

member connection

(Proposed legislation continued from Page 7)  
*Learning as we go*

Steele-Waseca and Great River Energy believe energy policies should consider potential impacts on the cost and reliability of electricity, in addition to environmental outcomes. Reliability concerns are especially important in Minnesota, where weather extremes can stress the electric grid for longer periods of time. 65700

For instance, GRE's power plants played a critical role in ensuring electric system reliability during the coldest part of the January polar vortex when there was very little wind energy available.

*Electric utilities on track*

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's January 2019 report entitled, "Greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota: 1990-2016," the electric utility sector is the only sector on track to achieve state goals for emissions reductions.

Annual Cogeneration Notification to Membership

In compliance with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's (SWCE's) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, SWCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. SWCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the SWCE Board. Interested members should contact SWCE, 2411 W. Bridge St., PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060-0485, or call 507-451-7340 or toll-free 800-526-3514.

17th Annual Meatball Dinner

Sunday, Apr. 28, 2019  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Community Lutheran Church  
106 3rd St. SE, Geneva

Everyone Welcome!

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

Free Will Donation

\$1 raffle donation available to win a beautiful homemade quilt.

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not sell the mailing addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses of our members.

(Promotion starts April 1, 2019)

SOME CALL THIS OFFER COOL.  
OTHERS CALL IT HOT.  
WE SAY, IT'S BOTH.

Cool and heat your home with an energy-saving, ductless air source heat pump  
AND receive a HOT promotional rebate!

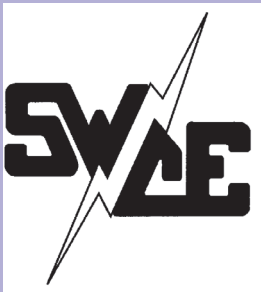
Heating Source	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Delivered fuels	\$100	\$225
Electric heat	\$200	\$375

Contact Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to learn more

Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

ENERGY WISE MN



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

April 2019

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calendar of events

April

- 8 NRECA Nat'l Lineworker Appreciation Day
- 11 MN Tornado Drill Day
- 13 Thomas Jefferson's b-day
- 15 Income tax filing deadline
- 19 Good Friday 26274  
SWCE office is closed
- 21 Easter
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Administrative Professionals Day
- 26 Audition deadline for singing national anthem at SWCE annual meeting
- 30 Vietnam War ended in 1975

SAVE THE DATE

Northfield's 10th Perennial

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Building Resilience: Water, Land, Food, Energy, Transportation, and Waste

Saturday, April 27  
Armory Square

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Nominating Committee announce board director candidates for 2019

The Nominating Committee for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has announced their selection of candidates for the board of director seats up for election in Districts 2, 4, and 6 at this year's annual meeting, Tuesday, June 4.

The committee met Nov. 14, 2018, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna. Cooperative Attorney Eric Mattison reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in the bylaws. He also discussed in detail policies regarding the activities and conduct of individual board members, qualifications for eligibility for service on the board, the director election filing form and affirmation of director qualifications, and questions concerning qualifications for director.

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

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

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

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

The Nominating Committee conducted their second meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the co-op's headquarters in Owatonna.

Mattison reviewed director duties, standard of conduct policy, and qualifications for eligibility for service on the board policy.

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

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates will be on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca's 83rd annual meeting, June 4, 2019, at the cooperative's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna:

• **District 2:** Jerome A. Haley, Waseca; and Incumbent Geraldine G. Lienke, Janesville.

• **District 4:** Incumbent Dennis C. Ringhofer, Owatonna.

• **District 6:** Incumbent Gary W. Wilson, Owatonna.

A profile of each candidate will appear in the May 2019 Sparks newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations closing at that time.

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of the following Steele-Waseca members: District 2—Lester/Jane Kroeger, Waseca; Peter Rohe, Faribault; and Wayne/Mae Maas, Faribault; District 4—Doug/Cindy Finch, Owatonna; Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; and Pete/Melissa Bauer, Nerstrand; District 6—Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and Guy/Barb Jarvi, Webster.







ad connection

give away

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

wanted

BANTY HENS. 363-3975.

HEATED WAREHOUSE/SHOP to operate a farm supply business, 10-15 mi. radius of Owat. would be ideal, needs to be at least 1000 sq. ft & heated water supply would be nice. 456-1617/Brandon.

