



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2022

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calendar of events

August

- 5-7** Claremont Hogfest
- 13** Lonsdale Community Day
- 16-21** Steele County Free Fair
- 25** Minnesota State Fair starts
- 27** Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

National Wellness Month

Litomysl Summer Festival

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

Sunday, July 31

Polka Mass - 10 a.m.

Festival 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Food, games & prizes for all ages

Live Music

Prune, Poppyseed, & Apricot "Buchty"

Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale

Everyone welcome!

www.litomysl.webs.com

Lundberg retires after 49 years with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Finance Division Manager Dave Lundberg retired Thursday, June 30, following a 49-year career with the co-op.

"I'm 70 and it's time to pass the baton on," said Dave.

Lundberg joined Steele-Waseca on June 1, 1973, as an accountant after being recruited while attending Willmar Technical Institute. "I was recruited—yes," said Dave. "They drove up to Willmar," referring to Steele-Waseca General Manager Don Larson and Accountant Stan Larson, based on the school's reputation of having a quality accounting program.

Dave recalled the school's placement director asked him if he wanted to interview for the position as the director said it looked like a "pretty good job opening." "I think they interviewed 10 students," said Dave, who recalled going to a second interview at Steele-Waseca, and interviewing for another position in Bloomington, before deciding Steele-Waseca was a better opportunity. In addition, Dave also had an emphasis on finance and previously attended Moorhead State University, and completed the USDA/REA accounting course.

During his years at Steele-Waseca, Dave was promoted to staff accountant in June 1979, and business analyst in January 1980, before being promoted to finance division manager. His early years worked in the areas of capital credit equity and plant accounting.

"Overall, I think one of the nice things we've been able to do is hold the line on retail rates," said Dave, noting legacy members have not had a rate change since 2013. 20727

Lundberg credited the REA and later RUS loan program with keeping interest rates low for rural electric cooperatives



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Finance Division Manager Dave Lundberg formally retired Thursday, June 30, after a 49-year career with the co-op.

like Steele-Waseca. "This turned out to be very beneficial to you the members," said Dave. "It's now called RUS, Rural Utilities Service. Low-interest loans to rural electric cooperative customers for capital expenditures and it helps keep the retail rates down," whether for constructing or rebuilding power lines, poles, substations, installing meters, and transformers, etc.

"I like the business model," said Dave referring to cooperatives. Noting after expenses are subtracted from revenues, the excess goes to the members in capital credit equity. "It's a good honest form of business," said Dave, with yearly audits and pride with his years of clean audits. "You've got a good board, good employees, and everybody works together," said Dave referencing his view of the efficient operation at Steele-Waseca.

Prior to 1991, Lundberg said he didn't have experience with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), but that would change following the Halloween ice storm in 1991. Dave reflected on how General Manager Don Larson directed him to go into a room and try to figure how Steele-Waseca was

(Lundberg retirement continued on Page 8)

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 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop
 Email: info@swce.coop



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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing
 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*

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners seeking to add value

to their energy dollar may utilize rebates offered by the co-op in 2022.

Rebates for central air conditioners (\$50 with a SEER rating 14.5 and higher) and air source heat pumps (ASHPs) require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," located under "Quick Links."

A special rebate promotion for ASHPs has been extended to Aug. 31, 2022. For those with an HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor) of 8.2 or greater, the special rebate is \$1,000; for those with an HSPF of 9.0 or greater, the special rebate is \$2,000. 33845

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are typically eligible for a \$100 rebate if your primary heat is delivered fuel, and \$200 if your primary heat is electric. A special rebate promotion that expired Thursday, June 30, has been extended to Aug. 31, 2022, and will be rebated \$450 and \$750 respectively with an HSPF of 9.0 or greater. As of the writing of this column, \$21,000 in special promotion rebates have went to members who purchased qualified ASHPs.

Rebates for Energy Star® labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$100 per ton in 2022.

Heat pump water heaters in 2022 have a rebate of \$500.

Steele-Waseca is offering a \$50 rebate for a residential HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM), which offers a higher efficiency rating than typical electric blowers or condenser fan motors.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$50 rebate, only if you recycle your old unit.

