

Current Matters

Committed to improving the quality of life of our members

August 2009
Vol. 1 Issue 8



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Youth Tour delegate returns from nation's capitol

Somehow it just isn't the same — reading about our nation's capitol and seeing it first hand. That is what most Youth Tour delegates feel when they return home.

This year was no exception! Heidi Enninga, the daughter of Spencer and Leann, Fulda, recently returned from the Youth Tour sponsored by Nobles Cooperative Electric and other electric cooperatives across the state and nation. She expressed her sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this year's tour and spoke fondly of the memories that it will carry with her for a lifetime.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity you provided through the Youth Tour. I recently returned and am so excited about the awesome trip I was able to have in Washington D.C. The highlights of the trip for me included the Marine Sunset Parade, the tour of the Pentagon, the tour of the Capitol building and the Smithsonian - National History Museum. It was all so cool! Not only did I get to see the sights, I also

met youth from all over the United States! This was an amazing time!"

While most average high school students were spending their summer vacations sleeping in late, watching television or working, Heidi enjoyed a six-day trip to Washington D.C. She spent her time sightseeing in our nation's capitol, viewing the Holocaust Museum, meeting the Congressional delegation, touring Arlington and Veterans Memorials, plus enjoying a boat cruise on the Potomac River.

Youth Tour offers students a once in a lifetime experience. Students get a first-hand look at the electric industry, learn about legislative and governmental processes and get the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol. In addition, students have the opportunity to meet other high school students from communities across the country, forming friendships that last a lifetime.

If you are interested in applying for next year's Youth Tour, watch *Current Matters* for more details. What a tremendous opportunity!

Above photo: Youth Tour Delegate Heidi Enninga (fourth from the left) stands in front of Christ Church with other Youth Tour participants. This is the same church that George Washington and many other presidents attended.

Energy saving tip

When you're shopping for appliances, think of two price tags. The first one covers the purchase price—think of it as a down payment. The second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance during its lifetime. You'll be paying on that second price tag every month with your utility bill for the next 10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Mark your calendar

September 1 Read your meter

September 7 Labor Day

Our offices will be closed. Crews will be on call for outages.

September 10 Electric bills due

Are you exempt from sales tax?

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 or drop in to complete a ST-4 form.

2 Manager's message

3 Energy Star®
appliance coupons

4 Annual Meeting
highlights



**A word from your
General Manager
by Richard 'Rick' Burud**

Climate change legislation

If you haven't heard, climate change legislation was proposed by the president, passed in the House of Representatives and is on the docket of the U.S. Senate. As cooperatives, we've been extremely interested and have worked closely with our legislators. However, we are not satisfied with the current proposed legislation and are asking our Senators for:

1. An allocation formula of allowances.
2. A more realistic reduction in CO₂.
3. A safety valve if it seriously affects the rate payer.
4. Encourage the USDA offsets.
5. Reduced rate impact for some large commercial and industrial loads.

Since we are now in the last legislative body, we'll probably be calling on you to help us politically make our voices heard. We're working on the economic impact for you "our member" with the current House of Representatives legislation. So please, when called upon, please respond so we have legislation that is environmentally workable and financially affordable.

'We need you to get engaged now' as bill advances

In a question-and-answer session regarding the climate change bill, Steven Johnson of *Electric Co-op Today* and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's CEO Glenn English discussed the bill. Edited highlights of the bill follow. *Courtesy of Electric Co-op Today*

Q: The vote in the House was fairly close, a seven-vote difference in passage. From your background in the House, is that a true indicator of the level of support for the bill?

A. It's really not. The leadership in the House is not going to bring a bill up that they don't have the votes for.

In this case, what we have learned since is that the leadership going on to the floor, taking this bill up, they knew they had the votes. They knew they had it tied down ... so some House members who were in politically sensitive districts voted against the bill. That's not unusual.

Q. The fairness argument resonated in the House in the way the legislation was changed a little bit as it went on. Is that going to hold similar weight in the Senate?

