



## Monitor and pay your bill all in one place including signing up for outage notifications

You can now manage your account like never before with MyMeter. Monitor and pay your electric bill all in one place. You can even sign up for outage alerts! Take control of your energy usage with tools made just for you.

To register for MyMeter, please go to our website ([www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)) and create your new user account. You will need your member number and the name on your electric bill to complete the registration process.

For more information on how to

navigate around MyMeter and how to set up alerts and notifications, view the MyMeter User Guide. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) at 800-776-0517. We would be glad to assist you.

For members that were making payments through our Easy 2 Pay site and monitoring their usage with Watt Watcher, those sites will be discontinued on December 30. MyMeter will replace those two sites with one convenient location.

## Energy saving tip

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

## Mark your calendar

- Dec. 25 .....Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 30 ..... Electric bills due
- Jan. 1 ..... Happy New Year!

*Our offices will be closed December 24 & 31, but linemen will be on call for outages.*

## Auto Pay Winner: James Behrends

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 credit on your electric bill. A winner is chosen each month. Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in our monthly contest.

## Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

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

### MyMeter – your online account management tool



**View/Pay Bill**

A variety of options to make paying your bill more convenient

**Usage Dashboard**

Little changes can mean big savings

**Outage Map**

To view current outages, view our outage map

**User Guide**

Learn more about the Portal!

**Notifications**

Sign up for outage or billing notifications

**Support**

We are here to answer your questions and concerns



Manager's Message



NCE is a member-owner too



K12 helping children in our community



General Manager  
**Adam Tromblay**



## NCE is investing in our youth through the Youth Tour

High school students (freshman, sophomores, juniors or seniors) may apply now to attend the 56th annual Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. The tour will be held June 14-19, 2022.

The annual Washington Youth Tour is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event for high school students. Since 1964, America's electric cooperatives have sent students to our nation's capital to give future leaders in co-op communities a front-row seat to American government. Youth Tour participants are the bright light for our future. They become leaders in the communities. I look forward to another safe, successful and fun tour this year.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump-start their national peer network and tour Washington, D.C.

Minnesota sent 40 students to Washington in 2019, part of a record 1,900+ students from across the nation who participated in the last Youth Tour. Students travel to Washington, D.C. by plane. They have

until February 28 to apply. To apply, students should go to our website under Operation Round Up to find the application and requirements or give NCE a call.

Awards will be given for first place: Washington Youth Tour; second place: first alternate and \$150; and third place: second alternate and \$100. A \$500 scholarship winner may also be announced. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for over 50 years. Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative. A total of over 50,000 students have participated in this program since its creation.



**Kelsey Fuerstenberg**  
2019 NCE  
Representative



### Access your electric account with Nobles Cooperative Electric's MyMeter anywhere, anytime!

- Pay your bill
- Track your usage by the hour
- View monthly bills
- View and report outages
- Set an energy saving goal



Free download at your app store

## Your source of power and information

### If you have electric heat, you may be sales tax exempt

If electricity is your primary source of residential heat, the kilowatts used for heating your home are exempt from sales tax. Primary means 50 percent or more of your heating. The heating season is six months long from November to April.

If you have signed a fuel exemption form in the past, your record is automatically retained. To sign up for exemption, please give our office a call at 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107, 800-776-0517 or fill out a form online.

### Protecting you against identity theft

In order to ensure the privacy and accuracy of member information and to reduce the incidence of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) enacted an "Identity Theft Red Flag Rule". This rule requires all businesses that obtain and maintain confidential information to implement an identity theft prevention program. As a member, you may be asked to provide additional information and identification when you make inquiries regarding your service or account. We understand that this can be a bit of an inconvenience, but the rule is in place for your protection. Please understand that these procedures will help protect your identity.

### Military personnel payment arrangements

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service for nonpayment of a residential member who has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available from the cooperative.

### Complaint process for Iowa members

If you have a concern or complaint regarding NCE, the complaint should be addressed to Adam Tromblay, General Manager, Nobles Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788, phone 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517. If your complaint is related to services of NCE, rather than its rates, and NCE does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, phone 515-281-5979.

### Are you sales tax exempt?

If you use electricity for agricultural or industrial purposes, this reminder will interest you. Electricity used in this manner may be exempt from sales tax.

To obtain relief from state sales tax, file for an exemption with our office. Contact the cooperative, find the form online or drop in to complete a ST-3 form.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### Co-ops are designed for member service

Just like you are a member-owner of NCE, we are a member-owner of Great River Energy (GRE), which provides wholesale power to 28 electric cooperatives and more than 700,000 members in Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin. All of these cooperatives work together to provide electricity at cost and reinvest in the communities they serve.

While other types of businesses must produce returns for investors and other stakeholders, cooperatives focus on doing what's best for their member-owners.

Over time, the membership evolves and directors change, but the structure of cooperatives ensures that the values of the membership guide the company.

Before a decision is made by a cooperative, it undergoes several levels of analysis—with the last step being a vote by a board of democratically elected directors.

Member are encouraged to stay informed about their cooperative, vote in co-op elections and get involved wherever possible. After all, the cooperative belongs to the membership.



*NCE linemen won first place in the annual Tinsel and Tidings on Tenth parade in Worthington on December 3. They also participated in Fulda's Parade of Lights on December 4. It was great seeing so many of our members!*





NCE is fortunate to have a program designed to help low-income children with the gift of warm clothing. Students receive winter coats, boots, hats and mittens. (Above) Judy and Darcey from Ellsworth Public School sort through the boxes of winter clothing to outfit students in need just in time for winter.

## K12 Program helping children in need

This is just one more way that the cooperative is looking out for our members and the communities we serve. One school counselor explained, “Our needs are great and our resources limited, so thank you so much!” While an elementary teacher stated, “I have a kindergarten boy whose boots are too small and he cries that they hurt his feet.”

The K12 Program is funded under the Conservation Improvement Program (Minnesota Statute and Spending Mandate). Minnesota requires its energy utilities to spend 1.5 percent of their revenues on projects that reduce the consumption of electricity and help low-income families. To show energy efficiency, participants in the K12 Program are provided with free Energy Star-rated light bulbs.

*Giving low-income children a reason to smile!*



### Country Cupboard

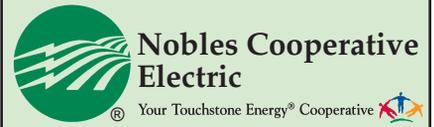
#### Pink Artic Freeze

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese          | 1 c. crushed pineapple, drained |
| 2 T. mayonnaise                  | 1/2 c. chopped walnuts          |
| 2 T. sugar                       | 1 c. heavy cream                |
| 1 - 16 oz. whole cranberry sauce |                                 |

Beat the first three ingredients together until smooth, add cranberries, pineapple and walnuts and mix in. Whip cream and fold in mixture. Put in 9 inch square dish and cover with plastic wrap and freeze for 4 hours or overnight.

Send your favorite recipe with **rice as an ingredient** 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 December 30. 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.

Mary Smith  
Brewster



**Official monthly publication**

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59  
P.O. Box 788  
Worthington, MN 56187-0788  
Phone: 507-372-7331,  
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

#### Website

[www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)

#### Email address

[nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com)

#### Winter office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Oct. 1 - April 30

#### 24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

#### Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

#### Electrical inspectors

Murray County  
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261  
Nobles County  
David Koutek - 507-669-1500

#### General Manager

Adam Tromblay

#### Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052\*  
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497\*  
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965\*  
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074\*  
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294  
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903  
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816  
*\*Telephone prefix 507*

#### Next Board Meeting

December 16, 2021

*This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

