

Steele County Ducks Unlimited
48th ANNUAL FALL DUCK BASH

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Foundation Building @ The Steele County Fairgrounds

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Wear camo or blaze orange for a chance to win a **FREE** gun!!

2 FREE kegs of beer (courtesy of Steele Co. DU Committee)

Sponsor tickets include:

1 entry into the Sponsor drawing, a Duck Buck Pack (\$50 dollar value),
a Sponsor knife, & an invitation to the 2021 Sponsor Member's Dinner Banquet

COVID-19 UPDATE:

- Event is limited to the first 250 attendees (pre-registrations given preference)
- Due to the Governor's Executive Order, attendees must bring/wear a mask

Single's Ticket.....	\$45
Couple's Ticket.....	\$65
Sponsor Membership.....	\$300
Sponsor Couple.....	\$320
Greenwings (Age 17 & Under).....	\$20
DuckBuck Pack (\$55).....	\$50

****\$55 IN DUCK BUCKS PACKS FOR ONLY \$50****

Three ways to order your 2020 Steele County DU Fall Duck Bash tickets:

*Purchase online tickets at www.ducks.org/Minnesota/events

*Call 507-456-5046

*Or mail the completed bottom portion of this form with your payment to:

Steele County Ducks Unlimited
PO Box 226
Owatonna, MN 55060

PLEASE PRINT PHONE NUMBER(S) NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP TRACKING

_____ GREENWING BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$20	\$ _____
_____ SINGLE ADULT BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$45	\$ _____
_____ COUPLE ADULT BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$65	\$ _____
_____ SPONSOR BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$300	\$ _____
_____ SPONSOR COUPLE BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$320	\$ _____
_____ PRE-EVENT RAFFLE TICKET(S) @ \$10	\$ _____
_____ SORRY, I CANNOT ATTEND THE EVENT, \$35 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$ _____
_____ SORRY, I CANNOT ATTEND THE EVENT, \$250 SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DUCKS UNLIMITED)

CREDIT CARD: VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER (CIRCLE ONE)

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ THANK YOU!!!!

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
NAME (spouse)	ADDRESS	PHONE
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
GREENWING NAME	ADDRESS	MONTH & YEAR OF BIRTH

(GRE continued from Page 4)

concluded in January 2019. In the 30 years of operation as a waste-to-energy project, the energy recovery station generated 4.6 million megawatt-hours of renewable energy and processed more than 10 million tons of municipal solid waste. The plant's scheduled demolition is during 2020.

A great place to work

For the second time, Great River Energy was certified as a Great Place to Work, an honor awarded to companies with high-trust and high-performing workplace cultures.

(Remembering Carl Drache continued from Page 6)

warm. They ended up getting warm in a chicken house the next morning before making it back to their truck, where they were found by an area resident on snowmobile. 26323


The other event was on July 18, 1984, when Carl was the crew chief and Debbie Schleicher came up to the crew, working on power lines northwest of Pontoppidan Lutheran Church on County Road 4, to get assistance for her son, Phillip, who was choking on some food and going into convulsions. Carl summoned Lineman Jerry Lewison, who cleaned discharge from the child's mouth and performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the child was able to breathe on his own.

After retiring from Steele-Waseca in July 1997, Carl spent 17 years working part time for Central Valley Co-op in the agronomy division.

Born July 21, 1935, in Owatonna, Carl was the son of Ewald and Mabel (Sabel) Drache. Carl married Marjorie Dalland July 25, 1954, at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

He was a member of the church, American Legion, Elks Club, and Eagles Club. Carl enjoyed fishing and taking trips to Mille Lacs Lake. He loved spending time with his family and cherished the time with his grandkids and great grandchildren.

Carl is survived by his wife, Marjorie; daughters: Linda (Dale) Jenö, Owatonna; Cathy (Bruce) Reker of Rochester; son, Dennis "Spud" (Linda) Drache, Owatonna; eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were Friday, Aug. 7, at the Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna. 



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

September 2020



2019
Annual
Report

84 Years
Lighting The Way

inside connections

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calendar of events

September

- 7 Labor Day
SWCE office closed
- 11 Patriot Day 19073
- 13 Grandparents Day
- 18 National POW/MIA
Recognition Day
- 22 First day of autumn

National Suicide Prevention Month

SWCE's 84th Annual Meeting Agenda

Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 – 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, Minnesota

Drive-thru Meeting: Enter Steele-Waseca's Bridge Street west driveway; four registration lines available; two exits available (Bridge Street east driveway or 24th Ave.). See map on Page 3.

Preregistration: Call Steele-Waseca's office to preregister at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514; watch for your registration card to arrive in the mail (you will need the card at the Drive-thru Meeting for registration).

Call-in if you would like to volunteer to make motions; see Page 13.

Drive-thru Format: For your safety, please stay in your vehicle and roll down your window at the Drive-thru Meeting. Steele-Waseca employees and board of directors will wear masks and gloves while helping you. Please follow the vehicle in front of you once you arrive, through registration and while guided to the exits on Bridge Street or 24th Ave. (See map on Page 3).

4:30 p.m.: Nominations from the floor. If you wish to nominate a write-in candidate for districts 7, 8, or 9, please come at 4:30 p.m.

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Drive-thru Registration—BRING YOUR PRE-MAILED REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU.

At registration you can expect:

- Show your pre-mailed registration card for scanning and electronic registration to the Steele-Waseca employee assisting you.
- Motions (complete while at registration—see example on Page 13)
- Ballot (complete while at registration).
- Receive a Goody Bag.

Election results will be announced in the upcoming Sparks newsletter, as well as on www.swce.coop.

In lieu of food shelf collections this year, Steele-Waseca will make a financial contribution to the food shelf on the members behalf.
PLEASE DO NOT BRING A FOOD SHELF ITEM THIS YEAR.

Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?

Visit Great River Energy's website at
www.greatriverenergy.com; Click on "Load Management"

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

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

Website: www.swce.coop
Email: swce@swce.coop
Fax: 507-446-4242



Board of Directors

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

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

Darla DeVries *Office*
David Lundberg *Finance*
Dan Meier *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 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

message to our owners



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

As you can see from the title page of this month's *Sparks*, we have scheduled this year's annual meeting for Monday, Sept. 21, 2020, from 5 to 6 p.m. It took a lot of work and coordination to revamp how we conduct the meeting to comply with our Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and state statutes, along with time schedules and COVID-19 requirements. This year, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will be having a "Drive-thru" style meeting to comply with safety and bylaw requirements.

The purpose of this annual meeting remains the same as any annual meeting in the past; to provide information and report on last year's activities and to elect directors. We have provided our audited financials in this edition of *Sparks*, as we do each year, and need to address these reports along with approving last year's minutes with a vote on motions.

You will find a list of motions on Page 13. We will be looking for volunteers to make, and second, the motions during the preregistration process. To help with efficiency of registration, we will be asking those who plan on attending to call in ahead of time. We also will be providing registration cards in the mail that are bar-coded specifically for each member. Please bring these cards with you to be scanned at registration, which should aid in processing each membership as quickly as possible. You should be receiving these registration cards in the mail approximately 10 days prior to the annual meeting. Do not mail these in; just bring them with you to the meeting on Monday, Sept. 21.

