




the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

July 2022

## inside connections

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- 8** SWCE annual meeting recap;

## calendar of events

### July

- 2** International Day of Cooperatives 1008573
- 2-4** Blooming Prairie's Old Fashioned Fourth of July
- 4** Independence Day; **SWCE office is closed**
- 13-17** Dodge County Fair; Waseca County Fair
- 20-24** Rice County Fair
- 21-24** W.Concord Survival Days
- 22-24** Montgomery Kolacky Days
- 27** Korean War ended in 1953
- 31** Litomysl Summer Festival

### National Hot Dog Month



## Incumbent directors re-elected during Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 86th annual meeting

Three incumbent directors were re-elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) board, Tuesday, June 7, during the co-op's 86th annual meeting at its headquarters in Owatonna.

The meeting was the co-op's first in-person annual meeting in three years. The previous two years were drive-thru meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Re-elected to three-year terms were District 2 Director Geraldine G.

Lienke, Janesville; District 4 Director Dennis C. Ringhofer, Owatonna; and District 6 Director Gary W. Wilson, Owatonna. Lienke and Ringhofer were unopposed and declared re-elected by SWCE Attorney Tricia Lancaster. Wilson was re-elected against challenger Michael T. Herman, Owatonna with 220 votes to 147 votes for Herman.

Steele-Waseca's annual meeting had 380 members register with 810, including guests, in attendance. Registered members received a binder with a bal-



The incumbents re-elected to the SWCE board of directors Tuesday, June 7, during the co-op's 86th annual meeting were (left to right) Gary Wilson, District 6; Dennis Ringhofer, District 4; and Gerri Lienke, District 2.

lot, and gift certificates, which were a \$50 Energy Star® certificate and \$30 Power Perks certificate (good at one of the participating member businesses listed on the certificate). The certificates each expire on Dec. 31, 2022, and will not be replaced if they are lost or stolen.

Annual meeting attendees participated in Steele-Waseca's collection of non-perishable items for an area food shelf. Those who donated received a LED lightbulb. In all, 166 pounds of non-perishable items and \$268 dollars

(SWCE annual meeting continued on Page 8)



Line Technician Marshal Madery was among Steele-Waseca Operations personnel delivering annual meeting attendees to the entrance of registration at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna. The golf cars were available through Miner's Outdoor & Rec, located at Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie.



Steele-Waseca Assistant Foreman Jake Jablonski (pictured left) was among co-op personnel handing out co-op picnic blankets to registered members attending the annual meeting.

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)

Email: [info@swce.coop](mailto:info@swce.coop)



### Board of Directors

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

### Management

Syd Briggs . . . . . *General Manager*

### Division Managers

Kim Wilson . . . . . *Member Services*  
 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

**I**t was terrific to see the turnout for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 86th

Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 7, at the co-op's headquarters in Owatonna.

With it being the first in-person annual meeting in three years, there was excitement in the air as members and guests were able to reunite with old acquaintances. Even with a snafu with the member registration cards, co-op employees and technology were flexible to accommodate members electing to utilize a drive-thru option.

For those of you unable to attend this year, mark your calendar, the co-op's 87th annual meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, 2023. 23496

As we continue to be amazed with the current impact of inflation in our country, our rates continue to hold steady at Steele-Waseca, and you may want to consider expanding your electric options in your way of life.

Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and home builders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively, according to Energy Star®. Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to boil about twice as fast as a gas stove.

Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. *Fortune Business Insights* attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools.

For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi, and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders, and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug-in such as power inverters, air inflators, and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League noted, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited—electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles." Today, the number of electric products available is exploding. "There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes—even airplanes and boats," said Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work—you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers, similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners, will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

**A**nother benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases in renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite the hat trick—improving efficiency, quality of life, and helping the environment.

## member connection

# Scholarships awarded by Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to "Class of 2022" high school graduates

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric awarded \$500 scholarships to 17 high school seniors who graduated this past school year.

A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity. 1067792

Steele-Waseca's scholarship program has awarded \$198,250 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954.

The recipients are a dependent of a Steele-Waseca member and will be attending a two- or four-year technical school or college full time this fall. The recipients were selected by their respective high schools. This year's recipients include:

- **Brady Strotzman**, Bethlehem Academy, the son of Richard and Jill Strotzman, Owatonna.

