Dis awarding scholarships to qualified high school seniors graduating in

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded at each participating school. Scholarship eligibility required by Steele-

1. Applicants must currently be high school seniors, who will be continuing their education on a full-time basis at a two- or four-year technical school or college.

C teele-Waseca Cooperative Electric sible for administering any other eligibility requirements, the selection of their school's Steele-Waseca scholarship recipient, and the disbursement of the scholarship dollars from Steele-Waseca.

All eligible high school seniors should contact their guidance counselor or scholarship administrator for more information. 27110

Tn 2018, Steele-Waseca awarded scholarships to 15 high school senior graduates. The co-op's scholarship program has awarded \$166,750 since the program was established in 1954. A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity.

As a member of a cooperative, you get a voice, a vote and occasionally some money back. When members pay their electric bills, they become part owners of the business. When business is good, members get a return on that

The same principles apply to Great River Energy (GRE), which is a cooperative owned by 28 other cooperatives including Steele-Waseca Cooperative

Great River Energy expects to reach 20 percent equity at the end of 2018, achieving a goal set decades ago. As a result, GRE will, for the first time in its 20-year history, return patronage capital, or cash back, to its member-owner cooperatives in 2019.



steady.'

Great River Energy's average 2019 wholesale rate will decline 0.4 percent over the budgeted 2018 rate. The longterm outlook has improved as well. GRE projects rates to increase less than 0.5 percent annually over the next 10 vears.

This improved financial outlook is the result of sustained strong results stemming from cost-saving measures and strategic decisions to position Great River Energy's generation portfolio. The exit of two coal-based power supply contracts and the retirement of Stanton Station have provided long-term rate relief for cooperative members.

"We have an important job for the (GRE 2019 budget continued on Page 7)



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485 Owatonna MN 55060-0485 ution is an equal opportunity provider and employ

Website: <u>www.swce.coop</u> Email: <u>swce@swce.coop</u> **Find us on Facebook** Email: swce@swce.coop Fax: 507-446-4242

Board of Directors

PJ Duchene	. District
Geraldine Lienke	. District 2
Duane Edwardson, <i>Chaplain</i>	. District 3
Dennis Ringhofer	. District 4
Rodney Krell	. District 5
Gary Wilson	. District 6
President, GRE Director	
John Beal, Vice President	. District 7
Ronald Sommers	
Assistant Secretary/Treasu	rer
Renee Malecha	. District 9
Secretarv/Treasurer	

Management

Syd Briggs General Manager

Division Managers

Darla DeVries	Office
David Lundberg	Finance
Kim Huxford	Operations

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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 **Ouestions 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 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

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



hope your holidays have been safe and blessed with special memories.

In my stage of life, and having children and grandchildren in various parts of the country, I am thankful for the advances in technology that have made it possible for and request a form be mailed to you. face-to-face conversations at a moment's notice. Even if some of my family is just "down the road," it is always great to take advantage of our opportunities for a convenient "show and tell" about experiences in life.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric continues to evolve its use of technology to add conveniences for our members.

app available through Steele-Waseca's website, <u>swce.coop</u>, for our member's smart mobile devices. Among the services available include viewing your current bill, making payments, and viewing your 24-month usage history.

Advances have been made this year to utilize the co-op's website to report and/or view outages in our service area. Although we encourage the use of social media to stay in touch, please use our website, instead of Facebook, to report outages. Our website is tied into our outage management software and will communicate with us much faster.

As for making payments, Steele-Waseca continues to accept payments by mail, phone, over-the-counter, dropbox Owatonna), automatic payments through vour checking or savings account, or through your credit or debit card account whether it is a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover.

In addition, if you register your account through Steele-Waseca's website, you can pay your monthly bill online using the means of payment mentioned above.

With the number of usernames and passwords individuals maintain in our digital world, it does happen that we have a member forget their information. If you need a quick fix to your situation, on our website, move your cursor over "MEMBERS," and click on "Quick Pay." All you need is at least three numbers sparks • january 2019

from your Steele-Waseca account, and the name on the account to proceed with making a payment.

I earlier mentioned about our auto pay options. If you're not comfortable with operating a computer, or don't have access to one, and would like to avoid mailing or calling the co-op to pay your Steele-Waseca bill by the due date, signing up for auto pay becomes a convenient option.

