

# It's All About YOUth—strengthening our commitment to our area youth

On May 2, Fulda 8th graders participated in the cooperative's It's All About YOUth program. Students learned more about electric cooperatives, safety, getting enough sleep (with the help of fatigue goggles), proper fire extinguisher usage, a local K9 unit and how to show kindness, respect and appreciation in

their daily lives. (1-16-15)

The feedback we received was very encouraging.

- The speaker was great!
- The guide dog was a hit.
- We would love to be invited again.
- Thank you for having this event!



Fulda students with Detective Jake Walker and Canine Winston. Jake discussed what role K9s have with the department, how they get trained and what a normal day looks like.

## **Energy saving tip**

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

### Mark your calendar

June 19 ...... Happy Father's Day June 30 ..... Electric bills due

# June Auto Pay Winner Todd Neilson!

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

# Spot your *location number*

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



## Operation Round Up grants awarded

Nobles Cooperative Electric's (NCE) Trust Board meets twice a year to distribute funds raised through Operation Round Up. Recently, they awarded \$21,924 in grants to these local organizations: Chandler Quilters, First Lutheran, Lake Sarah Quilters, Sillerud Quilters and Friends, Brewster Senior Dining, Ecumen Meadows, Slayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Cultural Awareness Organization, Ellsworth Public School, Murray County Central First Grade, Murray County Early Childhood Initiative, Nobles County Historical Society, SW/WC, United Way, Currie Fire Department, Leota First Responders, Slayton Fire Department and Wilmont Fire & Rescue.

The generosity of (35-11-52) NCE members continues to have an amazing effect on local communities. Even more astounding is the fact that tiny donations, an average of only 50 cents a month, are making these huge impacts locally. That's over \$442,633 since the program began in 2001!

The latest round of donations also included "Luck of the Draw" \$650 scholarship winners:

Riley Boese - Tracy Miranda Hoekman - Slayton Nash Peltola - Currie Tristin Hieronimus - Rushmore Emmalee Bosma - Rushmore Adrian Schwaller - Reading Claire Reith - Fulda Joseph Thompson - Avoca



## Sharing Success grant awarded to Slayton Fire Department

NCE is pleased to announce the Slayton Fire Department as the recipient of this year's NCE/CoBank "Sharing Success" Grant. The Slayton Fire Department has been awarded two checks totaling \$10,000 – \$5,000 from NCE and \$5,000 from CoBank – to help in the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. The annual "Sharing Success" grant opportunity is made possible by NCE, in partnership with CoBank—a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it serves, including NCE. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. If you would like to be considered as next year's applicant, please contact our office. (39-9-63)



All participants must pre-register before attending. It ensures the participants waiver is signed. The clinics (17-4-13) provide instruction for boys and girls ages 6-12. Play Ball! Minnesota provides all the necessary equipment for the clinic. Participants are asked to **bring their own gloves**.

### City of Currie awarded REDLG for \$158,991



The City of Currie was presented a zero-percent interest loan thanks to NCE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. The City of Currie was loaned \$158,991 to help build a new fire hall. "We are thankful to be able to facilitate this loan to those in our community," says General Manager Adam Tromblay. "It is important for us to invest in our own rural communities. The cooperative is happy to act as the intermediary through the USDA REDLG program." The REDLG program is a USDA loan for those who apply through a Rural Utilities Service borrower, such as NCE. The USDA provides these funds to local utility organizations to establish revolving loan funds. This is just another way that NCE gives back to the community!

Above: Currie Firemen Lucas Radke and Jeff Zens accept the funds from the NCE Board of Directors.

### Three students "shadow" our lineworkers

At the end of April, NCE hosted three Worthington High School students who "shadowed" our lineworkers. The students were exposed to the working world in their area of interest. The cooperative enjoys these opportunities to help make an impact on students future career choices and to help them succeed in the future.









## Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with NCE adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, NCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. NCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by NCE. Interested members should contact Nobles Cooperative Electric, 22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187 or call 800-776-0517.

