CO-OP LIFE IT'S BETTER HERE

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Nobles Cooperative
Electric
[®] Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative ^{*}

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Growing up on a farm, I always wondered what it meant to be a member of the cooperative. Was this some sort of exclusive club where I received member benefits?

Through the years, my knowledge increased. But it wasn't really until I started working and making a living that I began to understand cooperative life is just better. That check that I received in the mail for my patronage at the cooperative or through my local grain elevator was a pleasant surprise.

Call me biased, but life is just better living in a cooperative's service territory and being a member.

Cooperative life is better because it's built on a cooperative business model to work together for a common good. We care about the communities we serve and work for the benefit of our members every day, guided by our values and member satisfaction. It's even in our name!

In 1936, Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) was founded by a group of farmers who had a common vision. To this day, our business decisions are guided by these same principles.

As a member-owner, you have equal say in the cooperative's operations and future. No one is forcing you to participate, but when you have a problem or suggestion, someone is actually there to listen to you.

What makes NCE and other cooperatives different and better?

• Members have a voice, making democracy a mainstay at the cooperative. Each member has a vote in electing the board of directors.

- Profits are shared with our membership through the form of capital credits.
- Earnings are allocated to members based on use.
- We are invested in improving the quality of our members' lives and operating for the benefit of member-owners.
- NCE defends the interests of our members.
- The cooperative is owned and controlled by our members.
- NCE is renowned for helping communities through Operation Round Up, It's All About Youth, scholarships, sponsorships and education, along with city and county involvement.
- A cooperative membership helps instill important values and teamwork.
- Our employees are your neighbors and live in your communities.
- You'll see and hear our employees working in the community, volunteering their time on boards and as firemen.
- 1 in 3 Americans are cooperative members, holding 350 million memberships worldwide.
- There are more than 40,000 cooperatives in the United States of all types.

There is nothing better than co-op life and living here

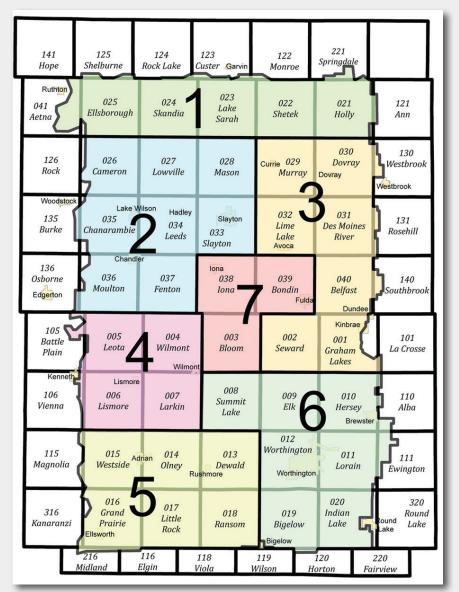
Seven Cooperative Principles

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2. Democratic Member Control
- 3. Members' Economic Participation
- 4. Autonomy and Independence
- 5. Education, Training and Information
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7. Concern for Community
 - We are working to advance our rural communities through economic development and reinvestment in our service territory.
 - We are always looking for new technology and innovation to be more efficient.
 - NCE is a progressive, electric cooperative always looking out for you, our member.
 - Cooperatives are leaders in global rural electrification. For more than a half of a century, they have made quality of life improvements to 160 million people in 45 countries.

As your hometown electric cooperative, it's not just our way of doing business, it's our way of life. That means value that goes far beyond the energy we provide, value you can't put a price on. What could be better than cooperative life and living here?



Ronald Schwartau Board President Adam Tromblay General Manager/CEO



NCE Board of **Directors** is committed to serving you

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. Directors are elected from the membership and accountable to the members and service territory they serve. Each member has the opportunity to vote and have their voice be heard.

- Seven directors serve with staggered three-year terms.
- Directors must receive NCE's electric service and have their primary residence in the district they represent.
- Directors must meet the qualifications listed in the bylaws.
- Basic commitments:
- Monthly board meetings
- Committee assignments
- Education seminars
- Keeping the members' best interests at heart



Ronald Schwartau District 1 - President



Lee York District 2 - V. President District 5 - Sec./Treas.