The auto pay forms may be downloaded from the co-op's website, or you may call Steele-Waseca during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Steele-Waseca needs to have your signature on the auto pay form you wish to utilize. By signing up for auto pay, you don't have to remember to call Steele-Waseca to make your payment, you don't have to utilize a postage stamp for mailing it and worry whether it will arrive to our office by the due date. You do need to remember to write the amount in your check register. In 2018, the co-op made available a free In addition, you will still receive a hard copy of your Steele-Waseca statement. You can tell if your account is setup for auto pay by looking at the third line down from the top of your statement, on the far right side. It will signify your auto pay participation.

For those wishing to extend their electronic participation with billing, there are options. Once you're in your account information, click on "Alerts". There will be a list of customer service program options. 1002982

The notifications include when your bill is available to view online, your payment and when it posts to your account, a due soon notification will notify you a few days prior to the bill's due date if your payment hasn't been received. A (located near the flagpole at our office in due now notification will alert you on the due date that your payment has yet to be received, and a delinquent notification will alert you if your account is past due.

You may click on any or all of the boxes adjacent to their respective notification, then enter your email address for each one selected. Once completed, click on "Update," and you have finished your email notification registration.

★ s technology evolves, Steele-Wase-A ca is prepared to introduce those conveniences to benefit our members' experience with the co-op.

ad connection

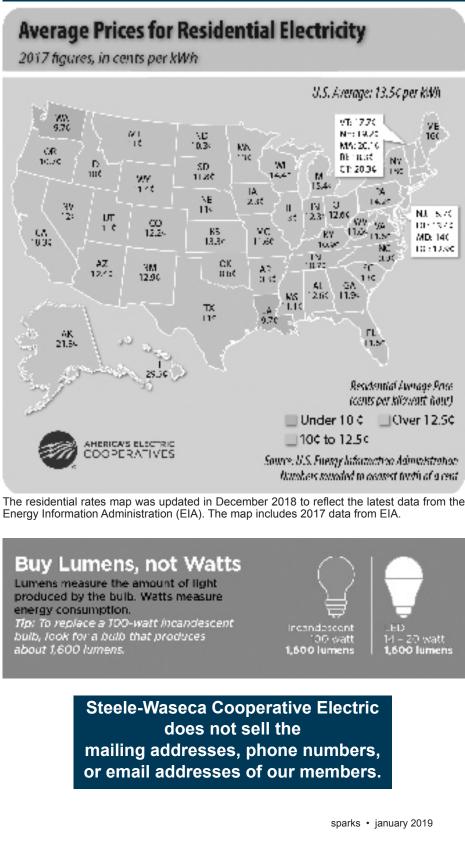
(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

(3) SNOWBLOWERS: Craftsman, 5-hp, 22", \$65; Craftsman, 7-hp, 24", \$80; Murray, 8-hp, 27", \$165all in gd working cond. & elec. start. 952-652-2933.

WHIRLPOOL DISHWASHER, 24" wide, 34" high, 24" deep, cream/buff color, used, incl. manual, \$40. 213-0059

(9) FEEDER CATTLE: (4) @ 600 lb. & (5) @ 400 lb 444-9347

451-0653



CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; (3) DOWNHILL ROSSI-GNOL SKIS; (2) ELEC. BASEBOARD HEATERS. 220V (all vry well priced to sell). 470-262-7696

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

HERCULES: THE LEGENDARY JOURNEYS, seasons 1-5 on DVD, new/never opened w/seal, \$100. EVENT VENUE DATES AVAIL. 2019/2020, rural Waldorf 327-7047

USED ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO & TRUCK PARTS, we'll pay for used batt. 332-2300

WINCO PORT. GENERATOR, PTO w/cart, 15,000watts, 65-amps, 110- & 230-volts, 456-3084

NH 489 HAYBINE, 581-0470

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 inemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto

(GRE 2019 budget continued from Page 1)

members at the end of the line, and our employees take that responsibility seriously," Strobel said. "Great River Energy is strong today because of hard work and wise decisions we have made in the best interest of our membership.'

GRE's member revenue requirement for next year is budgeted at \$819.8 million, \$30.5 million lower than the 2018 budget. This is primarily the result of expected savings in operations and maintenance spending.

reat River Energy's 2019 budget includes G\$95 million of spending for new capital projects and a total capital spending budget of \$179 million.

(Town hall meeting continued from Page 3) cians.

Briggs concluded with a presentation on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Program which is bringing power to parts of the world living without electricity. Steele-Waseca makes a yearly donation toward the program.