At the drive-thru, each member will receive a ballot along with a copy of the motions for voting and turning in at the registration stations. In addition, should anyone wish to nominate a write-in candidate, we will provide a nomination form if requested. To enter any additional names on the ballot as soon as possible, please call ahead of time and make arrangements to be at Steele-Waseca around 4:30 p.m., to turn in the proper paperwork, and we will add the nomination to the ballot. 1019609

As you see from the agenda on Page 1, and the map on Page 3, any member who attends will access the drive-thru facilities from the Bridge Street west driveway. It is probably easier to access our location from the west side of town to make a right turn into the parking lot and avoid turning left

across traffic.

Each vehicle will then proceed through the parking lot and eventually be divided up into four lanes for registration and voting. We will have large canopies set up to provide shade and protection from possible inclement weather.

Everyone who attends will remain in their vehicle the entire time. Our employees and directors will be wearing masks and gloves for your safety as well as theirs, and we encourage all members to wear masks if possible. After turning in the vote on motions and the ballot, each member will be directed to the east side of the property to exit onto 24th Avenue SW, or back onto Bridge St.

In summary:

- The 2020 annual meeting will occur on Monday, Sept. 21.
- Please call 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 ahead of time for preregistration.
- Meeting attendees will remain in their car on Sept. 21.
- Final registration and voting will take place in one stop.

Financially, Steele-Waseca had another good year. Our average number of meters grew from 11,480 in 2018 to 11,505 in 2019, and we experienced a slight decrease in kWh (kilowatt hour) sales overall. However, we reduced operating expenses and recorded an increase in operating margins for the second consecutive year. Our cost of power resulted in a slight decrease while we had a significant decrease in operating expenses of \$820,000, as we temporarily diverted a lot of work to capital expenditures instead of operations and maintenance due to storm reparations. We saw an increase in operating margins of \$918,000, which almost doubled the amount from last year. Equity increased \$2.6 million and long-term debt decreased \$140,000.

Unfortunately this year, we will not be able to provide a meal or ice cream at the drive-thru. However, each member will still receive a Steele-Waseca folder, spatula, the \$30 Power Perks to be used at local member businesses, and the \$50 Energy Star® gift certificate. Personally, I have missed seeing so many of you at our meetings throughout the year, and it will be good to see some of you again even if it is briefly.

Also, if you have any questions about our financials, the election process, or any business at all, we will have an insert in the folder which you can write your questions on and turn in on Sept. 21, or any day after, which I will be more than happy to address. Stay safe and continue to have a great summer.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 14)

GRASS HAY, no rain, 4x5 round bales. 451-5131.

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

2008 20' SUNCHASER PONTOON w/50 hp Yamaha 4-stroke motor, incl. bunk-style trailer, \$10,000/obo. 612-817-3426.

19" WESTINGHOUSE COMPUTER MONITOR, \$50. 456-7757.

6' FIDDLE FIG HOUSE PLANT needs a home. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

74.75 ACRES OF LAND, Property ID# R09.010.0600, Claremont Twsp, serious inquiries only. 259-3309.

1992 JEEP CHEROKEE, 4x4, new tires. 528-2443 after 6 p.m.

1975 CHEVY C65 TANDEM TRUCK, diesel, reliable; **1938 FORD PICKUP**, custom restored in gray premier; **2008 FORD TAURUS TRANSMISSION**. 327-3626.

SPECIALIZED FATBOY F.S. BOY'S BIKE, 20x175, \$100; **HUFFY 6-SPD GIRL'S BIKE**, 20x175, \$40. 330-3178.

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.

Be ready with information when calling in a power outage

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members are reminded if they need to report a power outage, they should also have the following information when making the call:

• **Have you checked your main fuse/breaker?** For most utilities, if the electrical issue is due to an issue on your side of the meter, there is nothing the line crew can do and an electrician will need to be called. If the problem is the main fuse or breaker, you will likely get your power on sooner than later, and possibly avoid a charge to call out a line crew unnecessarily. 1050557

• **What is the 10-digit phone number listed on the account?** The best scenario is to call in your outage from the phone number listed on your Steele-Waseca account. That way your location information is automatically populated in our system and we can efficiently report your outage. In cases where you are not able to call from that number, please have the account's

2006 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR, 178K mi., new tires, recent tuneup, runs great, \$4500/obo. 380-3958.

SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER MACHINE, Weider XC-1, exercise mach. works out arms & legs, \$10. 838-8792.

2018 HEARTLAND GATEWAY 42' CAMPER, sleeps 8, exc. cond., \$35,000; **GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS** from barn, approx. 100, best offer. 213-0059.

2002 FORD F-450, 7.3 diesel, auto trans., runs gd, 14' flatbed w/lift gate, \$4500; **HOMEMADE TANDEM TRAILER** w/home-sawed lumber, \$950. 456-8521.

MASSEY 91 COMBINE w/Chrysler motor, \$150; **MASSEY 2-ROW SELF-PROPELLED CORN PICKER** w/Continental motor, \$200. 952-652-2933.

PINT/QT CANNING JARS, \$3.50/\$4/dozen; **LARGE ARTIFICIAL FLOWERING PLANT**, \$10; **OAK DESK TOPPER**, 5'Lx34"Hx13"W, \$40; **4-DRAWER SEWING MACHINE CABINET**, \$25. 304-0903.

NORWEGIAN TROLL DOGS, puppies occasionally avail. 583-7718.

2012 GEHL 5240E POWER 2 SKID LOADER, cab w/AC/heat, 2265 hrs, 72" bucket, aux. hydraulics, 68-hp Yanmar diesel, \$25,900/obo. 456-3584.

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phone number readily available so your information may be quickly accessed.

• **What is your meter number/account number?** If you are unable to determine the phone number listed on the account, and an address search is not working (or you have multiple accounts with Steele-Waseca), the next best piece of information you can provide is your meter number or account number so your service location can be correctly identified.

• **What is the service description on the account?** If you have multiple accounts, we want to make sure line crew personnel are sent to the correct service location. Is your house, barn, or well out of power? Are all of them out of power? If only one of your accounts/meters are out of power, please make sure to provide the service description for that account/meter.

• **How long have you been without power?** It's not critical that you know

WHITE GAS STOVE, \$100/obo; **1946 FORD STREET ROD**, \$19,900/obo. 332-0264.

HOME-GROWN PORK, halves or whole, processed your way. 455-3740.

(7) **RABBIT CAGES**: 4-stackable, 24"x24"x23"h; 2-blk shallow pan, 30"x16"x20"h; 1-24"x18"x18"h incl. feeders, water btls, cups, heat lamps & bulbs, bedding, but no pans, \$400 for all/obo. 456-9230.

HOUSE FOR RENT, avail. 9/1/20, (2) bdrm, nice, 5 mi. to Owat. 444-9347.