Dehumidifiers with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Residential lighting rebates in 2022 will only be for LED (Light Emitting Diode) lightbulbs with the Energy Star label. The rebate is \$2 per bulb up to one-

half the purchase price (limit 5 bulbs).

Steele-Waseca members who install a LED yard light fixture that is Energy Star or DLC (Design Light Consortium) rated are eligible for a \$30 rebate; Wi-Fi smart thermostats are eligible for a \$25 rebate; Energy Star labeled electric clothes dryers are eligible for a \$25 rebate; a central air conditioner or ASHP tune up is eligible for a \$25 rebate per unit; variable speed pool pumps with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate; and pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$200 rebate.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric co-ops for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle.

The program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question, or wish to request a rebate form, please call Operations Assistant Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available on Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "Residential Rebates." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products.

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill.



Products with the Energy Star label have met federal specifications regarding energy efficiency.

#swceINNOVATION

member connection

Seykora, Kindseth thankful for Youth Tour experience in Washington, D.C.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 2022 Youth Tour delegates, Nate Seykora and Alex Kindseth, each expressed gratitude in having the opportunity to travel with Minnesota's delegation and experience Washington, D.C., June 14-19.

Nate shared that from the Arlington National Cemetery to Mount Vernon, the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) tour "was an unforgettable experience."

"I am so grateful for this opportunity and thank you to Steele Waseca Coop [sic]," wrote Nate. "Some of my favorite stops included the National Archives, Spy Museum, Vietnam Wall, Korean War Memorial, and getting to see a Nationals Baseball game."

"But more importantly, I could not have made the friendships I made on this trip without the support of the Steele Waseca Coop. Thank you for this great opportunity."

Nate is the son of Charles and Theresa
(Youth Tour experience continued on Page 7)



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Youth Tour delegates Nate Seykora (back row, second from left) and Alex Kindseth (back row, third from right) experienced Washington, D.C., June 14-19, with Minnesota's delegation, and the Capitol in the background.

ENERGY WISE MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!

WE PUMPED UP OUR REBATES SO YOU CAN SHRINK DOWN YOUR BILL.

Save energy at home when you install a ductless air source heat pump. And when you act now, you'll receive a supersized, limited-time rebate!


Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Delivered fuels	\$100	\$450*
Electric heat	\$200	\$750*

*Minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0

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



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

 #swceINNOVATION

Offer expires Aug. 31, 2022

cookin' connection

Zucchini Bread

Rebecca Wolf (age 10)

Claremont

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 eggs | 3 c. flour |
| 1 c. oil | 1 tsp. soda |
| 2 c. sugar | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 2 c. grated zucchini | 1/2 tsp. baking powder |
| 2 tsp. vanilla extract | 2 1/2 tsp. cinnamon |

Combine eggs, oil, and sugar, and beat well. Add grated zucchini and vanilla extract. Blend in flour, soda, salt, baking powder, and cinnamon. Makes 3 small pans or 2 large pans. Bake at 350° for 45-60 min. Rebecca's mother, Stacy, added, "This recipe is a family favorite. We hope you enjoy it also!"

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 53 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2022. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, 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.

July issue of Sparks



- Numbers found:**
Tanner Flicek
- Numbers not found:**
Jayme/Hilary Underwood
Kevin O'Connor
Corey Kilmeyer
Paul/Candace Byrge



Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 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.

• **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 80° F, while the average low was 60° F. This resulted in 189.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 33.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 86° F and average low of 61° F. This resulted in 263 CDDs and 14 HDDs.

• **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 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

NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE BEACH

Think you'll stay on the beach and let the storm pass?
Think again.



Check the weather **before you go**. Have a plan in place for inclement weather.



If you notice signs of weather rolling in, don't stay on the beach to wait it out. Find a substantial **building or a car with a hard top for shelter**.



Two-thirds of lightning deaths have happened **during outdoor activities**.

Of those who died, **35% were engaged in water-related activities**.



Of those water-related activities...

28% of people who died were on the beach



and 20% of people were boating.

ALWAYS PLAY IT SAFE.

That day at the beach or in the boat can wait.



Source: National Lightning Safety Council



Heat pumps built for summer cooling, colder winter weather

Advancements in air source heat pump (ASHP) technology for colder climates have led to increased adoption of these systems in recent years.

