

## MEMBERS TO VOTE ON BYLAW AMENDMENTS AT 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

*The Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors is asking the Cooperative's members to approve proposed amendments to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.*



As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Arrowhead Cooperative is governed by a series of documents, including Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, that were first established when the Cooperative was founded in 1953. These documents provide a framework for governing and conducting business. As time passes, the energy industry changes, technology advances, and member needs and expectations grow, it is important to periodically review and amend the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws in order to remain relevant and effective.

Over the last year, the Board of Directors, Arrowhead Cooperative staff, an attorney, and our auditor conducted a review of the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The purpose of this review is to ensure that these documents are current, compliant with changes in law, and reflect best practices in the industry. After reviewing these documents line by line and comparing them to Cooperative business procedures, future needs, and industry advancements, necessary alterations were identified and suggested. Alterations are intended to modernize archaic language, increase clarity, simplify where possible, and facilitate the more efficient operation of the Cooperative.

While the proposed amendments have been approved by the current Board of Directors, they cannot be placed into effect without approval by a majority vote of the members that participate in the voting process. This membership vote will take place in conjunction with the Director elections and Annual Meeting on June 4, 2022.

Before your ballot package arrives, we want to ensure that you feel educated to place your vote. While the bulk of changes proposed reflect an update in language and/or grammar to make the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws easier

to understand, the following summaries reflect the most significant amendments:

**Removal of Outdated Language and Practices:** Any language related to practices that have been discontinued over time by the Cooperative has been removed.

**Accounts for Modern Technology:** It's been 20 years since the Bylaws have been reviewed or altered and in that time technology has drastically changed. Language related to how Board of Director meetings are held, member communication takes place, and/or how member votes are made has been updated to include the option of using electronic methods.

**Defines Members and Non-Member Patrons:** The current Bylaws were written before Arrowhead Cooperative began offering broadband services that are available to subscribers outside of the Cooperative's defined electric service territory. Language is being added to define who qualifies as a member (those receiving electric service within our electric service territory limits) and non-member patrons (those who receive only broadband service outside of electric service territory limits).

**Better Defines Requirements and Responsibilities of Membership:** New language reinforces that any entity receiving electric service from Arrowhead Cooperative is considered a member of the Cooperative and therefore bound to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and afforded the benefit of voting rights and the return of patronage capital (also known as capital credits). The requirements and the responsibilities of membership are also clarified.

*Continued on page 3.*

# CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ARROWHEAD BROADBAND SUBSCRIBERS THROUGH FCC

*The Affordable Connectivity Program has replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit, providing qualifying households with monthly credits to help pay for internet service.*

If eligible, you may receive a credit of up to \$30 per month toward your broadband services, or up to \$75 in Tribal lands. The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service credit per household.

## QUALIFYING FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

A household is eligible for this program if one member of the household meets any one of the following criteria:

- Qualifies for the Lifeline program;
- Household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program, or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Receives assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

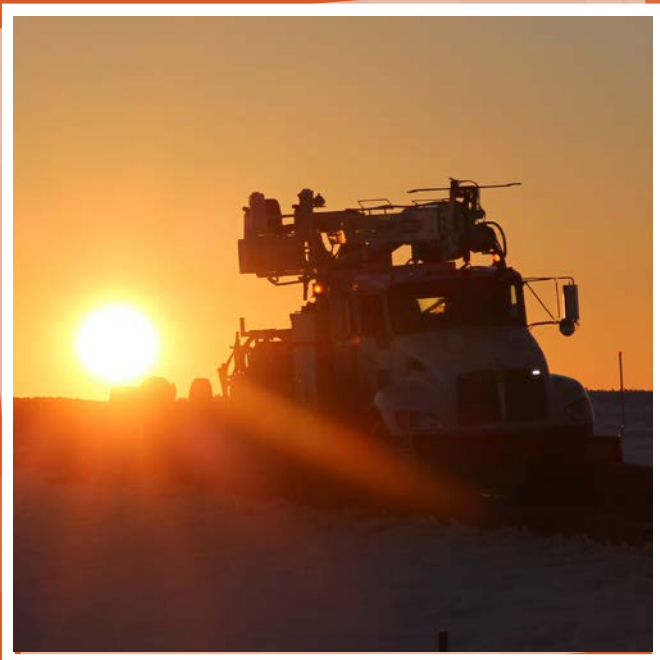


## HOW TO APPLY

Visit [acpbenefit.org](http://acpbenefit.org) to apply for the affordable connectivity benefit. Once you have been approved contact Arrowhead Broadband at (218) 663-9030 or [broadband@arrowhead.coop](mailto:broadband@arrowhead.coop) to get the discount added to your account.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the information provided above, please contact Arrowhead Broadband at (800) 864-3744. You can also visit the FCC website at [www.fcc.gov/acp](http://www.fcc.gov/acp).