CHEST FREEZER; FULL-SIZE LEATHER COUCH w/horse mirror. 213-7978.

CAB for 180 or 185, \$500; (2) **CHEST FREEZERS**, \$200; **NH 311 BALER** w/kicker, \$4000. 524-4637.

RAT TERRIER X TREEING FEIST, born 6/28/20, blk & white, tails not docked. 465-8593/Brad.

JD 920 FLEX-HEAD FORE & AFT CUTTER BAR in gd shape, \$3000/obo. 250-4428.

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this information, but any details about the outage can be helpful to our line crews.

• **Do you know if your neighbors are out of power too?** This isn't always easy to determine, but if you happen to know if your neighbors are out of power, it helps indicate to line crew personnel where the source of the outage might be.

• **Any odd occurrences before the power went out?** This may not be information you know, but if you notice anything odd happening before the power went out such as blinking lights, a loud bang, etc., is helpful information that can help the line crew identify the cause of an outage.

No one likes it when their power goes out, but working together we can get your power up and running as soon as possible.

(Courtesy: Cooperative Response Center, Inc.)



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Think before you click! Never open any links or attachments from an unfamiliar email address. Scammers use links and attachments to steal personal information and install malicious software on your computer. #StopScams

COMMON UTILITY SCAMS: BOGUS BILLS

Scammers send suspicious emails that include a bill that appears to be from us. Never open these attachments or click links in suspicious emails.

ad connection

give away

WOOD, you cut. 451-2531.

HAMMOND PHOENIX ORGAN w/MDD, plays but needs some work. 688-9608.

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

wanted

LIVE RABBITS, large meat type. 451-9445.

SNOWPLOW, old, beat up (not working?) for my old, beat-up pickup truck. 676-1009.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ pd for cars & trucks. 332-2300.

TO BUY A 2002 OR NEWER FORD RANGER EXT. CAB XLT 4X4, everything works, not much rust, for around \$3000. 446-8866.

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

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

TO RENT AIR-POWERED TOOL to remove nail heads on corrugated steel building. 528-2075.

FENDER for 1954 Massey-Harris 44. 461-1865.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

SEEKING LAWN/YARD WORK JOBS. 651-354-4405/Tim.

BARN KITTENS, preferably calico. 213-8237.

for sale

FIMCO SPRAYER w/ATV attachment & accessories, \$70; SHOP-VAC 20 WET/DRY, 5.5 hp, \$25; SNOW FENCING, best offer; KIRBY G6 VACUUM, \$150; SAFE, fireproof, \$20. 952-261-6601/txt.

BALDOR SUPER E RELIANCER PHASE CONVERTER, 25 hp, 1770 RPM, 230/460 volts, 60/30 amp, mfg in '18, nvr used, \$2500/obo. 272-3672/eve.

MOTOROLA CABLE MODEM + N450 ROUTER, Model MG7315, 8X4 DOCSIS 3.0, used vry little, \$30. 251-7680.

Sparks

Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office **by September 4** to ensure being printed in the October *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 4th will be printed in the November 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.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

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

2008 H-D ULTRA CLASSIC, copper/blk, 9400 mi., FLHTCU/6-spd, \$10,000/obo. 210-2155.

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

STUMP DEER BLINDS, new. 456-1152/Dave or email: vikingwhitetails@gmail.com.

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

(4) AUTUMN BLAZE MAPLE TREES, 8'-10', fast growing, no helicopters, (2) clump, (2) singles, \$40/each. 456-9145.

8-TON WAGON w/250-bu. box & hoist, 9.5L tires, adj. hitch, \$350. 456-7614.

GEHL 750 CHOPPER; HAY & CORN HEAD; GEHL 1540 BLOWER; "95" CADILLAC. 684-3136.

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

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

PATZ BARN CLEANER w/motor, vry gd cond., about 250' of chain, \$300/obo. 323-4362.

CEDAR MAILBOX POST, new, \$15; YAMAHA VINO CLASSIC SCOOTER, silver, like new, 1400 mi., \$1000. 334-3804.

2017 JD 2730 RIPPER, 9-shank on 24" spacing, 18', exc. cond., \$59,000. 573-1129.

2-SLED SNOWMOBILE TRAILER, tilt, new tires, LED lights, \$900. 334-2673.

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. FOR ALL YOUR TRUCKING DELIVERIES: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

2014 CHEVY 3500 DIESEL PICKUP w/8' box, trailer ready, 89,000 mi., \$34,600. 334-7177.

SHOPSMITH MARK V WOODWORKING SYSTEM: lathe, circular saw, band saw, sander, multipurpose tool, \$600. 334-6362.

NH 499 HAYBINE, hyd. swing, \$5500; 14' WOOD BALE THROW WAGON, JD 1015A running gear; NU BUILT GRAVITY WAGON on JD running gear, \$750. 384-8730.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

MISC. WELDING SUPPLIES, new & used. 332-7624.

COMPACT TRACTOR YARD WORK: move rock & dirt, till gardens, have bucket & blade. 451-6046.

ANTIQUE SOLID WOOD DOORS, 32"x79" 5-panel, 32"x79" 2-panel, 30"x77 3/4" 4-panel w/antique door lock, \$50 a piece. 456-2017.

8' PICKUP CAMPER, \$500. 688-3015.

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

GRAVITY WAGON, 180-bu. 465-8483.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, EWE LAMBS & YEARLING EWES, lots of color & quality. 451-2722.

JD 6620 COMBINE; 6-ROW CORN HEAD; A-C 7020 TRACTOR. 583-2026.

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

7# GOLF CART WHEELS & TIRES, lots of tread left, \$100. 491-4565.

7"X60' AUGER w/elec. motor, \$300. 451-2531.

YAMAHA RAPTOR 7000R battery powered kids 4-wheeler, charge doesn't last vry long, \$125; MANX KITTENS, \$50. 475-1989.

GRAIN BIN SHEETS, capacity 8000 bu. 291-0287.

WOMEN'S HD BOOTS, size 6.5, blk. 676-4039.

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

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

QT & PINT CANNING JARS, some blue glass; PINT-SIZE FREEZER CONTAINERS. 451-9550.

