


Current Matters

Committed to improving the quality of life of our members

June 2009
Vol. 1 Issue 6



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Annual Meeting
edition!

Examine the cooperative difference

2009 Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day

Thursday, June 25

Murray County Fairgrounds and
Murray County Central
High School Gymnasium
Slayton, Minnesota

4 p.m.

Family Fun Day begins

4 - 5:30 p.m.

EXTREME HOME ENERGY
WORKSHOP (school)

4 - 9 p.m.

Fun for the whole family

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Catered meal (4-H building)

6 - 7 p.m.

Annual Meeting (school)

7 - 9 p.m.

Wally Barbee performs (school)

Great food

- Pulled pork sandwiches
- Potato salad
- Baked beans
- Apple crisp with whipped cream
- Special treat sponsored by the Murray County Dairy Association

Plenty of prizes



While supplies
last!

Each member in attendance receives a mouse or telephone pad that includes a 2009 to 2010 calendar and notepad. Free kites for the kids, along with plenty of door prizes.

Win one of these prizes

Adult prizes

- Meco Lock 'N Go grill
- \$75 Electricity gift certificate
- \$50 Electricity gift certificates (2)
- Twins tickets (4)
- \$40 Ground Round gift certificate
- \$40 Kirpatrick's gift certificate
- \$40 Runnings gift certificate
- \$40 Bomgaars gift certificate
- \$30 Hy-Vee gift certificate
- \$30 Jim's Market gift certificate

Childrens prize (12 and under)

- \$25 Wal-Mart gift certificate

Kids prize (13 to 18 years old)

- \$25 Shopko gift certificate

Mark your calendar

June 21	Happy Father's Day
July 1	Read your meter
July 3	Our offices will be closed
July 4	Independence Day
July 10	Electric bills due

Annual Meeting Agenda 6 - 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and Call to Order

**Drawing for \$75 Nobles'
Electricity Gift Certificate**

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Establishment of Quorum

Proof of Publication

Election Process

Drawing for Two Twins Tickets

Financial Report

Cooperative Panel Discussion

Old and New Business

Results of Election

Adjourn

7 p.m. Draw for Prizes

(Must be present to win all prizes)



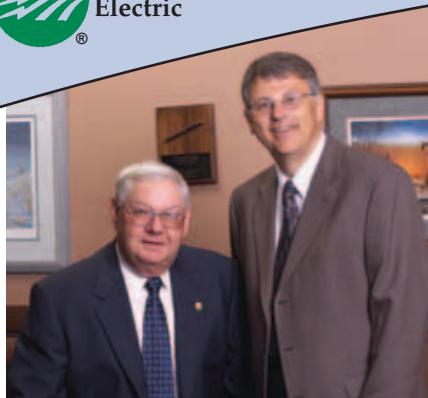
President and General
Manager Report



EXTREME HOME
ENERGY WORKSHOP



Family Fun Day —
something for everyone



**President Henry A. Hanson
and General Manager
Richard G. Burud**

Report to the members

Henry and I would like to invite you to join us at our Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day on June 25 at the Murray County Fairgrounds and Murray County Central High School Gymnasium in Slayton.

Details of the meeting are shown in this publication and special insert. You will notice that we've brought Wally Barbee back for your entertainment after the business meeting. Here are some of the items that will be discussed at your Annual Meeting.

Financials

We finished 2008 with \$459,929 in operating margins and \$1,159,402 in total margins. This includes \$272,340 of capital credits from Great River Energy (GRE), our wholesale power supplier. To keep wholesale rates at a minimum, GRE is not currently paying back assigned capital.

Rates

The Board compared the operating margins in 2007 and 2008 noticing a decrease from \$638,459 to \$459,929. The Board felt that they

did not want to erode the financial condition any further and jeopardize our financial position with Rural Utilities Service, our chief financial lender.

Effective May 1, the Board initiated approximately a six percent rate increase for Nobles Cooperative Electric members. This is the first rate change for Nobles since 2001.

Legislation

As we stated last year, carbon dioxide (CO₂) legislation could have the single largest effect on your electric bill in the future. We've seen a variety of costs predicted, the lowest about \$15 per month to as high as \$100 per month. There are a multitude of assumptions made based on different legislation. However, the key element is that about 53 percent of your generation is produced by coal or natural gas and both give off CO₂ in the combustion process.

Cost controls

With the uncertainty of the economy, as well as rates, we at Nobles took steps to minimize costs to the members. So what did we do? We moved our after-hours call center saving \$5,856 per year; we changed to a bill-inserted newsletter, *Current Matters*, saving \$23,000 per year; minimized expenses by not purchasing new vehicles and budgeted for minimum capital expenditures. The

cooperative limited line construction to no more than \$500,000 for system upgrades. We authorized no new hires, other than the replacement of retired Line Sub-Foreman Gary Eich in Slayton. This year your cooperative will limit the amount of outside line contractors, while trying to do all of the work with our linemen. Can we sustain this for the long run? Probably not. But we felt it necessary during a time when we are asking our members for a rate increase.

Future

Even though our rates are extremely competitive with other cooperatives throughout the state and nation, and less than most investor-owned utilities, we see continued wholesale power cost increases in 2010. Both GRE and Western Area Power Administration, our hydro supplier, have announced plans for increases to us. We'll work closely with them to try to do our part to keep these increases to a minimum, even though they will likely increase.

