

A newsletter from Arrowhead Cooperative

The High Line

By Line

July 2019, vol. 24



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

66th Annual Meeting

Arrowhead Cooperative's 66th Annual Meeting was held on June 8, 2019 and was attended by over 100 Arrowhead Cooperative members. Over 150 guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared and served by the Cook County Vikings Softball Team. At 10 a.m., Arrowhead members gathered in the Cook County School's Pam Taylor Gymnasium for the annual meeting.



Our guest speaker this year was David Saggau, Chief Executive Officer at Great River Energy (GRE). David Saggau discussed GRE's 2018 highlights, the evolution of its power generation portfolio, and renewable energy.

After the updates from GRE, Arrowhead Cooperative's Interim General Manager and Board of Directors gave their reports and took questions from the members.

Before wrapping up the meeting, Board President Roger Opp announced the results of the director elections:

District 3 (Gunflint Trail): Michael Valentini

District 6 (Lutsen): Scott Harrison

District 7 (Tofte/Schroeder): Don McKeever

After the meeting ended member names were drawn for door prizes.

THANK YOU

To all the local businesses that provided donations for the door prizes!

- North Shore Winery & Sawtooth Mountain Cider House
- Lutsen Recreation Inc.
- North Shore Music Association
- Johnson's Foods - Grand Marais
- Lutsen Resort
- Superior National Golf at Lutsen
- North House Folk School
- Great Gifts
- Cook County Whole Foods Co-op
- Edwin E. Thoreson, Inc.
- Lutsen Mountains
- Wild Country Maple Syrup
- Tall Tale Shop
- Lockport Market Place & Grill
- Caribou Cream
- Grand Marais State Bank

Welcome to our new General Manager

The Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors is pleased to announce they have selected John Twiest as the new General Manager! John has been at Arrowhead since 2005, in various rolls starting as a 3rd year Apprentice Lineman. He worked extensively on the plans for the fiber build-out and is deeply familiar with both the power and fiber plant. In 2013 John took over as the Operations and Outside Plant Manager. In that role he developed a team of communications linemen, oversaw Arrowhead's conversion to an automated metering interface, and restored the cooperative's long-term planning for rights of way clearing and line maintenance. His leadership in that department has been greatly appreciated. The Board of Directors is confident in John's ability to guide the cooperative forward in continuing to provide outstanding service to its members. Please join us in welcoming John to his new role which will begin July 1, 2019.



Sign up today for the 2019 Coal Creek Tour!

The 2019 Coal Creek Tour is September 24-27. The cost of this tour is \$425 per couple or \$375 per single. The fee includes:

- 3 nights at Souris Valley Suites in Minot, North Dakota
- Tour of Coal Creek Station & Falkirk Mine
- Admission to Norsk Hostfest
- Tickets to see Chicks with Hits featuring Terri Clark, Pam Tillis, and Suzy Boffuss
- Meals (lunch 3 days)

The trip is fun, educational, and entertaining. If you are interested, call Sandy Petty at the Arrowhead office at 218-663-7239 for more information.

The registration deadline is July 19, 2019. Please make check payable to Arrowhead Cooperative. The tour bus leaves from the Cooperative Light and Power office in Two Harbors at 7:00 am Tuesday, September 24th and returns to Two Harbors at approximately 6:00 pm on Friday, September 27th.

YES! Sign me up for the 2019 Coal Creek Power Plant Tour
Enclosed is a check: \$425 (double occupancy registration)
 \$375 (single occupancy registration)

Name (First & Last):

Name (First & Last):

Address/City/State/Zip:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Daytime Phone/Evening Phone:

Daytime Phone/Evening Phone:

Emergency Contact Name & Phone:

Emergency Contact Name & Phone:

DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP IS JULY 19TH!

Tips for the best wireless connection

Wireless internet, or “Wi-Fi” as it’s commonly known, is the way many of us connect to the internet. We depend on this invisible signal to communicate huge amounts of data instantly as we stroll about our home. Here are some tips to help keep your home Wi-Fi running smoothly.

1. Make sure your router’s firmware is up to date. How easy -or how hard- it is to upgrade your firmware depends entirely on your device manufacturer and model. If you are using True North’s wireless router, this is done for you. We automatically update the equipment remotely during maintenance windows, to ensure our router is operating efficiently. If you have your own router, check your manufacturer’s website for update instructions.
2. Choose the best spot for your router. Wireless routers need open spaces, away from walls and obstructions. If a tricky floorplan or an in-floor heating system is blocking the signal, you may need additional access points. True North’s mesh satellites can provide a simple way to extend your coverage at home.

3. Connect to the right frequency. A dual-band router will have a 2.4GHz band and a 5GHz band. Not only does the 5GHz band offer faster speeds, but you’ll likely encounter less interference from other wireless networks and devices, because the 5GHz frequency is not as commonly used. It does not handle obstructions and distances quite as well, though, so it won’t necessarily reach as far as the 2.4GHz signal does. That’s why your True North router has both!
4. Don’t rely on obsolete hardware. It’s a good idea to get the most out of your existing equipment, but if you are using old hardware you can’t expect the best performance. If you are using a router purchased years ago (before 2014), it might be the older, slower 802.11n standard. The devices you use to connect to the wireless signal also play a part. Laptops, phone, and tablets that were made just five years ago may struggle to process high speeds.