## THANK A LINEWORKER

Here's to the missed soccer games, birthdays, and anniversaries. Our lineworkers are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. Slated as one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S, lineworkers risk their lives daily to keep power flowing into our homes and businesses.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

**SAY THANK YOU ON LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 11, 2022**

# BYLAW VOTE DETAILS CONTINUED...

## **Capital Credit Allocation and Distribution to Non-Member Patrons:**

Broadband services have created significant growth and opportunity for the Cooperative over the last ten years. As this portion of our business approaches positive equity and continues expansion it's important that the Cooperative's allocation and disbursement of capital credits remain fair and equitable to all who contribute to the Cooperative's margins. New language is being added to define how and when patronage capital is returned to non-member patrons (broadband-only subscribers).

**Director Tenure:** Proposed changes increase director term limits. While the term length of three years will remain intact, directors would be able to run for up to six terms instead of four. Rapid changes in the energy industry and increased demands of directors require Board members to have extensive knowledge and certifications. Increasing terms provide sufficient time to onboard new directors, complete in-depth training and education courses, and allow the Cooperative to benefit from Board member training and experience.

**Director Nomination Process:** Proposed changes simplify the process for a member to run for a position on the Board by eliminating a complicated committee process and replacing it with a more efficient petition process. Qualified members interested in running for the board would simply submit a petition application including 15 member signatures to be added to the ballot. In the absence of petition applications, the Board of Directors would be allowed to nominate a qualified member to the ballot.

## CO-OP PRINCIPLE #2: DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

*Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. You exercise your member-owner rights by voting on bylaw changes and for board members. Your participation and input is vital not only to the success of Arrowhead Cooperative, but ensures we meet your needs and expectations.*

A summary and complete text of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws recommended by the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors will be available on our website by April 15. In addition, each member will receive this information as part of their ballot package in May. Members will have the option to vote by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2022.

We are confident these changes will result in increased clarity, more efficient operations at the Cooperative, and better engage our members in the election process. We realize there is a lot of information presented here, so don't hesitate to reach out to us during business hours at (800) 864-3744 if you have questions or comments regarding the proposed amendments.

## CO-OP NEWS

### OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 15, 2022, in observance of Good Friday. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

### COLD WEATHER RULE ENDING

Do you need help paying your electric bill this winter? The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule helps homeowners and renters protect and reconnect heat during the winter months. If your account is past due, you will no longer be protected under the Cold Weather Rule after April 30.

If you are worried about paying your electric bill on time, contact Arrowhead Cooperative at (800) 864-3744 before the due date of your bill. By making/maintaining a payment arrangement we can help you avoid disconnection.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Call 811 or visit  
[gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)  
before you dig.



# 2ND ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY & RIGHT OF WAY EDUCATION EVENT!

*We understand that many people are protective of the trees in our beautiful service territory and on their properties. Arrowhead Cooperative also appreciates trees for all their intrinsic values, but we also recognize that trees have a proper place. That place is not within the power line right-of-way corridors. We clear trees and vegetation from power line rights-of-way because:*

- Power outages are frequently caused by trees or branches contacting overhead power lines. These outages can range from momentary blinks to a lengthy outage that impacts numerous accounts. Service quality and reliability depends on proper vegetation management.
- A tree that is in close proximity to a power line poses a lethal threat to anything that could climb it and contact an energized power line. This could be an adult, a child, or an animal. The result may be a tragic fatality. Public safety depends on utility vegetation management.
- Power lines contacting tree branches can spark fires that quickly spread out of control.

Planning is underway for the 2022 Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) of Arrowhead Cooperative's power line right-of-way. If you have any questions about right-of-way maintenance or concerns about danger trees, please reach out to us at (218) 663-7239.

## LEARN MORE AND PICK UP A FREE TREE FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE AT OUR 2ND ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY EVENTS

To keep you informed and show our care for the community, Arrowhead Cooperative is hosting a tree giveaway event. Information will be available on our right of way maintenance plans and our Integrated Vegetation Management program. In addition, we'll be giving away an assortment of native, low growing trees and shrubs, including Ninebark, Wild Plum, Juneberry and Mountain Ash for planting outside of the power line right-of-way.

### JOIN US

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11:** 1-4 p.m. at the Schroder Community Center

**THURSDAY, MAY 12:** 9 a.m. - noon at the Grand Portage School/Community Center

**FRIDAY, MAY 13:** 9 a.m. - noon at the Maple Hill Fire Station

*If you are interested in picking up a few trees and these times do not work for you, members can contact us and we can hold some trees for you for pickup at our Lutsen office Thursday, May 12th, before 4pm.*



### APRIL CALENDAR WINNER

*Submitted by: Sydney Plumb*



### SAFETY TIP

*Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.*

## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

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