

# Current Matters

October 2021  
Vol. 13 Issue 10



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative KX

## Proud to provide energy for all the things you love!

Electric co-ops power over 20 million homes, businesses, schools and farms in 48 states.



## It's a matter of principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. **October is National Co-op Month**, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

### Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, NCE was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1936, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to

tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone.(39-36-69) They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

### Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. NCE's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board members, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just

*Cont. on page 4*

### Energy saving tip

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

*Source: energy.gov*

### Mark your calendar

Oct. 25 .....	Electric bills due
Oct. 31 .....	Happy Halloween!
Nov. 7 .....	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: Gary Forsch

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



### And the survey says... . .



### October is National Co-op Month



*Have questions?  
We are here to  
answer them*



**General Manager  
Adam Tromblay**

It has always been NCE's belief that it is our responsibility to keep you up-to-date on anything affecting your cooperative or the electric industry and be as transparent as we can. This includes any new technologies, products or services that may be available to you. That is why "Every Day is an EV Day" at NCE and why we purchased the Living Green hydroponic gardening system. We took these opportunities to educate ourselves and you on the latest technologies.

The one part of my job that I love the most is talking to our members. I am always happy to answer your questions and hear from you. Our number one priority is you, our member-owners.

Recently, we were asked by a member to answer some questions regarding power supply, reliability and rates.

Please find the questions that were submitted below and my responses.

1. What is planned for the future when we have all electric vehicles and NCE has more demand added to the system? How will we meet the extra demand?

A: The good news is that given EV adoption rates the grid will have

plenty of time to grow with the new EV load that is coming. It is expected that EVs generally will be charged at night, during "off peak," times. As a result, much of this new EV load will not add as much stress to the grid as other loads such as air conditioners that typically run during hot weather when our system is operating at its annual peak demand.

Rest assured that distribution and transmission system engineers are hard at work modeling how EV load will (3-19-46) affect our systems and making long-term plans to ensure that we continue to have robust and resilient electrical infrastructure to serve our members' needs.

2. If we lose power for a number of days, how will electric powered repair trucks stay charged for days and work in areas with no electricity?

A: Fortunately, experiencing power loss for numerous consecutive days is an extreme rarity as evidenced by our outage history. However, as we know, storms do occur in our part of the state. If at some point in the future an event occurs and our fleet is 100 percent electric powered, there are numerous ways that the fleet could be fueled, such as traditional genera-

tors or large scale mobile battery systems that have been designed to provide services like this to EV drivers. See additional information at:

- [bit.ly/3D8m0ja](http://bit.ly/3D8m0ja)
- [bit.ly/2YrsN91](http://bit.ly/2YrsN91)

3. How will members be able to use their vehicles in an emergency during a power outage when they have no charge left.

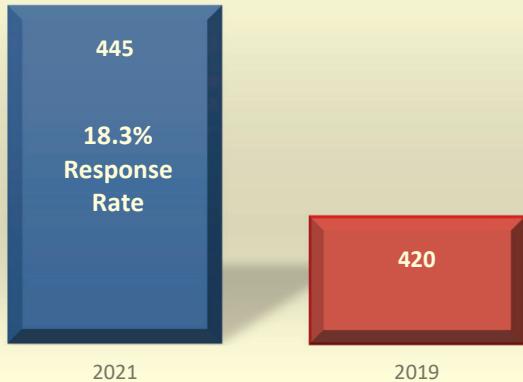
A: Members could also use mobile charging (links above) and/or traditional generators during an extended power outage. Again, this is an extremely rare event. These types of situations are not specific to electric vehicles since most gas stations are unable to pump gas when the (34-16-32) power is out. The same solution for gas stations would apply to EV charging since both require access to electricity.

4. Will electricity be affordable with such great demand on it?

A: Most vehicles, including EVs, are parked for approximately 21 hours a day. If the majority of these EVs are charged outside of peak times (typically 4-8 p.m., M-F), the load growth from EVs will actually reduce pressure on electric rates due to better system utilization.

# 2021 Member Survey results

## Surveys returned



The results are in! Respondents to NCE's recent member survey are very pleased with NCE. Over 18 percent of members responded to our emailed member survey.

When we listen to members, (111-30-78) we learn and discover new ways to provide better service, technology and products to meet your needs. The results of this survey are not taken lightly. They were presented at our strategic planning session in September. This meeting is used to set priorities, determine the vision for the future and identify goals and objectives for the cooperative.