2013 WIL-RICH SOILPRO 513, (9) 24" shanks, used only on 3500 acres, vry nice shape, \$41,500. 456-4012.

STEEL GRAIN BINS located near Waseca, 17', 20', & 24' diameters, 7-rings high, you take down & remove, best offer. 461-3006.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 15)

travel

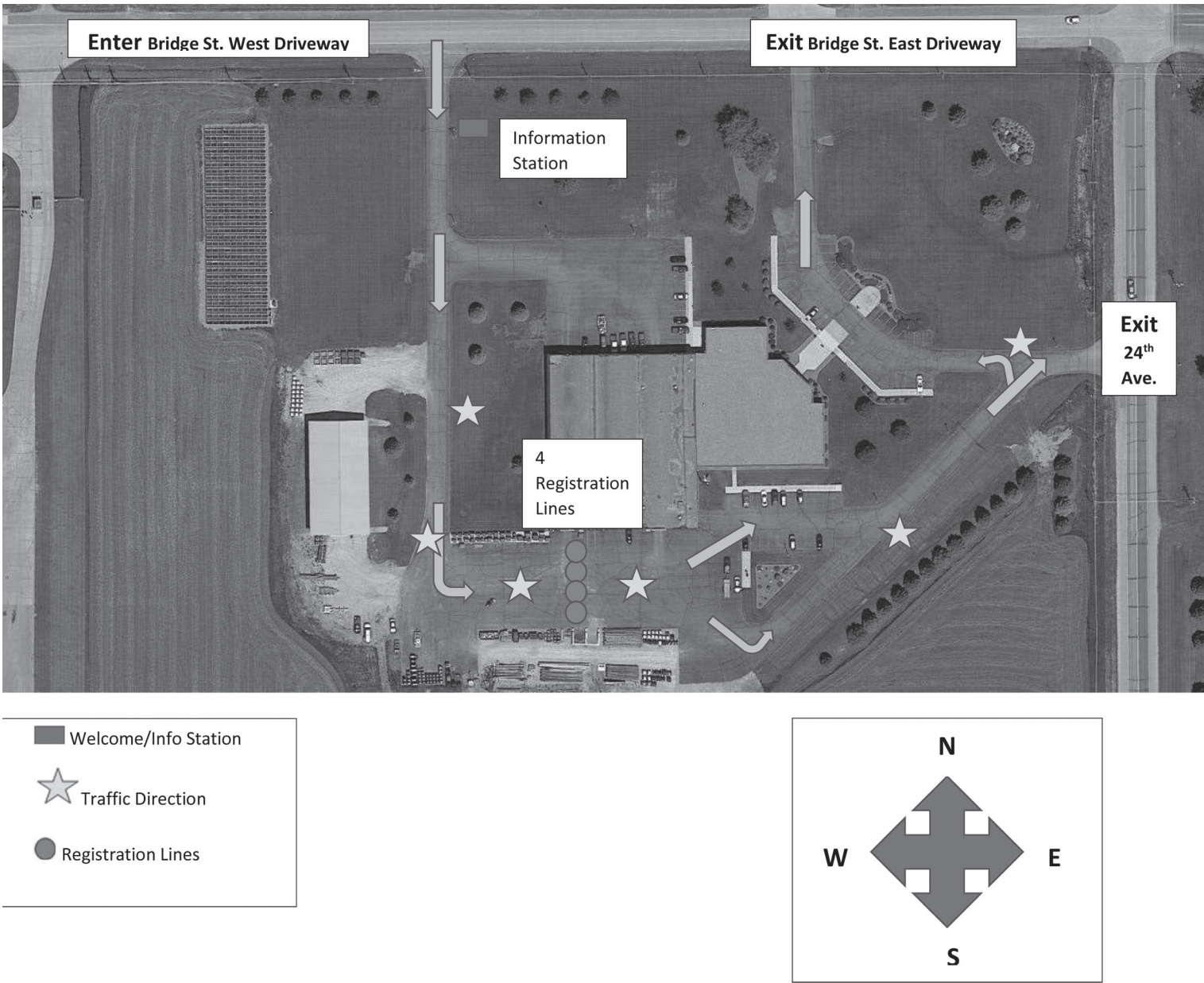
Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 to learn more about their tour information.

4 Seasons

Vacations, Inc.

TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

map connection



The Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors and corporate services include (seated, left to right): Renee Malecha, secretary/treasurer, District 9; John Beal, vice president, District 7; Gary Wilson, president, GRE director, District 6; Ronald Sommers, assistant secretary/treasurer, District 8; and Duane Edwardson, chaplain, District 3. Back row (L-R): Syd Briggs, general manager; Jenifer Shimpach, executive assistant; Dennis Ringhofer, District 4; Rodney Krell, District 5; Geraldine Lienke, District 2; PJ Duchene, District 1; and Eric Mattison, SWCE attorney.

member connection

Wencl feeling great about being part of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's newest Line Technician Collin Wencl (pictured right) described being part of the co-op has been among his professional aspirations.



"My endgame has always been SWCE," wrote Collin. "I was told it's a great place to work by a few of their employees so I made the switch. They were right!"

Wencl joined Steele-Waseca May 4, 2020. With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it was an unusual start at the co-op. "It's been great, considering the unique situation we are all in. It's a little weird when you can't shake hands when you're meeting people on your first day of work. It was honestly awkward. They are a great group of guys and even better at their profession."

Collin's parents are Jason and Crystal Wencl. He has a younger sister, Megan. Collin graduated from Owatonna High School in 2011. He attended Jackson Community & Technical College where he received his Powerline degree. Wencl worked 1,000 hours at Rochester Public Utilities, four years with Watts Electric Company, a contractor out of Waverly, Nebraska; and four years at Owatonna Public Utilities, before joining Steele-Waseca.

When asked about selecting his profession, Collin responded, "I wanted to work outside every day. There's a great deal of pride when we turn the lights back on after a storm and the members really appreciate it."

Collin and his wife, Brittany, reside south of Owatonna. Brittany works for CliftonLarsonAllen in Owatonna.

As for Collin's interests outside of work, "I do a lot of hunting and fishing. I catch a majority of the Wild and Twins games, but I never miss a Vikes game. Skol!"

winter events, GRE's generation and transmission assets are carefully operated and monitored to ensure electricity continues to power member-consumers' homes. The cooperative's resilient transmission system met the test with no outages or issues despite temperatures of -30 degrees Fahrenheit.

When Winter Storm Wesley ripped through southern Minnesota on April 11, crews from Great River Energy, neighboring utilities and member-owner cooperatives teamed up to restore power to 8,300 member-consumers. More than 350 power poles were downed or damaged, by far the most recorded in GRE's history.

Investing in a critical grid resource

A critical transmission resource that has served members for 40 years received new life as Great River Energy upgraded its high-voltage, direct-current system. The unique 436-mile transmission line delivers power directly from the 1,140-MW Coal Creek Station power plant in central North Dakota to Minnesota. The upgrade will assure the line continues to provide value to members by operating reliably.

Great River Energy began preparations for the upgrade in 2011 and completed work during a 74-day stretch in the early summer of 2019. Nearly all the equipment housed in two converter stations was removed and replaced with advanced technologies.

This project has been one of GRE's most significant capital investments over the last several years and was completed on time and on budget.

Studying the low-carbon grid

Great River Energy joined nine other utilities to study what system improvements and infrastructure upgrades will be needed to achieve ambitious carbon reduction goals.

The study is critical to the eventual development of a comprehensive plan that will ensure the continued reliable delivery of low-cost electricity in a cost-effective manner.

Long-running resource retired

Operations of Great River Energy's Elk River Resource Recovery Project

(GRE continued on Page 16)

motions connection

MOTIONS

Please circle your choice to accept the motions below. Once you have made your choices, return this form during Registration.



A) Motion to adopt the Agenda as printed in the Annual Report.

