



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

June 2023



2022 Annual Report

87 Years
Lighting The Way

inside connections

- 2** General Manager's report
- 3** Wacek enjoying SWCE experience;
SWCE board of directors and corporate services
- 4** GRE year in review
- 5** 2022 annual mtg minutes; Voting authorization form
- 6** 2023 director nominees
- 7** SWCE director districts; Nominating Cmte report
- 8-11** Financial report for 2022
- 12** Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar
- 13** SWCE Youth Tour delegate
- 14** Ad Connection; 4-Seasons Vacations
- 15** Ad Connection; Water-saving products promo
- 16** ACRE becomes America's Electric Cooperatives PAC; Annual Meeting reminders

calendar of events

June

- 2-4** Morristown Dam Days
 - 6** SWCE Annual Meeting,
Office closed until 2 p.m.
 - 14** Flag Day 26088
 - 15-17** Mdfd Straight River Days; Heritage Days in Faribault
 - 18** Father's Day
 - 19** Juneteenth
 - 21** First day of summer
- National Dairy Month**

SWCE's 87th Annual Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, Minnesota

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.Present your pre-mailed registration card or register for director voting and prizes; optional drive-thru available for those wishing to vote, but unable to attend the business meeting

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.Popcorn and co-op display booth
10:25 a.m.Early Bird prize drawings

10:30 a.m.Registration ends, business meeting begins
Presentation of Colors.....Color Guard, and Faribault Middle School Pledge of Allegiance.....Everyone
National Anthem (please remain standing)
Invocation.....Duane Edwardson, Board Chaplain

Welcome.....Syd Briggs, General Manager
Call to Order.....Gary Wilson, Board President
Establish Quorum, Adopt Agenda.....Gary Wilson, Board President
Notice of Meeting, Proof of Mailing.....Rodney Krell, Board Secretary/Treasurer

Acceptance of 2022 Reports as printed in *Sparks*.....Gary Wilson, Board President
Board of Directors

Nominating Committee Report.....Denise Bartness, Cmte Chair
Director Candidate Introduction.....Denise Bartness, Cmte Chair
Call for Nominations from the floor....Tricia Lancaster, SWCE Atty
Nominations Closed, Director Voting

Acceptance of Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws...Tricia Lancaster, SWCE Attorney

Introduction of 2023 Youth Tour Delegate.....Randy Sobrack, Communications Specialist

Guest Introductions.....Syd Briggs, General Manager
SWCE Report.....Syd Briggs, General Manager
Employee Introductions.....Syd Briggs, General Manager

Announcement of Election Results.....Tricia Lancaster, SWCE Atty
Unfinished and New Business.....Gary Wilson, Board President
Adjournment

Grand Prizes.....Gift cards and flowers
11:45 a.m.Lunch catered by Hy-Vee, Owatonna

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

Website: www.swce.coop
 Email: 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*
- Jon Stelter *Finance*
- Dan Meier *Operations*

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing
 Questions and Power Outages
 Phone:**

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

**To leave a non-emergency message
 whenever SWCE's Office is closed:**

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

message to our owners



By Syd Briggs,
 General Manager

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is inviting member-owners and their guests to the co-op's 87th annual meeting Tuesday, June 6, with the doors opening at 9 a.m., and the meeting starting promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to provide information and report on last year's activities, and to elect three directors for a three-year term.

Steele-Waseca is providing the co-op's audited financials in this edition of *Sparks*, as we do each year, and need to address these reports along with approving last year's minutes.

In addition, this year we are also submitting for approval, a revision of Steele-Waseca's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Each of you, in a separate mailing, should have received the notice of the change in both documents along with a copy of the new documents. Our old Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were very dated and in need of revision. Please take a look at them and contact us with any questions. Included in the notice is a brief summary of the changes. 1022775

There isn't any preregistration or call in before the meeting. Steele-Waseca will again be providing registration cards in the mail that are bar coded specifically for each member.

Please bring these cards with you to be scanned at registration. You should be receiving these registration cards in the mail approximately 10 days prior to the meeting. Do not mail these in; just bring them with you to the meeting on Tuesday, June 6.

At the annual meeting, Steele-Waseca will be collecting non-perishable food items and donations for a local food shelf. For those wishing to donate, they will receive (1) free LED lightbulb in appreciation of their donation.

Steele-Waseca's 2023 Youth Tour Delegate Fred Klokonos will be introduced as he prepares to join 33 other students and five chaperones in Minnesota's delegation heading out, June 13, to Washington, D.C.

Also returning this year is the great



A view of the stage as the annual meeting started last year.

meal served by Hy-Vee and the always popular Dairy Queen Dilly® Bars.

Financially, Steele-Waseca had another good year. Our average number of meters grew from 11,668 in 2021 to 11,795 in 2022, and we experienced a slight increase in kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales of 3.7%.

Our operating expenses can vary greatly from year to year due to storm activity and different expense cycles in our long-range planning. This year's operating expenses increased 16.7%, however, our four-year average is still down 2.2% from the previous four-year average.

Equity increased \$362,000, and long-term debt increased \$5.4 million.

In addition, to the primary purpose in an annual meeting of electing the leadership for our board of directors and providing our annual reports, we will have an opportunity to introduce all employees and directors to the membership.

For many of you, it will be another chance to reminisce with the people you have been doing business with for many years.

There are a lot of changes happening in the electric industry and I look forward to providing a brief update along with how the future of Steele-Waseca looks.

Each member who is in attendance to present their pre-mailed registration card, or register, will receive Steele-Waseca promotional products, the \$30 Power Perks to be used at local businesses, and the \$50 Energy Star® gift certificate.

Personally, I'm looking forward to seeing each of you again. If you have questions about our financials, the election process, or any business at all, please feel free to contact me, which I will be more than happy to address.

••#swceAPPRECIATION

Wacek thrilled with accounting position at Steele-Waseca

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Accountant Nicole Wacek is proud to proclaim herself as a “lifelong member” of the co-op, and has enjoyed her position with Steele-Waseca since starting Aug. 2, 2022.

“I love it,” stated Nicole. “I think I still have a lot to learn as well. I work in the finance department and my responsibilities are miscellaneous accounts receivable, and I work with the work orders.”

Nicole was born and raised in Owatonna, where she graduated from high school. Her postsecondary education included graduating from South Central Technical College in Faribault.

