

Operation Round Up helps local programs



The North Star Electric Community Trust Board met Jan. 6 to review the 20 applications, which it received requesting funding for various programs. The total amount requested was more than \$20,000. The board had about \$9,000 to work with, so it was not an easy task selecting which groups would get funding and what amount they would receive.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live.

All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star Electric and the money is put into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors who volunteer their time, and comprised of people from across the area.

Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a nonvoting member of the board.

Organizations from the area may

apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up Board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents would be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

About 80 percent of North Star's members have chosen to participate in Operation Round Up and it is expected that contributions will be about \$18,700 each year. That money goes right back into our community.

The average annual contribution from a member is about \$6. The most that could be contributed in a year by a member is \$11.88 (12 months x 99 cents).

If a member of North Star Electric or a nonmember of the cooperative would like to make an additional contribution, please give our office a call.

2015 winners



Front row from left to right: Mary Ellen Lehman, North Star Electric Community Trust Board; Kathy Boutin, Littlefork Medical Center; and Douglas Skrif, Koochiching Aging Options. **Second row:** Lisa Maass, Voyageurs National Park Association; Alan Sullivan, Marty Cody, Northland Amateur Radio Association; Kenneth Wichner, Kabetogama Fire Department; and Eric Norstad, International Falls School Trap Team.



Margie Sporlein, North Star Electric Community Trust Board; **Gloria Baade**, Lake of the Woods Food Shelf; and **Carrie Hasbargen**, Kaydee Nelson, Lake of the Woods 4-H Rider Horse Club.

In this issue:

Board highlights/Attention: Parents of high school seniors	2
Manager's Report	3
Avoid getting in hot water with your energy bill	4
Teaching kids about electrical safety	5
Staff Report	6
Problems paying your electric bill/Political leaders	7
2015 power plant tour	8

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Visit our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

Members' corner

We added a section called members' corner. What we would like is for members to send in questions about your electric cooperative, and we will answer them for you. Please give us your name and a phone number in case we need to clarify the question, and send them to North Star Electric, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN, 56623, Attn: Wayne.



North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. **Mission Statement**

To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing clean, affordable, electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Highlights from the **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the board of directors' Jan. 7 meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to approve an adjustment to accelerate the depreciation of the AMR (automated meter reading) system, to approve the 2015 budget and to increase the rates effective April 1 so an additional 5 percent of revenue is generated.

Staff reports included the financial report, grassroots developments, statewide legislative leadership, implementation plans for the MyMeter program, reduced off-peak load control hours, dual-heat sales, high usage calls, CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) rebates, Operation Round Up, the new construction work plan, the after-hours outage dispatching service change, meter

tampering charges, upcoming meetings, the IPP (Incremental Pricing Plan) agreement for large off-peak accounts who can choose to pay a higher rate during less critical load control periods, the 2015 budget and the annual disclosure checklist that would identify if there are any related party transactions.

Board reports included updates from the Minnkota and Square Butte Electric cooperatives' board meetings.

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 two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

THE VALUE IS ELECTRIC!

One tank of gas for your car

20 gallons at \$2.09/gallon = **\$41.80**

More than 13 days of electricity for your entire home = **\$41.80***

*Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month at the residential rate of \$.11/kWh + Minnkota surcharge of \$.004/kWh
(Does not include the \$38 basic service fee)



ATTENTION:



Parents of high school seniors

Are you aware of North Star Electric's Knowledge Scholarship? To qualify, the parent/guardian must be an active member of North Star Electric, and your child must take a test about your cooperative that provides electricity to your home. North Star Electric will award five scholarships, one \$1,000 and four \$400, plus a chance to win one of eight \$50 cash awards for scoring more than 50 percent on the test. Most of the answers will be in the study material that North Star provides. A couple of hours of study time could pay off with a \$1,000 scholarship. Last year only 31 students took the test. The information meeting and the test will be given in mid-April. For more information about the scholarships, please call Wayne at North Star Electric or check with the guidance counselor at your school.



Dan Hoskins
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

Can you believe not one, but almost two months have gone by already? It is just crazy how fast time goes. I think I told you why I think it is going by so fast, but if not, here you go. Wind towers! Yes, wind towers. Just think about it,

airplanes fly because they have propellers to provide thrust to move them forward (673-25-017-04, Norman S. Larsen). Well, just think of the thrust that is around the country with all the wind towers turning and speeding up the rotation of the earth. Therefore, I'm thinking we don't have 24 hours in a day, more like 22.5. OK, OK, so I'm pullin' your leg a little; doesn't hurt to have a little fun!