- **Melanie Winzenburg**, Blooming Prairie, the daughter of Lucas & Katie Winzenburg, Blooming Prairie.

- **Olivia Stephe**s, Faribault, the daughter of Andrew and Jennifer Stephe, Faribault.

- **Keegan Bronson**, Hayfield, the son of Kevin and Stacy Bronson, Hayfield.

- **Brooke Jahr**, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, the daughter of Jeff and Joyce Jahr, Waldorf.

- **Sadie Sullivan**, Kasson-Mantorville, the daughter of Tim and Carol Sullivan, West Concord.

- **Alex Vold**, Kenyon-Wanamingo, the son of Cory and Jennifer Vold, Kenyon.

- **Michael Proehl**, Maple River, the son of Rick and Gena Proehl, Minnesota Lake.

- **Hannah Schull**, Medford, the daughter of Matt and Susan Schull, Medford.

- **Reagan Anderson**, New Prague, the son of David Anderson, Lonsdale.

- **Kylee Kruger**, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, the daughter of Patrick and Jessica Kruger, Ellendale.


- **Mara Halls**, Northfield, the daughter of Joel and Molly Halls, Faribault.

- **Emma Wolff**, Owatonna, the daughter of Scott and Linde Wolff, Owatonna.

- **Andra Sherman**, Tri-City United, the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Sherman, Lonsdale.

- **Laura Schmidt**, Triton, the daughter of Rob and Sarah Schmidt, Claremont.

- **Alix Bushlack**, United South Central, the daughter of Chris and Betsy Bushlack, New Richland.

- **Taylor Anderson**, Waseca, the daughter of Benjamin and Andrea Anderson, Waseca. 

 #swceLIFE+



**Brady Strotzman**



**Melanie Winzenburg**



**Olivia Stephe**s



**Keegan Bronson**



**Brooke Jahr**



**Sadie Sullivan**



**Alex Vold**



**Michael Proehl**



**Hannah Schull**



**Reagan Anderson**



**Kylee Kruger**



**Mara Halls**



**Emma Wolff**



**Andra Sherman**



**Laura Schmidt**



**Alix Bushlack**



**Taylor Anderson**



## cookin' connection

### Lemony Blueberry Layered Pie

Val Keough

Faribault

1 graham cracker crust (1) 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
(1) 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk  
1/4 c. powdered sugar 2 tsp. lemon zest  
(1) 3.4 oz. box instant lemon pudding  
1/4 c. freshly squeezed lemon juice (1) 21 oz. can blueberry filling

Combine cream cheese, condensed milk, and powdered sugar. Use electric mixer; mix at medium speed 1-2 minutes. Add pudding, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Mix well blended. Spoon 1/2 blueberry fruit filling into bottom of graham cracker crust. Spoon lemon-filling mixture on top, spread evenly. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour.

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 42 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during May 2022. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). #swceINNOVATION

## 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.

## June issue of Sparks



### Numbers found:

Isaac Atilano

### Numbers not found:

Steven Tywater  
Joel/Niki Erickson  
Kris/Malia Norton  
Spencer/Dawn Iverson



## 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.

• **May temps** – The average high temperature for May was 70° F, while the average low was 49° F. This resulted in 242.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 66.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 68° F and average low of 48° F, which resulted in 271.5 HDDs and 55 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2022, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

**507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514**

## LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: [www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com](http://www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com).

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see**. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

## DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

## OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

**NEVER GO NEAR** downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area.

**STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.**

Safe  
Electricity.org®

## Top tips to stay cool and save energy this summer

What's the best way to stay cool and comfortable during the dog days of summer while saving on energy costs?

That's easy: Energy Star®. Here are some upgrades the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends for keeping everyone and everything cool from pooches to the planet.



### *Pump up your cooling system*

If your cooling system is more than 12 years old—or you're looking to upgrade for the summer, replace it with an Energy Star certified heat pump (see Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), for heat pump promotions through June 30). Heat pumps work great for cooling too, and are super-efficient for year-round savings and home comfort. 1086664

During the summer months, the heat pump serves as a central air conditioner and reduces cooling costs compared to conventional air conditioners.