“I worked in banking for 20-plus years and at an assisted living/memory care facility for three years during the COVID pandemic,” stated Nicole.

As for her interest in Steele-Waseca, “I knew some of the past employees who loved working here,” wrote Nicole. “I was looking for a job where I would still be with people and be able to use more of my schooling for my job.”

Nicole lives on a hobby farm in Deerfield Township. “I have three horses, a rabbit, a cat, and two dogs,” she wrote. “My hobbies are volunteering, and I love to garden and take pride in my lawn and flower gardens. I might be seen at a tractor pull or two thru out the summer months my dad tractor pulls, and I love to watch and cheer him on. I can’t wait for warmer weather!” 34458


Outside of work, Nicole serves as the clerk for Deerfield Township, president of The Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna, treasurer of the Lakes & Prairies District Exchange board, Steele County Humane Society board member, and recently joined the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church.

“My Exchange Club is erecting the Steele County Veterans Memorial that is a passion of mine,” wrote Nicole. “Owatonna needed a Veterans Memorial, and I am proud to be a part of it!”

Steele-Waseca is pleased to welcome Nicole to the co-op family and introduce her to our member-owners.




Nicole Wacek

“I come from a huge family,” wrote Nicole. “I am proud to be a Wacek and I love the heritage that both my parents have given me. I might not be a Vikings Fan my mom was born and raised in Wisconsin.”  #swceLIFE+



Steele-Waseca board of directors and corporate services

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

Great River Energy delivers on its triple bottom line in 2022

Cooperative's performance demonstrates its commitment to rates, reliability and environmental stewardship

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's membership is a network of individuals, families, farmers and business owners like you who own part of the company that supplies electricity to your community.



Similarly, Steele-Waseca is a member of Great River Energy (GRE). Steele-Waseca not only receives wholesale electricity from GRE, but is also an owner.

Like all cooperatives, Great River Energy strives to provide great, affordable service and meet the needs of its membership. Electricity is being produced in new ways and cooperative members are finding different ways to use that electricity in their homes and businesses.

GRE and its member-owners have adapted remarkably to both trends. They have taken important steps to meet members' energy needs today, tomorrow, and long into the future while recording impressive financial and operational performance.

Focused on the members

Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that operate at cost, only collecting enough revenue to run the business and meet their financial obligations. When a cooperative experiences financial success, it returns those dollars to members.

The past year was marked with periods of turbulence in the energy markets; however, Great River Energy's resources performed well. In fact, strong financial results allowed GRE to issue a total of \$38 million in bill credits throughout the year. The cooperative also issued patronage capital payments to member-owners.

These cash returns came at a time when many electricity providers are experiencing increased cost pressures due to supply chain challenges and inflation.

Building for the future

Great River Energy successfully concluded several significant projects over the past year that have the cooperative on track to maintain stable wholesale electric rates and reliable service while reducing its environmental impact.

GRE sold its largest coal-based power plant and the high-voltage, direct-current (HVDC) transmission system that delivered the plant's electricity to Minnesota. As part of the sale, Great River Energy

secured rights to interconnect a large renewable energy project to the HVDC system. The project will fulfill a significant portion of the renewable energy needs for GRE's power supply transition and deliver wind energy just west of the Twin Cities.

Great River Energy has been adding wind resources for years, which has the cooperative on a trajectory to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2033, and it has done so cost-effectively.

Transmission expansion underway

Great River Energy is a partner on a critical high-voltage transmission project that will support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest as the regional electric system continues to evolve.

Known as the Northland Reliability Project, the 150-mile line between the Iron Range and central Minnesota is one of the transmission projects planned to invest in electric reliability as more low-cost renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to grow and extreme weather events become more frequent.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

Grid remains stable amid weather extremes

Extreme weather in the summer and winter posed a challenge to the electric grid, but GRE's system performed well thanks to its experienced team and the ability to reduce electric demand at critical moments.

The summer of 2022 will go down as the longest on record as temperatures reached 70 degrees or higher for 118 consecutive days. On several occasions, Great River Energy deployed "demand response" resources, which strategically reduce electricity use to maintain the health of the grid and avoid high power market prices.

This is all part of the cooperative's strategy to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during periods of high stress—such as hot-weather days—and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

Members have voluntarily enrolled more than 370,000 appliances, irrigation systems, and other devices into the demand response programs offered by Great River Energy and its member-owner co-

operatives making it the nation's largest demand response program per peak load. By participating, member-consumers grant GRE permission to "control" or "cycle" their air conditioner, water heater, heat pump or other electric devices for a period of hours on high demand days in exchange for a reduced electric rate or other incentive.

By calling on its demand response resources this summer, Great River Energy reduced hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand and avoided making costly market purchases—ultimately saving members upwards of \$2.5 million.

Ethanol business sold

A biofuels enterprise of which Great River Energy was the majority owner was sold in 2022 for the benefit of the membership.

GRE's ownership of Midwest AgEnergy served its members well for many years. After the sale of Coal Creek Station, however, the cooperative had less of a strategic interest in ethanol biorefineries.

Serving members responsibly

Cooperatives take pride in being good neighbors in the communities where they serve and operate facilities as well as doing what's right for their employees.

Great River Energy was again certified as a Great Place to Work in 2022, an honor given to companies whose employees report a positive working experience. Nearly 90% of employees said GRE is a great place to work—that's 31 points higher than the average U.S. company. The cooperative also earned the title of "Healthiest Employer" after achieving a very high ranking among midsize Minnesota employers.

GRE provides charitable contributions to nonprofits, operates scholarship programs and sponsors events that bring people together. The cooperative also works with its member-owners to attract and retain business activity and jobs where its members live.

Through wholesale electric service and community programs, Great River Energy strives to support its member-owners, contribute to sustainable communities and deliver on its mission to provide affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment.

 #swceCOOPERATION

swce 2022 annual meeting minutes

The annual meeting of the members of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) was held at SWCE in Owatonna, Minnesota, on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Wilson (hereinafter referred to as Chairman) who presided.

At an early bird drawing, two members each won a \$250 certificate toward a vacation with Four Seasons Vacations, and a \$100 certificate to Nagel Sod or Boonie's Restaurant. Everyone in attendance received a \$30 Member Perks certificate and a \$50 Energy Star® gift certificate.

The Color Guard and the Faribault Middle School presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Board Chaplain Duane Edwardson gave the invocation.