Cindy Hokeness



Jerry Beckering District 4 - Director



Timothy Bickett District 6 - Director



Gary Clarke District 3 - Director



David Dorpinghaus District 7 - Director

CO-OP LIFE IT'S BETTER HERE

Your co-op by the numbers

615,329 kWh ENERGY SAVINGS

189 kw demand savings

\$91,866 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES PAID TO MEMBERS

\$1,286,757 CAPITAL CREDITS RETURNED

194,493,064 kWh SOLD

7,443 SERVICES

2,278

MÍLES OF LINE - 1,028 miles of underground - 1,250 miles of overhead

3.27 SERVICES PER MILE OF LINE

19 SUBSTATIONS

2,864 FACEBOOK LIKES

25 EMPLOYEES

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual meeting of the members of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) was held via a conference call at 7 p.m. on April 6, 2021. This was pursuant to notice duly published 15 days prior to the holding of the meeting, as required by NCE's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Ronald Schwartau, president of the board of directors, welcomed the members. He explained that in June, NCE would be celebrating 85 years since its incorporation. President Schwartau stated that the Cooperative had weathered the last year quite well, even during the pandemic. He commended the employees for their hard work, while keeping the Cooperative safe and operating efficiently through the pandemic.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schwartau, who presided. Lee York, vice president of the Cooperative acting as secretary in the absence of Cindy Hokeness, kept the minutes of the meeting.

The agenda and annual meeting notice were mailed to each member of the Cooperative. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

President Schwartau stated that the annual report had been provided to the membership prior to the annual meeting and constitutes the business and fiscal reports of the Cooperative.

The minutes of the last annual meeting of the members, as held June 10, 2020, were printed in the 2021 Annual Report. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes as printed.

NCE's Bylaws state that a quorum is established when a question is submitted to a vote by mail and there are 50 or more mailed votes received on behalf of the Cooperative. Vice President York stated that before the April 6 Conference Call Annual Meeting, more than 50 mail-in ballots were received and a quorum was established as per Article II, Section 7 of the Bylaws.

Chairman Schwartau appointed Attorney Chad Felstul as parliamentarian for the meeting. Chad Felstul, attorney for the Cooperative, stated that the Notice of Annual Meeting was mailed to each member at the member's last known post office address as it appears on the re-

cords of the Cooperative as per Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws. Such notice and proof thereof are annexed to the minutes of the meeting. The balloting and voting procedures for the election of directors and nominating committee

The balloting and voting procedures for the election of directors and nominating committee members were explained by Attorney Felstul. Ballots were mailed to 5,187 members, proven by a Certificate of Mailing by Dairyland Power Cooperative. The ballots were sent to Pemberton Law, P.L.L.P. for counting.

Attorney Felstul announced the results of the election, which are as follows:

District One Director Ronald Schwartau and District Two Director Lee York ran unopposed and both were elected by acclamation.

District Six Director	Votes	District Four Nominating Committee	Votes
Timothy Bickett Daniel Bogie	408 201	Jess DeKam Timothy Taylor	333 272
District Seven Director		District Six Nominating Committee	Votes
District Seven Director	Votes	District Six Nonlinating Commutee	votes
David Dorpinghaus Todd Scripture	341	Benjamin Krohn	342

The directors from Districts One, Two, and Seven, plus the nominating committee positions for Districts Four and Six were each elected for a three-year term or until their successor is duly elected and qualified. The District Six Director was elected to serve a two-year term to fill the remaining term of Bruce Barber, who resigned from the board of directors, or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

Felstul stated that after review of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws, it was determined that it was in the best interest of the Cooperative to amend both the Articles and Bylaws. The amendments were to bring clarification, improve efficiencies with how the Cooperative is run, and bring the Articles and Bylaws into the twenty-first century. The core concepts of the Cooperative remain the same and are consistent with other cooperatives in Minnesota. Attorney Felstul then read the results of the proposed amendments recommended by the board of directors.

Proposed Articles of Incorporation ChangesVotesProposed Bylaw ChangesVotesYes507Yes509No71No74

There were 724 total ballots counted with 18 spoiled ballots.

Attorney Felstul recapped the election of the directors and nominating committee members, along with the results of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaw amendments.

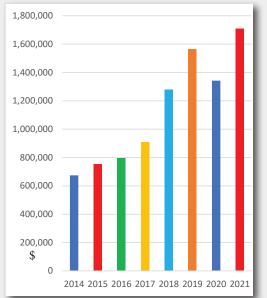
The minutes of the 2021 Election Ballot Count certified by Pemberton Law, P.L.L.P. are attached to these minutes.