Anyway, let's get back to reality. If you remember, last month I mentioned a rate increase coming to all of us April 1 of this year. Minnkota will raise its wholesale energy cost to us a little bit and your cooperative will increase its costs to you by a little. So if you dig a little deeper into this issue of the *Enlightener* and find the staff report section, I believe it is Ann, our assistant general manager/finance manager's turn to correspond, and she will give you a little more information on it.

As we head toward our 75th birthday in June, last month I touched on the beginning of North Star Electric Cooperative. Well, North Star was actually made up of two electric cooperatives, the other being Border Electric Cooperative. Here is a little ditty about that cooperative and the trailblazers who opened many doors with their foresight in getting this cooperative started.

The group promoting the first meeting on March 7, 1940, of the rural electric system in Koochiching County was made up of County Agent R.E. McMillen of International Falls, who had taken an active part in laying the groundwork for the meeting, and Charles Clark, a Hubbard County attorney, who gave some helpful legal advice. Much of the work required to get Border Electric Cooperative into operation had fallen upon the shoulders of those who had signed the articles of incorporation: Einar Johnson of Ericsburg was elected president; Elmer Petrell, Ray, vice president; L. Roy Lutz, International Falls, secretary; and Almer W. Palas, International Falls, treasurer. The board of directors included Norman Clementson of Clementson, Charles Noack of Ray, Norris K. Cline of Kabetogama, Albert Dobbs of Indus and Andrew Grazin of Border. M.M. Abbott of International Falls was hired as the attorney.

By May 11, more than 200 members had been signed up. Border Electric Cooperative was housed in the Baehr building in International Falls, and at the first annual meeting held Oct. 14, 1941, the Border Electric Cooperative had 471 members. A short time later, Border officers and directors were jubilant over a telegram notifying them that REA officials had approved an allocation of \$107,000 for construction of distribution lines. Karl Shell of International Falls was hired as project coordinator for Border Electric. The contract for the first section of line was let Feb. 12, 1941, with Franzen Brothers being the successful bidder. Thus, Border Electric Cooperative was on its way.

Also in getting ready for our 75th birthday I started to bring

you a little bit of information about the people who have the privilege of operating your cooperative. Last month I targeted my board of directors and a little bit about each one of them, and this month the folks in the headlights are just a small group of people who have very high standards to maintain and responsibilities to many. I call this group of employees our management staff. So here they are, all three of them:

Ann Ellis is our Assistant General Manager/Finance

Manager. Ann, along with being a mother and a grandmother, is active in the local Rotary in Baudette, a farmwife and active in her church. At North Star, Ann stays very busy as she wears several other hats, including human resource person for the employees, office manager and assistant general manager and finance manager, a position that she has held for a number of years. Along with Ann's 37 years of service at our cooperative, she brings to the team her experience with finances, her professional demeanor and her knowledge of our cooperative.

Marty Mollberg is our Manager of Operations. Marty is an avid hunter, fisherman, father and a part-time farmer. Marty's experience includes being a foreman for a large power line contractor that built transmission lines that went across several areas of the United States. Marty joined North Star as a lineman in 1988 and brought his work ethic, his regard for safety and his ability to adapt and learn. Marty was promoted to manager of operations in 2012. Together with his work experience and leadership, Marty brings 27 years of experience to our team.

Wayne Haukaas is the Manager of Compliance and Member Services. Wayne is a father and a new grandpa, which makes him beam! Wayne is a hunter and if he is not mowing the back 80, you will find him either at the cooperative or in his garage. Wayne is a master electrician who oversees the member service department, which includes our load management, the *Enlightener* monthly newsletter and public safety. He answers your questions on high use concerns, puts together one of the best power plant tours and is responsible for the two office buildings, which are located in Littlefork and Baudette. Along with his electrical experience, Wayne brings 27 years of experience to the team.

There you have it, our three very professional staff members who all have good work ethic and great attitudes toward their cooperative and their fellow employees. I, as well as the employee group, depend on them and I am very appreciative of all they do. Above all, they are very watchful of the happenings that go on at our cooperative to make sure it is in the best interests of you, our member-owners.