In the winter months, a heat pump can deliver up to three times more heat energy than the electrical energy it consumes, costing less to operate than traditional HVAC equipment such as furnaces, boilers, or electric resistance heat. They also help you transition from fossil fuels for a cleaner, healthier home.

### *Get smart about your thermostat*

A smart thermostat that has earned the Energy Star label is the perfect way to control your temperature settings to save energy and money.

They're called smart because they learn your family's preferences for heating and cooling without you having to program them like old programmable thermostats.

Plus, they take the guesswork out of what settings will optimize for comfort and energy savings, adjusting the temperature in your home throughout the day to fit your needs, and save money on energy bills. Families with high en-

*(Stay cool, save energy continued on Page 7)*

## ad connection

### give away

**LONG-TAIL MANX KITTEN**, white w/orange markings, male, born April 13. 583-2173.

**(4) PIECES OF OAK** cut dwn about 1.5 yrs ago, each abt 5' long & jst ovr 2' in diam. Email: [ekerd@comcast.net](mailto:ekerd@comcast.net)

**INDOOR CATS** in need of new loving homes. 573-2099.

### wanted

**STORAGE SPACE FOR A 22' RV.** 202-3694.

**HAY TEDDER; HAY WAGON.** 412-1388.

**FORD SKID STEER**, diesel. 330-1849.

**WOOD LATHE.** 581-2301 or 663-1275.

**USED/WASTE OIL**, 200-gal. minimum, call to set up a pickup of your oil. 420-7429/Quentin.

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

**USED/WASTE OIL**, will pickup or bring to my location. 440-8831/leave message.

**PINBALL MACHINE**, working or not, any age or condition. 612-327-0255.

**GUNS; AMMO; JD MOWERS; TACKLE; ESTATES.** 279-0431/Mark.

**PAINTING JOBS:** house, barns, all outbuildings. 308-8556.

**JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES**, top \$ pd. 332-2300.

**USED 5-12' DISC**, 3 point, in gd working condition. 330-0827.

**MY HAY CUT & BALED**, 7 or more acres, cash or shares, about 3 mi. NE of Mdfd. 339-0763.

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

**YOUR OLD BROKEN, UNWANTED TRAMPOLINE.** 451-7091.

**SOMEONE TO TEAR DOWN BARN FOR LUMBER; DRIVERS w/Class A CDL & tanker.** 456-1181.

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

### for sale

**14' INT DISC**, new hoses, \$550; **ANTIQUE GRAIN CLEANER**, motor works, \$250; **ANTIQUE MILK CANS**, \$25/each. 456-1870.

**DINING TABLE** w/(4) chairs, dark walnut, chairs have leather cushions, \$150; **WEBER PROPANE GRILL**, blk/stainless steel, 3 burner w/side burner, enclosed grill cabinet, \$100. 323-5207.

**BUILDABLE RIGHTS IN RICE COUNTY**, Webster Twp. 612-919-4130 for details.

**HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS:** lights, scene setter, stakes, ground breakers, knick knacks, pumpkins, tinsel, pinatas, candles, inflatables, accessories, & misc., \$40 for all. 440-5021.

**MINI STORAGE UNITS**, Ellendale. 456-1460.

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

**2002 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE**, runs & starts, 3.8L, V6 engine, 221,000 mi., \$1000. 339-0695.

**DUMP TRAILER AVAILABLE**, 12'x6'x3', we drop, you fill, we haul, Fbo, Morristown, Waterville area, \$200 + landfill fee. 838-5616.

**(4) TIRES**, 8.50x15, used vry little, always in shed, \$20/each/obo. 451-1977.

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

**FRONT BENCH SEAT** for '97 Ford full-size pickup (red), vry nice shape, \$150/obo. 323-4362.

**WILDCARD INNOVATIONS TRIPOD GAME FEEDER** w/30-gal. polypro barrel, \$50; **WEATHERTECH FLOOR LINERS** for Ford Escape, should fit everything from 2013 to current, \$70. 612-247-5346.

