

The

# Enlightener



North Star  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



VOLUME 51 NUMBER 9

BAUDETTE, MINNESOTA

September 2006

## Dave Loer to speak at this year's annual meeting



David Loer grew up on a family farm near Humboldt, Minn., and graduated from Stephen High School, Stephen, Minn.

He earned a bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the University of North Dakota. He joined Minnkota Power Cooperative in 1967 as a senior accountant. He was named president & CEO on July 1, 1990, a position he still holds today.

Minnkota is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative owned by 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives, which serves more than 110,000 customers in a 34,500 square-mile area in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. (252-01-048-04 Richard/Jill Amundson) Loer also serves as general manager of Square Butte Electric Cooperative, an affiliated organization.

Loer and his wife, Judi, reside in East Grand Forks, Minn. The couple have four adult children and nine grandchildren.

In his spare time Loer enjoys collecting and restoring antique farm tractors.

## Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Lake of the Woods School in Baudette, Minn., on Friday, Oct. 13, 2006.

*Supper begins at 5 p.m.*

*Registration begins at 5 p.m.*

*The Sloughgrass Band begins at 5:30 p.m.*

*Free child care available from 6:30 until adjournment*

*Business meeting 7 p.m.*

The business to be transacted is as follows:

- 5:00 p.m. Dinner
- 5:00 p.m. Registration
- 5:30 p.m. Entertainment – The Sloughgrass Band
- 6:30 p.m. Free child care until meeting adjournment
- 7:00 p.m. Call to order . . . . . President Arnesen
- Invocation . . . . . Rev. Shawn Brandon
- Notice of 2006 Meeting . . . Secretary Hanson
- Minutes of 2005 Meeting . . Secretary Hanson
- Treasurer's Report of Audit Treasurer Hanson
- Nomination and Election of Directors . . . . .
- Districts 2 & 3
- Bylaw Amendment Voting
- Welcome Guests
- Financial Report . . . . .
- Manager of Finance Ann Ellis
- Management Report . . Manager Dan Hoskins
- Guest Speaker . . . . . David Loer, Minnkota
- Old and New Business . . . . . Members
- Results of Election
- Question and Answer Time
- Drawing for balance of prizes
- Drawing for flat panel TV
- Adjournment

Thank you for attending YOUR annual meeting!

# Proposed 2006 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED

## ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SECTION 1. GENERAL POWERS.** The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be governed by a board of directors of ~~nine (9)~~ eight (8) members which shall exercise all powers of the cooperative except such as are by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

**SECTION 4. DIRECTOR DISTRICTS.** The service area of the cooperative shall be divided into ~~nine (9)~~ eight (8) districts, each of which shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of members being served by the cooperative. ~~The number of districts shall be reduced into seven (7) districts as determined by the board of directors.~~ Each district so established shall be represented by one (1) director, who is a bonafide resident of the particular district he is to represent on the board of directors of the cooperative. The board of directors shall review the composition of the ~~nine (9)~~ districts every year beginning with the annual meeting to be held in 1978 and if it is determined that substantial inequities in membership representation have developed which should be corrected by redelineation of the districts, the board of directors shall reconstitute the boundaries of the districts, so that each district shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of members and a report of the action of the board of directors shall be submitted to the membership at the annual meeting, beginning with the 1978 annual meeting.

**SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.** The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the cooperative are hereby established:

(a) ~~Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the board of directors of the cooperative to appoint appropriate District Nominating Committees. Not less than sixty (60) days or more than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the membership, the board of directors shall appoint four (4) members of the cooperative to serve on a District Nominating Committee in each of the districts with director terms expiring. Each Nominating Committee shall be responsible to the membership of the cooperative, to make a reasonable effort for the selection of two (2) qualified candidates from their respective district who will stand for election to the board of directors of the cooperative. No member of the board of directors shall be appointed as a member of a Nominating Commit-~~

tee, nor shall a member of the board of directors participate in meetings of a Nominating Committee. Each Nominating Committee shall hold a meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the membership for the purpose of making their nominations of candidates for a director of the cooperative. Each Nominating Committee shall prepare a certified report of nominations of candidates for director that will appear on the ballot at the annual meeting of the cooperative. This report shall be delivered to the cooperative and shall be posted at the principal office of the cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota, at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the annual meeting; such report, a listing of the nominations by districts, may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.

