



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

May 2024

inside connections

- 2** Manager Connection
- 3** 2024 SWCE board of director nominees;
- 4** Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Steele County Tip Line;
- 5** Finding electrical hazards around your home; Gopher State One Call; Seeking 4-H Rice County alumni
- 6** Ad Connection; 4-Seasons Vacations
- 7** Ad Connection; SWCE implementing EV time-of-use rate May 1; Ducted ASHP rebate promo
- 8** Ductless ASHP rebate promo; SWCE cogeneration notification; Meatball dinner in Geneva

calendar of events

May

- 1** May Day
 - 2** National Day of Prayer
 - 4** National Star Wars Day
 - 6-10** Nat'l Teacher Appreciation Week
 - 6-12** National Nurses Week
 - 11** Minnesota fishing opener
 - 12** Mother's Day
 - 15** Peace Officers Memorial Day
 - 18** Armed Forces Day
 - 18-24** National Safe Boating Wk
 - 27** Memorial Day
- SWCE office is closed**

OFFICIAL NOTICE of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 88th Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024; 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, MN**

Steele-Waseca annual meeting details with first year of mail-in ballots

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will be conducting their annual meeting Tuesday, June 4, at their headquarters in Owatonna.

The co-op's 88th annual meeting will be starting at 10:30 a.m., at 2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna. The meeting is open to Steele-Waseca member-owners, and their guests. The doors will open at 9 a.m., with display and informational booths open until 10:15 a.m.

Parking will be available on the property surrounding the co-op's headquarters. Miner's Outdoor & Rec, located at Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie, will be supplying several golf cars to shuttle members and their guests from their vehicle to and from the meeting.

Registration cards for the annual meeting will be mailed to members during the week of May 20. There won't be any preregistration requirements. **Please bring the registration card with you if you are planning to attend in person or using the drive-thru option.** To be eligible to receive giveaways from Steele-Waseca at the annual meeting, the name on the registration card must match the person submitting it. You can't have someone else present your registration card. If you are unable to attend due to illness (if you are not feeling well, please stay home) or other priorities, you are not eligible to receive the giveaways as this is a thank you for those able to attend.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will be collecting non-perishable items for an area food shelf this year. Members with a donation to that food shelf, whether monetary or a non-perishable

item, will receive an LED lightbulb.

There will be two early bird drawings for prizes taking place prior to the start of the annual meeting. The business portion of the meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m., with the Presentation of Colors.

There will be no in-person voting at the annual meeting. Members will receive their mail-in ballots the week of April 29. Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) is conducting the mail-in ballot process, including tabulation and auditing the election on behalf of Steele-Waseca. 26189

Mail-in ballot materials will include:

- Ballot with voting instructions.
- Candidate biographies.
- Ballot envelope (the completed ballot must be inserted in the ballot envelope to be counted; only one ballot per envelope is allowed).
- Postage-paid yellow return envelope (ballot envelope is inserted into the yellow return envelope) and mailed.

Important voting notes:

- Individual members, meaning residents, will not need to sign the yellow return envelope.
- Entity members, meaning businesses, corporations, clubs, organizations, trusts, estates, or identified farms [i.e.

(Annual meeting continued on Page 8)

WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

*We salute you.
We thank you.*

Let us remember those who courageously gave their lives.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop

Email: info@swce.coop



Board of Directors

- PJ Duchene District 1
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
- Geraldine Lienke District 2
- Neil Schlaak District 3
- Dennis Ringhofer District 4
- Rodney Krell, *Vice President* . . . District 5
- Gary Wilson District 6
President, GRE Director
- John Beal District 7
- Ronald Sommers District 8
Secretary/Treasurer
- Scott Carlson 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

manager connection

By Syd Briggs,
 General Manager



Plenty of excitement as Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric prepares for its 88th annual meeting, Tuesday, June 4, at the co-op's headquarters in Owatonna.

