



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

November 2023
Vol. 15 Issue 11

Nobles Cooperative Electric welcomes new members to the cooperative family

The city of Bigelow and Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) are happy to share some exciting news with you. On April 10, 2023, the city of Bigelow approved the transfer of its Minnesota electric service territory to NCE (16-18-50). The Iowa Utilities Board and Minnesota Public Utilities Commission also approved this electric service transfer. The residents of Bigelow became cooperative members on September 1.

“We are excited for the opportunity to serve the city of Bigelow,” said NCE General Manager/CEO Adam Tromblay. “This transaction will allow residents of Bigelow to join more than 6,900 members who are owners of their electric cooperative.”

NCE’s commitment to reliable power and excellent service will always be the cornerstone of the cooperative, which is owned by and provides at-cost service to members. The cooperative is excited for the opportunity to welcome more members to the cooperative family. Everyone

at NCE is committed to making this transaction a tremendous success for the people of our region.

“The city of Bigelow is close in proximity to the cooperative’s existing service area. More importantly, NCE will be able to enhance reliability and improve response times,” explained Bigelow Mayor Bryan Brandt.

A two-mile line was extended to serve the members of Bigelow. This project could not have been achieved without the support of the community and those who agreed to easements crossing their property. The cooperative would specifically like to thank Rodney Rockman, Jan Lowe and James Lowe for their cooperative spirit and for helping bring power to the city of Bigelow.

The cooperative is dedicated to providing reliable and affordable electricity to its members in Murray and Nobles Counties, with a strong commitment to the communities it serves.

Pictured above: An open house/picnic was held at the Bigelow City Hall on September 28. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

Energy saving tip

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we’ll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you’ll use less energy.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Nov. 23 Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov. 30 Electric bills due

Our offices will be closed November 23 and 24, but linemen will be on call for outages.

August Auto Pay Winner Gerrit Bos

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



Manager’s Message



We love being part of
your community



24/7 access to
your account



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

Five ways to safeguard your home this winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month.
2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load.

4. Clean (23-58-28) the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended.

NCE wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit www.noblesce.coop for additional safety tips.

Holiday OPEN HOUSE 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



December 11: Worthington headquarters **December 14:** Slayton warehouse

- Meal: Cheesy turkey sandwich, coleslaw, dessert and beverage
- Sign up for \$100 off your electric bill
- Learn more about our:
 - Briggs & Stratton residential generators
 - Outage Management System
 - Payment options
 - Online account management tool (MyMeter)
 - Emergency response phone system
 - Ford Lightning
 - Marathon water heaters
 - Money saving ideas and rebates
 - Visit with employees and directors



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Bring in a nonperishable food item for the local food shelf.

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.

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 gift of community—we love being a part of yours

Your cooperative has been celebrating October Cooperative Month with our Grab-n-Go events for the last four years.

What started out as a way to interact safely with our members during Covid in 2020, evolved into something greater.

NCE has seen member attendance going from 204 in 2020 to 549 in 2023. That equates to 605 to 2,101 meals respectively!

It's a great opportunity for our members to grab a light supper for their family and receive a free gift. This year's gift was a surge protector.

Some members take advantage of the Grab-n-Go and take the meals out to the workers in the field during harvest and some bring them home for their families. Either way we have heard great reviews and comments from some members asking where we purchased the buns and where we (12-12-75) purchased the pork burgers!

If you haven't been to one of our Grab-n-Go's, watch for more information on our next Grab-N-Go in our 2024 September *Current Matters* or on our Facebook page.

Our employees and directors always look forward to visiting and seeing our members whenever we can. We take pride in being a valued member of your community.



Every member is a valued part of our community



We're passionate about serving and supporting our members



MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT WITH MYMETER



<https://mymeter.noblesce.coop/Home/ExternalCreateAccount>



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Official monthly publication

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Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.com

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

Nobles & Murray County
Luke Pieske - 507-316-8664

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 220-8148*
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 19, 2023

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



DID YOU KNOW?

NCE is a nonprofit electric cooperative

We are shaped by the specific needs of the communities we serve. Cooperatives power 56% of the nation's landmass. Anything we earn over expenses goes back to our members in the form of capital credits. In 2021, American's electric co-ops (39-13-50) returned more than \$1.4 billion in capital credits to their members. To learn more about your capital credits, visit <https://noblesce.coop/capital-credits>.

Country Cupboard

Pineapple Cheese Dip

2 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 - sm. can crushed pineapple, drained
1/2 green pepper, chopped

1/4 c. chopped pecans
2 green onions, chopped
1 tsp. Lawry's seasoning salt

Mix together. Serve with crackers of choice.

**Mary Lubben
Fulda**

Send your favorite recipe with **cinnamon** in it 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 November 25. (34-28-26) 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.