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

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

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

The Chairman asked the membership to read the general manager's report, the financial report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021; the Great River Energy report and the minutes printed in the annual report. The membership was asked if they had any questions pertaining to the reports. There being no questions, a motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Attorney Tricia Lancaster presided over the election of the directors. Lancaster stated there were three districts in which directors were to be elected. General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the bylaws concerning director election and summarized the minutes of the Nominating Committee meetings held Nov. 11, 2021, and Jan. 19, 2022; a copy of said minutes was attached to the minutes. Nominating Committee Chairperson Denise Bartness introduced the candidates by name and district, and presented a biographical summary of each. Attorney

Lancaster then called for nominations from the floor.

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

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

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

There were no Washington, D.C. Youth Tour delegates to report on their experience in Washington, D.C., as the Youth Tour was canceled for the past two years.

SWCE Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack introduced the two 2022 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour delegates, Nate Seykora and Alex Kindseth.

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

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

Briggs updated the membership on current issues pertaining to SWCE, and reviewed the past year's Member Focus marketing initiative.

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

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

District 2: Gerri Lienke was declared elected by acclamation.

District 4: Dennis Ringhofer was declared elected by acclamation.

District 6: Gary Wilson, 220 votes; Michael Herman, 147 votes.

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

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

#swceTRUST

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2023 Annual Meeting Letter of Voting Authorization

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

Name of corporation, church, club or organization _____ SWCE Account # _____

Address of above _____

Name of officer or agent authorized to vote _____ Office title _____

is the person authorized to represent the organization as its voting delegate at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Annual Meeting on June 6, 2023.

Secretary of organization or other designated official _____

NOTE: Only officers of an organization are generally authorized to vote on behalf of the organization. For any agent of the organization other than an officer to cast the organization's vote, this form must be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of its governing body appointing such person to vote for the organization.

swce 2023 board of director nominees

June 6



The 2023 Nominating Committee has selected the following nominees for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors. Committee members include: Ryan/Jenny Angelow, Faribault; Daniel/Stacy Maas, Faribault; Dale/Lynn Groskreutz, New Richland; Glenn/Linda Wiesjhan, Owatonna; Rene/Pam Koester, Nerstrand; and Denise Bartness, Owatonna; Joseph Haberman, Blooming Prairie; Charlie Peters, Lonsdale; and John/Lydia Iverson, Medford. The election of directors will take place during Steele-Waseca's 87th annual meeting, scheduled Tuesday, June 6, starting at 10:30 a.m., at the co-op's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna. #swceTRUST

District 7



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



Mark W. Estrem, is a lifelong resident of rural Nerstrand. He and his wife, Jeanne, have been married for over 51 years. They have two married daughters, and three granddaughters. Mark is a former dairy farmer and custom heifer grower. He still drives part-time for Northfield Lines. Mark is a member of St. Dominic's Catholic Church, serving 15 years on Parish boards; and 20 years with the Rice County American Dairy Association. Mark stated his interest in the co-op started with the first trip Steele-Waseca took to the Coal Creek Station in North Dakota. "I drove the motor coach for that trip many times and also for the GRE Directors," wrote Mark. "I wish to be a part of the board of directors of SWCE as it works together to provide for the necessary service and power needs of all the co-op members." As for qualities he could bring to the board, "After serving on several committees and my farming career – we have had to adapt to changing times," stated Mark. "We are always trying new ideas in our farming operation to get better yields and conserve our soil. I think I can be open to new ideas for the future needs of our co-op."



Bryan L. Finley, and his wife, Becky, live in rural Northfield. They have three sons and a daughter, five grandchildren, 100 chickens, a horse and two dogs. Bryan grew up in Hayfield where he graduated from high school. He attended Rochester State Junior College 1970-72, earning an AA degree in mechanical technology. Bryan worked in prosthetics in 1973 and continued until 2012. He was a business owner from 1991-2012, and is currently a companion caregiver. Bryan owned Advanced Prosthetic Technology, and made prosthesis for amputees. He served patients in 30 counties in southern Minnesota. Bryan has been with Steele-Waseca since 1997. "I have read the monthly newsletters and have attended several annual meetings and would like to know more about how the co-op functions," stated Bryan. "If I can learn more about the position I could use my background as a business owner and professional to deal with issues the board faces. I am a servant. I enjoy problem solving." As for the qualities he would bring to the board, "I have worked for 39 years in health care and assisted 1000's of patients by listening to their prosthetic needs and finding ways to help them," wrote Bryan.



Ronald D. Sommers, incumbent, and SWCE board of directors acting secretary/treasurer, along with his wife, Ruth, live on the farm where he grew up in Northfield Township. They have a daughter and a son, both married, and each with two children. Ronald attended the University of Minnesota and earned bachelors and masters degrees in agriculture. He was an agricultural educator for over 20 years in southern Minnesota. After that, he worked nearly 20 years with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., where he served as sales accounting manager for their central division and later sales coordinator for Minnesota. Ronald has been honored as Rice County 4-H Alumnus of the Year, Rice County Conservationist of the Year, and received Honorary Minnesota and Honorary American FFA degrees. "I believe in the cooperative business model and am familiar with the vital role played by cooperatives in bringing modern electric power to rural parts of our state and region," wrote Ronald. "Today, our industry faces different challenges as we address new technology, concerns about our environment and increasing costs. I believe SWCE has been well-directed and well-managed and would like to contribute to moving our cooperative into the future during these exciting and changing times." Adding, "I would like to apply my skills and talents to our electric cooperative by continuing to serve on its board of directors."

District 9



Scott J. Carlson, and his wife, Lisa, live in rural Faribault. They have two grown children, Grant and Grace. Scott has a bachelor's degree in meteorology. He is a weather observer and sends his data to the Minnesota Climate Office. Scott recently retired from a 31-year career as an air traffic controller. He has lived in District 9 for the past 23 years. "I love to learn new things and want to give back to the community," stated Scott. "I'm looking forward to working with the other board members to maintain a strong co-op." As for qualities he would bring to the board, "I have an accounting background," wrote Scott. "I did bookkeeping for a credit union during my college years. I'm very detail oriented, highly responsible and follow through on my endeavors."

swce director districts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nominating Committee completes duty for board of director nominees

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

This year's committee met Nov. 9, 2022, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna.

General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in co-op's bylaws, the activities and conduct of individual board members policy, the qualifications for eligibility for service on the co-op's board of directors policy, the director election filing form and affirmation of director qualifications, and questions concerning qualifications for director.

