

# Current Matters

Committed to improving the quality of life of our members

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Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Youth Tour winners announced

A local student from Nobles Cooperative Electric's service area was selected to represent the cooperative on a week-long, all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C., June 13-18.

Heidi Enninga, a junior at Fulda High School, was selected on March 27 as the cooperative's Youth Tour delegate. She will be representing Nobles Cooperative Electric among 1,400 high school students from cooperatives throughout the country. Heidi is the daughter of Spencer and Leann of rural Fulda.

The second place winner is Amy Schutte, who attends Worthington High School as a junior. She won \$150. Amy is the daughter of Paul and Lisa.

Bridget Enninga, a sophomore at Fulda High School, received third place and \$100. She is the daughter of Spencer and Leann.

The Youth Tour is open to all high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors that live or go to school in Nobles Cooperative Electric's service area. Those that apply participate in the contest by writing an essay on an energy-related topic. A panel of

three judges review each submitted application and essay choosing five finalists to interview. Judges then determine which finalist wins the trip to our nation's capitol.

"This is a trip of a lifetime," said General Manager Richard Burud. "A perfect opportunity to travel to the center of our nation's government, work with cooperative leaders from across the country and enhance leadership skills. It's a week they will never forget!"

The Washington Youth Tour is a top-notch tour of our nation's capitol that includes meetings with national leaders, as well as visiting all the major sights. Students also meet and discuss their views and interests with students from other states, while learning about government, history, careers in public service and electric cooperatives.

The program is sponsored to identify and encourage future leaders in our community.

*Above photo: Finalists for the 2009 Youth Tour were: Heidi Enninga, Amy Schutte, Bridget Enninga, Hillary Voss and Ashley Zemler.*

## Energy saving tip

When washing clothes, use less water by running full loads. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the energy used by washing machines heats water, so by using cold water and cold-water detergents you can cut a load's energy use in half.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*

## Mark your calendar

May 25..... Memorial Day  
Our offices will be closed. Linemen  
will be on call for outages.  
June 1 ..... Read your meter  
June 10 ..... Electric bills due

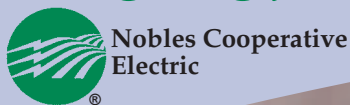
## Annual Meeting panel discussion — June 25

The meeting will include a panel discussion, offer members an opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from cooperative representatives. To submit questions by June 15, please e-mail [nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com) and state "Annual Meeting question." Each question will be addressed on June 25 at the Annual Meeting.

 Manager's message

 Stimulus savings for members

 Murray County sub-foreman retires



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

### Key legislation

If you've been reading our newsletter, you are aware of the big issue that has the potential to seriously affect your electric bill and cooperative. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) legislation has now been introduced by Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA). The plan is to aggressively reduce greenhouse gases to 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 using a market-based cap-and-trade system. Everyone is now trying to calculate the effects of the legislation. Stay tuned as I'll visit Washington, D.C. during the first part of May to represent your interests and the interests of other cooperatives in the United States.

### It is spring finally

As I write this column, it is 66 degrees outside and it finally feels like spring. Yesterday, someone said the tilers are still finding one to two inches of frost, so I guess it's best to have some patience. As planting season is near, be careful around poles, guy wires and underground cabinets. We don't want to see any unnecessary accidents.

### Need a service upgrade?

If you are planning an upgrade, be sure to let Bill Schreiber know. We're purchasing materials now. We do not carry big inventories, so we need to know your plans in order to plan accordingly. You can call Bill at 507-372-7331.

### Annual Meeting time is near

Plans are being finalized for your Annual Meeting on June 25 at the Murray County Fairgrounds and Murray County Central High School Gymnasium. Look for good food, entertainment, education and a quick moving, educational Annual Meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar.

### Be sure to sow seeds of caution around power lines

As farmers return to their fields this spring, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Make sure you evaluate farm activities and work practices. It doesn't take a lot of time but can literally save lives.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from the lines. The minimum 10-foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Keep safety in mind at all times this spring. It only takes one careless accident to cause a serious injury.

*Information courtesy of safeelectricity.org*



## Recycle fluorescent bulbs for free at the Annual Meeting

We would like to help you and the environment.

Join us on June 25 at the Murray County Fairgrounds and Murray County Central High School Gymnasium in Slayton for our Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day. Remember to bring along four fluorescent light bulbs that need to be recycled and the coupon below. With this coupon, you can recycle four bulbs for free (additional bulbs are 50 cents each). Look for signs guiding you to your destination. Drive up to the truck and drop off your bulbs. That way you won't have to carry the bulbs and take the chance of breaking them.