Among the questions asked by those in attendance included participation in the co-op's water heater program, and the co-op's liability if a member's appliances or electronic devices are damaged due to a power outage or power surge. Whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, animals, or other vehicles hitting power poles, these events are all out of Steele-Waseca's control, and the co-op does not compensate for any damaged equipment. However, most homeowner's insurance policies cover losses from power interruptions caused by weather. Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered; call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage and/or deductible. The co-op's insurance provider covers Steele-Waseca in an event where the co-op is directly responsible for causing damage to a member's equipment. 1069952

The next round of town hall meetings will **I** be tentatively scheduled during early Spring 2019. Specific dates and locations have yet to be finalized. Members are notified by a postcard mailed to their billing address.

ad connection

give away

DEAD TREES to be taken down. 744-2709.

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

wanted

CHAIN-LINK FENCE, 744-2873.

HAY FOR HORSES, round bales or large sg.; POST POUNDER for rent or purchase, 651-260-9225.

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

for sale

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1988 BASS TRACKER BOAT. 18'. trailer. 150-hp Johnson; 2000 FORD F-350, 4x4, crew, V10 w/ Hiniker plow: (3) JD 7" LASER RIP PTS, new, \$150 for all 3. 612-290-2835

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

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

SELF-PROPELLED WOOD SPLITTER, needs gas tank, portable, \$2500. 363-2015 or 213-6992.

TORO 624 SNOWBLOWER, 5.5-hp, 4-cyl. engine, 21" cut, elec. start, gd shape, \$125; (2) FISH HOUS-ES, suitcase style canvas, both like new cond., \$200/ ea./firm. 465-9918 before 8 p.m.

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

ProForm CROSS TRAINER TREADMILL, has incline & some pgms, exc. cond., \$100. 451-8722.

AALADIN HOT WATER PRESS. WASHER, used, 4 gpm @ 3000 psi, 220V, single phase, 4-wheel, \$3295; VAL 6 DAYSTAR RADIANT HEATER, new, \$1195. 583-2703

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

(4) FIRESTONE DESTINATION TIRES, P235/ 60R17, gd shape, \$60. 451-1749.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

BELSAW 905 13" HVY DUTY PLANER w/new set of blades, \$150; RIDGID R4330 13" TABLETOP PLANER w/new set of blades, \$100. 330-5503.

MINI STORAGE UNITS. Blmg Prairie, 456-2957.

FORCED AIR HEATER, Knipco-type, 100,000 Btu; LP AIR FORCE HEATER; KEROSENE RADIANT HEATER, (all 3 \$100) 451-0996

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

MOHAIR (ANGORA GOAT) WOOL & ALPACA FI-BER; YARNS, ROVING, BATS, WASHED FIBER & RAW FLEECES. 832-392-1587/cell

50-GAL. STEEL FUEL TANK w/Gasboy 12V pump: HAND OIL PUMP, fits 5-gal. pail w/hose; FRONT BUMPER HITCH for Ford 9N. 8N. or 2N tractor: D17 FRNT TIRE RIMS; 100-LB. ANVIL, nice. 456-0259.

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

ROUND LIGHT FIXTURE, new; VANITY LIGHT; TRIMLINE 2450 TREADMILL, like new; MICRO-WAVE for above stove, great cond. 993-9176.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

MF 2705 TRACTOR: PRONTO PWR WHEEL-CHAIR exc cond best offer 475-2322

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale.

CHICKEN EGGS, farm fresh, delivery avail. depending on location, \$2/dozen. 456-1617/call or text.

SONY HT-CT780 TV SOUNDBAR w/wireless subwoofer, \$175. 456-2060.

VAUGHN RECTANGULAR TUBE LOADER w/trip snow bucket (straight), off JD 50 tractor, \$250/obo. 685-4251

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS, charcoal gray ext., gray & blk int., 47-mpg, clean car, clean title, vry reliable, 76,000 mi., \$9895. 491-4565.

FIREWOOD, mostly oak, sugar maple, & ash, split well & dried a yr, 20" or less in length, \$100/truckload. 332-7590.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by January 7 to ensure being printed in the February 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 7th will be printed in the March issue.

☐ For Sale	Wanted	Give Away
·		
Phone #	Account	#
	CE, PO Box 485, Owatonn 4242 or email your ad to: sr	
6		sparks • january 2019

JIFFY ICE AUGER, \$150, 451-7837

ROUND GRASS HAY BALES. 4x5: 1975 GMC. 2whl drive. 3/4 w/454 engine. \$3500/obo. 451-5131.