It's a great opportunity for myself, the co-op's board of directors, and employees to talk with our member-owners and learn what's on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting, as we'll open the doors at 9 that morning at 2411 W. Bridge St., with designated parking on the grounds, and golf car shuttles to and from the meeting, which will start promptly at 10:30.

The biggest new feature this year is the mail-in ballot for electing directors. The mail-in ballot will be arriving the week of April 29, and they need to be received by Survey & Ballot Systems by 10 a.m., Friday, May 31, to be counted (Please see Page 1 for details). There won't be any in-person voting at the annual meeting. However, you may learn more about the candidates on Page 3 of this month's Sparks newsletter. 1008293

Prior to the start of the annual meeting, co-op employees will be registering members with the postcards being mailed the week of May 20. While members may bring a guest, only members will be eligible for prizes and giveaways. If you are a member who can't attend, you may not have someone else submit your postcard for prizes given to those members able to attend. In addition, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and we'll look forward to seeing you again at next year's annual meeting.

The co-op will continue our practice of collecting non-perishable items for an area food shelf. Donors will receive an LED lightbulb in appreciation for their generosity.

If you can't stay for the annual meeting, members may register that morning, prior

Steele-Waseca members attending the annual meeting, June 4, are strongly encouraged to bring their registration cards.



While mail-in ballots are replacing in-person voting, the pork chops and Dilly® Bars will continue to be served at Steele-Waseca's annual meeting.

to 10:30, in person or by utilizing the drive-thru option, and receive the giveaways for members. Non-perishables for a local food shelf will also be collected at the drive-thru location at Steele-Waseca.

The meeting will also share a few brief business updates, hear from last year's Youth Tour delegate, Fred Klokonos, and introduce our 2024 Youth Tour Delegate Langston Richter of Faribault.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our energy future is important to us. In fact, it's essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our service area. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools, and businesses.

As we navigate through changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all member-owners.

Our board of directors are comprised of nine members who live and work right here in our service area, so they are in the best position to know where community investments are most needed. Our board members come from all areas of our territory and care about our communities.

Every year, Steele-Waseca invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience.

We're a co-op and our business model is meant to serve the members and the communities in which it operates.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for this year's annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

#swceAPPRECIATION

swce 2024 board of director nominees

May 2024



The 2024 Nominating Committee has selected the following nominees for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors. Committee members include: Matt LaCanne, Faribault; Daniel/Stacy Maas, Faribault; Dale/Lynn Groskreutz, New Richland; Denise Bartness, Owatonna; Rene/Pam Koester, Nerstand; Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; John/Lylia Iverson, Medford; Charlie Peters, Lonsdale; and Bruce Rumpza, Blooming Prairie. Steele-Waseca members will be receiving mail-in ballots the week of April 29. They need to be received in Survey & Ballot Systems post office box by 10 a.m., Friday, May 31, in order to be counted. Results of the mail-in ballot election of directors will be announced at Steele-Waseca's 88th annual meeting, Tuesday, June 4, at the co-op's headquarters, 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna. [#swceTRUST](#)

District 1



PJ Duchene, incumbent, and Steele-Waseca board of directors assistant secretary/treasurer, resides and operates the family farm in Wells Township, west of Faribault. He has a son, Patrick, and daughter, Sumer. PJ also works as the shop foreman with the Rice County Highway Department. As for why he wishes to continue to represent District 1 on the Steele-Waseca board of directors, PJ responded, "I feel I can be a very good voice for the member-owners of the co-op. I also enjoy learning new things." He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director. As for the qualities he brings to the board, PJ stated, "I'm young and outgoing. I enjoy being involved in my community."



Dan M. Hansen, and his wife, Kathleen, live in rural Ellendale. "I was born and raised on the farm which I still live on," stated Dan. "I know just about everyone here in Lemond Township," and feels he has "...a great relationship with all the families here." Dan worked for a natural gas meter repair facility for 45 years, working with customers all around the Midwest. He retired in 2020, farms part time and raises some beef cattle. He rents most of his crop land to a neighbor. "I am very good dealing with people," wrote Dan. "I consider myself as friendly and have common sense." Dan wishes to represent the district on the Steele-Waseca board of directors, "...to have the families in Lemond Township and other areas of Dist. 3 to continue getting the great service which they currently have."



