

member connection

Sobrack among co-op recipients of a Jay York Scholarship

Amber Sobrack (pictured right) of Medford was among four electric cooperative recipients randomly selected to receive a 2020 Jay York Scholarship.



The Jay A. York Scholarship was started in recognition of the first Minnesotan to head the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). York was a prominent figure in rural electric cooperative issues for nearly 30 years. He was elected in 1964 to the Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) board. He was not only well-known for his great leadership ability, but also great dignity, a disarming understanding of the issues, and an unyielding dedication to his fellow rural Americans. 1052091 This year nine cooperatives participated in the scholarship in honor of Jay. They were: Dakota Electric Association, McLeod Cooperative Power, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, NCE, Redwood Electric Cooperative,

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, South Central Electric Association, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, and Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. The other scholarship recipients joining Steele-Waseca's Sobrack were from McLeod Cooperative Power, Redwood Electric Cooperative, and Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power. Each recipient receives a \$400 scholarship made available from the participating cooperatives. Amber, the daughter of Randy and Holly Sobrack of Medford, is a full-time student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she will be graduating in the fall of 2021, with a major in business management and minor in communication studies. She is a member of the marketing club, and Tau Sigma, a transfer student honor society, as Amber started her undergraduate degree at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. The York Scholarship was established in 1994 by Minnesota's electric cooperatives in recognition of Jay.

100 more people than have participated in the in-person event in recent years, Snow said. "Going virtual allows for an expanded universe with an audience that may not have had the travel budget to attend an in-person event in a traditional year," he said.

The decisions about which candidates to support are made by ACRE's steering committee, which is composed of Snow and select employees of the NRECA government relations staff. The steering committee consults with corresponding statewide organizations prior to making all contributions.

ACRE receives voluntary grassroots contributions—which average about \$65 a year—from more than 35,000 eligible co-op employees, directors and consumer-members in 47 states, Snow said. In general, hourly employees are not eligible to contribute because of laws designed to prevent workers from feeling coerced by their bosses to give. However, those employ-

ees are allowed to contribute if they are electric cooperative consumer-members, Snow said. by Erin Kelly, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) staff writer

Note: Contributions to the NRECA Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits soliciting contributions from individuals other than NRECA and member-systems' eligible employees, boards of directors, consumer-members and the families of such individuals. Contributions from ineligible individuals will be returned. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has 371 employees, directors, and members participating in ACRE.

- REGULAR MEMBER: \$2.08 PER MONTH (\$25 PER YEAR)
- CENTURY CLUB MEMBER: \$8.33 PER MONTH (\$100 PER YEAR)
- PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBER: \$41.66 PER MONTH (\$500 PER YEAR)\*
- OTHER \$

(Winter load control continued from Page 7)

an "as-needed" basis and control times may change in response to extreme temperature variances, plant outages and/or MISO emergencies. ETS water and pool heating is not controlled on weekends and holidays, except for billing peaks. ETS water loads were switched to the winter control strategy on Thursday, Oct. 1, per the GRE winter changeover plan. Dairy facilities and accounts that use custom control sub-groups receive an 8-hour charge at night with a limited mid-day "bump." No additional rate credits are applied to usage during GRE's on-peak periods for these accounts. All ETS-ChargeWise residential loads are on the same control strategy year-round, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., Sunday through Saturday, including holidays. All ETS-Electric Vehicle Commercial loads switched to the winter control strategy on Oct. 1, per the GRE winter changeover date. Members in the Super Group A (Standard) ETS-Space Heating will be controlled every day during the winter months of October through April from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Members in the Super Group B (Standard) ETS-Space Heating will be controlled every day during the winter months of October through April from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. All ETS-Space Heating loads were switched in stages to the winter control strategy by Wednesday, Oct. 7, per the GRE winter changeover plan. Members on the eight-hour interruptible water heating program can expect controlling for up to 20 days or 100 hours with a maximum control of eight hours/day. For those on the four-hour interruptible water heating program (the program is closed to new loads), the total estimated winter control will be up to 20 days or 80 hours with a maximum control of four hours/day. Randomized control schedules at individual receivers will be staggered by up to 30 minutes on the four- and eight-hour interruptible water heating programs. If you have load control questions or wish to join the program, please contact Steele-Waseca's Cindy Butterfield before 3:30 p.m., weekdays by calling 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric November 2020



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calendar of events

- November
- 1 Daylight saving time ends
  - 3 Election Day 26130
  - 11 Veterans Day
  - 26-27 Thanksgiving holidays
  - SWCE office is closed
  - National Diabetes Awareness Month



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric conducts first-ever drive-thru annual meeting

Three unopposed incumbent directors were re-elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board, Monday, Sept. 21, during the co-op's 84th annual meeting at its headquarters in Owatonna. Re-elected to three-year terms were District 7 Director John R. Beal, Faribault; District 8 Director Ronald D. Sommers, Northfield; and District 9 Director Renee J. Malecha, Dundas.



