

# Current Matters

Committed to improving the quality of life of our members

March 2010  
Vol. 2 Issue 3

Annual Meeting  
edition!



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2010 Annual Meeting — Saturday, March 27  
Worthington Senior High School Gymnasium  
Worthington, Minnesota

## Mark your calendar

March 14 ..... Daylight savings time  
March 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day  
April 1 ..... Read your meter  
April 4 ..... Happy Easter!  
April 12 ..... Electric bills due

Musical prelude  
9:15 to 9:45 a.m.

Music by Bruce Dysthe

## Catered meal follows meeting

You won't want to miss roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, a dinner roll and ice cream.

## Annual Meeting Agenda 10 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and Call to Order

## Two Drawings for a \$75 Nobles' Electricity Gift Certificate

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Establishment of Quorum

Proof of Publication

Election Process

President and Manager's Report

Financial Report

Power Supply Report

Old and New Business

Results of Election

Adjourn

## Draw for Prizes at 11 a.m.

(Must be present to win all prizes)

## Prizes

Members in attendance receive a 25-foot heavy duty extension cord, along with door prizes.



While supplies last!

## Kids 12 and under—register to win a bike!



## Activities

- Music by Bruce Dysthe
- Your Annual Meeting
- Nobles' products and services
- Election for Districts 3 and 5

## Members register to win one of these door prizes

- \$75 Electricity gift certificate
- \$75 Electricity gift certificate
- \$50 Electricity gift certificate
- \$50 Casey's General Store gift card
- \$40 Subway gift card
- \$40 Ground Round gift card
- \$40 Grain Exchange gift card
- \$40 KirPatrick's gift card
- \$30 Runnings gift card
- \$30 Bomgaars gift card
- \$25 Fareway gift card
- \$25 Jim's Market gift card

(Must be present to win all prizes)

Photo: Linemen Ryan Loomans, Mike Vortherms and Dan Bell setting a pole after the January 2010 ice storm. See the related story on page 4.



President and General  
Manager's Report



Your presence and  
voice count



Ice storm causes  
cooperative problems



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

### Year in review

Let's visit a bit about your cooperative and last year's highlights. Financially, your cooperative finished the year in excellent condition. Our margins were \$1,014,424 from the sale of electricity with total margins at \$1,700,941. This compares to \$1,159,402 in 2008 margins. The increase was due to the Board of Directors increasing your electric rate approximately six percent in March of 2009. You may say that this is a large margin for a cooperative our size. Yes it is. But if you consider plant additions of \$1,547,752 and capital credits paid back to the mem-

bership in the amount of \$529,739, margins will be needed to maintain a strong financial equity level. How does our rate compare to others? The graph below tells the story. Our rates are very competitive in state and national comparisons.

Other highlights for 2009 include the addition of an outage management system and authorization to complete an automatic meter reading system in 2010 and 2011. We also added an Easy 2 Pay program so members can pay their electric bill and enter meter readings online.

With the personal computer becoming more prevalent in today's world, we'll continue to offer membership services online. Have you checked out our new website? It is full of information and services provided by your cooperative.

### Storm highlights

The year ended with Christmas Eve outages in Murray County. An Xcel Energy 69 kV line was out due to a malfunction of a breaker in Tracy. Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) worked to reroute as many of our member-consumers as possible. Then on January 22-24, we were hit again with ice and wind. Our system was faced with approximately 75 broken poles and about 700 plus

members without power. NCE called in help from cooperatives in Sleepy Eye and Mankato. The cooperative had the majority of members restored by the start of the Vikings playoff game.

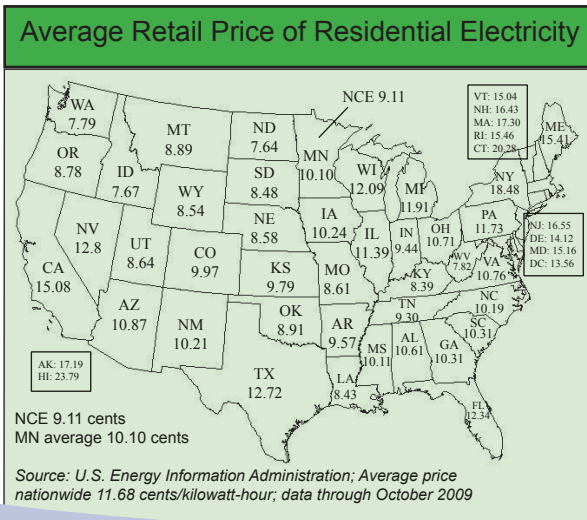
I don't know about you, but this winter has been a difficult one with snow and more blowing snow. Just like you, it is hard on our equipment. We're waiting for spring and planting weather too.

### Preview of 2010

Our budget is projecting no growth in sales to our members, revenue in excess of \$13 million, for an anticipated margin of \$1.277 million. We'll rebuild or replace 22.6 miles of line, rebuild 68 services and replace 277 poles. NCE will complete phase one of an automated meter reading project and completely review and recommend changes to the membership in Articles and Bylaws of the cooperative. The board and staff will update the cooperative's strategic plan with a focus on reliability and affordability.