A. The fairness issue coming out of the Energy and Commerce Committee really resonated with an awful lot of members, whether it was from rural America or from urban America. It was very obvious to see the inequity in the IOU formula that discriminated against regions of the country, not just against co-ops, but against entire regions and states... You had people with no emissions who were getting allowances, while people who had significant emissions needed additional allowances. That's what we started hammering home and that was the point that we were making, not just to members of the committee, but to the entire Congress. And it did resonate with members of Congress.

Q. The bill goes now to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. What do we need to make clear to members of that committee?

A. The three points we are going to be looking at are this: We're going to try to push it all the way, to make the correction that all allowances should be based on emissions. We're going to push very hard for that.

The second issue is the [17 percent emissions] cap. The cap is unrealistic. We don't think it's attainable. We don't think we can achieve that. President Obama, in his proposal, said a 14 percent reduction by 2020. So what came out of the House exceeds what the president is suggesting.

One other thing we had in the House that was a major improvement, thanks to Collin Peterson of Minnesota, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is a fight over the issue of offsets... They allow agriculture in particular to play a role in offsetting emissions. So you may not have quite enough allowances to meet your needs, but you ... would be able to use agriculture, to use crops to absorb carbon dioxide... Offsets is another big issue. They have to be workable.

Q. You really need 60 votes to get anything done in the Senate at this point. So, when you go to the floor of the Senate, are you looking to try to influence the "yea" or "nay" votes?

A. The Senate, because of the filibuster, you need 60 votes on anything that is controversial. If not, you are facing a filibuster... And there is that group of moderate Democrats who are probably going to hold the key to whether a particular provision or a particular bill is going to be successful.

That's really where we expect that we will be able to make our case for fairness, that we will be able to make our case for workability and affordability. That's still not the last step in this process.

It is so critical that on the floor of the Senate we come out with a strong vote for a piece of legislation that is workable, affordable and something that is technologically achievable.

The Our Energy, Our Future campaign is more important than ever before. Contact the co-op at 507-372-7331 to make a difference.

Finally
feel good about laundry day
Save money on ENERGY STAR®
rated appliances at Sears,
August 16 – September 30.
Your coupons can be used in combination
with any other offers available from
Sears or the State of Minnesota.
Take the next step to a cleaner
future with appliances that save
more than just energy.
mnbrighterideas.com

Join us for an online energy efficiency seminar

Finding ways to save energy has never been more important than it is now. But it can be difficult to know where to start.

Join Nobles Cooperative Electric and Great River Energy for an online webcast on Tuesday, September 15 at 12 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. to learn more about what you can do to begin saving energy in your home.

Experts from Great River Energy will teach viewers a variety of ways to save energy, from simple things that can be done immediately, to more complex ideas that take some investment but reap big rewards. A short presentation will be followed by an interactive Q & A session. To register, go to www.mnbrighterideas.webex.com.

Sears **\$125 OFF** ENERGY STAR® RATED REFRIGERATORS*

ENERGY STAR Rated Top Mount ENERGY STAR Rated National Brand Side by Side

ENERGY STAR Rated Kenmore Side by Side ENERGY STAR Rated Bottom Mount

R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 5 \$ 1 2 5 0 0 R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 7 \$ 1 2 5 0 0
R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 6 \$ 1 2 5 0 0 R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 8 \$ 1 2 5 0 0

a brighter idea

Nobles Cooperative Electric

*With recycling of old refrigerator. A \$10 haul away fee may apply. Savings off regular and sale prices apply to merchandise only. Not valid on clearance or closeout items, great price items, compact refrigeration, wine chillers, Electrolux, Sears.com, Kmart.com, protection agreements. Redeemable only at Sears stores located in Minnesota. One coupon per purchase. Void if copied, transferred or where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. Cash value 1/20 cent. In the event of a return, coupon savings may be deducted from your refund. ©2008 Sears Brands, LLC. Sales Associate: Please collect this coupon. If unable to scan, manually enter the coupon number. Valid August 16, 2009 to September 30, 2009 in U.S.A. only. Not to be used with any other coupon or associate discount, except for the August 16, 2009 Family & Friends Event.