The Nominating Committee works on a rotation system that keeps six experienced members on the committee, and adds three new members each year.

A list of members in each district was provided, and it was suggested that committee members from each district meet together to discuss the search for candidates and review the information given to them.

Nominations for committee chairperson for the January meeting were opened, Denise Bartness volunteered, and Board President Gary Wilson declared her nominating committee chairperson. After no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Nominating Committee conducted their second meeting on Jan. 18, 2023, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters. Cooperative Attorney Tricia Lancaster reviewed the director duties, standard of conduct policy, and qualifications for eligibility for service on the board of directors policy.


The names of the following candidates were announced, and will appear on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca's 87th annual meeting scheduled June 6, 2023, at the co-op's headquarters located at 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna:

District 7 John R. Beal (incumbent), Faribault.

**District 8 Mark W. Estrem, Nerstrand;
Bryan L. Finley, Northfield;
Ronald D. Sommers (incumbent), Northfield.**

District 9 Scott J. Carlson, Faribault

Additional nominations may be nominated from the floor during the business portion of the annual meeting until the nominations officially close and the election is held.

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



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 2023 Nominating Committee included the following members (front row, left to right): Charlie Peters, Lonsdale; Denise Bartness, Owatonna; Pam and Rene Koester, Nerstrand; Stacy and Daniel Maas, Faribault. Back row (left to right): John and Lylia Iverson, Medford; Linda and Glen Wiesjhan, Owatonna; Ryan and Jenny Angelow, Faribault; and Dale Groskreutz, New Richland. Not pictured: Lynn Groskreutz, New Richland; and Joseph Haberman, Blooming Prairie.

financial report for year 2022

On Oct. 10, 1936, when Steele County Cooperative and Waseca Cooperative Electric voted to consolidate, there were 860 members. By the end of 2022, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) service locations had grown to 11,868.

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

The first part of SWCE's line was energized in February 1938. When completed, the initial project consisted of 350 miles of line. By 1950, that number had grown to 1,562. Today, SWCE has a total of 2,195 miles of line, 20 substations in service, and 900 square miles of service area.

In 1950, SWCE had 2.6 members per mile of line. Currently, SWCE has 5.4 members per mile of line. In comparison, investor-owned electric utilities on average serve 34 customers per mile of line while municipal electric utilities average 48 customers per mile of line.

BALANCE SHEETS DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

ASSETS	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
UTILITY PLANT		
Electric Plant in Service	\$98,588,860	\$92,124,226
Construction Work in Progress	891,080	3,479,330
Total	<u>99,479,940</u>	<u>95,603,556</u>
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(35,579,822)	(34,243,020)
Net Utility Plant	63,900,118	61,360,536
OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Organizations	21,325,117	16,773,533
Investments in Related Companies	711,223	711,106
Other Investments	2,646,456	-
Notes Receivable - Net of Current Portion	782,817	1,026,876
Special Funds - Restricted Cash	<u>2,500,000</u>	<u>1,600,000</u>
Total Other Assets and Investments	27,965,613	20,111,515
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	739,506	4,696,117
Accounts Receivable, Net	4,374,649	4,291,737
Materials and Supplies Inventory	1,757,931	1,249,430
Interest Receivable	22,720	6,661
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	<u>244,059</u>	<u>309,657</u>
Total Current Assets	7,138,865	10,553,602
DEFERRED DEBITS		
	<u>895,036</u>	<u>1,154,402</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$99,899,632</u>	<u>\$93,180,055</u>
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$45,580,476	\$45,004,028
Memberships	17,346	17,222
Other Equities	<u>1,134,856</u>	<u>1,350,127</u>
Total Equities	46,732,678	46,371,377
LONG-TERM DEBT, Less Current Maturities		
RUS Mortgage Notes	30,780,785	24,167,923
CoBank Notes Payable	<u>7,818,145</u>	<u>9,068,319</u>
Total Long-Term Debt	38,598,930	33,236,242
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	2,236,519	1,903,381
Accounts Payable	2,956,837	3,385,120
Consumer Deposits	188,000	173,565
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	<u>1,342,610</u>	<u>1,354,500</u>
Total Current Liabilities	6,723,966	6,816,566
DEFERRED CREDITS		
	<u>7,844,058</u>	<u>6,755,870</u>
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	<u>\$99,899,632</u>	<u>\$93,180,055</u>

financial report for year 2022

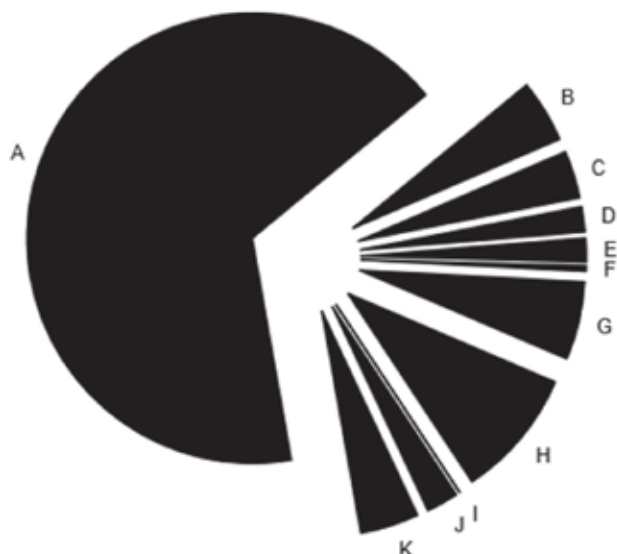
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
OPERATING REVENUES	\$38,282,535	\$36,074,792
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	25,558,331	24,597,165
Distribution Expense - Operation	1,707,576	1,212,441
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	1,283,413	974,090
Customer Accounts Expense	676,449	615,795
Customer Service & Informational Expense	647,833	555,721
Sales Expense	170,712	137,223
Administrative and General Expense	2,156,178	1,794,197
Depreciation	3,570,205	3,360,886
Other	18,830	21,136
Total Operating Expenses	<u>35,789,527</u>	<u>33,268,654</u>
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	2,493,008	2,806,138
INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT	<u>874,055</u>	<u>842,082</u>
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	1,618,953	1,964,056
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION & OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	<u>678,556</u>	<u>1,569,602</u>
NET OPERATING MARGINS	2,297,509	3,533,658
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Investment Income	123,251	68,648
Other Nonoperating Margins	5,434	8,220
Total Nonoperating Margins	<u>128,685</u>	<u>76,868</u>
NET MARGINS	<u>\$2,426,194</u>	<u>\$3,610,526</u>

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

During the year 2022, the average SWCE member had power for 8,758.38 hours out of a possible 8,760 hours. That's a reliability record of 99.98 percent! 1059921

For each dollar received from consumers, 4.2 cents goes into operating margins. These margins are used to help finance construction and improvements, pay capital credits, and make payments on our debt. Since 4.2 cents per dollar is not enough to do all of this, we borrow money to finance the shortage of funds needed for these purposes.