Motion pre-made by _____

Second for the Motion pre-made by _____

***Please circle your choice to accept the motion: YES

B) Motion to waive the reading of the M' _____, Report.

Motion pre-made by _____

Second for the Motion pre-made by _____

***Please circle your

NO

D) Motion to _____ parts:

Manager's Report

Motion pre-made _____

Second for the Motion _____ by _____

***Please circle your choice to accept the motion: YES / NO

C) Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Motion pre-made by _____

Second for the Motion pre-made by _____

***Please circle your choice to accept the motion: YES / NO

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AT REGISTRATION

great river energy — 2019 in review

Great River Energy: Powering what's possible

Great River Energy (GRE) is a wholesale electric cooperative owned by 28 member-owner cooperatives, including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric.

GRE started its portfolio of wind energy resources 20 years ago with three turbines in southern Minnesota. The cooperative ended 2019 by adding its largest wind resource to date with the start of the 80-turbine, 200-megawatt (MW) Emmons-Logan wind farm in North Dakota.

Over the past five years, all of Great River Energy's new energy resources have been renewable. The cooperative is on track to achieve its goal of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030, reaching the interim milestone of 30 percent in 2020.

Meanwhile, GRE has kept average wholesale electric rates flat, surpassed financial goals and began returning patronage capital to members.

Great River Energy and its 28 member-owner cooperatives are committed to providing clean energy that is as affordable and reliable as ever.

Sharing financial success

For the second consecutive year, GRE shared financial gains with its member-owner cooperatives, issuing a \$10 million refund in January 2019.

In addition, Great River Energy returned patronage capital for the first time in its history through a \$15 million cash payment to its 28 member-owner cooperatives.

Weather poses challenges

The Great River Energy system performed reliably as temperatures plunged to record lows across the Midwest in January 2019. During severe



cookin' connection

Mashed Potato Cookies

Pat King Kilkenny

- 3/4 c. mashed potatoes
- 4 c. powdered sugar
- 4 c. coconut
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 12 oz. bag chocolate chips
- 1 sq. unsweetened chocolate
- 1/4 sq. paraffin wax

Chill the mashed potatoes, powdered sugar, coconut, and vanilla for 1 hour. Then roll in small balls. Dip into the melted mixture of chocolate chips, unsweetened chocolate, and paraffin wax. Place on wax paper and keep in a cool place.

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



THE
SUNNA
PROJECT

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 48 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2020. 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 6th of the month following receipt of the Sparks, or the amount will be forfeited.



August issue of Sparks

Numbers found:
No members found their number

Numbers not found:
Keith/Ann Marie Glanzer
Micah/Margie Lynn
Doug Wunnenberg
Warren/Erica Coan
Michael Rhoades



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 account number 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 SWCE between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.
- **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 83° F, while the average low was 62° F. This resulted in 233.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs) and 2.5 Heating Degrees (HDDs) for July. They compare to last year's average high of 81° F and average low of 64° F, which resulted in 231 CDDs and 4 HDDs.
- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2020, 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 form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.
- **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

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

swce 2019 annual meeting minutes

The annual meeting of the members of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) was held at SWCE in Owatonna, Minnesota, on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Wilson (hereinafter referred to as Chairman) who presided.

At an early bird drawing, two members each won a \$250 certificate toward a vacation with 4-Seasons Vacations. Everyone in attendance received a \$30 Member Perks certificate and a \$50 Energy Star gift certificate.

The Color Guard and Faribault Middle School presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and the national anthem performed by Christ the King Church Full and Hand Bell Choirs. Board Chaplain Duane Edwardson gave the invocation.

There were more than 50 members present (their attendance having been verified), the number needed to constitute a quorum within the meaning of the bylaws of the cooperative. President Wilson declared there was a quorum and instructed the secretary to file the list of members in attendance, establishing a quorum.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as printed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Renee Malecha, secretary-treasurer of the board, read the Proof of Mailing of Notice of the Annual Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried, to accept the Proof of Mailing as read, and to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed.

The Chairman asked the membership to read the general manager's report, the financial report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018, the Great River Energy report, and the minutes printed in the annual report. The membership was asked if they had any questions pertaining to the reports. There being no questions, a motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Attorney Eric Mattison presided over the election of the directors. Mattison stated there were three districts in which directors were to be elected. SWCE General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the bylaws concerning director election, and summarized the minutes of the nominating committee meetings held Nov. 14, 2018, and Jan. 23, 2019. Briggs introduced the candidates by name and district, and presented a bi-

ographical summary of each. Attorney Mattison then called for nominations from the floor.

Additional nominations for District 2 were called, there being none; nominations were declared closed.

Additional nominations for District 4 were called, there being none; nominations were declared closed.

Additional nominations for District 6 were called, there being none; nominations were declared closed.

2018 Youth Tour Delegate Malloree McCarthy reported on her experience in Washington, D.C.

SWCE Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack introduced the 2019 Youth Tour delegates. They are Leah Transburg and Dawson Drentlaw.

ACRE Chairperson and SWCE District 2 Director Gerri Lienke informed the membership about the role of ACRE (Action Committee for Rural Electrification).

General Manager Briggs introduced visiting guests and welcomed them and the membership to the annual meeting. He also acknowledged retired directors and retired employees who were present.

Briggs updated the membership on current issues pertaining to the cooperative, reviewed the past year's performance of POWRE, the new SWCE Renewable Distributed Generation Rebate Program.

Briggs introduced current employees and staff, along with their years of service.

Attorney Mattison reported the voting results. The director vote was as follows:

District 2: Jerome Haley 133 votes; Gerri Lienke 193 votes.

District 4: Dennis Ringhofer was declared elected by acclamation.

District 6: Gary Wilson was declared elected by acclamation.

Chairman Wilson called for any unfinished business, there being none. He called for any new business, there being none. He then asked for any questions the membership might have.

There being no further business to be conducted, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2020 Annual Meeting Letter of Voting Authorization

Member corporations, churches, clubs and organizations are encouraged to use this form as proof of designation.

Name of corporation, church, club or organization	SWCE Account #
Address of above	
Name of officer or agent authorized to vote	Office title
is the person authorized to represent the organization as its voting delegate at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Annual Meeting on Sept. 21, 2020.	
Secretary of organization or other designated official	
NOTE: Only officers of an organization are generally authorized to vote on behalf of the organization. For any agent of the organization other than an officer to cast the organization's vote, this form must be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of its governing body appointing such person to vote for the organization.	

swce 2020 board of director nominees

Sept. 21



The 2020 Nominating Committee has selected the following nominees for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors. Committee members include: Frank/Joyce Ahlman, Faribault; Lester/Jane Kroeger, Waseca; Peter Rohe, Faribault; Doug/Cindy Finch, Owatonna; Keith/Carol Schrader, Nerstrand; Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and James/Patricia Pagel, Faribault. The election of directors will take place during Steele-Waseca’s 84th annual meeting, scheduled Monday, Sept. 21, at the co-op’s headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna.

