

Our Mission

distribute energy and services to benefit
our communities.

Current Matters

February 2019 • Vol. 11 Issue 2



Nobles Cooperative Electric
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NCE's grassroots program

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) and electric cooperatives across the state and nation are continually working with local, state and U.S. representatives and senators to ensure the stability of our cooperative by keeping your energy costs affordable.

Keeping your electricity reliable and your costs affordable is a big concern for the cooperative and its membership. Federal, state and local resolutions support electric energy policies that balance safety and reliability, affordability and environmental sensitivity.

NCE works on behalf of its members. The cooperative does not choose a particular (539-37-165) political party, but instead works to educate all legislators on the issues that are important to our members and the cooperative. Our success is driven by our interaction with government officials through:

Directors' Day at the State Capitol

During the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Annual Meeting, cooperative board of directors and managers spend a day at the Minnesota Capitol discussing the issues with legislators. They explain the cooperative position on bills being introduced and their impact on rural member-owners.

Grassroots Day at the State Capitol

Each legislative session, electric cooperatives meet with state legislators at the Minnesota Capitol. The event is timed to coincide with final committee debates on electricity proposals.

NRECA Legislative Conference

In April or May, board of directors and managers meet face-to-face on the Hill with members of Congress and their staff. It's just another opportunity to interact with legislators.

Communication

Communication is key in keeping our legislators informed. We offer our members a chance to get involved through Action.coop. Here you can send a letter to your legislators.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification or ACRE supports congressional candidates, regardless of party who share the same public policy goals as electric cooperatives (see page 3 for more information).

We find it vitally important to engage with our legislators on the local front by inviting our legislators to meet with our employees and directors each year at our office.

There is a lot of power in cooperative membership.

Cover photo: General Manager Adam Tromblay, NCE's Board of Directors, Representative Joe Schomacker and Senator Bill Weber.

Energy saving tip

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.
Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

- Feb. 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- Feb. 18 Presidents' Day
- Feb. 25 Electric bills due
- Mar. 10 Daylight savings time



Spot your location number in Current Matters

Find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue and you will receive a \$10 credit.

2 Manager's Message

3 NCE welcomes Brock Larson

4 Be sure to take the energy efficiency quiz



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

New year, new plans

With the new year comes new plans for 2019. Your board of directors recently approved the 2019 Budget for NCE. We will be spending \$3.1 million dollars on system improvements and work plan projects.

After the April 2013 Ice Storm, the board made a policy to put lines underground where it is feasible and reasonable. This year, we will be converting 21 miles of overhead line to underground, along with installing three miles of new underground. This will continue the pathway the policy set forth.

We will also begin constructing the new substation and feeders along Highway 91 near Lismore. The budget for operations includes tree trimming, service upgrades and yard (105-13-3COM) light replacements. We have been converting the mercury vapor and metal halide security lights as they fail with LED lights. The LED lights are much more efficient than past technologies and have a much longer life. You'll find they put out a different light pattern



Cooperative partnership

NCE recently changed out a pole at Marvin Mattson's residence. While there, Marvin told our Line Foreman Rick Leebens and Metering/Mapping Coordinator Cody Hansen that he remembers helping his dad and brothers dig holes for the cooperative when he was about 10 years old.

Back in the late 1930s and 1940s, farmers and homeowners helped dig holes so they could receive electricity sooner. Cooperation among members and the cooperative made for a great combination. That's 83 years of cooperative partnership, since NCE was founded in 1936.

Like NCE's forefathers, today's cooperative leaders are working to further our business, strengthen our relationships and build on an even greater value through the power of the cooperative partnership.

at your residence, but we know you will be very satisfied with the results.

In the next couple months, we will be rolling out some very innovative and exciting programs to the membership. They were also approved in the 2019 Budget. Make sure you keep reading our newsletter each month to find out what we have in store!

The cooperative is in very good financial condition and we will continue to strive to improve efficiencies and processes here at NCE. We look forward to serving you in 2019!

WATT WATCHER

Usage Details and Weather

Meter #18142 Jan 23 2019 - Jan 29 2019

24 hours 7 days 30 days 12 months

Usage Details

Meters

Settings

Register for the Watt Watcher

A convenient way to view your energy usage, pay your bill and sign up for notifications on our website at www.noblesce.coop.

Co-op Owners for Political Action

As a member of NCE, you are among 42 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit consumer-controlled utility that provides electricity at cost. The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program (2-25-70) is an exciting opportunity for you to raise your voice and participate in the political process.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives. For over 40 years, ACRE has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their member-owners. Through ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you as a member-owner have the ability to strengthen this support and join over 30,000 ACRE members who form a strong grassroots network dedicated to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program.

We hope that you will consider this program. Together we will continue to fight for a viable environment for electric cooperatives and the quality of life of the people and communities that cooperatives serve.

Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal.



Yes! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the state and national political process by participating in Co-op Owners for Political Action.

- Regular Member (\$25 per year)
- Century Club (\$100 per year)
- President's Club (\$500 per year)
- Other \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Location No.: _____

Signature: _____

New lineman at NCE

We would like to welcome Brock Larson to the team. Larson joins the cooperative as an apprentice lineman. The Wyoming, Minnesota, native is a graduate from White Bear Lake High School and Dakota County Technical College. Brock previously worked as a seasonal apprentice at Connexus Energy before continuing his apprenticeship at Karian Peterson. In his spare time, he enjoys snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, along with hockey and golfing.