WHAT YOUR 2022 CONSUMER DOLLAR PAID FOR

A.	66.8%	Purchased Power
B.	4.5%	Operations
C.	3.4%	Maintenance
D.	1.8%	Billing & Collection
E.	1.7%	Customer Information
F.	0.4%	Sales
G.	5.6%	Administrative & General
H.	9.3%	Depreciation
I.	0.0%	Other Income Deductions
J.	2.3%	Interest on Long-Term Debt
K.	4.2%	Margins

financial report for year 2022

Nature of Operations

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

Financial Statement Presentation

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

Patronage Capital

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

Income Taxes

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

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Margins	\$ 2,426,194	\$ 3,610,526
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Margins to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	3,570,205	3,546,307
G & T and Other Capital Credits	(678,556)	(1,569,602)
Loss on Sale/Disposal of Assets	(4,618)	(11,024)
Loss on Equity Investments	(253,544)	-
Interest Income Credited to Cushion of Credit	(147)	(26,840)
Interest Expense Paid by Cushion of Credit	250,919	94,012
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	(466,076)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities - (Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts Receivable	(98,971)	(87,488)
Materials and Supplies Inventory	(508,501)	(194,686)
Deferred Debits	259,366	(971,160)
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable	(428,283)	(523,369)
Deferred Credits	188,188	252,918
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	(11,890)	153,753
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>4,710,362</u>	<u>3,807,271</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Construction and Acquisition of Plant	(6,105,169)	(5,972,499)
Change in Other Assets and Investments	253,427	80
Cash Received from Retirement of Patronage	626,972	587,754
Cash Paid for Investments	(7,400,000)	-
Payments Received on Notes Receivable	309,657	278,669
Issuance of Notes Receivable	-	(600,000)
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	<u>(12,315,113)</u>	<u>(5,705,996)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in Memberships	124	52
Retirement of Capital Credits	(1,811,473)	(1,621,566)
Change in Customer Deposits	14,435	(27,375)
Proceeds from Issuance of Long-Term Debt	7,000,000	7,725,000
Principal Payments on Long-Term Debt	(1,554,946)	(1,634,197)
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	<u>3,648,140</u>	<u>4,441,914</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,956,611)	2,543,189
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>4,696,117</u>	<u>2,152,928</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ <u>739,506</u>	\$ <u>4,696,117</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Interest Paid	<u>\$ 580,758</u>	<u>\$ 658,953</u>
NONCASH FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Principal Payments on Long-Term Debt Paid by Cushion of Credit	<u>\$ 425,065</u>	<u>\$ 139,852</u>

financial report for year 2022

STATEMENTS OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL AND OTHER EQUITIES YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

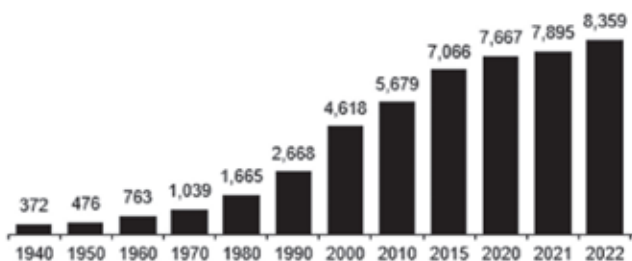
	<u>Memberships</u>	<u>Patronage Capital</u>	<u>Other Equities</u>	<u>Total</u>
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$17,170	\$43,071,063	\$1,294,132	\$44,382,365
Unassigned Current Year Margins	-	3,610,526	-	3,610,526
Retirement of Capital Credits	-	(1,498,015)	-	(1,498,015)
Estate Settlements	-	(179,546)	55,995	(123,551)
Membership Changes - Net	52	-	-	52
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2021	17,222	45,004,028	1,350,127	46,371,377
Unassigned Current Year Margins	-	2,426,194	-	2,426,194
Net Loss on Available-for-Sale Securities	-	-	(253,544)	(253,544)
Retirement of Capital Credits	-	(1,695,346)	-	(1,695,346)
Estate Settlements	-	(154,400)	38,273	(116,127)
Membership Changes - Net	124	-	-	124
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2022	<u>\$17,346</u>	<u>\$45,580,476</u>	<u>\$1,134,856</u>	<u>\$46,732,678</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

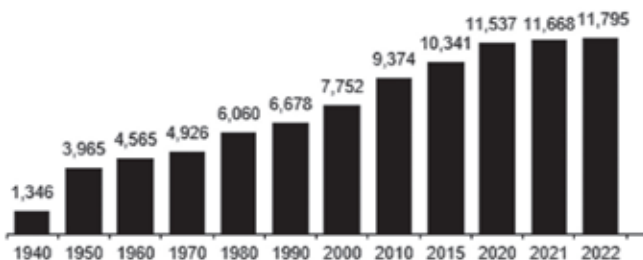
The balance sheets, statements of operations, patronage capital and other equities, and cash flows were taken from complete financial statements which were audited by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Certified Public Accountants, who expressed their unmodified opinion on those statements.