## **Country Cupboard**

# Kathy Schmidt Garvin

#### Pear Pie

1 - 9" pie shell baked

6 c. pears 1/3 c. sugar 2 T. tapioca 1/4 tsp. cinnamon 2 tsp. lemon juice 1/4 tsp. ginger

Mix the above (516-39-004) ingredients together and place in pie shell. Mix and place the following on top and bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes: 1/4 c. brown sugar, 1/4 c. butter, 1/2 c. flour and 1/2 c. nuts (optional).

Send your favorite **salad 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 June 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.



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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

#### **Email address**

nce@noblesce.com

#### Office hours

7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

### 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**

June 17, 2022

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# Season of change

It's that time of year for changes, changes in the weather, changes in the fields, changes to our power supplier's portfolio and changes to our rates with new rate options.

Spring has finally arrived and our world has turned from brown to green. As we start our warm weather projects, the crops are starting to look good and our lawns are green and lush.



Sunday, May 1 is the first day of the new rate structure the board of directors adopted in 2021. Hopefully, this does not come as a surprise since we communicated why, how and when the changes will take place for many months and on various platforms. This month's bill represents the first statement with a higher fixed charge and a lower energy charge for most of the membership. The bills no longer have tiers, seasonal price changes, varying demand calculations and other components. These were eliminated to make your bills easier to understand. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Monday, May 2 was a landmark day for our primary power supplier, Great River Energy. It was the closing date for the sale of our largest coal power plant, Coal Creek Station, and the high voltage direct current line that brings power from central North Dakota to the Twin Cities. We will continue to buy different levels of power in the coming years. The sale allows us to speed up our transition to more carbon free generation sources, while keeping 24/7 reliability you have come to expect from NCE.

A new and exciting rate option for residential members is the Time-Of-Use (TOU) rate. This rate has a higher monthly service charge and on-peak rate, but a very attractive night and weekend rate, just 5 cents per kilowatt-hour. If you feel you can shift a portion of your load to after 8 p.m. and before 8 a.m. (along with weekends), you should log into your MyMeter account and click on the "Compare your rate" option. It's one of the top widgets. This tool will tell you how the rates compare before you even start making conscious decisions like doing laundry, running the dishwasher, charging your car or any other activity delayed till after 8 p.m. or the weekend.



# When is the last time a business shared its profits with you?

Be sure to look for your 2021 Capital Credit Allocation on your current bill. A capital credit allocation is simply a record of your investment/ownership in the cooperative. Each year, any funds remaining after expenses have been paid (margins) are allocated to your capital credit account. Nobles Cooperative Electric is a member-owned cooperative. Only cooperatives make every member an owner in the business. One of the benefits of being a Nobles Cooperative Electric member

is sharing in those margins in the form of capital credits. Your capital credits are an investment in the cooperative and your share of the ownership. As the financial conditions permit, capital credits are returned to you each year.

Since your capital credits stay in your name until they are retired, please ensure that Nobles Cooperative Electric always has your current mailing address so that you can continue to receive your capital credits.



# Giving residential members greater control of their energy costs

Take control with our new Time-Of-Use (TOU) rate. With TOU, when you use energy is just as important as **how much** you use.

Make the switch and shift your electricity use to off-peak hours between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. year-round. That's 5 cent energy.

To save, use kitchen and laundry appliances, along with other equipment, during off-peak hours.

#### Can you tell me how much I would save on TOU?

If you'd like to compare your current residential rate to the TOU rate using your data, go to your MyMeter account and click on "Compare your rate options".



# If you haven't already signed up for MyMeter, getting started is so easy.

- 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 number (account), name, email address and choose a password.
- 3. Click on "Create Account" and you're ready to go\*.

There is also a free download of MyMeter at your app store. Once downloaded, be sure to select Nobles Cooperative Electric as your provider.

When reviewing the new tool, remember this is your data before any shifting!



# Plan ahead for proper grain bin clearance

Placing grain bins in the proper location is extremely important. Adequate clearance with power lines can reduce the risk of an accident occurring. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifies the line clearance required for grain bins and electrical needs.

Farmers who are planning to install a new grain bin can save time by including NCE in their planning process. The cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

NCE urges you to contact Line Superintendent Brian Postma prior to construction or remodeling. In order for us to be cost-effective and meet your needs on time, we need as much advance notice as possible.