Last call for Operation Round Up funds

The Operation Round Up September 4 deadline is quickly approaching. Apply now for Operation Round Up funds.

Interested organizations may call the cooperative at 507-372-7331, e-mail nce@noblesce.com or visit our website at www.noblesce.coop for an application.

Operation Round Up is made possible through the generosity of our members. Since 2001, the program has distributed over \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations. We would like to thank each of you for your caring spirit.

For those of you who are not participating in the program, we encourage you to do so. You'll discover how many lives you can touch.

Sears **\$75 OFF** ENERGY STAR® RATED WASHERS

ENERGY STAR Rated Washers

R 5 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 3 5 \$ 1 2 5 0 0

a brighter idea

Nobles Cooperative Electric

A \$10 haul away fee may apply. Savings off regular and sale prices apply to merchandise only. Not valid on clearance or closeout items, great price items, Electrolux, laundry pedestals, dryers, Sears.com, Kmart.com, protection agreements. Redeemable only at Sears stores located in Minnesota. One coupon per purchase. Void if copied, transferred or where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. Cash value 1/20 cent. In the event of a return, coupon savings may be deducted from your refund. ©2008 Sears Brands, LLC. Sales Associate: Please collect this coupon. If unable to scan, manually enter the coupon number. Valid August 16, 2009 to September 30, 2009 in U.S.A. only. Not to be used with any other coupon or associate discount, except for the August 16, 2009 Family & Friends Event.

Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day highlights



Minnow races were a hit with the kids at Family Fun Day. Apprentice Lineman Jeremy Boogerd gets into the action.



Recycling made easy! Warehouseman Greg Ling receives bulbs from members and properly disposes of them.



At the Annual Meeting held on June 25, three directors were re-elected to the board. Incumbent directors Ronald Schwartau, Lee York and Gary Sieve were elected to a three-year term. At the organizational meeting held after the Annual Meeting, Henry Hanson was re-elected president, Richard Greve was re-elected vice president and Lee York was elected secretary/treasurer. From left to right: Henry Hanson, Dick Ruitter, Lee York, David Clarke, Ronald Schwartau, Richard Greve and Gary Sieve.

Country Cupboard Peach Delight

Robin Gehl
Dundee

Crust

1 1/2 c. graham cracker crumbs
1/3 c. butter, melted

1/4 c. sugar

Filling

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, room temp.
1/4 c. sugar
2 T. milk
3 1/2 c. frozen whipped topping, thawed
and divided

4 c. fresh sliced peaches, tossed in
lemon juice
2 pkgs. (3 oz. each) instant vanilla
pudding
3 1/2 c. cold milk

Combine crust ingredients and press into 9 x 13 pan. Chill. For filling, beat cream cheese with sugar and 2 tablespoons milk until smooth. Fold in half of the prepared topping. Spread over crust. Arrange peaches on top in an even layer. Prepare pudding with 3 1/2 cups milk, pour over peaches. Chill several hours or overnight. Spread on remaining topping before serving and garnish with sliced peaches.

Send your favorite **recipe with corn as an ingredient** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and Nobles' location number. All entries must be received by August 10. 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

Main office

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331
Fax: 507-372-5148

Satellite office

1505 20th Street, P.O. Box 56
Slayton, MN 56172-0056
Phone: 507-836-6107

Website

www.noblesce.coop

E-mail address

nce@noblesce.com

Office hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166

WildBlue tech support

888-326-4289

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Scott Preuss - 507-449-8870

General Manager

Richard G. Burud

Board of Directors

Henry Hanson, President - 483-2417
Richard Greve, V. President - 376-5026
Lee York, Sec./Treas. - 879-3497
David Clarke, Director - 425-2646
Dick Ruitter, Director - 443-5891
Ronald Schwartau, Director - 734-3052
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455