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

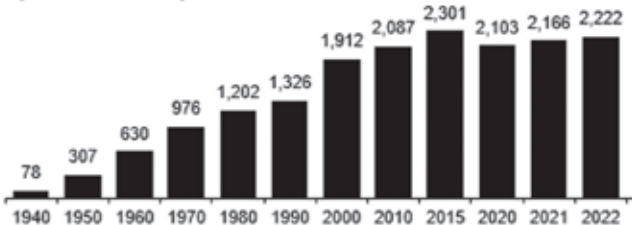
PLANT \$ INVESTMENT PER CONSUMER



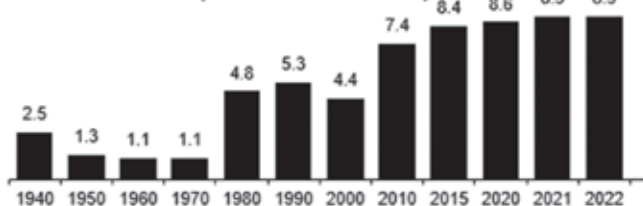
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CONSUMERS



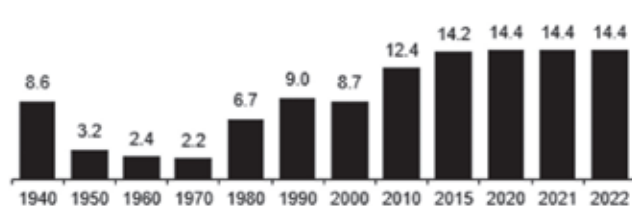
AVERAGE KWH USED PER CONSUMER (PER MONTH)



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



AVERAGE ELECTRIC RATE TO RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS (CENTS PER KWH)



cookin' connection

Magic Pancake

Ariel Wroe

Faribault

- 1 c. milk
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. flour
- 1 pinch nutmeg
- 1 stick of butter

Preheat oven to 425°. Mix milk, eggs, flour and nutmeg; mixture will be lumpy. Melt stick of butter in oven-proof 8x8" pan. Pour mixture into pan. Bake 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and return to oven for 2-3 minutes. Serve with syrup.

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 45 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during April 2023. 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.

May issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Dale/Barbara Mrotz

Numbers not found:
Larry Srock
Steven Drewitz
Ed/Diane Hrabe
Stephen Young



Sparks in brief . . .

- **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca account number and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

- **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

- **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at SWCE between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

- **April temps** – The average high temperature for April was 55° F, while the average low was 35° F. This resulted in 620 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 20.5 Cooling Degrees (CDDs) for April. They compare to last year's average high of 49° F and average low of 32° F, which resulted in 741 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2023, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

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

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE

866-878-7964

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

OWATONNA ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD

youth tour connection

Klokonos representing Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric for the 2023 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric announced the sponsorship of two delegates for the 2023 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., but is pleased to announce Fred Klokonos, a sophomore at Tri-City United High School, will be representing the co-op as part of Minnesota's delegation June 13-18.

Fred is the son of Fred and Kathryn Klokonos of Lonsdale.

The sophomore is a Boy Scout working toward the rank of Eagle. One of the required merit badges is, "Citizenship in the Nation." With his opportunity, Fred could fulfill one of the eight requirements for the merit badge by visiting a national historic landmark and touring the U.S. Capitol.

"This trip would be fun and educational because history is my favorite subject in school," wrote Fred, noting he has never been to Washington, D.C.

"It would be a privilege to represent our community while learning about Minnesota and other parts of the country," wrote Fred. "It would be a great opportunity to meet other people from Minnesota and other parts of the country."

One of the application requirements was to reflect on commitment to com-

munity, and how you contribute to your community. "As a Boy Scout, I have learned a lot about what commitment to the community means by contributing to my community in many different ways with different groups of people," wrote Fred. "Every year I volunteer at least one of the Lion's pancake breakfasts. Other volunteer projects I have done are cleaning up trash in the ditches, bell ringing for The Salvation Army, cleaning up parks and trails, cleaning out duck houses and collecting aluminum cans for recycling."

"For one of our projects I participated in our troop collected and sorted a total of 1000 pounds of recyclable plastic bags that earned us two benches that have been placed in our community."

"I am also a Den Chief for the Lonsdale Cub Scout Pack. Twice a month I attend their meetings and assist adult leaders in activities and advancements of the younger Cub Scouts in Kindergarten through 5th Grade."

Among his school activities: played soccer for seven years, on the trap team for three years, participated in band for five years in which he lettered one year.

Fred has been in Boy Scouts since kindergarten. Among his other expe-




Fred Klokonos

periences as a scout, He participated in Grey Wolf, which is a weeklong camp for National Youth Leadership Training, where he earned his certification. Fred learned skills in team building, giving presentations, decision making, problem solving, and more.

This past March, Fred attended Sea Base in the Florida Keys. Sea Base is a high adventure scout camp. He was able to experience sailing, snorkeling, fishing, kayaking, and doing conservation work on the Florida Reef.

Fred is also a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault.

Steele-Waseca will be recognizing Fred at this year's annual meeting. He will be among 34 students and five chaperones representing Minnesota's delegation. In addition, Steele-Waseca Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack will be among the chaperones for this year's Youth Tour. 

 #swceLIFE+

Editor's Note: SWCE sponsors two high school sophomores or juniors, whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members, for the all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. It's an opportunity to learn about cooperatives, our government, tour historical sites, and have fun meeting new friends from Minnesota and across the nation.



ad connection

give away

FIELD ROCK. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

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

1957-60 DODGE TRUCKS & PARTS, call or text. 612-327-5980.

USED ALUMINUM DOCK. 465-8244.

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

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

BEE EQUIPMNT: lightly used or new framed foundation, boxes cover, bottom boards, etc. 612-805-8546.

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

6' FLAIL OR STALK CHOPPER. 213-7569.

DIES, STAMPS, PUNCHES, & DSP PAPER. 213-1035.

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

PINBALL MACHINE, any age or condition. 612-327-0255.

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

for sale

2010 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY VAN, high miles, new tires, some rust; **REPLACEMENT PICTURE WINDOW (3 WINDOW)**, approx. 48x102. 475-2149.

BILLY GOATS. 213-4060 or 319-404-4835.

120X48 MACHINE SHED, COLD STORAGE FOR RENT. 383-1378.

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

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **June 5** to ensure being printed in the July **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 August 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.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

2001 KAWASAKI NINJA CYCLE, Model MC 999, needs some work on throttle, \$1000. 334-5390.

GANDY LAND MEASURING WHEEL, \$20; **BURN BARREL**, \$20; **RAIN BARREL**, 50-gal. plastic, \$20; **RED CEDAR POST**, 10"x7", \$20; **OFFICE DESK**, 5 drawer w/file folder space, \$20. 455-3881.

2007 ALUMACRAFT 16.5' BOAT w/60-hp Yamaha 4-stroke motor, E/Z trailer, (2) fish finders, trolling motor. 456-7542.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SCHWINN BIKES, 26", 21 speed, gd cond. 451-1322.