Ralph F. Miller, and his wife, LeAnn, live in rural Owatonna. Ralph worked at the Gainey Farm, Gainey Conference Center, and Meridian Behavioral Health over his 49-year career. He was property manager for 33 of those years, and credits his experience in decision making among his qualities and abilities he could bring to the Steele-Waseca board of directors. He decided to become a board candidate after receiving a letter inquiring his interest. "I think it would be different and interesting," wrote Ralph.

District 3



Neil R. Schlaak, and his wife, Jill, live in rural New Richland. He is the interim District 3 director appointed to the board Oct. 26, 2023 by the Steele-Waseca board of directors, as they filled the seat vacated with the death of Duane Edwardson. "I was born and raised on a farm," stated Neil. "I started out in agriculture as a hog producer and in 1988 exited the hog industry and started crop farming." He has served on numerous boards including church council, school board, WFS co-op board, and presently serves on the Freeborn County co-op board and treasurer for the New Richland Township for the past 30 years. Neil has 35 years of experience with ag business services. "I have sold feed, seed, John Deere for different companies," wrote Neil, adding, "I've always have thought working for ag companies off farm has helped myself be a better board member." When asked why he wishes to represent his district on the Steele-Waseca board, Neil wrote, "I know it is very important to have a good company to continue to serve customers. It takes good management to run companys so is the leadership of a board to keep and support management."



Anton H. Seykora, and his wife, Chantelle, live in rural Ellendale. Anton grew up in Owatonna, attended college and graduated with a degree in ag production. "A small town boy that just wanted to farm," stated Anton. He currently is a corn, soybeans, and sweet corn farmer. Anton has a partnership with a local canning company hauling sweet corn. He also owns a trucking operation with a semi and trailers. "I would like to represent Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric as I am a people person," wrote Anton. "Very easy to talk to. I will bring concerns to the board. I want to make sure people feel like their voices are heard. I want to be an integral part of hearing bylaws with shared decision making." As for qualities and abilities he could bring to the board, Anton wrote, "I have experience on MN Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Committee. Served 6 yrs and for 1 yr I was on the Board of Directors as the Chairman. This gave me leadership and experience on a State & National level. I have an open mind and would love to serve as a board member on SWCE board of directors."

District 5



Rodney D. Krell, incumbent, and Steele-Waseca board of directors vice president, resides with his wife, Michelle, in Blooming Prairie Township. Rodney is a fourth generation farmer to operate the Krell family farm. Their diversified crop farm raises corn, soybeans, sweet corn, and peas. The couple has two adult children: son, Justin; and daughter, Jenna. Rodney currently is a member of the Blooming Prairie school board, Blooming Prairie Education Foundation board, Blooming Prairie FFA Alumni Association, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, and Steele County Agricultural Society. Rodney serves as Eucharistic Minister at his church. Honors include the 1996 Steele County Soil and Water Conservation Farmers of the Year, and the 2012 Steele County Farm Family of the Year.

cookin' connection

Homemade Sweetened Condensed Milk

Delores Kalina

Lonsdale

1 c. instant non-fat dry milk
2/3 c. sugar
1/3 c. boiling water
2 Tbsp. melted butter

Combine ingredients above in container of electric blender. Process until smooth. Store in fridge. Yields 1 1/4 cups, same as a 14 oz. can. Delores wrote, "So Easy Costs so little"

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 38 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during March 2024. 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.

April issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Judy Gunderson
Dave Luedtke

Numbers not found:

Alan/Anedra Culpepper
Lisa Quernemoen
Teresa Wallace



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. 16530

• **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.

• **March temps** – The average high temperature for March was 48° F, while the average low was 25° F. This resulted in 897 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 35° F and average low of 21° F. This resulted in 1,148 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2024, 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

Tips to help you find and correct electrical hazards around your home

Courtesy: Safe Electricity®

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, faulty home electrical wiring causes 26,000 residential fires a year, hundreds of deaths, and thousands of injuries.