The co-op's first-ever drive-thru annual meeting had 726 members and guests navigate through one of four reception areas (see above photo) for registration, to cast their ballot, and receive a variety of Steele-Waseca gifts for their attendance. Among those a \$35 Power Perks certificate, which may be redeemed at a participating member-owned business,

and a \$50 Energy Star® certificate, which can be redeemed as a credit for up to \$50 on a member's Steele-Waseca account when they purchase an Energy Star product(s), and bring or mail a copy of the receipt along with the certificate to Steele-Waseca's headquarters. The drive-thru annual meeting was (SWCE annual meeting continued on Page 7)



Elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors, Sept. 21, were incumbents (left to right): John Beal, District 7; Ron Sommers, District 8; and Renee Malecha, District 9.



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Email: [swce@swce.coop](mailto: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  
*Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*  
Gary Wilson . . . . . District 6  
*President, GRE Director*  
John Beal, *Vice President* . . . District 7  
Ronald Sommers . . . . . District 8  
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

## manager connection



By Syd Briggs,  
General Manager

As we get closer to Election Day, allow me to reflect on the election day experienced at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric during the drive-thru annual meeting conducted Sept. 21.

It was terrific to see the number of members who drove to the co-op's headquarters to be part of the first-ever drive-thru annual meeting as shown in the photo below. The turnout exceeded our expectations, and we had the good problem of preparing additional gift folders of Steele-Waseca items to give to our members, in appreciation of them taking the time to participate in the meeting.

As the election of board directors took place in compliance with the co-op's bylaws, our country nears it's Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The privilege of voting provides the opportunity to support a candidate that has similar views and concerns as yourself, and will follow a direction that you prefer for our future. If you are not registered, please do so now. Given the continuing coronavirus pandemic, there are more options to vote early this year. Once again contact your county auditor to learn more about your early voting options.

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical, and arguably more critical as local elections have a direct impact on your community, and on your quality of life. 34545

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Your vision for the community is

tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Steele-Waseca board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves members in our service territory. Local board members embody the voice and identity of that community.

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is looking out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Steele-Waseca board directors provide their perspective on priorities, thereby enabling the co-op to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, we need you, the members of the co-op, to participate in keeping the system in check by getting involved whether by serving on the nominating committee, or running for director on the board to ensure we are in sync with our members.

A strong voter turnout in any election shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote.



## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**FARMALL 706**, narrow front, no motor, Wheaten drawbar, \$1000/obo; **MN RAKE**, \$350; **SPRAYER**, \$750; **TRAILER** w/ramps, needs truck tire, \$1000. 456-1181.

**2-LEVEL LAKEFRONT CABINS** on Lake Mazaska, not leased land, \$199,900 & \$229,900, additional 74 acres, text questions. 763-218-2948.

**DOORS & WINDOWS** for a 4020 tractor cab; **ROUND CORNSTALK BALES**, mesh wrapped; **(2) TIRES**, 16.5-16, like new. 475-2029.

**CONSEW UPHOLSTERY SEWING MACHINE**; **MANY UPHOLSTERY SUPPLIES**, selling all cheap! Email: [jkelling@icloud.com](mailto:jkelling@icloud.com) if interested.

**2013 WIL-RICH SOIL PRO RIPPER**, 9-24" spacings, only tilled 3500 acres, vry nice shape. 456-4012.

**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.**

(SWCE annual meeting continued from Page 1)

scheduled as a result of the coronavirus pandemic postponing the co-op's original in-person annual meeting, June 2.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the co-op's board of directors met for their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected: Gary W. Wilson of Owatonna, president; John Beal, vice president; Renee Malecha, secretary/treasurer; Rodney D. Krell of Blooming Prairie, assistant secretary/treasurer; and Duane R. Edwardson of Ellendale, chaplain.

Steele-Waseca has over 11,500 service locations in a nine-county area including: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, LeSueur, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties.