**WOODEN NOAH'S ARK** w/accessories, \$50; **GEISHA DOLL COLLECTION**, (29) total, 6 musical, great cond., \$100; **BETHLEHEM VILLAGE SET**, (44) pc, lighted, new in box, \$100. 304-0903.

**50-GAL. WATER HEATER; BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT.** 475-2322.

**GERMAN SHEP. PUPS**, males & fem. avail., blk & tan color. 256-4617/leave message.

**GRASS HAY**, small sq. bales, \$4/ea. 612-756-1131.

**JD 6620 COMBINE; WESTFIELD AUGER**, 8"x46'. 583-2026.

**17' FIBERGLASS CANOE** w/trailer, oars, & anchor, excellent cond. 456-8931.

**(4) USED TOYO OPEN COUNTRY M/T TIRES**, 33x12.50R18LT, all \$75/obo. 413-2659.

**SWIFFER DUSTER** w/pads; **OLD SLED.** 451-2687.

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

**USED HOME-SAWED LUMBER:** (8) 2x6 by 9', (2) 1x6 by 10', total \$65; **(2) RUBBERMAID WATER TANKS:** (1) 100-gal. & (1) 150-gal. 744-2792.

**1938 FORD PICKUP**, 4L, V6, PS, DB, new rims & tires, new pickup box, drives like a new one, in primer, \$27,900. 327-3626.

**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.

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

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

**JAZZY 1103 ULTRA POWER CHAIR**, new batteries, like new cond., \$995. 210-2074.

**GRAVEL TRUCK AVAIL.** for all your delivery needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

**TRAILER TIRE ON RIM**, ST 175/80R13, 5-bolt rim, \$35. 491-4565.

**1978 IH 886 TRACTOR**, \$800/obo; **JD RIDING LAWN MOWER**, \$500. 838-6612.

**TREK 720**, men's, 700x35c, 21 spd, \$100; **TREK MT 200**, 7 spd, 24x175, \$100. 330-3178.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

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

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

For Sale  Wanted  Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

### travel

**SUMMER ON THE MISSISSIPPI 2**, Aug. 10-13. Deluxe motor coach, 6 meals, Mississippi River Museum, dinner theater, Field of Dreams movie site, various tours & more! \$759 pp w/2 per room.

**CIVIL WAR BATTLEGROUND**, Sept. 19-28. Deluxe motor coach, Civil War museums in Richmond & Appomattox, historical battlefields, Lincoln tomb & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

**AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND**, Oct. 6-15. Round trip Delta flights, 2 nights at Millenium Hotel, Broadway show, cruise eastern seaboard to Canada, scenic ports & more! \$3,599 pp w/2 per room.

**Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.**

*4 Seasons*  
Vacations, Inc.

TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**GRASS HAY**, small sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

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

**5-SECTION DRAG ON WHEELS**. 451-5577.

**TDR**, Forest Twsp, Rice County. 301-9021.

**FORD 1-TON CHAIN HOIST**, nice shape, \$50. 456-7614.

**TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING**, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

**(4) GENERAL GRABBER HTS60 TRUCK TIRES**, size 275/60R20, like new 10/32, new depth 11/32, \$500 for set of (4). 612-250-6956.

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

**2010 40' TRAVEL TRAILER** w/(3) slide outs, \$25,000; **GEHL 4500 SKID LOADER**, needs work, \$1700; **MIRA-FOUNT FROST-FREE CATTLE WATERER**, \$250. 330-3945.

**GEHL 2245 HAYBINE; GEHL 1865 RD BALER; IH 810 GRAIN PICKUP; DEUTZ-ALLIS 9170 FWD; '95 CADILLAC DEVILLE**. 684-3136.

**(2) DUAL REM. CYLINDERS**, F3190R & 1 single, F2831R, for 530/630/730 JD series, \$1200/ea. Email: [eakerdr@gmail.com](mailto:eakerdr@gmail.com).

**1983 19' BAYLINER CAPRI FISH/SKI BOAT**, fiberglass, Penta Volvo inboard motor, runs great, includes water skis, tube, & tow ropes. 273-2690.

**BARI SAXOPHONE; 12-SPD TREK ROAD BIKE; BCS CHIPPER/SHREDDER; DORM REFRIG.; 6' BOOKCASE; COLEMAN 2-BURNER CAMP STOVE**. 340-0506.