Unfortunately, electrical hazards often go unaddressed until it is too late. Safe Electricity has the following tips to help you find and correct hazards that may be lurking around the home:

- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can cause shocks or start fires. Replace missing or broken wall plates, so the inner wiring components are not exposed.

- If you have young children, use safety covers on unused outlets. Consider installing tamper-resistant receptacles with a built-in shutter system that prevents hairpins and other small objects from being inserted into the outlet.

- Check the cords of the appliances in your home, as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors, or any other objects.

- Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only. They are not a permanent wiring solution. Have additional outlets installed where you need them. If you are using extension cords, make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shocks or mouth burns.

- Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use. Use an extension cord specifically for outdoors; they are heavier and less likely to be damaged.

- Check your electric panel to make sure the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit they are protecting.

Have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used if you are unsure. When replacing a fuse, use the same size.

- Check lightbulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Do not replace bulbs with higher wattage than recommended. The bulb should be securely screwed in to prevent overheating.


- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair, or replace it.

- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is a problem. GFCIs should be installed in all “wet” areas of the home, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements.

- GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates GFCIs could prevent more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 electrocutions that happen each year in the home.

- Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits, have smoke detectors in all bedrooms and in hallways within 15 feet of bedrooms, and at least one smoke detector on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be within 15 feet of each bedroom. As always, check with your local electrical inspector if you have questions or concerns.

- Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances, and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. Repair or replace damaged cords and appliances.


 #swceLIFE+

Gopher State One Call

Whether it's simple like planting a tree, or installing a mailbox, contacting Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting your project may allow you to avoid costly damages to underground facilities.

GSOC is not responsible for contacting locators to paint or flag your private facilities. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric also doesn't locate private underground facilities that are the homeowner's responsibility. Private underground facilities usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills. Other private facilities include natural gas farm taps, private water systems, data communication lines, and invisible fences. 1098557

The contact information for a number of locating companies who will locate privately owned underground facilities on your property can be found in the industry directory at www.gopherstateonecall.org/homeowners, then click on “Private Utility Locators.” This list is by no means an exhaustive list or a list of locators recommended by GSOC. For additional locators, consult a search engine, like Google, or refer to the Yellow Pages under “Utilities Underground - Locating.” Remember, private locators will charge a fee for their services.

No one should ever remove flags before work is completed for the safety of all digging in the area. If you come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area, call 911, then notify your utility provider. 



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

 #swceCOOPERATION

Calling all Rice County 4-H alumni!

The Rice County 4-H 100 Year Anniversary Celebration Committee is seeking to reconnect with individuals who have ever been part of the Rice County 4-H program.

Throughout 2024, there will be many opportunities to reconnect with current and former club members, share memories of your time in 4-H and celebrate the amazing im-

pact 4-H has on our youth and community.

If you are interested in receiving updates on planned activities or getting involved in the planning, please submit your contact information to: z.umn.edu/Ricecounty4H-alumni.

ad connection

give away

DEAD TREES, dry, you cut & haul, easy access. 256-684-1546.

WOODEN SPOOLS at SWCE. 451-7340/Todd.

VACUUM ATTACHMENTS & BAG for elec. Toro Super Blower Vac. 451-9533.

FIELD ROCK. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

SONY 50" FLAT SCREEN ANALOG TV w/convert-er box & remote control, all items work. 213-1657.

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

(2) 5-BAR DRAG SECTIONS. 475-0753.

USED HIDE-A-BED OR SOFA SLEEPER. 456-9287.

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

TO BUY COINS OLDER THAN 1950, paid for on the spot, gd value. 676-0970.

7' BLADE for a 3-point Ford tractor. 744-2771.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

CONCRETE STEP. 455-0900.

SOMEONE TO PAINT BARN WITH A BRUSH, 40' high on ends. 210-1158.

