



Residential generator program offers peace-of-mind and uninterrupted power

It is no secret that the weather in Murray and Nobles counties can be unpredictable (5-4-50) and uncontrollable. When outages occur, we do our best to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible. However, it can still take hours to restore power after severe storms. The good news is, you can avoid losing power at home with our Briggs & Stratton residential generator program.

Being out of power just for a few minutes can be inconvenient. That is why we offer you a solution with our standby generator program. Our standby systems are designed to keep the sump pump running, the lights on and your home comfortable.

A few years ago, Rodney and Dorothy Kroese were without power for four days. Carrying water from the sump pump to the shower drain became quite the chore. "I don't like it when it is dark. No street lights, no nothing," stated Rodney. It wasn't a hard decision when they decided then that they needed to do something and contacted Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE).

The cooperative helped them determine the right size generator and the

correct features for all of their home needs. NCE also offered them an annual generator service that helps protect their investment indefinitely.

Rodney is no stranger to electricity. He retired in 2005 after 40 years of working in the electric industry. He has always had good luck with Briggs & Stratton motors and likes the generator for its weekly test, quiet operation and peace-of-mind. "The cooperative provides very timely service and we are very happy with the generator. I have recommended it to many of my neighbors," explained Mr. Kroese.

Rodney has become quite a friend of the cooperative. With his knowledge of electricity, he can spot problems before they become bigger issues. It wasn't that long ago when (12-1-31) he called NCE to describe a situation in town with a broken pole. The line foreman called him back and asked where and what size of a pole. It saved the cooperative a trip to investigate. The NCE crew was able to load up with the materials needed the first time around.

The relationships gained over the years with our members is so powerful. We love serving our members!

Energy saving tip

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov

Mark your calendar

- Apr. 22..... Earth Day
- Apr. 25..... Electric bills due
- May 9..... Happy Mother's Day!

Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.

April Auto Pay winner Cathy Deutsch

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



Take the proper steps before digging



Director Clarke receives CCD certificate



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

Be sure to thank a lineworker

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with NCE, I bet you would picture a lineworker. Some of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Safety first, safety always—that’s the code our lineworkers live by. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers get the job done regardless of what Mother Nature throws their way.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication and equally important, a (23-42-24) sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering



BUILT by our community.
SHAPED by our community.
LED by our community.

**WE’RE PROUD TO
POWER YOUR LIFE.**

comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at NCE, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. These are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service

and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent your cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way.

That is why on April 12 we celebrated our lineworkers. I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Know what's below: steps for safe digging

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! NCE reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State. Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities (032-33-010) will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Director Clarke receives national certification



Gary Clarke (left) receives his CCD certificate from NCE Vice President Lee York.

Gary Clarke recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. NCE has a commitment to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their members.

Thank you, Gary, for your continued efforts and commitment to NCE.

Improve the efficiency and comfort in your home!

REBATES

<http://www.noblesce.coop/rebates>

Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with NCE adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, NCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. NCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. (18-2-74) All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by NCE. Interested members should contact Nobles Cooperative Electric, 22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187 or call 800-776-0517.

Country Cupboard

Broccoli & Rice Hot Dish

3 c. cooked rice 1 - 10 1/2 oz. can cream of mushroom soup
3/4 c. chopped onion 1 - 10 1/2 oz. can cream of chicken soup
3/4 c. chopped celery 1 - 10 oz. frozen broccoli
2 T. butter

Saute onion and celery in butter and add to rice, soup and frozen broccoli. Cover with 1/2 lb. of Velveeta cheese. Bake one hour at 350 degrees.

Send your **recipe with chicken** 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 April 25. 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.

Mary Hemmen
Dundee



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Official monthly publication

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P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.coop

Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 - Sept. 30

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903

*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

May 14, 2021

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