ITALIAN LEATHER COUCH, dark brown, 88x36, like new, non-smoking home, \$500. 213-8438 call/txt.

PLASTIC BARRELS; 2-WHEEL TRAILERS, 4x8 & 7x13; LP TANKS; GARAGE LP HEATER, 80,000 Btu; ELEC. HEATERS. 664-9426

1984 FORD CARGO VAN, insulated, runs great, gd rubber, 6-cyl., 4-spd manual, PS, great for hauling ice house, firewood, etc., \$1288. 213-8823.

LIGHTED BEER SIGNS; RECORD ALBUMS; WOODEN WAGON WHEEL HUBS; WILDLIFE PRINTS: PICTURE FRAMING MATERIAL: WOOD SHELVING. 612-827-6575.

1949 MH 22 & 1950 MH 44, all completely rebuilt, all new radiators, tires, rims, immaculate show-room cond. 605-772-4541

OMC 282 HAY SWATHER, 12' head, \$500; 2006 YAMAHA GRIZZLY, 4x4, \$600/obo. 213-1277.

ANTIQUE ROUND OAK WOOD BURNER (C20), approx. 5' high & 2' round, fancy scrolling outside, firebox is gd, \$350/obo. 446-8866.

2000 POLARIS 500 XC SNOWMOBILE, high performance twin, 2130 mi., like new cond., \$1500. 451-8744

LUM & ABNER CLASSIC VOLUMES 1, 2, & 7, 9-CDs in each vol., \$10/each set. 451-5456 > 5 p.m.

ShoreStation 36108 BOAT LIFT, has wheel kit, no canopy, alum., \$1250. 951-2568.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK. Feb. 11-18, 2019 By motor coach, 7-nights hotel, 13 meals, Dallas BJ Ranch, San Antonio city tour, Oklahoma Me norial & more! Starting at \$1,399 pp, 2 per room

MINN. TWINS SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA March 7-17. By motor coach, 10-nights hotel, 1 neals, 3 Twins training tickets, Nashville highligh tour & Grand Ole Opry. \$1,999 pp, 2 per room.

SAVANNAH—SOUTHERN CHARM AT ITS BEST March 29-April 6. By motor coach, 7-nights hote 11 meals, St. Louis Arch, Gospel Dinner Cruise tour of Savannah. \$1,599 per person, 2 per room

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17-21. Includes airfare, 4 nights, meals incl. Guided tours of D.C., Arling ton. Mt Vernon. WWII. Korean. Vietnam & Lincol Memorials, & more. Starts at \$1,649 pp, 2 per rm.

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



Strong turnout for town hall

meeting in Lonsdale One hundred fifty-eight members, spouses, family and/or friends attended the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric town hall meeting, Nov. 8, at the Lonsdale American Legion.

member connection

The meeting invited members from Wheatland, Webster, Upper Bridgewater, Northfield, Bridgewater, Forest, Erin, Shieldsville, and Wells townships in Rice County; and Kilkenny Township in LeSueur County representing portions of Districts 1, 7, 8, and all of

Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs moderated the meeting. He presented information on cooperatives' seven principles, Steele-Waseca's operating margins, and the co-op's practice of retiring capital credits, and returning that equity to current and past members having service through Steele-Waseca during those years being retired.

Briggs highlighted the co-op's newest renewable energy program, POWRE (Power Optimized With Renewable Energy; pronounced power) for members wishing to produce their own renewable energy. The program is a 10-year contract with Steele-Waseca and the member with incentives for renewable energy projects built to program production specifications. Members seeking additional information are encouraged to contact Steele-Waseca's Steve Nordahl.

Attendees were presented information regarding ACRE (Action Committee for Rural Electrification), and how participation provides support to elected officials who support legislation keeping electricity reliable and affordable for rural electric cooperatives.

Briggs demonstrated the conveniences for members wishing to download the co-op's free app available through Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, for your smart mobile devices. Among the services available include viewing your current bill, making payments, and viewing your 24-month usage history.

Steele-Waseca Line Supervisor Dan Meier detailed the co-op's Geographic Information System technology that allows the co-op to have quicker response to outages, determine overhead or underground service at a particular location, which is allowing for more efficiency for Operations and line techni-

(Town hall meeting continued on Page 7)

- home.