Chairman Schwartau recognized retiring Director Gary Sieve. Mr. Sieve was thanked for his 18 years of service to the membership.

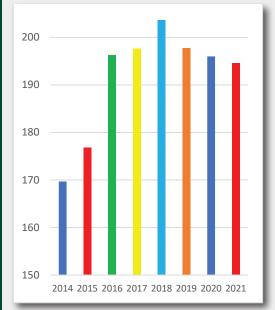
There being no further business to come before the meeting, President Schwartau thanked the members for their participation in the conference call and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Lee A. York, Vice President

Capital credit retirement







For every dollar paid to the cooperative, 62.9 cents is spent on wholesale power costs



Balance sheet

Utility plant Lines, buildings and equipment Less: provisions for depreciation Net utility plant	2020 \$ 68,225,852 24,672,755 \$ 43,553,097	2021 \$ 70,414,007 25,099,270 \$ 45,314,737
Cash and investment accounts General funds Investments Accounts receivable Materials and supplies Prepayments Deferred debits Interest receivable Total cash and investments	\$ 8,865,863 7,969,297 2,117,150 649,021 47,436 500,653 7,960 \$ 20,157,380	\$ 7,347,590 9,531,443 3,188,772 1,006,583 163,082 336,177 12,253 \$ 21,585,900
Total assets	<u>\$ 63,710,477</u>	<u>\$ 66,900,637</u>
Liabilities Accounts payable Long-term debt Deferred credits Total liabilities	\$ 3,028,597 30,204,670 <u>394,873</u> \$ 33,628,140	\$ 2,903,857 32,697,574 <u>273,529</u> \$ 35,874,960
Equity Patronage capital - prior years Capital reserve and other equity Total equity Total liabilities and owner equity	\$ 25,637,491 <u>4,444,846</u> \$ 30,082,337 <u>\$ 63,710,477</u>	\$ 26,532,148 <u>4,493,529</u> \$ 31,025,677 <u>\$ 66,900,637</u>

Statement of operations

		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>
Operating revenues	\$	19,762,828	\$	21,544,708
Operating expenses				
Purchased power	\$	11,878,710	\$	13,520,211
Power production expense		95,513		29,411
Operations		857,833		872,775
Maintenance		891,218		1,003,678
Customer account expense		675,156		716,099
Administrative and general expense		1,188,025		1,276,097
Depreciation expense		1,926,127		2,020,153
Interest on long-term debt		919,284		805,565
Other income deductions		14,847		4,928
Total operating expenses	\$	18,446,713	\$	20,248,917
Net operating margins	\$	1,316,115	\$	1,295,791
Generation and transmission plus				
other cooperative capital credits	\$	342,169	\$	734,316
Net non-operating margins	<u>\$</u>	359,740	<u>\$</u>	109,891
Total patronage capital and margins	\$	2,018,024	\$	2,139,998

Manager's comments

The preliminary financial statements for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2021, and December 31, 2020 are presented here. The 2021 audit is scheduled for March 21, 2022, to be audited by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General. The above is a condensed presentation of the financial statements. The auditor's report will be on file at the cooperative's office. At the time of printing, the audit was not complete.

Notice of annual meeting of members



The annual meeting for Nobles Cooperative Electric members will be held via conference call on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7 p.m. Members can call 833-643-9163 to join the meeting. The business to be conducted at the annual meeting shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes.
- 2. Business and Fiscal Reports which will be provided to the membership prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 3. Announcing the results of director and nominating committee elections.
- 4. All other business which may come before the meeting, or any adjournment, or adjournments thereof.

Voting will only be done by mail ballot for director and nominating committee elections. Please watch the mail for your ballot package.

Cindy M. Hokeness, Secretary Dated: February 16, 2022

2022 Nominating Committee



Front: Randy Buntjer, Lyle Kramer and Charles Vasgaard. **Back:** Daniel Bierma and Jess DeKam. **Missing:** Stacy Barstad and Benjamin Krohn.



Sample Official Ballot

Nobles Cooperative Electric Annual Meeting April 5, 2022

Official Ballot

This is a sample ballot. The actual ballot may change if additional nominations are received before the ballot is finalized.

The District 3 director candidate and the District 2 nominating committee candidate will be elected to three-year terms. Vote for one candidate, by placing an x in the box.