A Steele-Waseca bucket truck was utilized to display the U.S. flag as members drove toward registration at the co-op's annual meeting. 1009234

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

**8'2" BOSS V-PLOW**, \$3500; **9'2" BOSS V-PLOW**, \$5500. 334-7177.

**WENGER SOUND MODULE**, complete room about 8'x10' or more, use for office or music room for kids. 451-9445.

**MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT** in Morristwn, Fbo, & Dundas. 332-7557.

**ANTIQUE 2-PERSON CUTTER & ASSORTED HORSE EQUIPMENT**. 744-2154.

**(2) FLARE BOXES** on running gear; **MANURE SPREADER** w/PTO; **SIDE HAY RAKE**. 528-2443.

**(2) INSULATED RAYNOR GARAGE DOORS**, 9x8, \$300/each. 291-0333.

**CIRCLE LK LOT**, 0.7 acres; **(2) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 678-978-7444.

**SNOWBLOWERS; USED CARS; SM. ENGINES**. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

**WINCHESTER 94 30-30**, new, (2) boxes of 30-30 shells, cash only. 234-6375.

**LIFT CHAIR**, maroon upholstered, perfect condition. 451-7626.

**DEPT 56 DICKENS VILLAGES** plus accessories. 456-4992.

**DOGTRA DOG TRAINING SYSTEM**, 1/2 mi. range, like new, \$70. 676-0927.

(Kitchen safety continued from Page 5)

5. Never leave cooking unattended. You should not cook if you are sleepy or under the influence of alcohol. Children should be closely supervised and kept at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.

6. It's easy to forget about something that's cooking, especially when you're entertaining guests. Use a kitchen timer to make sure your dish doesn't become a fire hazard.

7. ENJOY! Being proactive about safety will give you peace of mind and allow you to enjoy your time with loved ones.

(Courtesy: Electrical Safety Foundation International)

## Great River Energy announces 2020-21 winter load management plan

Great River Energy (GRE), Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale power provider, has announced the load management plan for this winter in effect Oct. 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

The first day under the winter control strategy for Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) and other off-peak schedules varies by program, and is detailed below. The first day under the winter control strategy for interruptible billing peak load management was Oct. 1.

Many drivers affect load control including: capacity limitations, unplanned generation outages, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) emergencies, individual member needs,

high MISO energy market prices, GRE billing peak demand, GRE critical peak energy periods, and GRE on-peak energy periods.

The ETS schedules for water heating and space heating will be controlled from 6 a.m. through 10 p.m. from Oct. 1 through April 30. This is a deviation from historical winters where the schedules had previously been from 7 a.m. through 11 p.m. That change was enacted Oct. 1, 2019. Please note control times are not absolute as there is a ramping window for both shed and restore times which allows for smoothing the impact of load control. All programs are subject to control by GRE on

(Winter load control continued on Page 8)



ad connection

give away

OLD GRAIN ELEVATOR; (2) FURNACES; OTHER METAL STUFF. 420-4461.

LARGE MAILBOX & STAND. 869-3444.

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

2010-15 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, low miles. 451-2722.

SNOW REMOVAL WORKERS, now hiring shovelers & snowblower operators. 271-9129/Chad.

OLDER CHEVY PICKUP, late '80s or early '90s, 2WD or 4WD, regular cab, 1/2 ton preferred, must run & drive gd, don't have to look pretty. 330-3856.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

TO OBTAIN PLASTER FOUNDATION JOBS on old houses, barns, stone walls, & sm. cement jobs, all close to Owat. 273-3587.

STAMP COLLECTIONS to add to my books, 1950 & older dates preferred, prices paid by National Book. 676-0970.

WILL ASSIST PEOPLE IN THEIR HOME w/personal cares, exercise programs, meal prep, housekeeping, errands, 40+ yrs experience. 456-0076.

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

OLD PORCELAIN SIGNS. 301-9053.

PERSONS LOOKING FOR HELP IN HOME: housecleaning, meal prep, light yard work, local current ref. 412-7045.

USED OIL. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

for sale

OLDER GRAIN AUGER, 8"x 42', 3-hp elec. motor, \$500/obo. 521-1209.

FLARE BOX, hyd. lift, great wood hauler, exc. shape, \$625; PET KENNEL, \$35; FLUORESCENT LIGHTS w/pull switch & cord, \$3/each. 455-3881.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

HAYFIELD WINDOWS: (3) crank out w/screens, 24" x 72"; fixed (2) 43"x31", (2) 43"x72", (5) 24"x31 1/4", \$1500 for all. 630-661-6005.