District 7



John R. Beal, incumbent, and SWCE board of directors vice president, along with his wife, Colleen, live on a farm in Walcott Township, north of Medford. They have two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. John retired in January 2002 after 40 years in manufacturing, sales, and marketing, which included sales management positions. He is a lifetime member of the Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP). John enjoys flying and is also a lifetime member of the Faribault Area Pilots Association. He has earned his Gold, Board Leadership, and Certified Credentialed Director status by attending all schooling offered for directors. “I want all of our members at Steele-Waseca Co-op to know I always try to keep in mind what is best for our cooperative and the members when representing you both away, and at the board table,” stated John. “I consider it both an honor and a privilege to represent you the members.” In addition, “I am committed to continue by best effort to do the very best I can to be your representative,” wrote John. “Thank You, for your past and future support.”

District 8



Ronald D. Sommers, incumbent, and SWCE board of directors assistant secretary/treasurer, along with his wife, Ruth, live on the farm where he grew up in Northfield Township in Rice County. They have a daughter and a son, both married and each with two children of their own. Ronald attended the University of Minnesota and earned bachelors and masters degrees in agriculture. He was an agricultural educator for over 20 years in southern Minnesota. After that, working nearly 20 years with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., where he served as a sales accounting manager for their central division, and later sales coordinator in Minnesota. Ronald has been honored as Rice County 4-H Alumnus of the Year, Rice County Conservationist of the Year, and received Honorary Minnesota and Honorary American FFA degrees. “I believe in the cooperative business model and am familiar with the vital role played by cooperatives in bringing modern electric power to rural parts of our state and nation,” wrote Ronald. “Today, our industry faces new and different challenges as we address new technology, concerns about our environment and increasing costs. I believe SWCE has been well-directed and well-managed in the past and would like to contribute to moving our cooperative forward into the future during these exciting and changing times.” As for his qualities and abilities that he brings to the board, “My background and career experience as an agricultural educator and my work with Pioneer Hi-Bred have provided me opportunities to be an advocate and spokesperson for agriculture and rural communities,” wrote Ronald. “As a member of my church’s trustees and the Northfield Township Board, I believe I have demonstrated my ability to communicate respectfully with members and neighbors to help us move toward common goals. I would like to apply my skills and talents to our electric cooperative by continuing to serve on its board of directors.”

District 9



Renee J. Malecha, incumbent, and SWCE board of directors secretary/treasurer, along with her husband, Greg, farm in the Millersburg area of Forest Township. They have three adult children. Renee is a substitute for the Northfield School District. She enjoys bowling, flower and vegetable gardening, yard work, and spending time with family and friends. Renee has completed board training and earned her CCD, BLC, and received a Director Gold Certificate. “I would like to continue to represent District 9 because I feel I have the knowledge to continue to help the cooperative move forward as we transition from carbon-based generation to more renewables,” wrote Renee. “We need to continue to provide safe, reliable and reasonably priced service to our members.” As for her qualities and abilities that she brings to the board, “I bring a common sense approach to the board table,” wrote Renee. “I work well with the other board members and look out for the greater good of the cooperative and it’s members. I have the time needed to attend conferences and meetings to educate myself on industry related issues.”

Former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Line Foreman Carl Drache dies at age 85

Former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Line Foreman Carl Drache (pictured right) died Sunday, Aug. 2, at the age of 85. Carl joined Steele-Waseca on



Nov. 1, 1965, as a truck driver-groundman, after being previously employed by Wright Tree Service. His training as an apprentice lineman started April 1, 1966. The promotion to journeyman lineman came April 1, 1970, then to crew chief on May 1, 1976, and to Line Foreman in May 1995. Carl supervised the construction, contractor, and tree crews.

Carl was part of a couple of stories in Steele-Waseca’s 75th anniversary book that came out in 2011. He shared about the time he and Lineman Stan Eaton became stranded in a snowstorm after responding to a call on Jan. 10, 1975, along Highway 30 near Minnesota Lake. They took refuge in a nearby hog barn overnight, and struggled to keep

(Remembering Carl Drache continued on Page 16)

financial report for year 2019

STATEMENTS OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL AND OTHER EQUITIES
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

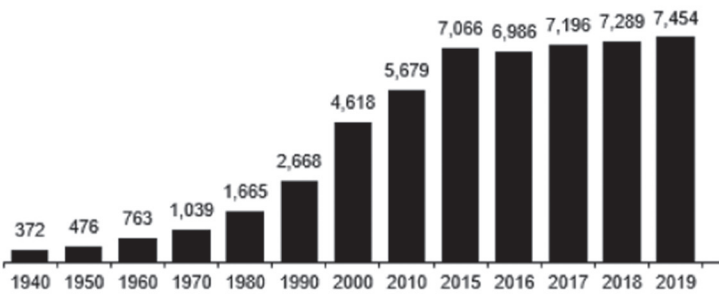
	Memberships	Patronage Capital	Other Equities	Total
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2017	\$17,212	\$36,058,488	\$1,138,463	\$37,214,163
Unassigned Current Year Margins	-	3,242,764	-	3,242,764
Retirement of Capital Credits	-	(999,067)	-	(999,067)
Estate Settlements	-	(117,680)	48,278	(69,402)
Membership Changes - Net	36	-	-	36
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2018	17,248	38,184,505	1,186,741	39,388,494
Unassigned Current Year Margins	-	4,060,909	-	4,060,909
Retirement of Capital Credits	-	(1,382,372)	-	(1,382,372)
Estate Settlements	-	(154,747)	70,974	(83,773)
Membership Changes - Net	(78)	-	-	(78)
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2019	\$17,170	\$40,708,295	\$1,257,715	\$41,983,180

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT

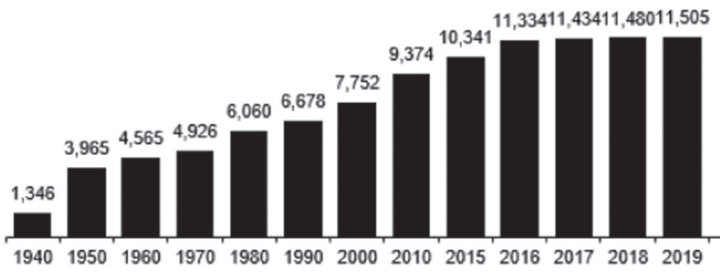
The balance sheets, statements of operations, patronage capital and other equities, and cash flows were taken from complete financial statements which were audited by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Certified Public Accountants, who expressed their unmodified opinion on those statements.

Copies of the complete financial statements together with the independent auditors’ report may be examined at the office of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric.