Director Candidates

District 3 (3-Year Term)

<u>Nominating Committee</u> <u>Candidates</u> District 2 (3-Year Term)

□ Bruce Barber □ Gary Clarke

□ Grant Schlaht □ Charles Vasgaard

Get to know your director candidates from District 3 even more on Nobles Cooperative Electric's YouTube Channel.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Via Conference Call April 5, 2022 7 p.m.

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- · Approval of Agenda
- Approval of April 6, 2021, Annual Meeting Minutes
- Establishment of a Quorum
- Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
- Explanation of Balloting
- Results of Election
- Adjournment of Meeting

NCE Board Candidates District Three



Bruce Barber

Tell us a little about yourself:

I live on an acreage in Graham Lakes Township with my wife, Dr. Sara Barber, and our three children. Our family enjoys 4-H, hunting, football and basketball.

Occupation and responsibilities:

From 2014-2020, I represented NCE as the District 6 Board Director. In 2020, my family and I relocated to District 3 and I needed to vacate my District 6 director position.

For the past 14 years, I have worked at Prairie Livestock Supply as the Director of Operations and Technical Project Manager. Prior to that, I worked for two electric cooperatives, ECE and NCE, in the role of Mem-

ber Service and Strategic Accounts Manager.

Community involvement/service:

I was involved for ten years in the Worthington Civil Air Patrol. My family is active at Solid Rock Church.

Leadership positions:

In my position of Director of Operations, I helped manage the day-to-day operations and decisions. I have had extensive training regarding employee management, inventory, safety and emergency planning, conflict resolution and customer service.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and Nobles Cooperative Electric:

One of the main issues is the rapid growth of emerging technologies, such as electric vehicles and smart homes, along with the continued pursuant of carbon legislation. As a board, we need to respond to these issues with our members' interests and values as a first priority.

Why I want to serve on the Nobles Cooperative Electric Board of Directors

During my six years as a NCE Board Member, I strived to use my experience in customer service and organizational structure to serve the members.

I have achieved my CCD (Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate) and was working toward my Board Leadership Certificate.

The challenges of our industry need to be met by someone who is trained and engaged in the industry.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to rejoin the board. My prior experience on the board and electrical industry education will be an immediate asset to the district and cooperative.



Gary Clarke (incumbent)

Tell us a little about yourself:

I live on an acreage outside of Fulda with my wife, Aimee, and our two children Logan and Olivia.

Occupation and responsibilities:

I am self employed. My wife and I own and operate a floor covering installation business.

Community involvement/service:

I've been a member of the Fulda Fire Department for 11 years.

Leadership positions:

I served as treasurer for the fire department for six years. I'm currently a captain and a truck engineer for the fire department. I'm also a board member of the relief association for the fire department.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and Nobles Cooperative Electric:

The push to change from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The impact COVID has had on supply and demand.

Why I want to serve on the Nobles Cooperative Electric Board of Directors

I've served as director for District 3 for three years. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve as director so I can continue to learn about the electric industry and continue to help the cooperative members.

NCE Board Candidate District Five



Cindy Hokeness (unopposed)

Tell us a little about yourself:

I've been a member of the cooperative since my husband, Dave, and I established our farming operation between Rushmore and Adrian in 1996. I grew up on a farm south of Mankato. In my spare time, I enjoy travel and experimenting with growing different types of flowers and flowering shrubs.

Occupation and responsibilities:

After completing my studies in business administration and science at Minnesota State Mankato, I was employed in a variety of businesses and owned my own business. I've worked in businesses with two to 350 employees. My experience includes working in well-established as well as rapidly growing companies. My responsibilities included managing a multimillion-dollar account and a department of 18 employees.

Currently, I assist with the never-ending tasks involved in keeping a farm operation running smoothly.

Hokeness cont. from page 7

Community involvement/service:

I am active at church volunteering where needed and handling offering deposits and records. I am also active in various community projects, organizing events and fundraisers.

Leadership positions:

I've served as director for the cooperative for the past nine years and served as secretary/treasurer the last three years. During my term on the board, I've completed both the Credentialed Cooperative Director and the Board Leadership Certificate coursework.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and Nobles Cooperative Electric:

Cooperatives, and the electric industry as a whole, are changing rapidly. Decisions made today often have long term implications as the world adopts clean electric generation options and adapts to new consumer expectations. While we all adapt to new uses and sources for energy, we need to continue maintaining the affordability and reliability we have all come to expect.