LIVESTOCK TRAILER, used, sm. to med. sized. 456-7392/call or txt.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS, 18.4-38, 26" wide & 14' long laid out. 456-8094.

BARN OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to repurpose the lumber; OLD TIN & SIGNS. 330-0258/Tim.

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

CUSTOM ACRES TO PLANT/HARVEST, corn or soybeans. 380-8044/Tim.

SEASONAL DRIVERS w/CDL, Hazmat, Tanker, clean driving record w/pre-employment drug test, flexible hrs, gd pay. 774-9730.

for sale

2002 DODGE DURANGO SLT, V8, 4.7L, 4x4, blk, AT, 4-door, clean title, 169,857 mi., \$2700/obo/cash. 835-2814/leave message.

105-ACRES in Wells Twsp, great land, \$7500/acre or 25-acre parcel for \$189,000. 301-9694.

SKID STEER BUCKETS; 26' FLATBED DECK-OVER TRAILER, steel deck, \$4700; 1999 GRAND PRIX 3800, V6, \$1100. 402-7679.

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

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR HAULING NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

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

☐ 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

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.

REDBALL 90' SPRAYER, 1200-gal., triple tips, rinse tank, foamer, 440 Raven, 380/90-46 tires, vry clean, always shedded. 461-0898.

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

AIRGUN DESIGNS MINIMAG PAINTBALL GUN & many accessories, exc. cond., \$325. 456-2060.

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

'88 WHEEL HORSE 314A HYDRO, 42" cut garden tractor, new batt. 838-8870 after 4:30 p.m. wkdays.

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

REAR BUMPER, new, for 2002 Chev. pickup, \$150. 330-3303.

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

GERMAN SHEP. PUPS located in Owat., (5) F, (1) M, \$550/ea. 651-214-6372/Amber.

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

ALL AMERICA PRESSURE WASHER, used, 3 gpm@2000 psi, 230V, single phase, temp. control, new TC1809 pump, hot water, \$2395. 583-2703.

ITALIAN OR CARNIOLAN HONEYBEE PACK- AGES, 2- or 3-lb., call for prices, April delivery, will deliver in Owat. 456-0753.

LIGHTED BEER SIGNS; COLLECTABLE BEER MUGS, GLASSES, PITCHERS, SCHOONERS; WOOD SHELVES & SHELVING; VINTAGE POST- CARDS. 612-827-6575.

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

ON-SITE GRAIN BIN AERATION DYNAMIC FAN BALANCING & VIBRATION TROUBLESHOOTING, [www.cmtechnicalservices.com](http://www.cmtechnicalservices.com). 634-3409/Chuck.

MINI STORAGE UNIT FOR RENT in Ellendale. 456-1460.

2005 CHEROKEE 28' PULL-TYPE TRAVEL TRAIL- ER, sleeps (8), (2) slide outs & awning, exc. cond. 451-8722.

CHOC. BROWN LAB, purebred, M. 421-8735.

2010 JAYCO 26' STARCRAFT BUNKHOUSE- STYLE CAMPER, exc. cond., climate controlled w/ heater & air, \$9900. 451-7571.

JD 1000 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 24.5' w/3-bar harrow; 190-BU. GRAVITY WAGON. 465-8483.

30-DOZEN REG. TOP QT CANNING JARS, \$4/doz. 838-2646.

PORTABLE STORAGE: 20' & 40' containers, store your stuff on your property, rodent- & moisture-proof. 612-418-4375.

CLASSIC WOODEN TOBOGGAN, extra long, \$150; WOODEN GUN CASE, holds (6) guns, drawer for ammo, \$40. 213-8823.

'75 CHEVY C65 TANDEM DIESEL TRUCK, reliable; '38 FORD PICKUP, custom restored in gray premier; 2008 FORD TAURUS TRANSMISSION; GRASS- HOPPER LAWN MOWER, newer motor. 327-3626.

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

2-BDRM APARTMENT FOR RENT in Ellendale, ground level, all appliances incl., no smoking, no pets, \$600/mth. 456-8931.

2015 50TH ANNIV. FORD MUSTANG, orange w/blk leather interior, 6-spd man. transmission, 5.0L, 7500 mi., never seen rain or snow. 612-590-2034.