Great River Energy (GRE) serves members across Minnesota, including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, and is part of the Minnesota ASHP Collaborative, a joint effort that also includes Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), Minnesota Power, Missouri River Energy Services, Ottotail Power Company, and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

ASHPs are very energy efficient technologies with the potential to meet member cooling and heating needs at reduced energy costs. As the technology has advanced in recent years, variable-speed heat pumps have emerged as an even higher-efficiency option for cooling and heating homes in all climates. Cold-climate heat pump technology can operate efficiently below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and can save homeowners 30-55% on home heating costs.

"Now that air source heat pump technology can effectively heat in subzero temperatures, we are seeing more interest. It really started gaining momentum," said Jeff Haase, manager of member services and end-use strategy at Great River Energy, Steele-Waseca's wholesale power provider. As an added incentive for cold-climate ASHPs, participating electric cooperatives offer increased rebates during promotional periods (see Page 7). 1068044

With increased awareness and incentives available, ASHPs are becoming more common.

"We believe that trend will continue as the technology continues to evolve and consumer awareness increases," said Haase.

Homeowners may learn about ASHPs from their electric cooperative, through advertising, or by word of mouth, but need to find a trained and knowledgeable contractor in order to install the technology. Doing some research and getting multiple quotes can help ensure a good fit. In order to qualify for a Steele-Waseca rebate, an ASHP must have a quality installation completed by a qualified installer. A list of those installers is listed on Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, under "Residential

(ASHP continued on Page 8)

ad connection

give away

DONKEY. 384-8091.

KITTENS. 390-5993 or 390-0506.

OAK for firewood, (2) oak trees fell in yd, avail. weekends for pickup in Ellendale. 612-598-4005.

16' FIBERGLASS CANOE, has wood trolling motor mount, you haul. 838-8689.

(3) TUBE TVS, they still work. 363-1788.

OAK CABINET. 339-0763.

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, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

(4) 6-BOLT 7X15 RIMS & TIRES for a 1975 Bobcat 610 skid loader. 456-2528/Dave.

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

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

WOOD CHIPPER for making mulch from branches. 612-598-4005.

OLD COINS OR STAMPS, helping fill albums for charity, prices paid on published value. 676-0970.

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

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

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

for sale

R22 FREON, not reclaimed, 110 lbs, \$5 per lb. 414-403-3845.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

MINI STORAGE FOR RENT. 456-1460.

18' H&H FLATBED TILT TRAILER. 390-5993 or 390-0506.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

TREK 7100, 700x35, men's, 21 spd, \$150; **TREK 20" GIRL'S BIKE,** \$40; **SCHWINN ROXIE,** 7-spd women's cruiser, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

CRITERION REFRIG. & FREEZER, bik sides, silver front, 24" wide, 59" high, 25" deep, 2-yrs-old, \$250/firm. 491-4565.

JARS, pint & quart. 676-7179.

BUILDABLE RIGHTS in Rice County, Webster Twp. 612-919-4130 for details.

STANDARD POODLE PUPS, registered - vetted, ready Aug. 10, \$600. 384-7653/Fbo.

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

40-YR-OLD CYPRESS SLABS, use clocks, tables, etc.; **ANTIQUE BED,** single, about 75-y-o. 446-8866.

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

55-GAL. STEEL BARRELS, food grade, \$10; cover & clamp, \$5. 421-2521.

GRAVEL TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR DELIVERY NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales, \$4/each. 612-756-1131.

'97 CHEVY BLAZER LS, 4 door, estate vehicle, 177,000 mi., motor has 120,000 mi., new tires, shocks & alignment, \$3000. 317-2824.

16.5' MIRROCRAFT BOAT w/40 hp Mercury motor, 4 stroke w/Minn Kota 55-lb. trolling motor, Lowrance fish locator, \$8000. 528-2763.

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

BARGE BOX w/hoist; GEHL STALK CHOPPER, 2 row; BALE ELEVATOR. 744-5277.

2-SLED TRAILER, 8'6"x10', new tires, permanent tabs & tilt, \$1400; **1984 F150,** 4x4, 142,000 mi., 4 spd, starts, runs gd, new tires, \$1800. 330-5670.

SHEEP EQUIPMENT: elec. Oster shear, \$125; chair, \$60; scale, \$40; misc. sheep items; **20-GAL. FIMCO ELEC. SPRAYER,** new, \$150. 744-4419.

