



## Five reasons we love serving our members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all (15-28-17) have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy, and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE).

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, NCE

exists to serve you.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help businesses and members of our community through Operation Round-Up.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to gauge the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op (38-17-36SL) membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. NCE members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know

*Cont. on page 3*

## Energy saving tip

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.  
*Source: Dept. of Energy*

## Mark your calendar

- Feb. 21 ..... Presidents' Day
- Feb. 28 ..... Electric bills due
- Mar. 13 ..... Daylight savings time

## February Auto Pay Winner Spencer Grimmus

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

## 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.



## What former Alliant rate are you on?

Existing SMEC Rate	Moved to Rate 1	Moved to Rate 2	Moved to Rate 4
26	109	16	0
29	103	38	23
36	0	0	7
38	4	5	0
39	0	7	0
41	28	0	0
42	0	6	2
56	1353	0	0
57-58	10	0	0

*This graph shows the former Alliant member rates and the corresponding number of members on each rate. If you are not sure what rate you are on, you can find it on your electric bill. Just look next to “Cost of Providing Service”. Using NCE’s advanced metering infrastructure and customer information systems data, we were able to assign accounts to their new classes.*

While a rate adjustment was warranted, the cooperative also wanted to simplify its rate structure by downsizing from 20 rates to four retail rates. NCE will simplify its rate structure by joining our former Alliant members with our Legacy rates. The amount of change will vary according to each member’s actual usage.

If you aren’t sure if you are part of the migration to a new rate, just look at your member number on your bill. If your member number starts with a six, you will be moved to a Legacy rate. Please review the chart above. To find out what rate you are currently on, you can also find that on

your electric bill. For further analysis be sure to give us a call, we would be glad to help.

We realize no one likes to see a change in rates. NCE strives to keep our rates as low as possible by continually evaluating our operations and always looking for more efficient ways of doing business. Our focus on serving our members drives us to be good stewards with our members’ resources. It’s something we think of every day with each decision we make. Because our business revolves around you, our member-owners, we always ask ourselves, “Is this right for the membership?”



**General Manager  
Adam Tromblay**

### Rate migration plan

Last month, I updated the membership on the rate adjustment that will take place May 2022. This month I wanted to dive a little deeper and discuss the rate migration plan.

The cost of service study that was conducted revealed what the actual cost is to serve each rate class. Those (506-37-025) results showed a rate adjustment was necessary to continue to meet and exceed your expectations.

### RATE ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 2022

Rate	Description	Current Service Charge	New Service Charge	Current Energy Charge	New Energy Charge	Current Demand Charge	New Demand Charge
1	Residential	\$15	\$37	First 700 kWh: \$0.087 Excess: \$0.083	\$0.075	-	-
2	Three-phase < 75 kVa	\$32.50	\$67	First 700 kWh: \$0.087 Excess: \$0.083	\$0.075	-	-
4	Three-phase > 75 kVa	\$56.50	\$70	First 100 kWh/kW: \$0.067 Excess:\$0.064	\$0.057	\$5.25	\$7
New	Time -of-use		\$50		On-peak: \$0.087 Off-peak: \$0.050		



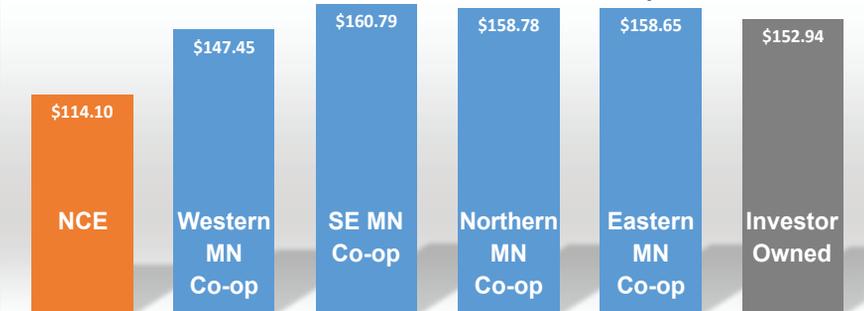
Community group representatives were on hand to celebrate the addition of accessible playground equipment at Gullord Park in Slayton.

## Accessible playground equipment dedicated at Gullord Park

Representatives from several community organizations met at Gullord Park on December 17 to celebrate park improvements. Santa Claus was a special guest at the event and helped Marilyn Carlson, a Nobles Cooperative Electric Operation Round Up Director, present a \$1,000 grant for an accessible swing to Murray County Future. Organizations donating to the park improvements included: Minnwest Bank, Slayton Kiwanis, Slayton Women of Today, Hadley Lions, Friends of the Slayton Library and the Murray County Daycare Association, while Malone & Mailander provided promotional support. The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) also contributed a grant of \$3,000, including matching funds for accessible picnic tables. The Murray County Foundation coordinated the donations and presented an \$8,000 check to Slayton Mayor Miron Carney.

In October, 17 organizations were awarded \$17,000 through the Operation Round Up program. (11-9-35) Murray County Future was just one of the recipients.

### How do NCE's residential rates stack up?



\* Based on 1,028 kilowatt-hours, including NCE's new rate adjustment.

## Tracey's tidbits

Just like our members, the cooperative is seeing long delays due to persistent supply and labor shortages, along with strong demand. For example, electric meters that allow us to track your usage and know what to bill you, aren't expected to be delivered until January 2023. Yes, that's a year away! Most products are expected to be late and priced higher. But rest assured, we have all the equipment and supplies needed to continue to serve you.

*We love serving our members cont. from page 1*

outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. (24-13-24) We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. You and other members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.



## Julie Baumgard retires after over 40 years

The morning of June 2, 1981, a 22-year-old named Julie (Petersen) Baumgard walked through the doors at NCE not knowing she would be walking through the same doors for the next 40 years.

Retiring after that many years at one job is no easy feat, it takes commitment, reliability and perseverance. Julie, has shown all of those characteristics and more in her tenure at the cooperative.

The directors and employees at NCE are thankful for the legacy of service Julie leaves behind.

Congratulations, Julie! Enjoy your retirement. You've earned it!



## Drake Tutt becomes Journey Lineworker

Drake Tutt, an apprentice lineman at NCE, completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety (MJTS) program is a lengthy and challenging apprenticeship course. It is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the United States.

Safety makes up a large percentage of the program which helps emphasize safety as the number one priority at the cooperative.

After hours of bookwork and on-the-job training, not to mention "closed book" tests, Drake became certified as a journey lineworker.

Congratulations, Drake! You can look forward to a very rewarding career at NCE.



**Nobles Cooperative Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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#### General Manager

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#### Next Board Meeting

February 16, 2022

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



## Country Cupboard

### Pizza Hotdish

2 c. macaroni	1 1/2 c. mozzarella cheese, shredded
1 lb. hamburger	Parmesan cheese
1 very lg. onion, chopped	Thinly sliced pepperoni, mushrooms, green pepper
2-3 cans pizza sauce with cheese	or other seasonings (optional)

Cook macaroni according to package directions. Brown hamburger and drain. Saute chopped onion. Mix macaroni, hamburger and onion together with 2-3 cans of pizza sauce (depending on how moist or dry you want the hotdish). Add mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Optional items can be added to taste. Bake for 45-60 minutes or until bubbly at 350 degrees.

Send your favorite **breakfast 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.