SHOREMASTER BOAT LIFT, 2500-lb. winch motor, new canopy, French Lk. \$2900. 334-6362.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

PELLA TULIP FEST. & BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY, IOWA, May 1-4. Motor coach, 3-nights accomod., 7-meals, guided tours, parade, quilt museum, wine tasting & more. \$629 pp, 2 per rm.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17-21. Includes airfare, 4 nights, meals incl. Guided tours of D.C., Arlington, Mt Vernon, WWII, Korean, Vietnam & Lincoln Memorials, & more. \$1,649 pp, 2 per room.

HEART OF ALASKA, July 11-18. Includes airfare, 7-nights accommodations, 14-meals, Anchorage, Denali National Park, Fairbanks, Valdez & more. \$3,499 per person based on 2 per room.

SUMMER ON THE MISSISSIPPI, July 24-27. Mo- tor coach, 3-nights accomod., 7-meals, daylight cruise on Celebration Belle, tour John Deere Pavil- ion, dinner theater & more. \$679 pp, 2 per room.

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



lineworker connection



National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is recognizing our line technicians for their dedication in serving the cooperative and its mem-ber-owners. The line crew with their Steele-Waseca experience includes (front row kneeling left to right): Line Technician Pete Hines, October 2012; Assistant Foreman Kevin Kjersten, October 2012; Line Technician Adam Davis, July 2013; Line Technician Marshal Madery, September 2016; Line Technician Jake Jablonski, September 2013; Line Technician Carlos Cruz, September 2016; Standing (left to right): Line Foreman Jim Wolters, June 1976; Line Foreman Troy Pederson, June 1999; Line Technician Chad Henderson, July 2015; Assistant Foreman Ben Hrncir, May 2012; Line Foreman Don Bos, May 1991; Assistant Foreman Matt Rohman, May 2007; and Line Foreman Nordean Hartle, June 1992.



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board Resolution (2015): "Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric coopera- tives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives." 1062462



## cookin' connection

### Snicker Apple Salad

Sandi Jones

Faribault

- (1) 3-4 oz. box instant vanilla pudding
- (1) 3-4 oz. box instant butterscotch pudding
- (2) 8 oz. tubs Cool Whip® whipped topping
- 4 large Snickers® bars
- 5 medium to large Granny Smith apples, unpeeled

Defrost Cool Whip as directed on package. Mix both puddings with defrosted Cool Whip. Cut Snickers into small pieces. Add to mixture. Cut apples into bite-size pieces, add to mixture. Refrigerate 2-3 hours.

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 6 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during February 2019. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://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.

## March issue of Sparks

### Numbers found:

No members found their number

### Numbers not found:

Laurie A. Abrahamson  
Donald/Kathleen Ingraham  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Ebenhoh  
William Naughton  
Michael C. Taggart



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

• **February temps** – The average high temperature for February was 20°F, while the average low was 1°F. This resulted in 1,529 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 23°F and average low of 3°F, which resulted in 1,451 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2019, 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](http://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](http://www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com).

## health & safety connection

### Follow Minnesota law when planning for projects that require digging

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

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



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

**GSOC will not locate private facilities,** which means

the homeowner is responsible for hiring a qualified professional to locate their private underground facilities, which comes with a cost to the homeowner. Private underground facilities are those installed behind or after the meter. Also, if overhead distribution lines serve the property and the power is distributed by underground service facilities, those facilities may be considered private. If a homeowner's electric meter is located on the property line, then the electric line from the me-



## Be Safe

Always call before you dig

**CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.**

**IT'S THE LAW.**

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

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

You may also submit your dig information at [gopherstateonecall.org/submit](http://gopherstateonecall.org/submit).



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

ter to the house is considered privately owned and will not be located.

**Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not locate buried lines that are the homeowner's responsibility. The homeowner will need to hire and pay a private locator to determine the location of those buried lines. 1070464**

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

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

**N**o one should ever remove flags before work is completed for the safety of all digging in the area. If you come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area and notify your utility provider.

**Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?**

**Visit Great River Energy's website at [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com) and click on "Load Management"**

**Need a history of controls?  
Click on "History" on the "Load Management" page**