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

FERTILE CHICKEN EGGS FOR HATCHING, layer type, not bantams. 334-6377.

TO PURCHASE LATE MODEL VEHICLES (car, SUV, or pickup); FLOE DOCK SECTIONS; TREE TRIMMING/REMOVAL JOBS. 612-817-3426.

OLDER JD DISC FOR PARTS; 10' HYDRAULIC VAN BRUNT/JD GRAIN DRILL, must be in gd cond. 455-3881.

GRAIN BIN PERFORATED FLOOR SHEETS, 24" wide min. (not floor planks). 651-214-2357/lv. msg.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

for sale

FANNING MILL w/screens; **NH 311 BALER** w/kicker. 524-4637.

14' HAY WAGON, painted red & white w/wooden raised ends, used for hay rides, shedded when not in use. 330-1154.

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. for your hauling needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

HAY CONVEYOR ON WHEELS. 475-2239.

(2) **NEW 13.6 X 28 TIRES ON AC RIMS**, \$800; **WIDE FRONT** to fit A-C WD, \$350. 330-3945.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$150. 451-7946.

5TH WHL CHEROKEE CAMPER, new tires, fiberglass siding, TV & radio, (2) spare tires, (2) LP tanks, AC; **27' FISHING BOAT**, 40-hp Johnson motor, canvas cover, trolling motor, trailer & canopy. 789-6654.

FARMALL SUPER H, gas, WF w/Farmhand F11A hyd. loader, 6V, new tires & rims in back, snow bucket & manure tine, \$2500; **ANTIQUA JD 4247-C HAND CORN SHELLER**, 2-ear feed, \$200. 686-0417.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

PASTURE FOR RENT, 18 acres in rural Dundas. 952-270-5562 or email ghalbers@aol.com.

FLATBEDS, new & used; **A-C TRACTORS, MOWERS**; (3) **CHEVY 2500HD TRUCKS**, 4x4; **EXMARK ZERO-TURN STAND-UP MOWER**. 402-7679.

SCHWINN AIRDYNE BASIC EXERCISE BIKE, \$20. 330-0961.

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

'10 **JEEP PATRIOT**; '03 **DODGE CARAVAN**; '95 **CHEVY 2500 PKUP** w/blade; **JD 330 ROUND BALER**; **NH 479 HAYBINE**; **PKUP TOOLBOX**, new, \$150; **FARM SITE**, 9.8 acres by Hartland. 783-9240.

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

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

(2) **53' & (1) 33'6" HUTCHINSON AUGERS** w/running gear, choice \$650; (2) **BEHLEN 700 CORN DRYERS**, \$1500 choice/offer; **MANY 3-PHASE MOTORS**. 380-2759.

SINGER 1036 SEWING MACHINE w/solid oak cabinet, 41.5" w, 31" h, 20.5" d, incl. glass plate on top, \$1100. 462-3428.

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.

(2) **SMIDLEY 6-, 8-, & 10-HOLE SINGLE SIDE FEEDERS**. 338-8896.

(6) **GRAVE LOTS** in Section D of Meadow Ridge, Fbo, \$1800. 330-3411 after 1 p.m.

1994 IH TRUCK w/18' freezer box. 334-7177.

BATTERY WHEELCHAIR. 455-0900.

1000-GAL. FARM FUEL TANK, new w/pump, filter system, hose, automatic nozzle, tank level gauge, \$3685. 383-1215.

SHINGLING; LIGHT CONSTRUCTION; TREE REMOVAL (free estimates). 456-0296.

2015 IMPALA LTX, 186,000 mi., 3.6 engine, blk, sunroof, \$9000/obo. 440-8831.

BATHROOM VANITY SINK; OLD TIN. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

GRASS HAY BALES, small square, by Waldorf. 327-3672.

400-GAL. LIQUID PLASTIC FERTILIZER TANK w/ hose, \$350. 649-7794.

HEWITT BOAT LIFT, \$1000. 612-590-0632.

