

THE HIGHLINE BY LINE

A NEWSLETTER FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE



JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4

10 A.M. | COOK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Be informed about your Co-op and have your voice be heard!



As a member-owner of Arrowhead Cooperative, you are also an owner of the cooperative. As an owner, you have a voice in the operation of our organization. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of Directors, you help set the future direction of our Cooperative.

Join us to hear from your co-op leaders who will discuss priorities for the Cooperative, challenges we face, our financial health, and operational plans for the coming years. In addition, members will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain helpful information about the electric industry and the Cooperative.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Cook County High School and a pancake breakfast will be served from 9-10 a.m.

Remember to bring the registration coupon from your annual report to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill. In addition, the Cooperative will be collecting food and donations for the Cook County Food Shelf.

ANNUAL REPORT

In late May, all members will receive the 2021 Annual Report. The publication includes a summary of last year's financials as well as a report from the management team.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS AND BYLAW VOTE

The Annual Report packet will also include your ballot to vote for candidates for the Board of Directors and the amendment to the Cooperative Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. This year three seats are up for election:

District 3: Gunflint Trail
District 6: Lutsen
District 7: Schroeder/Tofte

The Annual Report will include short biographies of each of the candidates. Although candidates are elected to represent a specific district, ALL members may vote in the election. Please choose one candidate in each district and enclose your ballot in the envelopes provided. Sign the outer envelope and mail it (postage paid!) to our office.

Unique this year, the Arrowhead Board of Directors is asking our members to approve proposed amendments to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The purpose of the proposed changes is to ensure that these documents are current, compliant with changes in law, and reflect best practices in the industry. Alterations are intended to modernize archaic language, increase clarity, simplify where possible, and facilitate the more efficient operation of the Cooperative.

A summary and complete text of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws recommended by the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors are available on our website at www.arrowheadcoop.com and will be included in your Annual Report package, however, the following summaries reflect the most significant proposed 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.

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ANNUAL MEETING VOTING CONTINUED..

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.

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.

Ballots must be received in our office by Friday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m. if mailed. If you prefer, you can bring your ballot with you to the Annual Meeting. Director elections will come to a close at the Annual Meeting and the results will be announced after the votes are counted.

This is YOUR Co-op. To remain healthy and strong, we need to have continued active participation and support from you.



LEARN MORE AND PICK UP A FREE TREE FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE!

To keep you informed and show our care for the community, Arrowhead Cooperative is hosting a tree giveaway. 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 4 p.m.

MONEY-SAVING PROGRAMS HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ELECTRIC GRID

Arrowhead Cooperative, our wholesale power provider Great River Energy, and members like you have helped to use the electric grid efficiently and economically for decades by reducing demand during periods of stress on the electric grid and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

This strategy — known as “demand response” — plays a role in keeping wholesale rates affordable; electricity reliably flowing to homes and businesses; and also saves members money on their bills in the short- and long-term.

Members have the opportunity to opt-in to several demand-response programs offered by Arrowhead Cooperative that “control” or “cycle” electric devices in their homes such as water heaters and heat pumps on high-demand days when electricity is most expensive. In exchange, members receive a reduced electric rate and sometimes even upfront rebates for enrolling.

Programs available include:

- Dual Fuel
- Stored Water Heating
- Peak Shave Water Heating
- ChargeWise (Electric Vehicle Charging)

“Both the cooperative and consumer-member receive benefits through this strategy,” said Member Services Manager Sara McManus. “These programs offer a direct link to avoided wholesale costs to the co-op while our members benefit from lower rates associated with controlled loads.”

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for demand response — usually on very warm or very cold days — Great River Energy “flips the switch” to alleviate demand. In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this helps the cooperative to avoid making expensive purchases from the regional energy market which saves members money.

Without demand response, Great River Energy and other utilities would need additional generation and transmission infrastructure to meet the region’s increasing electrical demand. Load management programs also help avoid building high-cost peaking plants or purchasing expensive energy in the wholesale market.

Great River Energy and its 28 member-owner cooperatives have built the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. More than 370,000 appliances, along with irrigation systems, are enrolled in a demand response program offered by the cooperatives.

Call us at (800) 864-3744 for more information on available demand-response programs and available rebates.

CO-OP NEWS

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

BUDGET BILLING TRUE UP

If you are enrolled in Arrowhead Cooperative’s Budget Billing program, it’s Budget Billing True Up Month. Each May, your bill will display your actual account balance due, which may be higher or lower than your budgeted billing amount, depending on your actual usage for the year. It will also show the new budget amount that has been calculated for the next 11 months.

PLAN AHEAD AND KNOW WHAT’S BELOW

You must call 811 before you dig! It’s the safest and only legal way to dig. Even small projects like planting a shrub require you to make advance arrangements before digging. Your call to 811 connects you with Minnesota’s Gopher State One Call which arranges for utilities like Arrowhead Cooperative to locate and mark our buried utilities in your dig area at no cost to you.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 26, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.



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SAFETY FIRST ALL YEAR-ROUND

At Arrowhead Cooperative we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

At Arrowhead Cooperative, safety is more than a catchphrase and we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, we'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

1. Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.
2. Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.
3. Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.
4. Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

We also encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.



**MAY IS
ELECTRIC
SAFETY
MONTH**



MAY CALENDAR WINNER

Submitted by: Peter Elvin



EFFICIENCY TIP

Even in the summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If you can easily see your joists, you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

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