ELEC. STOVE; MOVING BLANKETS; SPACE HEATER. 270-748-0699.

USED CANNING JARS, qt & pt, no lids, \$5 per doz. 451-9533.

'73 **JD 4320 DIESEL**, \$15,000 (will trade for new GM 1500 series); '84 **JD 2640 DIESEL**, needs hydraulic work, 146 utility loader, \$5000; '86 **RAM CHARGER**, needs work, great project truck, \$1995. 783-9240.

BESTPET XL INDOOR/OUTDOOR DOG FENCE, hvy duty, 16 panels, 40", exercise playpen, blk, \$100. 475-3556.

RED WING CROCKS, different sizes; **MILK CANS; CREAM SEPARATOR**, bowl & accessories, no stand. 213-0443.

55-GAL. PLASTIC & STEEL BARRELS w/covers, \$5-\$15; **220-GAL. POLY TANK** w/valve in forklift frame, \$75. 421-2521.

(4) **BEVELED GLASS TABLES** w/wicker bottom shelves; (1) **COUCH TABLE**; (1) **COFFEE TABLE**; (2) **END TABLES**. 465-8566.

1994 INT 4900 DIESEL TRUCK w/18' freezer box, current DOT, \$8200. 334-7177.

1974 VW SUPER BEETLE, yellow project car, runs, drives, new brakes, new tires, new windshield. 236-0601.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

OLD STEEL-WHEELED WAGON; FENCE POSTS. 456-8814.

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

2-PERSON PEDAL CAR; LARGE CALIFORNIA RAISIN COLLECTION; LARGE GARFIELD COLLECTION. 451-5172.

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

PLASTIC PADDLE BOAT, \$300; **SWIM DOCK**, 8"x8" deck floor w/(2) 7'4" long & 19" diameter alum. toons or pontoons w/ladder, \$575. 491-8490.

PRIDE 4-WHEEL GO-GO SPORT ELEC. SCOOTER, \$350; **5-QT VALV. SYN. OIL**, \$12. 465-8194.

JD 4020, gas, 2300 hrs, gd rubber, cab, wide front, \$10,000; **CASE 8480 ROUND BALER**, 540 PTO, incl. monitor, \$1800. 339-1821.

PETMATE PET PORTER, 32"Lx22"Wx22"H carrier/crate, plastic, \$10. 339-0763.

HOSPITAL BED w/adjustable head & feet, removable sides, wheels, & mattress, \$100/obo. 213-1736.

ALFALFA HAY, small squares. 327-4493.

SUBMERSIBLE WATER PUMP, 3 wire, 230V, 1/2 HP, **BERETTA A300 OUTLANDER MAX5**, 12 ga, 28"; **FULL CAMO**, new in box; **STORAGE**: boats, car, etc. 451-9445.

1951 JD G, wide front, \$6000/obo. 440-8831.

HUNTING BLINDS, weather/rodent proof, insulated & more. 330-2452.

OAK TABLE, 6 chairs w/3 leaves, \$500; **BEDROOM SET**, \$200; **LOVE SEAT**, \$100; **RECLINER**, \$50; **CUPBOARD** w/Formica top, \$150. 528-2763.

HOGS, ready to butcher, \$1.25 hanging weight. 475-0490.

1978 SHELBY GOOSENECK, 2-horse straight load, small insulated living qtrs, water heater, sink, cowboy shower, tack space, screen door. 456-0076.

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

(For Sale ads continued on Page 15)

travel

JERSEY BOYS SHOW AT CHANHASSEN DINER THEATRE, July 12. Transportation from Albert Lea departs at 9 a.m., includes lunch and desert. \$129 per person; no refunds after 6/12/23.

QUILTER'S TOUR, Aug. 8-10. Deluxe motor coach, 2 nights accommodations Drury Inn & Suites—Des Moines, 6 meals, visit 5 quilt shops and more! \$549 pp w/2 per room.

BRITISH ISLES CRUISE, Sept. 4-19. Round trip non-stop flights to & from London, 12-night cruise on Regal Princess, Edinburgh, Stonehenge, Ireland & more! Starting at \$5,599 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.



ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 14)

35' MOTOR HOME, 31,000 miles. 403-3660.

173 HAY BALER w/bale pickr attachmnt. 381-4130.

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.

AMANA 2-DRAWER SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIG./FREEZER, AMANA STOVE/OVEN (NAT. GAS), DISHWASHER, MICRO (all white color), \$300 for all. 612-210-8781/cell or 663-0266/home.

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

HOMEMADE RUNNING GEARS, \$100; **DAVIS HYDRAULIC LOADER** for Ford, new cylinders, \$1000; **INT. SEMI GRILL**, \$300. 380-4291.

1998 SPARTAN 16' ROLLER BOAT TRAILER, \$800/obo; **50-GAL. WATER HEATER**; **BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT**. 475-2322.

1981 CHEVY EL CAMINO, rust free, newer motor, \$9000/obo. 491-2667.

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

1938 FORD PICKUP, modified, in primer, ready for your personal choices, as is \$27,800. 327-3626.

SEARS 50" MOWER/TRACTOR, 3 speed, \$275; **MURRAY MOWER**, 48", auto trans, \$175; **ANTIQUE 1- & 2-MAN SAWS**. 446-8866.

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

TREK MT 220, girl's, 24x175, F.S. Fork, MtB, \$100; **SPECIALIZED 24-SPD MEN'S**, F.S., MtB, 26x175, \$150. 330-3178.

STEEL ROOFING. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

HOYER MOBILITY LIFT w/sling, remote, scale, used 2 weeks, like new, \$1700. 383-1287.

LATHAM RASPBERRY PLANTS, you dig them, \$1.50/each. 581-2301.

HOUSE CLEANING: bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, etc. 461-9422.

1984 FORD F-150, 4x4, 140K mi., runs gd, \$1800. 330-5670.

FARROWING CRATES, TENDERFOOT & RISERS, + extra equipment. 835-5421/leave message.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER, reg. female, 2.5 yrs, \$600; **(50+) GRASS HAY BALES**, sm. sq., Fbo, \$2/ea. 384-7653.

WEBER TRAVELER GAS GRILL, like new; **REESE 18,000# 5TH WHL HITCH**, fits Ford F-350 factory pucks. 213-6582.

SHOWER BENCH, taller & white, like new, \$30. 744-2709.