The cooperative is hosting a bulb recycling event to make recycling easy, while promoting the efficiencies of fluorescent light bulbs. Minnesota law requires that all fluorescent bulbs are recycled to keep the mercury out of the environment. Fluorescents can not be thrown away in the garbage.

**Coupon valid to recycle four fluorescent bulbs free**  
at Nobles' Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day  
June 25 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Number of bulbs recycled?

1	2	3	4
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More than four bulbs?    Y    N

If yes, how many bulbs? \_\_\_\_\_

Fluorescent bulbs that are eligible for recycling are:

- Compact
- Four and five-foot lamps
- U-shaped
- Circular





Wondering how the federal stimulus package will help you?

# IT'S YOUR TURN

to save on your energy bill while improving the environment.



The economic stimulus package has become a fact. Given the hard times, now it's your turn to benefit. Get a tax credit for up to \$1,500 on the cost of insulating, sealing and weather-stripping your home.

*You can be more comfortable and save on your energy bill while improving the environment!* Remember, it takes all of us doing our part.

## Connecting members to stimulus savings — it's your turn to benefit

The plan provides a homeowner tax credit of up to \$1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for new energy upgrades, including weatherization activities, installation of efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Tax credits are available at 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1,500, in 2009 and 2010 (for existing homes only) for:

- Windows and doors
- Insulation
- Roofs (metal and asphalt)
- HVAC
- Water heaters (non-solar)
- Biomass stoves

Tax credits are available at 30 percent of the cost, with no upper limit through 2016 (for existing homes and new construction) for:

- Geothermal heat pumps
- Solar panels and water heaters
- Small wind energy systems
- Fuel cells

For more information on the home energy tax credits, see Tax Credits for Consumers from the U.S. Energy Star® program at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). This is a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designed to encourage the use of energy-efficient technologies.

## Chill Out This Summer with Lower Cooling Costs

- Contact Nobles at 507-372-7331 to inquire about an air conditioner tune-up
- Be sure to capitalize on our NEW and increased 2009 rebates
- Update your cooling system with an Energy Star® replacement

## Red flag rule protects members

In order to ensure the privacy and accuracy of member information and to reduce the incidence of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has 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. Please understand that these procedures will help protect your identity.

# Gary Eich retires after nearly 43 years



*It was 1966, Lyndon Johnson was president, Hubert Humphrey was vice president, Medicare began, the first Star Trek episode was broadcasted, the average cost of gas was 32 cents a gallon and many of us were listening to "The Ballad of the Green Berets" by Sergeant Barry Sadler or "You're My Soul and Inspiration" by the Righteous Brothers.*

It was also the year that Gary Eich began his employment as an apprentice lineman on April 11. He retired as a sub-foreman in Murray County this year.

On February 23, Nobles Cooperative Electric bid farewell to Gary after nearly 43 years of service to the cooperative. "Time went by so fast!"

Gary has already settled comfortably into retirement. He is currently remodeling his kitchen.

He plans to spend more time with his family, along with hunting


and fishing. Gary and his wife, Jean, have three children. Kari and her husband, Mark; Kurt and his wife, Kim; and Stacey and her husband, Mark. They each have three children, which makes nine grandchildren for the Eich's.

"I really enjoyed working for the cooperative. It was a great place to work. I'm going to miss the interaction I had with my co-workers and with the members. There are a lot of good people out there! After all the years of working as a lineman, I always knew what was happening in Murray County. I'm going to miss not seeing what's happening in our communities."

The cooperative extends a sincere thank you to Gary for his dedication for a job well done and his service to our cooperative members. We wish him a happy retirement.



**Nobles Cooperative Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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### WildBlue tech support

888-326-4289

### Electrical inspectors

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Nobles County  
Scott Preuss - 507-449-8870

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Richard G. Burud

### Board of directors

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Richard Greve, V. President - 376-5026  
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David Clarke, Director - 425-2646  
Dick Ruitter, Director - 443-5891  
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455  
Lee York, Director - 879-3497

## Country Cupboard Jell-O Salad

2 pkg. strawberry Jell-O	3 mashed bananas
1 c. boiling water	1 c. walnuts
2 boxes frozen strawberries (drained)	1 small carton sour cream
20 oz. can crushed pineapple (drained)	

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add the strawberries, pineapple, bananas and walnuts. Put half of this mixture in a small glass pan and chill until slightly stiff. Spread sour cream over mixture in pan, then pour remaining gelatin mixture on top. Chill two hours before serving.

Send your favorite **recipe with rhubarb 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 location number. All entries must be received by May 13. 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.

**Connie Wieneke**  
Luverne