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

OLDER 3-BDRM HOUSE w/attached garage in El-lendale, \$96,000. 210-9317.

16' CATTLE GATES, \$120/each; BROODER HOUSES. 524-4637.

WIDE FRONT END FOR FARMALLS, came off Farmall 560, will fit many other Farmalls, \$700/cash. 456-0835.

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

ANTIQUE TRUNK in gd shape, \$100/obo. 456-0225.

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG PUPS ready for working or family pets 10/10, Blue Heeler males & fem., \$250. 456-6885/Owat.

LIVE MUSCOVY DUCKS, butchering & breeding stock, \$10/hens, \$12/drakes. 334-3511.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

6' HOUSE PLANT, fiddle fig &/or umbrella tree needs a gd home. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

KILN-DRIED WOOD, 1" thickness, several board ft of cherry, walnut, & red oak. 456-1017.

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

TRAEGER PELLET OR CORN FURNACE, 70,000 Btu, vry gd cond. 465-3380 before 9 p.m.

FIREWOOD, \$75/qtr cord, \$140/half cord, \$260/cord, Nfld area. 651-357-5092/Paul.

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

WEIDER SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER EXERCISE MACHINE, works out arms & legs, great for winter indoors, \$10. 838-8792.

POLARIS SNOWPLOW for 4-wheeler or side-by-side, 60" blade came off Polaris 700, gd cond., \$300. 676-0702.

10'X10' EZ POP-UP TENT w/case, \$40; 1/2" DRIVE 11-PC. PNEUMATIC IMPACT WRENCH, both metric & standard; 1/2" DRIVE RATCHET TORQUE WRENCH w/16" handle, \$30. 696-5820.

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

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

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.

NI 324 CORN PICKER, gd tires, 36" or 38" rows, \$150. 456-7614.

3-PLACE TRITON ELITE ALUM. SNOWMOBILE TRAILER, \$1100. 456-3136.

2009 VW PASSAT, 2.0L, turbo, FWD, leather seats, gd tires, clean title. 308-4513/txt.

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

COMPACT TRACTOR YARD WORK: tilling, rock & dirt hauling w/bucket & blade. 451-6046.

FIREWOOD, mixed, stored inside, \$30 pickup load. 952-652-2860.

NORWEGIAN ELF DOGS, rare toy breed, pups occasionally. 583-7718.

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

JD 2700 5-BTM PLOW, \$3000. 384-8730.

5TH WHEEL HITCH, plate style, \$250; 7# GOLF CART WHEEL & TIRES, lots of tread left, all for \$100. 491-4565.

PHASE CONVERTER, 25 hp, Baldor Super E Reli-ancer, 1775 rpm, mfg 2018 (never used), \$2500/obo. 272-3672/leave message.

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

CHEST FREEZER, 16 cu. ft, \$135/obo. 475-4426.

2002 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE, 200,000+ mi., needs new struts, but gd runner, \$2000/obo. 456-9409.

4X5 ROUND GRASS HAY BALES, \$55; MOLD-BOARD for a Case IH plow, \$175/obo. 451-5131.

OLIVER 77 & 66; FARMALL H. 213-0317.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

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.

member connection

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric nominating committee appointments for 2021 announced

Nominating committee appointments for 2021 have been announced by the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors.

It is the nominating committee's responsibility to prepare the list of director candidates, and post it at the cooperative's office at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting tentatively scheduled (considering the status of the coronavirus pandemic) Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

The election of directors will take place during the business portion of the annual meeting, held at Steele-Waseca's headquarters, located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna.

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to serve as board directors. The governance role of directors can be summarized as being responsible for setting the overall policy, and monitoring the business affairs of the cooperative.

If you are interested in becoming a director, you may call Executive Assistant Jenifer Shimpach at Steele-Waseca, and a director nomination form will be sent to you. 1025072

Or, if you know another member who would make a good director, and you want him or her to be considered, please contact the nominating committee member nearest you. However,

NRECA's PAC has raised more than \$4 million for House, Senate candidates

2020 election cycle for U.S. House and Senate candidates who support electric cooperatives

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification, better known as ACRE®, received \$4,011,470 from January 2019 through August of this year, said Amy Lewis, ACRE's deputy director. That's nearly \$650,000 more than ACRE raised during the same period for candidates in the 2018 congressional election.