God bless you and our troops, Dan



North Star Electric 75th anniversary celebration

Scheduled for June 23

Mark your calendars, as North Star Electric will be hosting a 75th anniversary celebration on Tuesday, June 23, at the cooperative headquarters in Baudette. We will serve food and beverages, offer building tours, showcase our equipment, provide activities for the kids and give away prizes. More details of the event will be available in the coming months. We are looking for members who may have old cooperative photos, memorabilia and stories to share for projects we are creating in honor of our 75 years. We would like to hear from any member who can remember when their lights were turned on for the first time or who has unique stories about how electricity changed their lives. We plan to use these items/information to create displays and publish articles. Please note that any photo and memorabilia submitted to the cooperative will be returned to their owners as soon as the event is over.

75 Years

Avoid getting in

HOT WATER with your energy bill



Don't find yourself in hot water with your energy bill. Keep comfortable by making use of water heater efficiency tips that can help you save energy in your home and money on your energy bill.

After heating and cooling, water heating is the largest energy user in most homes.

A great way to ensure water heater efficiency is by lowering the set temperature. For every 10 degrees Fahrenheit lowered, you can save 3 to 5 percent on your bill. It is suggested to set the water heater temperature to no higher than 120 degrees. This temperature is sufficient for any water heating need and reduces mineral buildup. Any hotter could result in scalding.

If your water heater does not have one already, consider purchasing an insulating blanket for it. According to **Energy.gov**, insulating your water tank reduces standby heat loss by 25 to 45

percent and saves 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs.

A water heater insulation blanket kit is an affordable investment, costing around \$25, and it will pay for itself with the energy it saves.

Here are other ways to save energy and lower your bill with your water heater:

- Do not take baths. Instead, take short showers. This reduces the amount of hot water used.
- Do not let the water continue to run when you are brushing your teeth, washing your hands, or doing the dishes. Make it a habit to turn off the water when you are not using it.
- Use cold water for laundry. Cold water will clean clothes just as well as warm.
- Do full loads in your dishwasher. This reduces the amount of times you need to run the appliance.
- Fix faucet leaks and install low-flow fixtures. With this, **Energy.gov** estimates 25 to 60 percent savings on your water heating bill.

For more home efficiency tips, visit **EnergyEdCouncil.org**.



Fixing up your home? We can help.



Minnesota Housing partners with Border State Bank to provide loans for repairs, remodeling, installation of electric off-peak heat, and energy saving improvements. The Minnesota Housing Fix Up loan program offers affordable fixed interest rates with loan amounts up to \$50,000.

Go green and save! Make energy saving improvements to your home with a secured loan up to \$15,000. This loan has no income limit and repayment terms go up to 20 years.



Looking for energy savings ideas? Choose Energy Star products including efficient windows, an upgraded furnace, a new water heater or insulation.

Get started on a loan today by contacting your local Border State Bank:



Baudette
Roseann Swenson - NMLS #530659
Amanda Risser - NMLS #530660
218.634.3300
www.borderstatebank.com

International Falls
Molly K. Bragg - NMLS #690519
218.283.5556



Teaching kids about electrical safety



One of a parent's highest priorities is to protect their children. One way to do this is by teaching them about safety around electricity in your own home.

"Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them," says Amber Sabin, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. "However, curiosity can lead to trouble if we don't take an active role in educating them about potential dangers. Start teaching kids at an early age about electrical safety."

Twelve-year-old Caitlyn Mackenzie was killed by household current when she touched a lamp while still damp after swimming in a pool (362-31-010-01, Dale Brune). Her life may have been spared if the outdoor outlet that the lamp was connected to was equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

Teach children that water and electricity do not mix. Children

should never play with or use electronics around water. Make sure GFCIs are installed anywhere electricity and water could meet to help prevent shocks. GFCIs detect and prevent dangerous situations where an electric shock could occur.

Inform kids that the only objects that go into outlets are electric plugs. Sticking other items in an electric socket can lead to an electric shock or death. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that a yearly average of 2,400 children suffer severe shock from electrical outlets and that six to 12 of these shocks are fatal.

As a parent, you can help prevent this by having tamper resistant outlets (TROs) installed. A TRO has a shutter system that only accepts electric plugs. Another option is to use simple outlet plugs; however these can be easily removed.

Tell children that electric cords should be left alone. A curious child may put a cord into his or her mouth and could potentially suffer an electric burn. Additionally, kids should be taught to never pull a plug out of the socket by the cord. This could damage the cord. It is a good idea to leave cords out of sight so children are not tempted to play with them.