'85 CHEVY C50 TRUCK, cab & chassis, PTO, & hydraulic pump, \$1700/obo; **25' SQ. STEEL YD LIGHT POLES**, \$100/ea.; **WACKER BS 60-2I JUMPING JACK COMPACTOR**, \$650. 612-910-0041.

BICYCLE for tall people. 320-0406.

1988 FORD 350 TRUCK w/8'x16' deck, 46,800 actual miles, V8 engine, gd cond., \$3500/obo. 210-1006.

1972 TROY-BILT REAR-TINE TILLER, Horse Model, orig. motor, new seals, belts & carb., works perfect, Webster, \$300/firm. 952-652-2933.

LOTS OF BARN BOARDS, variety of lengths & widths, shedded. 451-5121.

AC WD TRACTOR, runs, \$1000; **NH 7' HAY MOWER**, \$750; **NH 56 HAY RAKE**, \$1250. 330-3945.

GRAIN BIN, 12' diameter, has complete floor, nice shape, great for project like binzebo, \$300/cash. 330-3383.

2015 KODIAK EXPRESS 223RBSL CAMPER, (1) slide out, vry little use, always shedded, \$16,000. 390-1311.

BOER GOAT BUCKS, all ages 3 months to 3 years. 456-0121 for more information.

SM. GALION ROAD GRADER, needs engine work, \$2500; **AC 10' FIELD CULTIVATOR**, 3-point hitch, \$500. 952-393-1953.

2005 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 800 EFI w/snowplow & windshield, \$5500/obo. 676-5283.

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

SOLAR POOL HEATER for above-ground pools, \$50; **KNEE SCOOTER**, \$50. 581-4827.

4X5 MIXED GRASS HAY BALES. 390-0600.

Ads need to be received in the SWCE office by Monday, June 5, to ensure being published in the July 2023 Sparks newsletter.

#swccAPPRECIATION

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.

**SAVE WATER
IN YOUR HOME**

Niagara Conservation water-saving products are 30% off at energywisemnstore.com/water

Niagara Conservation showerheads, faucet aerators and other water-saving products use less water without affecting your stream or pressure. It's a true win-win you'll notice in your utility bills. And now, for a limited time, you can get water-saving products for 30% off!

ENERGY WISE MN

Offer valid
May 1 through June 30, 2023

No coupon code necessary.
Discount applied at checkout.
Customer assumes responsibility
for all sales tax. While supplies last.

member connection

A new PAC identity unveiled by NRECA

Courtesy: Jim Matheson, NRECA chief executive officer

Fifty-six years ago, NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) established the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) to support political candidates who recognize the vital role of electric cooperatives in their local communities. And for almost six decades, ACRE has done just that.

Today, nearly 35,000 donors contribute to this political action committee (PAC), and it continues to support political candidates who support issues important to electric co-ops.

However, to stay relevant in today's political environment, it's important that candidates who receive these PAC contributions understand the connection between the PAC and the electric cooperative network.

With that in mind, NRECA recently engaged a firm to conduct research to see whether electric co-ops were getting full recognition for their collective efforts. In that research and in discussions with individuals associated with federal politics and PAC donors, they found that many of today's political candidates don't connect ACRE with electric co-ops.

As a result, NRECA is unveiling a new name for their PAC: America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

This rebranding will enable them to directly connect the activities of the PAC under the well-known and highly respected identity of electric co-ops.

It's a logical step in their efforts to align NRECA's advocacy resources, including the Voices for Cooperative Power grassroots network, under a common and recognizable brand that enhances their reputation. This cohesive strategy featuring the collective strength of electric co-ops is purposefully designed to elevate the impact in



NRECA's political action committee unveiled its new name and look at PowerXchange in Nashville, Tennessee. (Photo by: Denny Gainer/NRECA)

Washington. And they continue to see evidence this approach is working well.

The PAC allows NRECA to financially support candidates through personal dollars raised from co-op leaders and consumer-members. They want to ensure that candidates who become policymakers will connect this PAC with electric co-ops.

NRECA shared this exciting news with leaders at their member co-ops, and the feedback they've received from them has been overwhelmingly positive. They began to manage America's Electric Cooperatives PAC under that name after a broader unveiling in March at NRECA PowerXchange.

The PAC is just one tool in their advocacy toolbox. They also have a robust Voices for Cooperative Power grassroots advocacy program with thousands of electric co-op employee and consumer-member participants, and a grassroots influencer program that can tap into thousands of cooperative CEOs and directors. Those are complimented by skilled legislative and regulatory advocacy teams at NRECA.

Through these efforts, candidates and elected officials trust us at a time when trust is a scarce commodity in Washington. They know electric co-ops are invested and engaged in the communities they serve. And with this rebranding of collective advocacy, our reputation in Washington will be enhanced for years to come.

(Editor's note: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric presently has 367 members and employees participating in the NRECA's PAC.) #swceCOOPERATION

annual meeting

Plan to arrive at **87 Years** Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) *Lighting The Way* early enough (doors open at 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 6) to be registered by the time the meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. **Remember to bring your pre-mailed registration card.** If you are arriving via Interstate 35, you will want to take the Bridge Street exit (#41) and head west. There is a roundabout at the nearest intersection with SWCE, so just follow the West Bridge Street sign. The co-op's headquarters are located at 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna.

• **Parking** will be available on the property surrounding the building. **Miner's Outdoor & Rec**, located at Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie, will be supplying several golf cars to shuttle you to and from the meeting.

• **There will be two Early Bird prize drawings prior to the start of the annual meeting.** There will also be Grand Prize drawings for gift cards and flowers on the stage at the conclusion of the business meeting.

• **SWCE will be collecting donations for an area county food shelf.** Please bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations with you to the annual meeting at the SWCE booth and receive (1) free LED bulb. 1084911

• **If you are new to Steele-Waseca or have never attended an annual meeting,** please pick up a complimentary copy of the co-op's 75th anniversary book and DVD entitled, "Making the Connection," at the SWCE booth. Additional copies and/or purchases during regular business hours are available for \$7/each.

• **Lunch will be served after the annual meeting.** The menu will include: smoked pork chops, vegetables, potatoes, salad, dinner rolls, coffee, milk, water, with Dairy Queen Dilly® Bars for dessert.

• #swceAPPRECIATION

After 56 years, the NRECA has decided to rebrand their political action committee from ACRE to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.