8 QUART CARDBOARD BOXES for strawberry picking, \$20 per 50-count bundle. 210-5526.

GULBRANSEN DG-180 ELEC. ORGAN, best offer. 462-3698.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

ALASKA TOUR & CRUISE, June 3-15. Delta round-trip flights, 5-day land tour, Denali National Park, 7-day cruise on the Royal Princess, 3 ports of call & more! Starting at \$5,999 pp w/2 per room.

FJORDS OF NORWAY CRUISE, June 14-29. Delta round-trip flights, 14-day cruise on the Sky Princess, 9 ports of call, Haugesund, Flaam, Hellesylt, Olden, & more! Starting at \$7,599 pp w/2 per room.

GIRL FRIENDS GETAWAY, July 11-14. Deluxe motor coach, tour of St. Paul w/lunch & chocolate tasting, riverboat cruise on the Mississippi, Duluth Playhouse Musical, & more! \$899 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.



TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **May 6** to ensure being printed in the June 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 6th will be printed in the July issue.

For Sale Wanted Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, P.O. Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

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

(4) **CHAIRS**, solid oak seats & back, nice cond., perfect for cabin. 744-2709.

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

MIXED GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales, no rain; **IN-SEASON HAY** off wagons. 210-1158.

WEBER TRAVELER GRILL, used vry little; **REESE 18K 5TH WHEEL HITCH** for Ford F-350 factory pucks. 213-6582.

LATHAM RASPBERRY PLANTS, you dig them, \$1.50/ea.; **MARY WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS ROOTS**, \$1/ea. 581-2301.

(2) **9X7 INSULATED STEEL GARAGE DOORS** w/ all track & hardware incl. & (2) Genie openers still in use, \$150/each or \$300 for all. 363-2219.

ANTIQUE CREAM SEPARATOR, \$200. 456-3136.

PRIDE JAZZY EVO 613 ELEC. WHEELCHAIR, blk, used only a few times, indoors only, \$2200. 583-6679.

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD PUPS, excellent family, companion, & working dogs, purebred, registered, vaccinated, dewormed, ready 4/22/24. 456-3419.

STANDING OAK FOR LOGS & DOWNED OAK FOR FIREWOOD, you do the work. 528-2252.

15' 1-MAN LADDER STAND, \$100; (3) **BOXES 60 RDS 17 REM FIREBALL**, \$90; (1) **BOX HORNADY 300 RSAUM 178GR ELD-X**, \$50 20 rds. 461-1191.

TORO RIDING LAWN MOWER, 44" deck; **1995 SKI-DOO FORMULA III**; **1996 ARCTIC CAT Z440** (\$500 each). 676-5283.

1968 IH 656 HYDRO, been overhauled, hydro unit replaced, runs great; **MILLER PRO 500 SPRAYER** w/Demco tank & 45' span. 649-1228 after 6 p.m.

RESMED CPAP MACHINE. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

2013 FORD EDGE, 111,675 mi., newer tires & battery, new wiper blades, several other comfort features, regular maintenance done. 332-0294.

1986 SYLVAN 16' FISHING BOAT w/60-hp Johnson & 15-hp kicker, live well, newer seats, trolling motor & GPS, \$3500. 475-8726/Tom.

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

FIREWOOD & KINDLING BUNDLES, \$5. 210-6599/Ryan.

(2) **DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 678-978-7444.

Ads need to be received in the SWCE office by Monday, May 6, to ensure being published in the June 2024 Sparks newsletter.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Steele-Waseca implementing time-of-use rate May 1

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will be implementing the electric vehicle time-of-use (TOU) rate Wednesday, May 1.

Charging done during the "off peak"

hours from 9 p.m.-4 p.m., will be \$0.085/kWh.

Charging done during the "on peak" hours of 4 p.m.-9 p.m., will be \$0.26/kWh. 1064495

The service charge will remain the same at \$3.50/month. The current wholesale market adjustment is \$0.01323/kWh, plus applicable sales tax.