(b) ~~Nominations by Petition. Any twenty (20) or more members of a district of the cooperative may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty-five (25) sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and the Secretary of the board of directors shall post the petition at the principal office of the cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota: such listing of nominations by petition may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.~~

**SECTION 6. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** The election of the directors of the Cooperative shall be by ballot distributed at the annual meeting. The ballot shall list by districts the names of the candidates nominated by the ~~Nominating Committees and by~~ petitions properly filed with the Cooperative. There shall be two additional blanks on the ballot for write ins. All elections shall be conducted on a district basis. Each member of the Cooperative present from a particular district holding an election at the annual meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from that district. Voting by mail for the election of directors is prohibited. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the annual meeting shall be declared duly elected as a director of the Cooperative by the Chairman presiding at the annual meeting subject to the provisions listed below. In order to ensure fair elections and accurate counting of ballots cast at membership meetings, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The President shall appoint at least two members of the Cooperative to count ballots.

2. At least two office employees of the Cooperative shall assist in counting the ballots.

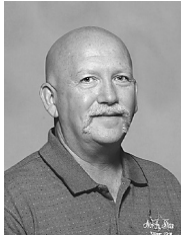
3. The chair-person at the annual meeting shall ask for at least two volunteers to assist in collecting ballots and observing the counting.

4. After counting, the ballots shall be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the Cooperative Attorney.

5. Any member wishing to challenge the count shall do so orally at the meeting or by certified letter to the attorney or President, to be mailed within six (6) days following the annual meeting at which the election to be challenged was held.

6. Shall no member challenge the election within six (6) days, the ballots shall be destroyed and directors receiving the highest number of votes shall assume their duties.

*Continued on page 6*



By Dan Hoskins  
General Manager

# Bylaws to be voted on

I want to start out by saying “thank you” to those of you who attended our informational meetings that we held on Aug. 16 and 17. Although attendance was very low, there were a few of you who came out, listened and voiced your questions and concerns to the North Star Electric staff; plus, you received a lot of information on many different topics concerning North Star Electric Cooperative such as load management, the operations department, Minnkota Power and some of the issues they are facing, the pending rate increase coming the first of the year and the upcoming proposed Bylaw changes. These meetings were designed around the rate increase and the reason for it. I will discuss this rate issue with you in a later *Enlightener*.

The next item on my discussion list is the upcoming North Star annual meeting. This year, the meeting will be held at the Lake of the Woods High School in Baudette and will be on Friday, Oct. 13. I believe they start serving supper at 5 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

We will have a couple of Bylaw change proposals for you to vote on, and they are listed in this *Enlightener*. I would like to cover them just a little, if I may. One of them concerns the nominating committee. The proposal is to eliminate the nominating committee and have all prospective board candidates, incumbents included, get on the ballot by obtaining a petition from the cooperative and having 20 members of the respected district, that is having director elections, sign the petition. The petition would, then, be returned to the cooperative for verification and given to the Secretary of the Board for his signature and then posted at the

cooperative. This would give all candidates a chance to have their picture and a short biography in our *Enlightener* prior to the annual meeting.

This, we believe, not only gives the candidates the chance to visit with you, the members, while they are obtaining signatures, but it also gives you the opportunity to visit with the board candidate.

The next item that is being voted on is the realignment of the nine districts down to seven districts. This was an opinion survey that the Board of Directors had sent out and asked for you to mark it, “yes, you would like to reduce to seven districts with seven board members, or no, you would like to stay with the nine districts with nine directors.” Well, as far as surveys go, this was one of the best; almost 25 percent of the survey slips were sent back and, of that 25 percent, 99 percent came back voting yes; reduce to seven districts with seven board members.

So, with that in mind, we will also vote on this. A ‘yes’ vote will reduce our districts down to eight with eight-board members. Then the number of districts shall be reduced into seven districts as determined by the board of directors. Since our electric system is so long and, with the retirement of one director from the east half of our system, the board felt that to do this the fair way, and to make the districts equal, would be to eliminate one seat on the west half of our system, but, do this when a district has become vacant, as it did on the east half. (393-07-002-07 Gary Warnken) A ‘no’ vote will leave the system with nine districts.

Also, at this meeting, will be the election of directors of Districts 2 and 3, a financial report on your Cooperative, the General Manager’s report and a report by our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. David Loer, President & CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative, and of course, a few door prizes.

So, come to Lake of the Woods High School on Friday night, October 13, enjoy a nice meal with us, some relaxing Blue Grass music performed by ‘Sloughgrass’ of Birchdale, Minn., and then stay for the business meeting. Hope to see you there!

## Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

- **Lake of the Woods County Community Services**  
P.O. Box G-0200  
Baudette, MN 56623  
Phone: 634-2642
- **Northwest Community Action Council**  
P.O. Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
Phone: 1-800-568-5329
- **Koochiching County Community Services**  
1000 5th St.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
Phone: 283-7000
- **Kootasca Community Action, Inc.**  
2232 2nd Ave. E.  
P.O. Box 44  
International Falls, MN 56649  
Phone: 283-9491 or 1-800-559-9491
- **Kootasca Community Action, Inc.**  
1213 SE 2nd Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
Phone: 1-800-422-0312
- **Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency**  
702 3rd Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792-2797  
Phone: 1-800-662-5711



# Highlights of the board of directors meeting

August 9, 2006

These are the highlights from the board of directors meeting held on August 9, 2006.