Emphasize that electronics and their accessories have to be handled with care. Also advise kids to never stick fingers or objects into toasters

or any other electrical appliance. Encourage younger children to ask for help when they want to use an electronic device.

"It's a good idea to include utility emergency numbers with other posted emergency phone numbers and instruct children how to call for help in an emergency," advises Sabin. "Hopefully, they will never have to use them, but it's always best to be safe first, rather than sorry later."

For more information on keeping your children safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

Current electrical inspectors

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information go to Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

- **Lake of the Woods, St. Louis and Koochiching counties:**

Curt Collier (cgcollier67@gmail.com)

Phone: (218) 966-5070

Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

- **Roseau county:**

Scott Stenvik

Phone: (218) 689-5406

Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)





Ann Ellis
Assistant General Manager/
Finance Manager

Staff Report

Rate adjustment

This is a topic I wish we didn't have to address, but effective April 1, the retail rates are going up a bit. The basic service fee and the Minnkota surcharge will not change. The price per kWh will go up 6.7 percent, and the overall revenue increase will average out to 5 percent. Although we realigned rates just over a year ago with no increase in overall revenue, our last rate increase was four years ago. One of the reasons for the increase is a 5 percent wholesale power rate increase.

Monthly electric bill comparisons

(without off-peak electric heat)

	Before April 1	After April 1
No usage	\$38.00	\$38.00
500 kWh	\$95.00	\$98.50
750 kWh	\$123.50	\$128.75
1,000 kWh	\$152.00	\$159.00
5,000 kWh	\$608.00	\$643.00

Capital credits

Every March we allocate the margins (the income in excess of expenses) to the capital credits accounts of everyone who buys electricity from us, so watch for this next month. From the \$14.5 million of revenue we collected in 2014, we recorded a \$399,000 margin to split among you all. Your share will be listed on your March electric bill.

Tax time

Maybe filing your income tax return is on your mind, and you are wondering if your capital credits paid last fall are taxable (795-08-032-02, John B. Seville). In most cases, they are not, but if you deduct electricity as a business expense, they may be.

Want to monitor your daily usage?

I'm leaking a secret because some of you have fled south to temporarily escape the grip of winter. Although we are in the testing phase, we are working out the kinks with an app, MyMeter, which would allow you to see your daily usage, and even take it a step further. You can set up a text or email alert if your usage goes below, or

above, a threshold you set. This will NOT alert you to a power outage, but if you want a backup plan to know if your heat isn't working, setting an alert for usage below 1 kWh/day might be helpful. Likewise, if you think you turned everything off for the winter, setting an alert for a high limit will save you from using unnecessary electricity. Although this isn't perfect because it requires consistent meter readings from the AMR (automated meter reading) system, and we are working to improve that, it is out there to help you. It's also available on the Internet at <https://mymeter.northstarelectric.coop>.

State legislative session

As the new session begins, our quest continues to keep an eye on legislation affecting your electric bill. One we are particularly concerned about is called net metering. It has been in place here for about 25 years, but because it affected only a handful of people, there wasn't enough financial shifting to other members to get excited about it. The concern now is that third-party outsiders are currently eyeing this law as a way to make money. This would be at the expense of members who would not allow their property to be used to exploit the net-metering law.

I hadn't planned on getting into the nitty-gritty with you today, but I can't help but share a few areas of concern:

1) Cost shifting – For DG (distributed generation – electricity produced at the member's property) the current law requires us to purchase all their excess electricity at the average retail price, which is significantly higher than the wholesale price we pay to Minnkota Power Cooperative. The law has special provisions for individuals who install less than 40 kW of DG, and that is what this article is focusing on. 40 kW is plenty – it's enough to power four hundred 100-watt light bulbs at once, assuming the DG system is producing its maximum output. My point is that there could be quite a lot of unused power at that residence being sold to the cooperative when we don't need it. The more of these who are out there,

the larger the cost shifting is to the non-DG members.

2) Grid Reliability – You know what happens when you overload a circuit. It gets too hot. It's similar with the grid. Baseload plants (like our coal plants in North Dakota) are steady workhorses, but they don't just turn on and off easily. As renewables are added, and you know they don't necessarily generate power at the right (peak) times, the current law requires we buy it, even if we can't use it. Yet when the DG output is not available for that member, they are welcome to use the co-op's baseload-generated electricity, even though they may be requesting it when the market price is pretty expensive. Our winter peak demand is about twice the size of our summer peak, and it's usually when it's dark outside.