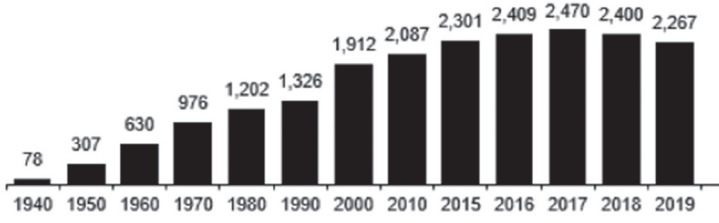
PLANT \$ INVESTMENT PER CONSUMER



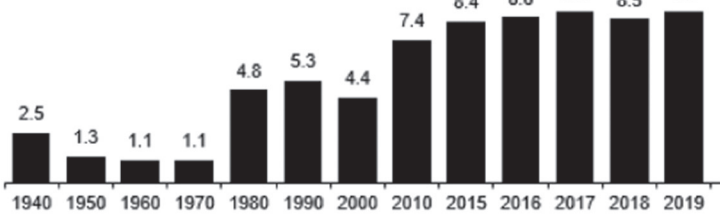
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CONSUMERS



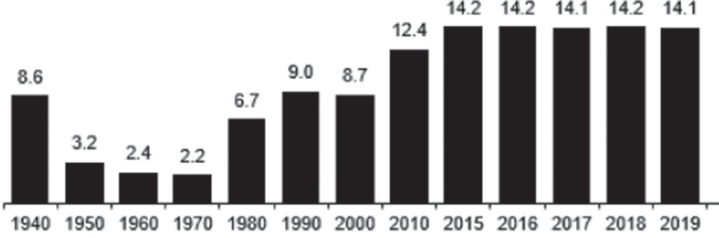
AVERAGE KWH USED PER CONSUMER
(PER MONTH)



AVERAGE WHOLESALE POWER
COST FOR RESIDENTIAL
CONSUMERS (CENTS PER KWH)



AVERAGE ELECTRIC RATE TO RESIDENTIAL
CONSUMERS (CENTS PER KWH)



financial report for year 2019

Nature of Operations

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric’s (SWCE) principal line of business is providing electric service primarily to local residential and business customers residing in the nine-county rural area surrounding Owatonna, MN. Rates charged to customers are established by the board of directors.

Financial Statement Presentation

SWCE prepares its financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. These principles require management to make informed judgments, best estimates, and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Actual results could vary from those estimates.

Patronage Capital

SWCE operates as a cooperative. Amounts received from the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses are assigned to patrons on a patronage basis. All other amounts received by the cooperative from its operations in excess of costs and expenses are allocated to its patrons on a patronage basis to the extent they are not needed to offset current or prior deficits.

Income Taxes

SWCE has been granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Minnesota. Therefore, the financial statements do not include a provision for income taxes.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

	2019	2018
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Margins	\$ 4,060,909	\$ 3,242,764
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Margins to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	3,318,788	3,225,950
G & T and Other Capital Credits	(874,069)	(937,112)
Loss on Sale/Disposal of Assets	(7,148)	(2,424)
Interest Income Credited to Cushion of Credit	(1,046,487)	(1,147,385)
Interest Expense Paid by Cushion of Credit	297,766	830,312
Changes in Assets and Liabilities - (Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts Receivable	(380,009)	958,852
Materials and Supplies Inventory	(51,107)	(271,993)
Deferred Debits	421,719	869,694
Other Current and Accrued Assets	-	5,370
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable	77,254	(683,430)
Deferred Credits	196,525	179,472
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	34,727	(260,758)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	6,048,868	6,009,312
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Construction and Acquisition of Plant	(4,366,412)	(4,274,643)
Cash Received from Retirement of Patronage	365,633	215,375
Cash Paid for Investments in Associated Organizations	(12,604)	-
Payments Received on Notes Receivable	263,475	248,016
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	(3,749,908)	(3,811,252)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (Decrease) in Memberships	(78)	36
Retirement of Capital Credits	(1,466,145)	(1,068,469)
Change in Customer Deposits	(21,240)	(18,865)
Proceeds from Issuance of Long-Term Debt	3,220,000	3,800,000
Principal Payments on Long-Term Debt	(2,910,972)	(3,896,066)
Net Cash Used by Financing Activities	(1,178,435)	(1,183,364)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,120,525	1,014,696
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	4,147,285	3,132,589
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 5,267,810	\$ 4,147,285
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Interest Paid	\$ 1,400,351	\$ 1,300,209
NONCASH FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Principal Payments on Long-Term Debt Paid by Cushion of Credit	\$ 3,230,033	\$ 609,765

swce director districts

District 1: Kilkenny Township in LeSueur County, Shieldsville and Morristown Townships and the Southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Erin Township, Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Wells Township, and the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) of Warsaw Township in Rice County. (Represented by PJ Duchene)

District 2: Dunbar, Lura and Minnesota Lake Townships in Faribault County; Mapleton, Danville, Medo, McPherson and LeRay Townships in Blue Earth County; Freeborn Township in Freeborn County; Alton, Byron, Freedom, Janesville, St. Mary, Vivian and Wilton Townships in Waseca County. (Represented by Geraldine Lienke)

District 3: Hartland Township in Freeborn County; New Richland, Otisco, Woodville, Blooming Grove and Iosco Townships in Waseca County; Lemond Township, the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) and the Northeast one quarter (NE 1/4) of Berlin Township, and the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) and the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Somerset Township in Steele County. (Represented by Duane Edwardson)

District 4: Bath and Geneva Townships in Freeborn County; the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) and the Southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Berlin Township; Deerfield, Owatonna and Meriden Townships; the Northeast one quarter (NE 1/4) and the Southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Somerset Township, and Summit Township in Steele County; the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Warsaw Township in Rice County. (Represented by Dennis Ringhofer)

District 5: Newry Township in Freeborn County; Aurora and Blooming Prairie Townships, and the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Havana Township in Steele County, and Westfield, Ripley, Ashland and Hayfield Townships in Dodge County. (Represented by Rodney Krell)

District 6: Medford, Clinton Falls and Merton Townships; and the Northwest, Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NW, NE & SE 1/4’s) of Havana Township in Steele County, and Ellington, Concord, Claremont and Wasioja Townships in Dodge County. (Represented by Gary Wilson)

District 7: The Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NE & SE 1/4’s) of Warsaw Township; the Northwest and Southwest one quarters (NW & SW 1/4’s) of Walcott Township; the Northwest, Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NW, NE & SE 1/4’s) of Wells Township in Rice County. (Represented by John Beal)

District 8: Kenyon Township in Goodhue County; Richland, Wheeling, Cannon City, Bridgewater, Upper Bridgewater and Northfield Townships, and the Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NE & SE 1/4’s) of Walcott Township in Rice County. (Represented by Ronald Sommers)

District 9: Forest, Webster, Wheatland Townships, and the Southwest, Northwest and Northeast one quarters (SW, NW & NE 1/4’s) of Erin Township in Rice County. (Represented by Renee Malecha)

Nominating Committee selects nominees for director seats

Steele-Waseca’s bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of no less than five cooperative members. Each year’s committee is responsible for an important part of the cooperative process—to select nominees for the board seats up for election.

The 2020 Nominating Committee members include: District 7—Frank/Joyce Ahlman, Faribault; Lester/Jane Kroeger, Waseca; and Peter Rohe, Faribault; District 8—Doug/Cindy Finch, Owatonna; Keith/Carol Schrader, Nerstrand; and Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; District 9—Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and James/Patricia Pagel, Faribault.