The committee took in a record \$4.2 million for the 2018 election and is on its way to meeting or exceeding that amount for the 2020 election despite having to cancel fundraising events because of the COVID-19 pandemic, said ACRE Director Gabe Snow.

So far, ACRE has contributed a total of more than \$1.5 million to 351 House candidates, Lewis said. The nonpartisan committee has supported 165 Democrats, with total donations of \$720,000, and 186 Republicans, with total donations of \$847,000.

before you make the request, be certain the person will accept the position if nominated.

The Nominating Committee does not have any in-person meetings scheduled due to the ongoing pandemic. The committee would appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping them select director candidates.

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to vote each year for all expiring board director positions.

The districts electing directors at Steele-Waseca's 85th annual meeting include the following:

• **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 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

District 1	
Ryan/Jenny Angelow . . .	330-0424
Frank/Joyce Ahlman . . . .	334-8613
Lester/Jane Kroeger . . . .	835-3105
District 3	
Glenn/Linda Wiesjhan . .	451-2902
Keith/Carol Schrader . . .	645-8181
Doug/Cindy Finch . . . . .	390-0272
District 5	
Joseph Haberman . . . . .	438-7236
James/Patricia Pagel . . .	333-5724
Jane Middlestadt . . . . .	451-6187

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 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)



ACRE has contributed a total of \$190,500 to 29 Senate candidates. There are far more Republican senators than Democratic senators up for re-election this year, so ACRE has given to more Republicans as a result. It has contributed a total of \$42,000 to seven Democrats and a total of \$148,500 to 22 Republicans, Lewis said.

Most of ACRE's contributions have gone to incumbents that understand and support the electric cooperative industry, consumer-members and co-op communities, Snow said.

The nonpartisan Cook Political Report has listed only 28 House races as true "toss-ups," meaning that candidates of either party have a roughly equal chance of winning. ACRE has made contributions to incumbents in 18 of those 28 races, Snow said.

ACRE also gives to both the Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. ACRE does not contribute to presidential candidates.

Because of the pandemic, Snow and Lewis have had to forgo more than 20 trips they would normally take this year to help co-ops and statewide associations with fundraising efforts.

However, ACRE has found new opportunities online. Recently, 130 people registered for a virtual training camp for ACRE coordinators within statewide associations and co-ops. That's about

(ACRE continued on Page 8)



## cookin' connection Chicken & Dumplings

Joan Jandro

Faribault

2 c. pulled chicken (cooked) 1 Tbsp. flour & 1 tsp. flour  
2 cans cream of chicken soup 1/2 tsp. pepper  
2 c. water or milk 2 c. frozen mixed vegetables  
(1) 16.3 oz. buttermilk biscuit (quartered) 8 biscuits

In a 4-quart slow cooker, mix all ingredients except biscuits. Gently fold in biscuit pieces. Cover and cook on low for 4 hours or on high for 2 hours, or until the biscuits are firm. Serve immediately.

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



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 40 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during September 2020. 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.

## October issue of Sparks

### Numbers found:

None by members with those numbers

### Numbers not found:

Jim Austerman  
Michael/Jeffrey Theuer  
Helen Egger  
Derek/Lynette Nissen  
Patric Ignaszewski

KEEP  
LOOKING!



## 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.

• **September temps** – The average high temperature for September was 69° F, while the average low was 50° F. This resulted in 197.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 32.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 74° F and average low of 57° F. This resulted in 86 HDDs and 97.5 CDDs.

• **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 [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request 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

## health & safety connection

### ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



**If you must exit the machinery...**

**If you can safely drive away...**

**If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!**

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

**40 ft. radius safe distance**

**If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:**

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Take notice** of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not** shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know** where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- Be especially careful** in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not** place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not** place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

## Set the table for safety

Whether testing out a new dish or whipping up a family classic, there's one recipe that should also be included on the menu: safety. Follow this "Recipe for Kitchen Safety" to help create memories instead of danger:

1. Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home. For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so they all sound if one sounds.

2. Test the batteries in each smoke alarm every month, replace them once a year, and replace the unit every 10 years.

3. GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults, or leakage currents, that could shock or electrocute someone. GFCIs should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact, such as the kitchen. GFCIs should be tested every month.

4. Prevent fires by making sure your oven and stovetop are clean and free of grease and dust. You should clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly. Lastly, vacuum the refrigerator coils every three months to prevent dangerous dirt build-up.

(Kitchen safety continued on Page 7)