3) Storage – If only electricity just hung out on the power lines, waiting until someone turned a switch. Well, it doesn't. If there was large-scale storage technology developed, we would be having a completely different conversation. In the meantime, the law requires your utility to purchase whatever electricity these DG facilities can generate, even if we don't need it, and send it to the grid. You may find it interesting that there are times when we have to PAY to put excess generation on the grid.

4) Exploitation – It's concerning enough when the cost shifting is between cooperative members, but if a third party, someone likely from out-of-state, comes in and wants to exploit the current net-metering law, we have serious concerns about that.

Our legislators want to do a good job, but it's not easy. They can't be experts at everything, and I mean everything! They need our help to understand the unintended consequences, so they can watch out for you too.

At your service, we remain ...
Ann

Operation Round Up helps local programs

(Continued from page 1)



At the January meeting \$7,840 in Operation Round Up funds were distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area, including:

Lake of the Woods Food Shelf	Food stocking
Koochiching Aging Options	Senior Wheels Program
Littlefork Medical Center	Vital signs
LOW 4-H Rider Horse Club	Announcer booth roof/electricity
Baudette Community Foundations Inc.	Digital projector conversion
Servants of Shelter Koochiching County	Temporary shelter for homeless
Indus School ProStart	Cooking competition/boot camp
Northern Light 1st Responders	Continuing education
Moose Creek Quilters	Warm the Body to Warm the Heart
Northwest Community Action	Reach out for Warmth
Northwest Community Action	Little Brother/Little Sister
Northland Amateur Radio Association	Big Falls repeater
International Falls School Trap Team	Trap thrower
Kabetogama Fire Department	Jaws of life
Voyageurs National Park Association	Snowshoes

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Al Franken

320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www Franken.senate.gov
202-224-5641
Fax: 202-224-0044

Senator Amy Klobuchar

302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Rick Nolan

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.nolan.house.gov
202-225-6211
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Congressman Collin Peterson

2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Mark Dayton

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 130
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
800-657-3717
mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Senator Tom Bakk

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 226
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-8881
sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

Senator Rod Skoe

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 235
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-4196
sen.rod.skoe@senate.mn

Senator LeRoy Stumpf

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 122
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
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Representative David Dill

571 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
800-339-0466
rep.david.dill@house.mn

Representative Dave Hancock

575 State Office Building
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rep.dave.hancock@house.mn

Representative Dan Fabian

307 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
888-727-0979
rep.dan.fabian@house.mn



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 Social Services

206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623
634-2642

Northwest Community Action Council

P.O. Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

Koochiching County Community Services

1000 5th St.
International Falls, MN 56649
283-7000

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

2232 2nd Ave. E.
P.O. Box 44
International Falls, MN 56649
283-9491 or 800-559-9491

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 1-877-687-1163
Direct 1-218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3rd Ave. S.
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
800-662-5711

2015 power plant tour

June 9-11

We are offering all North Star Electric members an exceptional summer opportunity that's fun for all ages. This year's tour is three days, which will make the trip more relaxing. The tour is scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, June 9-11.

The first day we will tour Minnkota's control center and print shop at Grand Forks, and then it's off to the beautiful Seven Seas Hotel & Waterpark in Mandan, N.D.



On the second day we will visit the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., where most of our electricity is generated. This will include a tour of the open pit mines where machines strip the coal and reclaim the land so it can once again be used for agriculture. This is where we will see the huge electric dragline Liberty, with its 300-foot boom and 70-cubic-yard bucket, which is used to remove the overburden soil from the coal. Then, it's off to see the Garrison Dam and the hydroelectric plant. We will end our day by returning to the Seven Seas for supper.



On the third day we will drive by the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center near Valley City, N.D., and then visit the Infinity wind turbine by Petersburg, N.D. Some of our energy is generated at both sites. The wind towers at Ashtabula are 250 feet tall with 120-foot blades. After that, we're off to Grand Forks for lunch and then back home.

The cost to members is just \$100 per person or \$175 per couple, which covers your cost of the bus, hotels, tours and meals. Members who have not been on this trip are encouraged to go.



Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Participants

Address

Telephone Number _____

Account Number _____

Number Attending _____

Have you enjoyed this trip in the past? N/Y What year? _____

Please print names of participants the way you would like them to appear on your name tags. Your deposit will be refunded if the tour is canceled or if you should find that you cannot make the trip. We will send further details prior to departure. Return with check for \$100 per person or \$175 per couple to: North Star Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623