All directors were present. They acted upon usual, routine business. In addition, they voted to approve the recommended changes to the *Enlightener*, to convey the board's appreciation to the employees for their safety record, to accept the low bid from Gulbranson Excavating Company for plowing underground cable, to accept the non-union wages, to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda, and to recommend to the membership that Bylaw amendments be approved at the Annual Meeting to eliminate the Nominating Committees, leaving a petition method for being placed on the ballot, and to reduce the size of the board from 9 to 8 board members immediately, and eventually to 7. Proposed boundaries for eight districts were approved and will become effective October 14, provided the membership approves the Bylaw Amendment on October 13.

Reports included information on the financials, investments, the anticipated 7 percent retail rate increase resulting mostly from increased cost of power, AMR meters reporting readings for billing, the Web site, summer load control, water heaters being moved from off-peak meters, CIP (Conservation Improvement Program), Operation Round Up collecting \$1,500.10 the first month, the Co-op Connections Card, attendance at the fair booths, public safety, the Safety

Camp that North Star participated in, plans for the upcoming Area Membership Meetings to be held at the Thunderbird, the Littlefork office, the Roosevelt Legion, and the Baudette office, substation improvements that had to be made to accommodate the AMR equipment, new services, continued problems with the Norris Camp line and plans to contact the State for financial assistance to retain the line, progress of the AMR equipment installation and communications, outages and service territories.

Discussions included the increasing wholesale power costs and the results of the recent membership survey showing an overwhelming majority supporting the reduction of the number of districts/board members.

They also heard reports about the Minnkota and Square Butte board meetings and the Energy Summit.

Detailed minutes are available at the Cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Dan Hoskins at least one week in advance to be included on the agenda.

*If you plan to cast the vote of a membership held by an organization, the form shown below will need to be completed and presented before we can issue a ballot. The form must be fully completed.*

The \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Organization) has, at an official meeting, authorized \_\_\_\_\_  
to represent us at the 2006 Annual Meeting of North Star Electric Cooperative, Incorporated  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor, Chairperson)  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk, Secretary)

## Assistance offered to handicapped for annual meeting

**Any member with a handicap who needs assistance to attend our annual meeting is requested to notify General Manager Hoskins of your need for assistance at least two weeks prior to the meeting.**

**We will do our best to accommodate your needs so that you may take part in the annual meeting of your cooperative.**

## Gopher State One Call



It's the LAW  
**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**  
Minnesota Statewide One Call  
Notification Center  
**1-800-252-1166**

# The Enlightener

September 2006  
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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Steve Arnesen . . . . . President  
 Michael Hanson . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julian Brzoznowski,  
 L.J. Anderson, Bruce Polkinghorne,  
 Allan Nygaard, Randy Bergan, Mike Trueman

Wayne Haukaas . . . . . Editor

Baudette . . . . . 218-634-2202  
 Littlefork . . . . . 218-278-6658

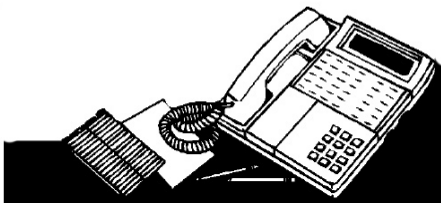
If calling long distance,  
 call toll-free

Baudette . . . . . 888-634-2202  
 Littlefork . . . . . 888-258-2008

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 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Monday through Friday

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 Visit our Web site at  
[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)  
 P.O. Box 719, Baudette

**Electrical  
 after-hours  
 emergencies  
 1-888-6OUTAGE  
 (1-888-668-8243)  
 634-2603**



## Bus service to the Annual Meeting

Call or send us a note to confirm your seat on the bus

The bus is free, but this year we are asking that you give us a call or drop us a note to let us know that you plan to ride the bus. Also, it would be helpful to know where you plan to board. With your help, we should be able to make sure that everyone will be able to find a seat.

Call 634-2202 (Baudette) or 278-6658 (Littlefork)  
 or toll-free (888) 634-2202

Bus Schedule for Annual Meeting  
 Friday, Oct. 13, 2006

### East Route 1

Kabetogama . . . . .	Gateway Store	3:15 p.m.
Ray . . . . .	Woodland Inn (Park at North end)	3:25 p.m.
Roger's Corner . . . . .	Store	3:35 p.m.
International Falls . . . . .	International Falls Shopping Mall	3:50 p.m.