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

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

(4) ANTIQUE COFFEE POTS, (3) COFFEE CANS, & COFFEE GRINDER, \$75. 612-756-3407.

GRASS HAY, large rounds, net wrapped, no rain, 5'x63", near Owat., \$80/each. 461-0898.

1950S FARMALL H TRACTOR w/72" ARTSWAY mower, parade worthy, exc. cond., always properly maintained, \$6000. 685-2260.

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

OLD GRISWOLD CAST-IRON 2-BURNER IRON-PANE STOVE w/attached regulator, \$20; **OLD PRO TRACTOR SEAT** w/attachd bracket, \$15. 334-2860.

CHUCK STEARNS NORTHLAND VOYAGER WATER SKIS, used, (1) pair, \$30. 456-0210; Email: d.l.peterson4058@gmail.com.

BARI SAX; BCS CHIPPER/SHREDDER; TREK 12-SPD ROAD BIKE; DORM REFRIG.; SM. AIR COMPRESSOR; BOOKCASE; FLUTE, new; CLARINET. 340-0506.

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

HAY, small sq. bales, mixed grass & alfalfa, \$4 a bale. 461-6102.

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

1938 FORD PICKUP, customized, professionally built, sweet ride, primer ready for your color, \$27,900. 327-2741.

(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 **August 5** to ensure being printed in the September 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 October 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.

travel

DOOR COUNTY - WIS., Sept. 16-19. Depart from Albert Lea, 5 meals, Rowley's Bay Resort, scenic boat tour in Sister Bay, "Murder for Two" musical comedy, trolley tour & more! \$899 pp w/2 per room.

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

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND, Oct. 6-15. Round trip Delta flights, Millenium Hotel in Times Sq., Broadway performance, 7-night cruise along eastern seaboard to Canada. \$3,599 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

CONCRETE TROWELING MACHINE, \$200; TROY-BILT HORSE REAR TINE TILLER, \$300; PULL-BEHIND YARD SPRAYER, \$75 (all in gd cond.). 952-652-2933.

18' BALE-THROW RACK ON JD WAGON, \$1500; NH 56 HAY RAKE, \$1200; CATERPILLAR D2 BULLDOZER, runs & drives, needs wrk, \$3000. 330-3945.

BLK ANGUS BEEF QTRS, grain fed, no hormones or antibiotics. 952-292-1352.

BLUE-HEELER PUPS, male & female avail., gd w/ livestock, great guard dogs, smart & loyal. 696-1601.

SEVYLOR 4-PERSON CARAVELLE K85; SEVYLOR 12V BOAT MOTOR; GIBRALTER IV WOODSTOVE, 18"x32"x32"H; 10" METALBESTOS CHIMNEY PIPE. 210-5353.

GRASS HAY, sq. bales, gd for livestock, \$3/bale. 515-320-3878/txt 1st.

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

AKC PUREBRED ENGLISH CREAM GOLDEN RETRIEVERS, vet checked, vaccinated & wormed, family raised, ready for their forever homes during last wk of July, \$1200. 461-1871.

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.

(Youth Tour experience continued from Page 3)

Seykora of Owatonna.

"I had an amazing experience during six action packed days," wrote Alex. "I would really like to thank Steele Waseca Electric Co-op [sic] for sponsoring me to attend this Youth Tour."

"I met lots of friends from all over the state and the country," wrote Alex. "Our first day of touring we saw 11 monuments in D.C., and then we headed to Arlington Cemetery."


"I learned a lot about rural electric cooperatives during the presentation we participated in our group meetings. We went to Mount Vernon, home of our first president George Washington.

We attended a Nationals baseball game, visited historic Alexandria, the National Mall, the Smithsonian and the Hard Rock Cafe. 1021298

"One day of touring we visited several museums including the National Archives and the Holocaust Museum, which was very somber. We were at the Capitol for a full day, meeting with several lawmakers including our two Minnesota Senators. We really got an insider's view of our political process."

After the final day in D.C., "We said goodbyes to our new friends and headed back to the great state of Minnesota. What a great week, one that I will never forget," wrote Alex.