**ANTIQUES**: 3/4 bed frame, beautiful shape; wood folding chair; high chair; rocking chair. 456-7757.

**SNOWMOBILE TRAILER**, 8x10, tilt bed, \$1800/obo. 475-2799.

**2014 WOMEN'S TREK BIKE**, exc. cond., 26", 21 spd w/mirror & speedometer, \$170/obo. 339-3436.

**SAANEN DAIRY GOATS**: (1) April doeling, (3) 2-yr-old milkers, commercial genetics, disease-free farm. 456-3838.

**50TH ANN. LITOMYSL SUMMER FESTIVAL**, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owat., Sun., July 31, 10 a.m. Polka Mass, Festival 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., everyone welcome, [www.litomysl.webs.com](http://www.litomysl.webs.com).

**Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Tuesday, July 5, to ensure being published in the August 2022 Sparks newsletter.**

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.

(Stay cool, save energy continued from Page 5)

ergy use can save \$100 per year.

### Seal and insulate to keep it cool

You could save up to \$190 a year by sealing air leaks around your house and adding insulation. In most homes, the attic is easy to access and improving it has the biggest benefit. A good insulation contractor will start by sealing air leaks and then will add insulation to the recommended level on top.


### Replace those old windows

Old windows make it hard to keep your home comfortable and will drive up cooling costs. Energy Star windows have invisible coatings that block solar heat. Replacing your old windows with Energy Star certified windows can lower household energy bills by a national average of 12 percent—that's more than \$200. Plus, you'll have improved comfort all year long.

### Be a fan of fans

Ceiling fans are great for moving the cool air around the room and creating a nice breeze in the summer. If you raise your thermostat by only 2 degrees and use your ceiling fan, you can lower your air conditioning costs by up to 14%.

For more than 25 years, people across America have looked to EPA's Energy Star program for guidance on saving energy, saving money, and protecting the environment. For more information visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

 #swceINNOVATION

## Grid authorities issue warnings about summer energy demand

Great River Energy (GRE) has sufficient resources, but weather may warrant added measures

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently issued its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment.

In it, NERC—the United States' authority on electric reliability—warned that several parts of the country are at risk of energy shortfalls this summer due to predicted above-normal temperatures and drought conditions over the western half of the continent.

The announcement followed similar comments from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages the power grid for 42 million people in the United States and Canada, including Minnesota. Although MISO projects the Midwest will have sufficient energy for the summer, it stated additional measures may be necessary to maintain reliable service during periods of peak demand. These periods typically occur on hot and humid days when consumers are using more electricity than normal.

NERC indicated the north and central areas of MISO are in a "high risk" category due to generator retirements and increased demand. Great River Energy serves the northern area of MISO.

Although GRE has enough generating capacity to meet the demands of its members, plus a cushion, any emergency measures deployed to maintain reliability will be applied over the entire region, regardless of which utility serves a geographic area or the capacity position of those utilities relative to their obligations in MISO.

"Great River Energy does its part

every year to contribute to regional reliability by meeting its supply requirements, securing resources in reserve and having some surplus to sell to others," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke.

GRE has carefully constructed a portfolio of power supply resources that provides low-cost renewable energy and a robust fleet of dispatchable resources that allow it to generate or receive additional energy when needed. These include hydropower resources, power supply contracts with other energy producers as well as natural gas peaking plants. All state administrative, legislative and MISO resource adequacy requirements and obligations have been—and will continue to be—met by Great River Energy.

"Our peaking plants can start in a matter of minutes and most have the ability to operate on fuel oil if the supply of natural gas is constrained," added Brekke.

Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives also have approximately 350 megawatts (MW) of demand response capability that can be dispatched to reduce stress on the electric grid. These demand response programs provide valuable flexibility and may be called on more often during peak periods this summer. Every cooperative offers unique program offerings, and consumer-members can enroll at any time.

In emergency situations, MISO calls  
(Summer energy demand continued on Page 8)

## member connection

(SWCE annual meeting continued from Page 1)

were collected. The donations were presented to the food shelf in Ellendale. Steele-Waseca thanks annual meeting attendees for their generosity, as 124 LED lightbulbs were given away as a result of the food shelf collection.