The committee met twice at the cooperative’s headquarters in Owatonna to select director nominees for the expiring terms of John R. Beal, Ronald D. Sommers, and Renee J. Malecha.

The committee’s first meeting was on Nov. 20, 2019. Steele-Waseca’s 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 position description with the committee. He also talked about potential questions a candidate may have, highlighting the time commitment it takes to be a director on the board.

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.

Committee member Bert Wiersma 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 committee’s second meeting was on Jan. 22, 2020. Cooperative Attorney Eric Mattison reviewed the 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 84th annual meeting, at the cooperative’s headquarters, located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna:

District 7 John R. Beal

District 8 Ronald D. Sommers

District 9 Renee J. Malecha

Additional nominations will be accepted prior to the start of the drive-thru registration at the annual meeting, Sept. 21, until the nominations officially close during the meeting.

Steele-Waseca wishes to thank all of the committee members for their time and service.

financial report for year 2019

On Oct. 10, 1936, when Steele County Cooperative and Waseca Cooperative Electric voted to consolidate, there were 860 members. By the end of 2019, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) service locations had grown to 11,506.

SWCE’s first office was located in Waseca. After Rice County joined with Steele-Waseca in 1937, the office was moved to Owatonna to provide a more central location. The office was located on West Bridge Street and then on Cedar Avenue until 1954, when a new building was constructed on East Rose Street. That building served as the headquarters until 1994 when the present facility on West Bridge Street was built.

The first part of SWCE’s line was energized in February 1938. When completed, the initial project consisted of 350 miles of line. By 1950, that number had grown to 1,562. Today, SWCE has a total of 2,205 miles of line, 19 substations in service, and 900 square miles of service area.

In 1950, SWCE had 2.6 members per mile of line. Currently, SWCE has 5.2 members per mile of line. In comparison, according to the U.S. Department of Energy’s 2013 data, investor-owned electric utilities on average serve 34 customers per mile of line while municipal electric utilities average 48 customers per mile of line.

BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

ASSETS	2019	2018
UTILITY PLANT		
Electric Plant in Service	\$85,756,869	\$83,676,784
Construction Work in Progress	991,960	910,180
Total	86,748,829	84,586,964
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(31,302,638)	(30,195,545)
Net Utility Plant	55,446,191	54,391,419
OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Organizations	15,368,962	14,860,526
Investments in Related Companies	723,715	711,111
Notes Receivable - Net of Current Portion	984,747	1,192,759
Total Other Assets and Investments	17,077,424	16,764,396
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,267,810	4,147,285
Accounts Receivable, Net	4,759,014	4,379,005
Materials and Supplies Inventory	1,030,026	978,919
Interest Receivable	6,784	6,784
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	208,012	263,475
Total Current Assets	11,271,646	9,775,468
DEFERRED DEBITS	308,168	729,887
TOTAL ASSETS	\$84,103,429	\$81,661,170
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$40,708,295	\$38,184,505
Memberships	17,170	17,248
Other Equities	1,257,715	1,186,741
Total Equities	41,983,180	39,388,494
LONG-TERM DEBT, Less Current Maturities		
RUS Mortgage Notes	18,049,753	16,442,942
CoBank Notes Payable	11,409,106	13,152,260
Total Long-Term Debt	29,458,859	29,595,202
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	2,896,882	3,200,232
Accounts Payable	3,845,903	3,768,649
Consumer Deposits	222,735	243,975
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	969,983	935,256
Total Current Liabilities	7,935,503	8,148,112
DEFERRED CREDITS	4,725,887	4,529,362
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	\$84,103,429	\$81,661,170

financial report for year 2019

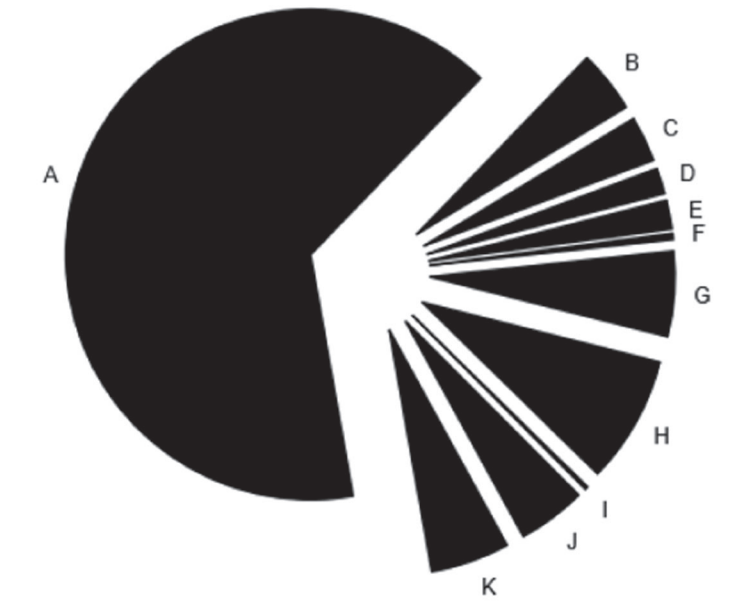
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

	2019	2018
OPERATING REVENUES	\$37,760,682	\$38,329,854
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	24,552,859	25,220,293
Distribution Expense - Operation	1,483,830	2,059,125
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	1,144,952	1,380,293
Customer Accounts Expense	644,948	664,590
Customer Service & Informational Expense	721,930	737,036
Sales Expense	154,763	129,285
Administrative and General Expense	2,110,963	2,108,407
Depreciation	3,164,648	3,053,989
Other	124,844	59,549
Total Operating Expenses	34,103,737	35,412,567
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	3,656,945	2,917,287
INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT	1,690,625	1,869,145
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	1,966,320	1,048,142
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION & OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	874,069	937,112
NET OPERATING MARGINS	2,840,389	1,985,254
NONOPERATING MARGINS	1,220,520	1,257,510
NET MARGINS	\$4,060,909	\$3,242,764

The mission of SWCE is to provide every member with dependable, reliable, high quality electricity. We work daily to accomplish this mission by striving for excellence through continual improvement, applying prudent leadership, partnering and following cooperative principles.

During the year 2019, the average SWCE member had power for 8,751.42 hours out of a possible 8,760 hours. That’s a reliability record of 99.9 percent! 1080193

For each dollar received from consumers, 5.2 cents goes into operating margins. These margins are used to help finance construction and improvements, pay capital credits, and make payments on our debt. Since 5.2 cents per dollar is not enough to do all of this, we borrow money to finance the shortage of funds needed for these purposes.



WHAT YOUR 2019 CONSUMER DOLLAR PAID FOR

A.	65.0%	Purchased Power
B.	4.1%	Operations
C.	3.0%	Maintenance
D.	1.7%	Billing & Collection
E.	1.9%	Customer Information
F.	0.4%	Sales
G.	5.6%	Administrative & General
H.	8.4%	Depreciation
I.	0.2%	Other Income Deductions
J.	4.5%	Interest on Long-Term Debt
K.	5.2%	Margins