Pelland Jct. . . . .	Y Knot Quick Stop	4:00 p.m.
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### East Route 2

Big Falls . . . . .	Community Center	3:20 p.m.
Littlefork . . . . .	DJ's Big Spoon	3:45 p.m.
Pelland Jct . . . . .	Y Knot Quick Stop	4:00 p.m.
Loman . . . . .	Church	4:10 p.m.
Birchdale . . . . .	Karen's Place	4:30 p.m.

### West Route

Roosevelt . . . . .	Roosevelt Rustic Diner	4:15 p.m.
Williams . . . . .	Williams Cafe	4:25 p.m.

Destination - Lake of the Woods School  
 Registration 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Dinner 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Business meeting 7 p.m.

## WE NEED YOUR METER READING

Please read your meter on or as near the 25<sup>th</sup> of EACH month as possible. We must have your reading by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the next month to avoid an estimated bill. If a bill consecutively estimates two times, the crew will read the meter and a \$15 fee will be added to the account.

### — Please Note —

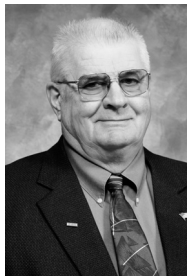
Bills that are past due will be charged a 1.5 percent late payment fee. Bills that are 30 days past due will also be charged a \$5 delinquent notice fee.

## Director candidates



### District #2 Mike Trueman

Mike Trueman has been a resident and a business owner in Lake of the Woods County for 26 years. He and his wife, Connie, have five grown children, Lisa, Tony, Tawnya, Dannelle and Mike, Jr. They also have two grandchildren, Jaden and Tarick. Mike and Connie owned the Border View Lodge for 25 years and the Trueman Hunt Club for 12 years. Prior to moving to this area, Mike was a real estate broker in Cold Springs, Minn., and worked 12 years for Cold Springs Granite. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in Richmond, Minn., and was a volunteer fireman. He was president of the Minnesota Border Lakes Coalition, Inc., from 1982 to 1984 and served on the Governor's Board on the border waters dispute with Canada. While at North Star, he has attended several training seminars and meetings, including the Minnkota, Square Butte and MREA annual meetings. Mike has been on the North Star Board for four years and would like to continue to serve on the Board out of his commitment to community service.



### District #3 Randy Bergan

Randy Bergan is a lifelong resident of Lake of the Woods County. He and his wife, Treva, have two grown children, Gordon and Kendra. After farming all his life, Randy and Treva sold their farm and semi-retired. While farming, he also worked 11 winters at GSI, which

provides support services for the Bosch Testing Facility at Baudette. Randy was appointed to the North Star Electric Board in 1992 to finish out the term for Wilton Anderson. Then, in 1999, when Lee Tisdale moved from the area, he was again appointed to finish that four-year term. Randy has now served on the North Star Board for 10½ years and on the Square Butte Board for the past three years. He has served on several other boards, as well. He has served on the Northern Farmer's Board for 12 years, the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for 12 years and the Pilgrim Congregational Church Board in Williams. While at North Star, he has attended several training seminars and meetings, including the Minnkota, Square Butte and MREA annual meetings. Randy thinks now that he is retired, he will have more time to serve on the North Star Board.



### District #3 Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson and his wife, Sylvia, have lived in the Williams area for the past 25 years. They have three grown sons, Seth, Paul and Luke, and two grandchildren. After graduating from

high school in Long Prairie, Minn., he found a job and went to work and has been working ever since. (795-27-048-02 Phillip W./Eleanor M. Anshus) For several years, Steve worked as a building contractor in the area but started driving pulp truck a few years ago. He served eight years on the fair board and says that his primary hobby is woodworking. He would like to serve on the North Star Board out of his commitment to the community.

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*From page 2*

Shall a member challenge the election, the President shall call a special meeting of the board within 10 days after receiving the challenge. A notice including date, time and place of meeting shall be mailed by certified letter to the candidates concerned, the ballot counters, the election observers and the member challenging the election.

All disputed ballots or counts shall be decided at this meeting by a majority vote of the Board of Directors who were not up for re-election at this meeting.

7. Shall a tie exist a party agreed to by the candidates shall cause a coin to be tossed in the air in a revolving manner. One of the candidates, which are affected by the tie vote, shall call either "heads" or "tails" while the coin is in the air. The coin shall be allowed to fall to the floor and come to a complete rest. The side of the coin facing up shall determine the winner who shall be declared the elected director.

## CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection with the State Board of Electricity and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector.

- *St. Louis and Koochiching counties:*

### **Bob Orgon**

10111 Roosevelt Rd. S.E.  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Phone: (218) 556-3829  
Fax: (218) 751-3535  
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

- *Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties:*

### **Scott Stenvik**

16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Phone: (218) 689-5406  
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)