Why I want to serve on the Nobles Cooperative Electric Board of Directors

My work experiences and knowledge gained from them have served me well in the types of decisions required as a director for NCE. I have enjoyed the challenges of serving on the board and humbly look forward to the opportunity if re-elected to continue to serve NCE members as a director.

Nominating Committee Candidates District Two



Grant Schlaht

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am a newcomer to the area, buying an acreage just north of Slayton, MN in November of 2019. I am wanting to immerse myself into the community. Restoring the home I intend to live in has been my passion and in the coming years I want to play a bigger role in the area. I feel this seat with Nobles will be just the opportunity I've been looking for.

Occupation and responsibilities:

I currently work as a drafter in Cottonwood, MN with Extreme Panels. I communicate with customers and project coordinators daily to give our clients their dream homes/shops.

Community involvement/service:

I currently have little community involvement, but as my home remodeling is coming to a close I want to play my part and become more involved in the community.

Leadership positions:

Leading as an example has resonated with me since grade school. I've always believed it is the best way to lead. Progressing in my career, I have implemented this mindset daily as I continually learn and grow each day.



Charles Vasgaard (incumbent)

Tell us a little about yourself:

We have lived in rural Like Wilson since 1977. We have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. Over the years we have raised horses, sheep, goats, and chickens and put up a lot of hay bales. My wife, Joan, is a retired rural mail carrier.

Occupation and responsibilities:

Insurance agency manager for Minnwest Insurance Agency of Slayton and Lake Wilson. Duties include sales and service of insurance policies.

Community involvement/service:

Member of Sillerud Lutheran Church – current congregation president and sing in the choir. Active member of Minnwest and Friends Relay for Life Team. Community club member. Member of Nobles Co-op Nominating Committee.

Leadership positions:

President, Sillerud Lutheran Church. Chairman, Nobles Cooperative Electric Nominating Committee. Financial Secretary, Sillerud Lutheran Church. Treasurer, Murray County Republican Party. Bible Study Leader, Sillerud Lutheran Adult Class. Past church chairman and treasurer. Lake Wilson Jaycee charter member. Past officer, Lake Wilson Community Club.

Nominating Committee Candidate District One



Stacy Barstad (unopposed)

Tell us a little about yourself:

I have lived at Lake Shetek for the past 30 years and have three children; Kelsey, Dylan and Jaelen. I grew up South of Balaton. I went to college at Southwest State in Marshall, MN and received my Undergrad Degree in Business Administration with a finance/management concentration and received my Masters Degree at University of Phoenix in Healthcare Administration.

Occupation and responsibilities:

I have been the CEO of Sanford Tracy Medical Center and Sanford Westbrook Medical Center for the past 13 years. Prior to this I was the Chief Financial Officer for both facilities for 11 years. My responsibilities include a wide array of duties, including ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare, staffing, budgeting and overall responsi-

bility of the operations.

Community involvement/service:

I have been involved in various community groups including Kiwanis, Chamber board member and daycare board member. I also have been on the Nobles Nominating Committee for the last three years.

Leadership positions:

Currently, Chair of the MN Rural Health Flex Committee with the MN Department of Health, Chair of the MN Hospital Association Workforce committee and also member of various other committees within the MN Hospital Association.

Meeting our members' needs

CO-OP LIFE IT'S BETTER HERE





Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Serving our members has been a priority for over 85 years, and no matter what our challenges and opportunities are, we always put our members first each and every day.

2021 Accomplishments:

- Over \$1.2 million in capital credits were distributed
- Received \$1.8 million from FEMA for the 2019 Ice Storm
- Completed the implementation of MyMeter-new online tool
- Began sending NCE's Annual Report directly to the members
- Interest continues with our Living Green hydroponic gardening system (new and improved in 2021)
- Held our second annual Grab-N-Go events in Murray and Nobles counties during harvest, these events continue to grow
- Eighteen percent of members participated in a member survey
- Awarded eight students with Operation Round Up scholarships
- Showing our commitment to community through numerous sponsorships
- NCE now has 79 residential Briggs & Stratton generators sold

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Providing safe and reliable electricity

The operations department had one of its best construction years in the last five years. Weather conditions permitted crews to complete the work plan in a timely manner. Although COVID-19 required some different working procedures, the crews adjusted well and are stronger because of it.