Prior to the start of the annual meeting, two Early Bird prize drawings were conducted. The first drawing went to Dale Motl of Blooming Prairie for a 4-Seasons Vacations travel gift certificate and \$100 Boonie's Bar & Grill of Faribault gift card; the second drawing went to Gary Ceplecha of Faribault for a 4-Seasons Vacations travel gift certificate and \$100 Nagel Sod & Nursery of Medford gift certificate.

The annual meeting started with the Presentation of Colors featuring the local Color Guard and Faribault Middle School students. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and remained standing for "The Star-Spanned Banner."

The business portion of the meeting included the establishment of a quorum, adopting the agenda, acceptance of the reports printed in the June 2022 *Sparks* newsletter, introduction of the board of directors, the report of the Nominating Committee delivered by Chairperson Denise Bartness, the call for nominations from the floor, and director voting.

While the tabulation of ballots was conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Certified Public Accountants, Steele-Waseca Communications Spe-



Steele-Waseca Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack presented Youth Tour Delegate Nate Seykora (pictured left) with a certificate and backpack with goodies from the co-op for his travels to Washington, D.C., June 14-19.

cialist Randy Sobrack introduced the 2022 Youth Tour delegates Nate Seykora of Owatonna, and Alex Kindseth of Farmington. Alex was unable to attend, but Nate was presented with a Steele-Waseca backpack and goodies for his tour with Minnesota's delegation to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-19.

General Manager Syd Briggs recapped the past year for the co-op, and introduced special guests, retired employees, and the current employees of Steele-Waseca. A special presentation was conducted for Finance Division Manager Dave Lundberg, who was working at his 50th annual meeting.

Dave, who is retiring Thursday, June 30, reflected on highlights of his Steele-Waseca career. "It's been a good place to work," said Dave, noting his appreciation of the co-op's annual meeting. "Thank you for an experience of a lifetime."

Following the business portion of the annual meeting, three Grand Prize drawings were conducted along with drawings for the flowers on stage. The Grand Prize drawing recipients included Dan Bruzek of Ellendale with a \$100 gift card to Lerberg's Foods of Ellendale; Leann Boyd of Owatonna with a \$100 gift certificate to Grampa's Ole



Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs presented Finance Division Manager Dave Lundberg (pictured left) with a framed co-op employee photo in recognition of Dave's dedicated service to the co-op. The co-op's annual meeting Tuesday, June 7, was Dave's 50th annual meeting he has worked with Steele-Waseca. Lundberg is retiring Thursday, June 30.

(Summer energy demand continued from Page 7)

on additional power supply resources, imports energy from other regions and performs voluntary load reductions to manage the electric system. Temporary controlled manual load sheds, commonly known as "rolling blackouts," are used as a last resort to keep the system in balance. If there are temporary controlled load sheds, Great River Energy has procedures in place to act immediately when directed by MISO to shed load. Load shed protocols and processes are defined and drilled routinely, so when these events happen, GRE is ready.


“Emergency measures are rarely deployed, but our operators practice them regularly,” said Priti Patel, Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer. “We are prepared to maintain the health and reliability of the electric system in order to best serve our membership.”

 #swceSERVICE

Home Meats of Medford and a \$100 gift card to Casey's General Store; and Joel St. John of Claremont with a \$150 gift certificate to Steve's Meat Market of Ellendale and a \$150 gift card to Casey's General Store.

Following the drawings, a smoked pork chop lunch was served by Hy-Vee of Owatonna, which included potatoes, corn, coleslaw, roll, water and/or milk. The Faribault Middle School students delivered your choice of chocolate, cherry, or butterscotch Dilly® Bars to the dining members and guests. 31469

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the Steele-Waseca board of directors met for their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected: Gary Wilson, president; John R. Beal, Faribault, vice president; Rodney D. Krell, Blooming Prairie, secretary/treasurer; Ronald D. Sommers, Northfield, acting secretary/treasurer; and Duane R. Edwardson, Ellendale, chaplain.

Steele-Waseca has 11,757 service locations in a nine-county area including Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, LeSueur, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties. 

 #swceAPPRECIATION