

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

October 2022
Vol. 14 Issue 10



Celebrating membership

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's (28-51-4) also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When we say Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

NCE works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that are comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, job shadowing

and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Roundup to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable. We partner with and support area food banks.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. We know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous items in place to help, including: a Time-of-Use rate, MyMeter and load management programs.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, we encourage you to take a moment to sign up for MyMeter. Through the app or online tool, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use and pay your bill.

NCE is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

Energy saving tip

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment. *Source: energy.gov*

Mark your calendar

- Oct. 30 Electric bills due
- Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!
- Nov. 6 Daylight savings time ends
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day

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.

Auto Pay Winner: Carol Koster

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.



Manager's Message



EV training for emergency response personnel



Engaging with our members



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Democratic Control

one of the cooperatives key principles

One of the cooperative's key principles is democratic control. Each year we ask you, our member-owners, to vote for candidates for the board of directors. The board lives in our communities and represents you in setting the rates, direction and policies that govern (532-38-21) the cooperative. Nobles Cooperative Electric attends many functions and holds events throughout the year so you can get to know your directors and feel comfortable they represent your thoughts and values.

It's that time of year again where we will head to the polls as a nation to elect those who will represent us in Washington, D.C. and St. Paul. It always important to do your homework and get to know the candidates you are voting for because it is a privilege and our duty as a citizen of the United States.

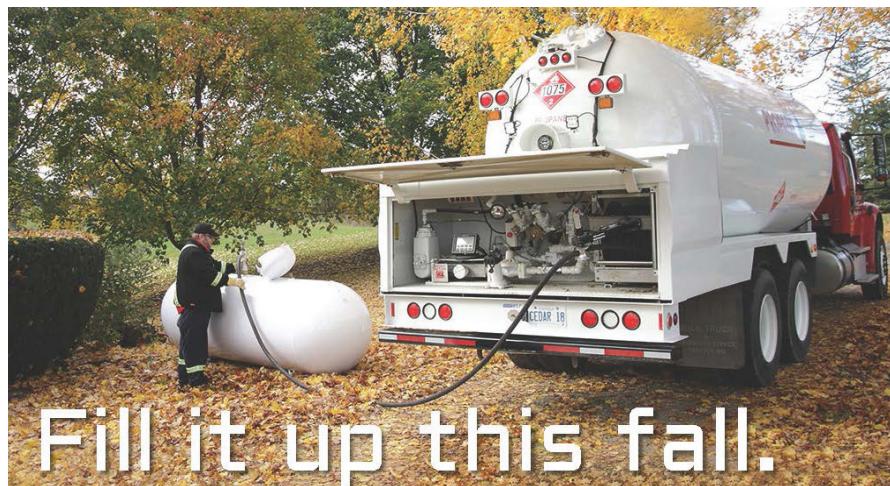
Recently, your cooperative's leadership team hosted District 21B candidates for the State House of Representatives. NCE had in-depth conversations with Marj Folgelman, the Republican candidate, and Mike Heidelberger, the DFL candidate. Everyone learned from each other. We told the story of our history, what we do and how we work with others to make our part of the state better each day. I thoroughly enjoyed these conversations. I would recommend anyone to take the time, put aside party affiliations and have conversations with the people who represent you. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow for everyone.



**General Manager
Adam Tromblay**

Second Cooperative Principle Democratic Member Control

Co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the general membership.



Fill it up this fall.

If you have a dual fuel heating system, remember (23-9-69) to be sure you have adequate supplies for your secondary fuel source. Due to inflationary pressures and supply chain constraints, the electric industry is seeing unusually high prices in the electricity and natural gas markets. Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, will manage costs by activating our members' dual fuel program. Please remember that equipment is meant to be rated for a 12-hour interruption, even though an interruption that long is rare and unlikely, the equipment still needs to be prepared for it to support grid reliability and cooperative costs. The last couple of years we have seen more morning control for dual fuel and water heating. We anticipate this continuing.

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.

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 Buildings, Des Moines, IA 50319, phone 515-281-5979.

Electric vehicle safety training helps firefighters safely mitigate EV incidents

Five area fire departments were represented September 6 at an electric vehicle safety training presentation at the Worthington Fire Station.

Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, partnered with Security Consultation Specialists (SSCS), LLC training company based out of southern Minnesota to conduct EV training sessions in their cooperatives' service territories. Facilitator Roger Carlson of SSCS shared information on types of electric vehicles and their driving ranges, regenerative braking,

how driving an electric vehicle is different than driving a gasoline vehicle, crash and fire EV emergency response, techniques for disabling electric vehicles and dispelling EV myths.

This was a great opportunity to increase awareness and educate emergency response personnel on EVs and how to engage with an EV in an accident.

NCE was lucky enough to schedule a session and offer it to fire departments in our service territory.

A Ford Lightning and a hybrid were available to give hands-on training to those who will be responding to emergencies.

At the end of the session, participants were asked if their comfort level had increased after the training. Everyone agreed it had. They felt much more confident with their knowledge and how to handle an (539-38-138) emergency involving an EV.



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.

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.



The best part of our cooperative is our members—that's you! As a token of our appreciation, claim your free hammock today.

ENERGY WISE MN



This is only available for a limited time and while supplies last. Visit our website to order yours today!

energywisemnstore.com/membergift

*Limited to one hammock per member



NCE makes significant effort to engage with our members

- Fulda Wood Duck Days Parade
- Adrian Kiddie Pedal Pull
- Twins Playball! Baseball Clinic
- Slayton Prairie Days Parade
- EV First Responder Training
- Grab-N-Go Member Appreciation
- It's All About YOUTH
- Career Fairs
- Job Shadowing and Scholarships
- K12 Program
- Rebates and Program Incentives

- Every Day is an EV Day at NCE
- Living Green Hydroponic System
- MyMeter
- Member Outage Map
- Operation Round Up
- Conservation and Electrical Safety
- EV Ride and Drive
- Youth Tour
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Various Sponsorships/Donations
- Legislative Grassroots Efforts

Country Cupboard

Potato Soup

6 strips bacon fried and diced

1/2 c. diced onion sauteed

4 c. diced potatoes

2 cans soup (cream of celery, mushroom or chicken)

Cook diced potatoes in 2 cups of water until done, about 20 minutes (19-4-74). Do not drain the potatoes. Add 2 cans of soup. Heat to boiling, then add the bacon and onion. Add salt and pepper to taste. Makes great leftovers.

Send your best **slow cooker** recipes 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 October 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.

Linda Beerman
Iona



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Official monthly publication

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Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

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

Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

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

October 13, 2022

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