2021 Accomplishments:

- New Lismore Substation completed
- Retired old Lismore Substation
- Converted 21.5 miles of line from OH to URD
- Installed 10.25 miles of new URD
- Members in 2021 experienced on average 1.95 outages, lasting no more than 77 minutes
- Installed 64 new services
- Rebuilt 67 services
- Replaced 222 rejected poles
- Installed 210 LED yard lights
- Changed out Bloom Substation transformer







Pay, analyze and save all at your fingertips

With **MyMeter**, you have the ability to monitor and pay your electric bill all in one place. You can even report an outage! Master your energy use knowledge with these features offered by MyMeter:

- View detailed energy use
- Access data wherever you are
- Track and manage data
- Report an outage
- Pay your bill
- Set an energy saving goal
- Contact our office
- Set up recurring payments

Getting started is so easy. We are convinced you won't be sorry you signed up!

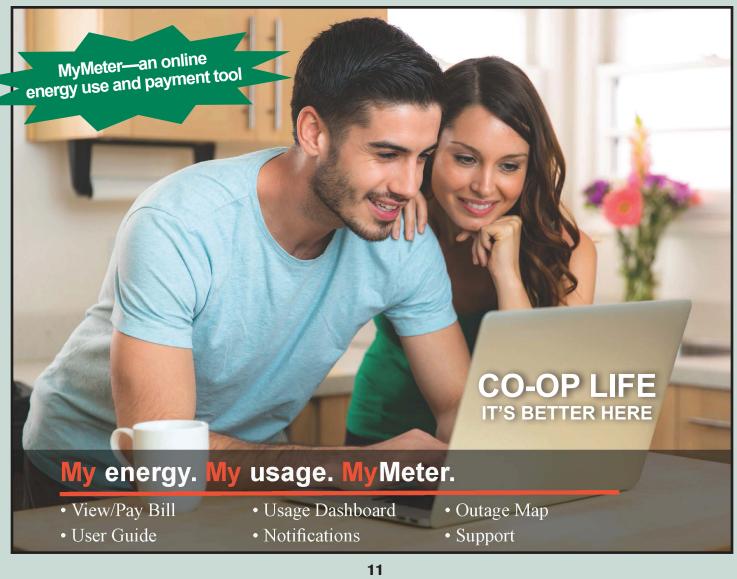
Create your MyMeter account

- 1. To register, go to www.noblesce.coop and select "Create an Account" on the right side of the slideshow. Be sure to have a copy of your electric bill available.
- 2. Enter your member (account) number, name, email address and choose a password.
- 3. Click on "Create Account" and you're ready to go.
- 4. You can even access your account with the MyMeter app, a free download at your app store.

Returning users log in to your account

Use your email address and your password to log in to your MyMeter account. Now you have complete control to view your usage in different ranges over a period of time with weather as a overlay, pay your bill and review past payments, set energy markers to note events or energy upgrades that may impact your energy usage and so much more.

Take control of your energy use with tools made just for you





22636 U.S. Hwy. 59 - P.O. Box 788 Worthington, MN 56187-0788





NCE's Annual Meeting April 5, 2022 — 7 p.m.

Conference call-style annual meeting with elections taking place by mail

The cooperative recognizes that due to COVID-19 concerns and the health and safety of our employees, directors and members, we will hold a conference call annual meeting. As a result, members can enjoy this year's co-op business meeting from the comfort of home.

Toll Free Dial-In Number: (833) 643-9163

Joining the annual meeting conference call on April 5 at 7 p.m.:

- 1. Prior to the conference call start time, dial in using the dial-in number provided.
- 2. Please wait for the conference call to begin.

If you would like to submit a question for the annual meeting conference call, please email us no later than 3 p.m. on April 5 at nce@noblesce.com.

Get to know your candidates even more on NCE's YouTube Channel.

Please watch the mail for your ballot package

There are two directors up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting. They are Districts 3 and 5. After a diligent search, only one nominee for District 5 could be secured as a candidate. Because only one candidate was found for District 5, no vote is required for that district and the candidate will be elected by acclamation. You will be voting to elect a board director from District 3.

Districts 1 and 2 are up for election for the nominating committee. Since only one candidates for the nominating committee for District 1 was secured, this candidate will be elected by acclamation. You will be voting to elect a nominating committee member for District 2.