Alex is the son of Kristen Nelson of Farmington.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association Youth Tour Director Gayle Karol, who coordinates the Minnesota delegation with the Youth Tour event hosted by the NRECA, expressed her appreciation of this year's Minnesota Youth Tour delegates, "You can all be *extremely proud* of the way you conducted yourselves and how you represented Minnesota and your sponsoring co-ops. You are *truly* a fine group of bright young men and women and I could never have imagined a kinder, more respectful, fun group of young adults!" 

 #swceLIFE+

ENERGY WISE  MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

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



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

 #swceINNOVATION

Offer expires Aug. 31, 2022

member connection

(Lundberg retirement continued from Page 1)



From his point of view, Lundberg said Steele-Waseca hasn't had a storm that compares to the damage experienced during the 1991 Halloween storm.

going to pay for the immense line, pole, and other structural damage sustained by the co-op as a result of the storm. Dave recalled his phone calls for federal assistance, and correspondence with Minnesota's U.S. Senators Dave Durenberger and Rudy Boschwitz, along with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.

"We may have been the first co-op in Minnesota," said Dave to utilize FEMA to pay for equipment damage from a storm. He recalled Steele-Waseca received just over \$3 million in aid from FEMA to replace 5,000 poles in about a five-year period. "Some of our customers were out of power for two weeks," said Dave as a result of the Halloween storm in 1991. He also noted between the rebuilding and going through a FEMA audit, it took about 10 years for the co-op to work through the paperwork process.

Even though Steele-Waseca has utilized FEMA for damages sustained from storms since that time, Lundberg maintains nothing comes close

to what Steele-Waseca experienced from that ice storm in 1991. Dave added his experience with FEMA had him as a contact on their website, "I was getting calls all over the country from people that wanted to know how to start, how they applied for aid," said Dave. "I did help lay the foundation for the future for other co-ops."

The other major experience for Steele-Waseca

during Dave's career was the land purchase and construction of the co-op's present headquarters on West Bridge Street, which broke ground in August 1993. Lundberg said the co-op learned from the Halloween ice storm that Steele-Waseca was landlocked in downtown Owatonna. He noted the present headquarters is a good location for Steele-Waseca in getting trucks in and out, and offers expansion opportunities if needed in the future.

Lundberg praised Steele-Waseca's board of directors for maintaining the co-op's scholarship program. "It's important especially in today's technical world that kids, if they want to be successful in today's employment, they need to get some kind of training," said Dave, regardless if it's from a 1-, 2- or 4-year program. "We need people to fix our furnaces, air conditioners, computers, we need mechanics, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, linemen, farmers—all kinds of technical people."

Dave was recognized at Steele-Wase-




Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric General Manager Syd Briggs (pictured left) presented Dave Lundberg, June 30, with a plaque commemorating his 49 years of service at the cooperative.

ca's 86th annual meeting, Tuesday, June 7, for working at his 50th annual meeting. He noted the recognition "felt good," recalling, "Is anybody here been here 50 years or longer and nobody raised their hand," said Dave.

Dave and his wife, Deb, plan to maintain residence in Owatonna as they together enjoy retirement. "I plan on doing some traveling, attend sporting events, and have two brothers with boats, so do a little fishing." The couple has an adult son working and living in the Washington, D.C. area.

"I have gotten to know many members and have appreciated working for a rural electric cooperative tied to agriculture and the businesses too," said Dave.

Steele-Waseca wishes to thank Dave for his dedicated service to the cooperative for 49 years, and to enjoy the opportunities ahead during his retirement. 

 #swceLIFE+

(ASHP continued from Page 5)

Rebates."

Every house is unique and a homeowner needs to understand the features of theirs to be most efficient and comfortable. 1034480

"Even with the learning curve that comes with new technology, it is encouraging that members, contractors, and utilities are satisfied with the progress being made with cold climate ASHPs, especially in a climate like Minnesota," said Haase.

Visit <https://www.energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps> to learn more about ASHPs.

 #swceINNOVATION

Hanging scale for sale

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has a hanging scale (pictured right) for sale that still works, but is no longer being used at the co-op. Steele-Waseca will accept the best offer for the scale. For more information or to purchase the scale, please contact Line Supervisor Matt Rohman at 507-451-7340, or toll-free 800-526-3514.



 #swceAPPRECIATION

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