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



10 RESOLUTIONS FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEW YEAR

The new year is a time for starting over. If you're looking for a change that can benefit your family, your community and the entire planet, how about saving energy? As you begin the countdown to 2019, make a pledge to:

10. Turn off lights when you're the last one to leave a room. 9. Switch to energy-efficient, longer lasting LED bulbs. 8. Have your heating and cooling system inspected by a quali-

fied professional. 7. Change furnace filters regularly according to manufacturer's instructions.

6. Adjust the thermostat to save energy at night or when no one's

5. Unplug battery chargers when they're not charging anything. 4. Take shorter showers.

3. Fix water leaks as guickly as possible.

2. Install water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators.

1. Purchase only Energy Star® certified high-efficiency appliances and devices.

it's no secret that New Year's resolutions are hard to keep. Just stick with it. The savings you'll start seeing on your monthly energy bills should be enough to keep you going all year.

Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?

cookin' connection **Mint Dazzler**

Lorraine Mueller

Janesville

2 c. graham crackers (crushed)	3 eggs	
1/4 c. melted butter	3 oz. chocolate (melted)	
1/2 c. butter	1 c. whipping cream	
1 1/2 c. powdered sugar	8 oz. pkg miniature marshmallows	
1/2 c. red and white peppermint candy (crushed)		

Spread graham crackers and melted butter into 9x13 pan. Bake for 15 minutes in 350° oven. Beat until thick like frosting: butter, powdered sugar, eggs, and melted chocolate. Pour chocolate mixture over crumbs. Whip whipping cream. Fold in marshmallows and pour over chocolate mixture. Top with crushed red and white peppermint candy. Chill until serving time.

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 15 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during November 2018. 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.

December issue of Sparks



Numbers found: No members found their number Numbers not found: Steven/Misae Gare Kevin M. Quinlan Gretta J. Lageson Christopher/Kara Walderon Jonathan D. Calcamuggio



sparks • january 2019

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 13month history of your account.

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• 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.

• November temps – The average high temperature for November was 33° F. while the average low was 20° F. This resulted in 1,159.5 Heating Degree Days and 0 Cooling Degree Days. They compare to last year's average high of 43° F and average low of 24° F, which resulted in 955 5 HDDs and 0 CDDs

• ENERGY STAR[®] Rebates – All ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) 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 swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• SWCE'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



Be safe Stay clear of downed power lines

NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE. Always assume it is energized and call 911 immediately.

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a the line itself.
- help arrives.

Be mindful of using DOXO to pay your Steele-Waseca electric bill

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members are being reminded that www. DOXO.com is not affilliated with the co-op. A member recently called the Steele-Waseca office regarding DOXO's payment portal. This is a third party payment processing site that mails a check to Steele-Waseca when you make a payment through their website. As such, the payment is not immediate and may be delayed, resulting in late payment charges to you if not received by the due date. Please make sure you are making your payment through the Steele-Waseca website at www.swce.coop for immediate credit to your account. 1079816

assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area

downed power line. It is as dangerous as

• If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until

Making a Winter Driving Survival Kit

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items

- Small candles and matches
- Small, sharp knife and plastic spoons
- Red bandanna or cloth
- Pencil and paper
- Large plastic garbage bag
- Safety pins
- Whistle
- Snacks
- Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter
- Plastic flashlight and spare batteries

Reverse batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout. Warm batteries before using them. Store safety items in the passenger compartment when severe winter weather threatens in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut. Choose small packages of food that you can eat hot or cold.

Suggested food items:

- Raisins in small packets
- Semi-sweet chocolate in pieces for sharing
- Miniature candy bars
- Chewing gum
- Wrapped hard candies
- Food bars
- Canned soup, meat and poultry

Store bulky and heavy items in an accessible place:

- 30-foot cord to use as homing line when you must exit the vehicle
- Booster cables
- Basic tools
- Sand, cat litter or other grit in a plastic milk carton
- Shovel
- Tow cables or chain
- Sleeping bag or blankets
- Road flares and reflectors
- Snowmobile suit and heavy boots

Emergency Phone Calls

If you become stranded in any part of Minnesota, and you have a cell phone, call 911 to summon help. In other states, you may be able to dial 911 or 0 to reach an operator. When you talk with authorities:

- Provide information on your location, condition of all persons in the vehicle and the problem you are experiencing
- Follow instructions; you may be told to stay where you are and wait for rescuers
- Do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next
- If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see

Minnesota Department of Public Safety **Homeland Security and Emergency Management**