If you have questions about improving your wireless internet connection, talk to us at True North to learn about our fully supported Superior Whole Home Wi-Fi.

Considering Installing solar or wind generation?

Arrowhead Cooperative members may choose to install their own electric power generation equipment. On the North Shore, that usually means solar panels, but wind generation is also possible here. Members can also choose to connect their “distributed generation” system to Arrowhead Cooperative’s lines. This process is called interconnection. In order to comply with updated state statutes regarding distributed generation, the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors recently updated the cooperative’s cogeneration policy and rules. The Board adopted the Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resources Interconnection Process, abbreviated simply as C-MIP.

The new process gives all Minnesota cooperatives and their members a clearly defined method for

interconnection of distributed generation systems. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. The rules concerning proper equipment, safety, liability, and energy reimbursement can be complicated, but Arrowhead Cooperative is here to help members get the answers they need. Because of the technical and safety requirements involved, be sure to contact Arrowhead Cooperative for assistance when you begin planning your project. Your system must meet our requirements and be approved and certified by a Minnesota licensed electrical inspector.

For more information about interconnecting solar or wind generation, contact Yusef Orest, Member Services Manager, at DER@arrowhead.coop or 218-663-9001. Information is also available on our website at accimn.com/distributed-energy/.

2019 Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

The Arrowhead Cooperative Operation Round Up Board met on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 to award funds to the 2019 grant applicants. There are so many wonderful things going on across the county! After careful consideration, the Board voted to award funds to nine projects for a total distribution of \$19,593.64 of members’ donations.

- **North Shore health Care Foundation** received \$5,000.00 for the Oral Health Task Force.
- **Great Expectations School** received \$1,205.64 for outdoor education gear for their kindergarten, first, and second grade classes.
- **Chikwauk – Gunflint Trail Historical Society** received \$1,100.00 for outdoor education.
- **Cook County Extension** received \$1,700.00 for expansion of the Community Garden.
- **Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District** received \$2,992.00 for community outreach and watershed exploration.
- **The Cook County Community Center** received \$1,000.00 for the Little League scoreboard.
- **Cook County Community Education** received \$2,500.00 for day camp scholarships.
- **Grand Portage Elderly Nutrition Program** received \$1,274.00 for quilting and art materials.

- **Cook County Local Energy Project** received \$2,000.00 for their Contractors Workshop.

- **Schroeder Historical Society** received \$822.00 for the electrify Cook County exhibit.



When Arrowhead Cooperative members participate in Operation Round Up, their monthly electric bill automatically rounds up to the next nearest dollar and puts that money into the Operation Round Up fund. This fund provides grants to nonprofit organizations in our community.

If your electric bill is \$121.33, we can round it up to \$122.00 and invest the additional 67¢ in the Operation Round-Up Trust.

The average annual contribution is \$6.00 and the most a member could contribute in a year is just \$11.88.

Since May 2003 Operation Round Up has awarded 273 grants for \$342,424.68.

Thank you to the many Arrowhead Cooperative members who contribute to this program!

Dates to Remember

Thursday, July 4
Friday, July 19
Thursday, July 25

Independence Day; office closed
Electric & Broadband bills due
Board of Directors Meeting



Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegates



Check out the 2019 Arrowhead Cooperative Rural Electric Youth Tour delegates, Robin Henrikson and Doran Acero, representing Cook County, Minnesota, and Arrowhead Cooperative Members in Washington, D.C. We can't wait to hear about their full experience when they get home!

Right-Of-Way

Right-of-Way clearing has resumed. Crews from Northern Clearing are working in the Grand Portage area as well as along the Gunflint Mid-Trail area. Keep in mind, clearing and hazard tree removal can happen at any time, in any area as needed.

What can you do to help?

- Please be sure the right of way is clear of personal items to ensure the mowers and equipment can pass through with ease.
- Brushing and/or mowing your private right-of-way from the meter to your home, following your electric or fiber line, would be extremely helpful. The suggested width is 10 feet for both overhead and underground services.

Please mark survey pins, sprinkler systems, septic systems, well heads, wire or fencing with a five foot permanent reflective marker post within the right-of-way, and remove any personal items that may be damaged by flying debris. Arrowhead Cooperative will not accept liability for damage of these items if not notified. If you do not live at your service address, please call the office to inform us of known obstacles in your right-of-way.

Arrowhead Cooperative encourages members to contact the office with any questions or concerns regarding Right-of-Way clearing.

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Interim General Manager: Jenny Kartes
Board President: Roger Opp
Newsletter Editor: Yusef Orest
Cooperative Board Meeting last Thursday of each month @ 9:00 a.m. with the exception of November and December due to the holidays.
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