Steele-Waseca will be out to replace the EV meter prior to May 1. *SWCE*

YOUR SOURCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT HEATING AND COOLING.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Take advantage of our additional \$\$\$ promotional rebate when you install a qualifying, energy-saving ducted/hybrid air source heat pump!


Ducted/Hybrid ASHP Efficiency Rating Requirements	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$500.00	\$750.00
≥15.2 SEER2 & ≥8.1 HSPF2	\$800.00	\$1,000.00

An air-source heat pump (ASHP) uses electricity to heat and cool. It works like an air conditioner to cool, and works in reverse to move warmth from outside air into your home to heat. It heats a home up to three times more efficiently than forced-air and electric-resistance heating systems.

Learn more at:

energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and promotional dates vary by cooperative. Contact your cooperative to confirm system requirements and rebate amounts.

 #swceLIFE+



YOUR SOURCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT HEATING AND COOLING.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Take advantage of our additional \$100 promotional rebate when you install a qualifying, energy-saving ductless air source heat pump!

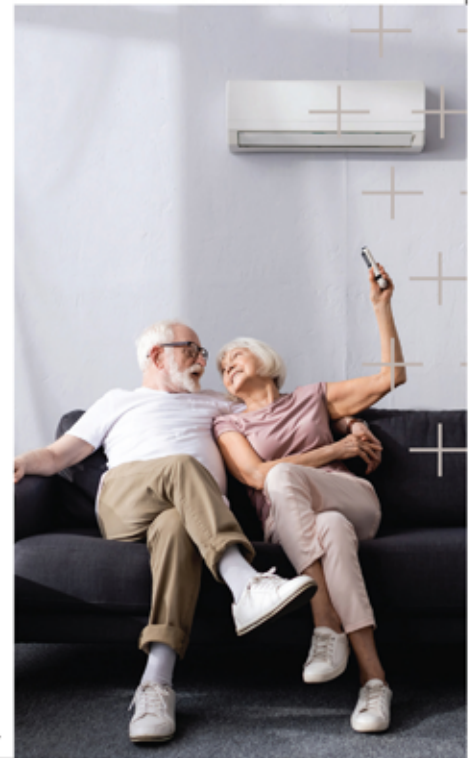
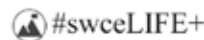
Ductless ASHP System Size	Efficiency Rating Requirements	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤ 1 ton	≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$100.00	\$200.00
≤ 1 ton	≥15.2 SEER2 & ≥8.1 HSPF2	\$200.00	\$300.00

An air-source heat pump (ASHP) uses electricity to heat and cool. It works like an air conditioner to cool, and works in reverse to move warmth from outside air into your home to heat. It heats a home up to three times more efficiently than forced-air and electric-resistance heating systems.

Learn more at:

energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and promotional dates vary by cooperative. Contact your cooperative to confirm system requirements and rebate amounts.



Our Annual

MEATBALL DINNER

Is Back!

Sunday, April 28th, 2024

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM


COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENEVA, MN

Serving: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, Buns and Pie

FREE WILL DONATION

Beautiful homemade quilts will be available to purchase.


Annual Cogeneration Notification to Membership

In compliance with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's (SWCE's) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, SWCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. SWCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the SWCE Board. Interested members should contact SWCE, 2411 W. Bridge St., P.O. Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060-0485, or call 507-451-7340 or toll-free 800-526-3514.  #swceGROWTH

(Annual meeting continued from Page 1)

XYZ Farm(s)] must fill out the authorization section, including signature, on the yellow return envelope for the ballot to be counted.

Mail-in ballots must be received in SBS's post office box (printed on the yellow return envelope) by 10 a.m., Friday, May 31, to be counted. DO NOT bring your ballot to the Steele-Waseca office. Be sure to mail your postage-paid yellow return envelope early.

Election results will be announced at the annual meeting. **T**he annual meeting, as in past years, will have the same treats, gift drawings, and meal. If you have questions, please call the Steele-Waseca office during regular business hours.  #swce

 #swceAPPRECIATION