Here are a few takeaways from the survey:

- 55-75-year-olds make up 75 percent of the membership
- 12.39 percent were interested in purchasing an electric vehicle in the next 1 to 5 years.
- Members are divided on how they feel about renewable energy
- Majority of respondents are from homes of 1 to 2 occupancy (77 percent)
- A number of members requested more information on the products, services and programs we offer. The majority were interested in learning more about the Briggs & Stratton residential generator.

## Having friendly, courteous employees

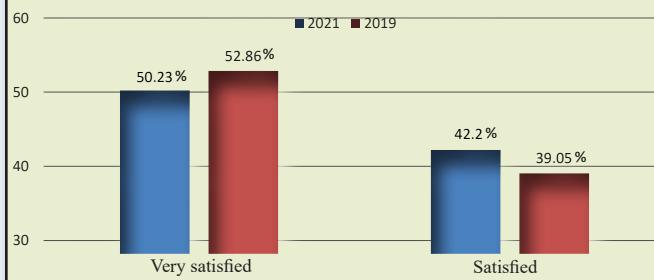
■ 2021 ■ 2019

**Best ranking!**

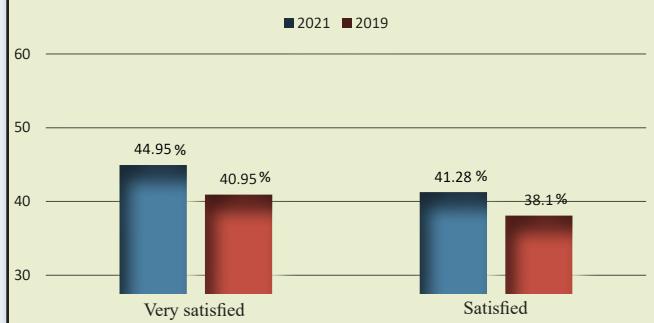


*Responsive*

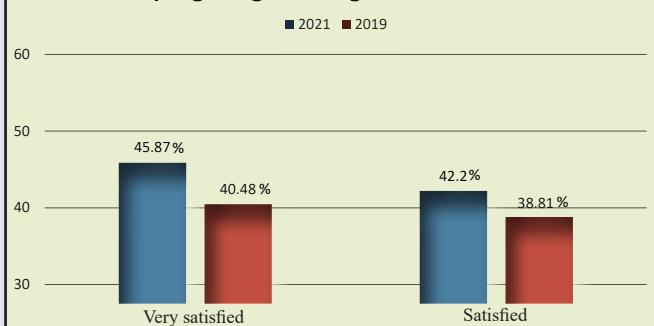
## Having employees who are highly trained and professional



## Keeping blinks and momentary outages to a minimum

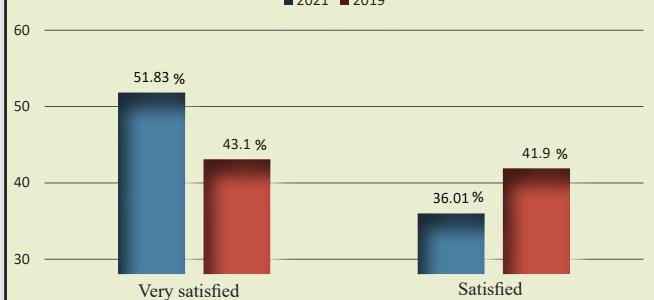


## Keeping longer outages to a minimum



## Having convenient payment options

■ 2021 ■ 2019



*Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. We really appreciate your answers and comments. Your input is what matters the most!*

*Transparent*



## Community born. Community led. Focused on YOU.

October is  
**National Co-op Month!**

### Bringing value to the community and our members' lives

*Cont. from page 1*

like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions.

#### Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as ([506-37-107](#)) a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and

democratically control, the capital of NCE. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

NCE is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

## Country Cupboard

### Grilled Beef Kabobs

1 lb. sirloin cubed	2 T. lemon juice
8 oz. French or Russian dressing	1/8 t. pepper
2 T. Worcestershire sauce	1/8 t. garlic powder

Place all in a shallow glass pan. Refrigerate and marinate for 8 to 24 hours. Drain and reserve the marinade. Cut 8 to 10 slices of bacon in half (par cook bacon). Wrap around beef cube. Place on a skewer. Alternate with mushrooms, carrots (par cooked) and onion. Grill 10 to 15 minutes. Baste frequently.

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.



**Nobles Cooperative Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Official monthly publication**

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507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

#### Website

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

#### Email address

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

#### Summer 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

October 25, 2021

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