### Thanks

As we close, we want to thank you, the membership, for your support and understanding throughout the year. Your cooperative is very healthy and ready to meet your needs today and in the future.



### Nominating Committee members

Seated: Dean Pearson, Terry Edgar and Jeff Barber. Standing: Milo Feikema, Michael Kluis and Gerald Meier.

## Notice of Annual Meeting for members

The Annual Meeting for Nobles Cooperative Electric members will be held at the Worthington High School Gymnasium in Worthington, Minnesota on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 10 a.m. to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of two 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.

Lee A. York, Secretary  
Dated: February 25, 2010

**Watch the mail for your special invitation and registration card. Remember to bring it along.**

**Nobles Cooperative Electric**  
Annual Meeting  
March 27, 2010

### BALLOT 3-Year Terms

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

1. **David Clarke\***  
(Nominated by Committee)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. **Henry Hanson\***  
(Nominated by Committee)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\* Incumbent

## Absentee ballot

An absentee ballot for voting on the Director Elections for District Three and Five are available for any member unable to attend the Annual Meeting. Call the office at 507-372-7331; ask for Julie. Otherwise, e-mail NCE (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 Friday, March 26, at noon.

## Sample ballot

On March 27, elect the directors you would like to have represent your interests in cooperative matters. The candidates' biographies are listed below.

## Director candidates

### District 3 David Clarke

Incumbent David Clarke has been a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric since 1973 and has served as a director for the past 11 years. Dave was a member of the negotiating team of the cooperative for two union contracts. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and is working on Advanced Leadership training.

Mr. Clarke and his wife, Susan, farm a fourth generation farm in Des Moines River Township with their son, Matthew, who lives in Slayton with wife, Michele, and their three children. Their daughter, Carisa, works at a bank in Slayton.

David attended Southwest State University in Marshall for four years and was in the Army National Guard for six years.

Mr. Clarke has held many positions at Faith Lutheran Church in Avoca including chairman of the cemetery board for the last 28 years. He is a member of the Tracy Sportsmen Club.

In his spare time, Dave enjoys restoring old tractors, raising quarter horses and trap shooting.



### District 5 Henry Hanson

Incumbent Henry Hanson has been a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric since 1958. He is president of Nobles Cooperative Electric and has served on the board since 1974. Mr. Hanson has completed all of the required National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's courses to make him a Credentialed Cooperative Director.

Henry and his wife, Alice, live in Little Rock Township near Adrian, where he operates the family farm. They have two children.

He is a graduate of the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota.

Henry has served on his township's board, various church boards and is a past president of his church.

Presently, he represents Nobles Cooperative Electric on the Board of Directors at Great River Energy, your wholesale power supplier.



# January ice storm causes problems for NCE



*On Monday, January 25, linemen were still repairing broken poles and downed power lines. The visibility at times was unbearable. Our personnel are committed to bringing you the best electric service possible.*

Electric cooperatives are much more susceptible to weather than other electric utilities. The majority of our lines run across the open country, instead of blocks of sheltered streets in town. Therefore, they are at greater risk from the elements and the possibility of damage.

On January 22-24, ice made its way across NCE's service territory and the impact was felt in both Murray and Nobles counties. Approximately an inch of ice accumulated on power lines and nearby trees, causing damage. At the peak of the storm, 700 to 800 members were without power.

"I was very glad the ice melted off our lines and the winds didn't come up or things would have been a lot worse," said Line Superintendent Bill Schreiber. "We are very thankful to our linemen and visiting crews. They were able to repair our system in a timely manner given the poor weath-

er conditions."

To add to the problems from the storm, service to the office's phone system was impacted. "Our phone system was overwhelmed by the call volume," said General Manager Richard Burud. "During the storm, our members had difficulty reporting outages. You can be assured that NCE will research better alternatives to handle large call volume."

NCE would like to thank our members for their understanding and cooperation. While the weather didn't cooperate, our employees and additional crews from BENCO Electric Cooperative (Mankato) and Brown County Rural Electrical Association (Sleepy Eye) worked to restore power as quickly as they could.

This recent event served as a valuable reminder to the cooperative and its members that storms are very unpredictable in Minnesota.

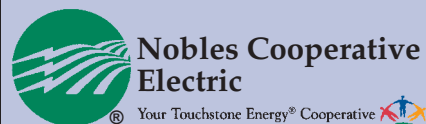
## Country Cupboard A Sweet Treat

- 1 box Crispix cereal (12.3 oz.)
- 1 1/2 c. pretzel sticks, broken
- 1 1/2 c. mixed nuts
- 1/2 c. white corn syrup
- 1 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. sugar

Boil corn syrup, butter and sugar for three to five minutes, stirring constantly. Pour over Crispix mixture and mix thoroughly. Spread on wax paper to cool.

Send your favorite **rice** recipe 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 March 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.

Rita Lear  
Slayton



**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](http://www.noblesce.coop)

### E-mail address

[nce@noblesce.com](mailto: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