Join us

Again, we encourage you to participate in the meeting and vote for directors to represent your interests. We truly want to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving your electrical needs in the future.

Cooperatively,
Henry Hanson and Richard Burud



2009 Nominating Committee members

Left to right: Milo Feikema, Terry Edgar, Richard Thompson, Dean Pearson, Michael Kluis and Gerald Meier.

Notice of Annual Meeting for members

The Annual Meeting for Nobles Cooperative Electric members will be held at the Murray County Central High School Gymnasium in Slayton, Minnesota on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 6 p.m. to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of three directors of the cooperative.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Absentee ballots for director election are available upon request.

Ronald J. Schwartau, Secretary
Dated: May 20, 2009

Watch the mail for your special invitation and registration card. Don't forget to bring it along.

Nobles Cooperative Electric Annual Meeting June 25, 2009

BALLOT

Director Election for District One
(Vote for one by placing an "X" in the box)

1. **Ronald Schwartau***
(Nominated by Committee)
2. _____

Director Election for District Two
(Vote for one by placing an "X" in the box)

1. **Lee York***
(Nominated by Committee)
2. _____

Director Election for District At-Large
(Vote for one by placing an "X" in the box)

1. **Lowell Nystrom**
(Nominated by Committee)
2. **Gary Sieve***
(Nominated by Committee)
3. **Jamie Thomazin**
(Nominated by Committee)
4. _____

* Incumbent

Absentee ballot

An absentee ballot for voting on the Director Elections for District One, Two and At-Large are available for any member unable to attend the Annual Meeting. Call the office at 507-372-7331; ask for Julie. Otherwise, e-mail Nobles (nce@noblesce.com) and an absentee ballot application will be mailed to you. Upon return of the absentee ballot application, you will be mailed a ballot, along with instructions and a return envelope. Your absentee ballot must be received by Wednesday, June 24, at noon.

Sample ballot

On June 25, elect the directors you would like to have represent your interests in cooperative matters. The candidates' biographies are listed on the extra insert on page 1.

EXTREME HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 25 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Murray County Central High School Gymnasium

Stimulus savings and a must see for every homeowner!

FREE gift for those that attend. While supplies last!

Information all in one place regarding:

- Stimulus savings
- Marathon water heaters
- Lighting efficiency
- Ground source heat pumps
- Air source heat pumps
- Infloor heat
- Home security
- Energy efficiency tax credits
- Boilers

4 - 4:40 p.m.

Heating your home electrically – what options are there?
Dale Halgren — Terra-Therm

4:40 - 4:50 p.m.

Energy assistance for homeowners and members in need or crisis
Doug Mead — SW MN Opportunity Council

4:50 - 5:30 p.m.

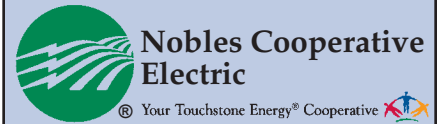
Learn how to audit your home like a pro – whole house energy efficiency workshop
Rick Otten — Energy auditor

Visit our Extreme Home Energy booths from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The exhibit booths will remain open for questions from 7 to 9 p.m.

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Thursday, June 25 from 4 - 9 p.m.



Official monthly publication

Main office

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Fax: 507-372-5148

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Slayton, MN 56172-0056
Phone: 507-836-6107

Website

www.noblesce.coop

E-mail address

nce@noblesce.com

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8 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

General Manager

Richard G. Burud

Board of Directors

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

Fluorescent bulb recycling
All electric sedans

EXTREME HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

Our Energy, Our Future

Prairie Ecology Bus

DNR - water and ATV safety

Operation Round Up

Blood pressure checks

Minnow races

Music by Remix

Nobles' and vendor booths

Election for Districts 1, 2 and At-Large

Games by the local 4-H group



Wally Barbee is a singer, entertainer and songwriter. Her speciality is presenting her own solo show. They are fast paced with a friendly stage presence and always fun.

**We have energy challenges;
learn more about the issues
affecting your cooperative**

When it comes to finding solutions, we must meet climate change goals while keeping costs down and electricity available. America needs a plan. Immediately. Stop by the Our Energy, Our Future booth in the school gymnasium to start the conversation. Together, we can find answers and take action.

**Recycle your fluorescent
bulbs at the Annual Meeting**

Nobles Cooperative Electric is hosting a bulb recycling event to make recycling easy and affordable. Bring your fluorescent bulbs to the Annual Meeting and be sure to bring the coupon from the May *Current Matters*. With this coupon, you will be able to recycle four bulbs for free (additional bulbs are 50 cents each).

Country Cupboard

Sugar Rhubarb Muffins

Jane Schardin
Slayton

1 1/4 c. sugar divided
1/3 c. vegetable oil
1 egg
2 c. all-purpose flour

2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. milk
1 c. chopped fresh rhubarb*

In a large bowl, beat 1 cup sugar, oil and egg until well blended. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; gradually beat into sugar mixture alternating with milk, beating well after each addition. Stir in rhubarb.

Fill paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full. Sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool for five minutes before removing from muffin pan to wire rack.

Yields one dozen.

*Can use frozen rhubarb

Send your favorite **recipe for a crowd** 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 June 15. 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.