The cooperative is frequently asked about career opportunities as a lineman. Each apprentice lineman goes through four years of training, which consists of nine steps per year. Apprentices move up the steps based on tests of their knowledge and their skill in line work. (20-20-31) This process gives linemen hands on experience in the field while they work alongside experienced journeymen to prepare to work safely on their own.

On January 28, Brock started his career at NCE and we couldn't be more excited about having him join our cooperative team!



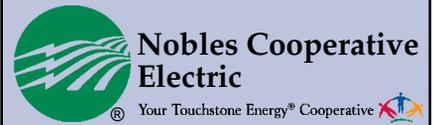
Rebates are available to members of NCE for both residential and commercial applications. To download a form for submitting, be sure to visit www.noblesce.coop/rebates. The cooperative has appliance, lighting, HVAC and agricultural rebates available, just to name a few.

December Auto Pay Winner: Kevin Carlson

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY QUIZ

Are you an energy efficiency whiz?
Test your knowledge by taking the quiz below.
Hint: Check your answers at the bottom of the page.



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Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

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Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

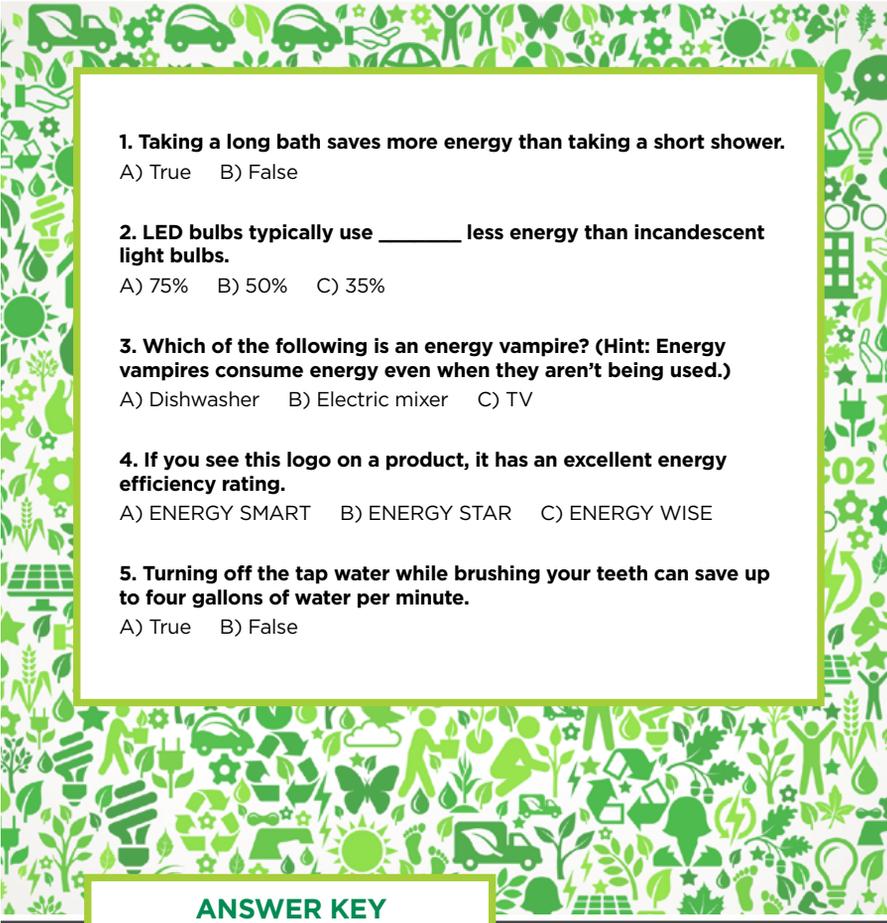
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Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
David Clarke, Sec./Treas. - 425-2646*
Bruce Barber, Director - 329-2991*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Cindy Hokeness, Director - 478-4965*
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**Telephone prefix 507*

Next Board Meeting

February 22, 2019

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



1. Taking a long bath saves more energy than taking a short shower.

A) True B) False

2. LED bulbs typically use _____ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 75% B) 50% C) 35%

3. Which of the following is an energy vampire? (Hint: Energy vampires consume energy even when they aren't being used.)

A) Dishwasher B) Electric mixer C) TV

4. If you see this logo on a product, it has an excellent energy efficiency rating.

A) ENERGY SMART B) ENERGY STAR C) ENERGY WISE

5. Turning off the tap water while brushing your teeth can save up to four gallons of water per minute.

A) True B) False

ANSWER KEY

ANSWERS: 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. A



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Country Cupboard Sweet and Sour Meatballs

Linda Beerman
Iona

1 1/2 lb. ground beef 1 tsp. salt
1 c. milk 1/4 tsp. pepper
3/4 c. oatmeal 3 tsp. grated onion

Mix lightly and form into balls. You can use an (35-4-50) ice cream or cookie scoop for shaping balls. Pack loosely in a single layer pan or casserole. Cover with this mixture:

3 T. sugar 3 tsp. vinegar 1/2 c. water 1 c. ketchup

Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. You can use barbecue sauce in place of the ketchup.

Send your favorite **pie** recipe to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by February 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.