

# Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



January 2019  
Vol. 11 Issue 1

## Youth Tour - guaranteed a trip of a lifetime

Each summer, one student from Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), will join 1,800 teens from local electric cooperatives across the country for a trip of a lifetime.

Students witness first hand government in action and visit Washington, D.C. monuments while learning about electric cooperative philosophy and rural electrification.

Among the sites included are the Lincoln Memorial, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, Washington Monument, Smithsonian, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, FDR Memorial, Mount Vernon and the Vietnam Memorial.

One high school freshman, sophomore, junior or senior from NCE will travel to Washington, D.C., with transportation (including airfare), room and board, entertainment and sight-seeing events all paid for. Students are only required to bring personal spending money for snacks and souvenirs.

Applying for this trip of a lifetime is easy. Students must submit an

essay, on a subject NCE chooses each year, fill out an application and submit to an interview. The first 15 applicants receive a \$15 gift certificate to Amazon.

Do you know of a student that may be interested in the Youth Tour? The deadline of February 28 is drawing near. Let them know about this great opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized leadership program.

These young men and women represent our next generation of leaders. They (31-18-47) are the people who will make our communities better places to live and lead businesses that will provide good jobs and valuable services.

This isn't just a field trip to Washington, D.C., it's a transformational experience that shows students the power of democracy and the importance of leadership.

For more information about the Youth Tour, call 800-776-0517 or find application details at [www.noblesce.coop/youth-tour](http://www.noblesce.coop/youth-tour).

*Cover photo: The 2018 Minnesota Youth Tour Delegation included Junior Kailee Haberman (second row, first on left). "This was a fantastic experience and I would go back in a heartbeat."*

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Marathon water heater

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Energy saving tip

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

## Mark your calendar

- Jan. 21 ... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 25 ..... Electric bills due
- Feb. 2 ..... Groundhog Day
- Feb. 14 ..... Happy Valentine's Day!



## Spot your location number in Current Matters

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



## A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

### New Year brings new opportunities

It's that time of year when many of us look at ourselves, our careers, farms and places of work to come up with a list of things we are going to change, improve or just do differently than we did last year. This is our chance to start fresh and it also brings new opportunities.

It's a bit like that at NCE too. We build on our previous experience and make improvements to better serve our members.

The cooperative has budgeted and planned projects for 2019. Some are larger projects and some smaller that will make for a better system for our members. In last month's newsletter, you read about the new substation being constructed near Lismore. This will be the focus (*10-34-67*) of our construction efforts, along with upgrading 24 miles of line. While keeping our distribution system in good working order is a top priority, we will also be building our communities through various educational, rural and economic development opportunities.

## Statement of nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible

Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

NCE is still seeing a number of new services being constructed. Many members are in their planning stages and have reached out to us, while some have not. We would like to emphasize you should contact us if you are planning a new construction project or upgrade. Let us know as soon as possible so we can put your project into our work plan.

As the new year begins, you may be looking at ways to save money. NCE is here to help. We have a variety of programs to save you both energy and money throughout the year.

Your cooperative continues working at bringing you the best electri-

cal system we can. We are always looking at ways to improve processes and programs to continue to give you great experiences in your interactions with NCE.

Personally, I'm hoping for a healthy summer so I can ride and race dirt bikes with my son. I've come to the realization he is now much faster than I am, but we are still both progressing and having fun, which is what it is all about.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you this past year. May the New Year bring joy, peace and happiness to you and your family!

## DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- 🚫 Never break a meter seal.**
- 🚫 Never open a meter base.**
- 🚫 Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.**

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

### December Auto Pay Winner: Donald Thier

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

## Meter Tampering Charge

Members often have electrical work performed at their home that requires a contractor to shut off power to your service. Please make sure that no one, including you, cuts your meter seal or removes your meter. Meter seals are there to ensure power is not misused and for your safety.

Meter tampering is dangerous. Anyone who breaks a seal and tampers with the meter exposes themselves to the risk of electrocution.

Our metering and outage management system can detect almost immediately when a meter goes off line. This is monitored every day and

when such an occurrence happens, we investigate the reason.

Without prior authorization, cutting the seal or removing a meter is considered unlawful, is hazardous and a service call will occur.

Anytime you are planning to have electrical work (3-4-12) done that will affect your meter seal, make a conscience effort to let NCE know your plans. Once your work is complete, you will need to call back so we can reseal the meter for you.

Your cooperative is committed to providing you safe and reliable electricity.

We are committed to improving the quality of our members' lives

Rebates are available to members of NCE for both residential and commercial applications. To download a form for submitting, be sure to visit [www.noblesce.coop/rebates](http://www.noblesce.coop/rebates). The cooperative has appliance, lighting, HVAC and agricultural rebates available, just to name a few.

## Directors and employees recognized for service



**Cindy Hokeness**  
Director  
5 Years



**Gary Sieve**  
Director  
15 Years



**David Clarke**  
Director  
20 Years



**Lee York**  
Director  
25 Years



**Kathy Johnson**  
Customer Service Rep  
40 Years



**Brian Postma**  
Line Superintendent  
40 Years

# Troubleshooting your Marathon® water heater

Have you ever turned on the shower in the morning and all you received was a blast of cold water. Not a very good start to your day. Thankfully, Marathon water heaters are one of the most durable electric water heaters ever made and you can count on them for years to come. If your water heater has been working and then suddenly begins to act up, there are a few things to consider:

1. Marathon water heaters have two elements and two thermostats, so don't immediately change them out without troubleshooting other potential causes first.
2. If you don't have any hot water at all, that can mean there is no power to the unit or the upper element has failed.
3. If you don't have much hot water as you did before, this can be an indicator that the lower element has failed. (13-23-6)
4. If your water is too hot, the common issue is the element could be shorted to ground or the thermostat is stuck on.

These scenarios cover most of the usual problems members call in and describe to us. It's easy to jump to the conclusion that its the control or the element should be changed out, right? Not necessarily! (508-37-16)

Before going through all the expense and hassle of draining the tank, replacing the element and then waiting to see if you've guessed correctly, first check both elements' resistance (ohms) with a multi-meter. A 4,500 watt element should have 12.2 to 13.4 ohms of resistance and a 3,800 watt element should have 14.6 to 15.8 ohms of resistance.

Turn off the power and if the element does not ohm out within the specification range, then it does need to be replaced.

Also check to make sure there isn't any continuity between the element and the tank ground. If there is, the element may be shorted to ground. Or even in some cases, the thermostat may be stuck on.

For more information on how you can purchase a \$300 (lifetime warranty tank) Marathon water heater from NCE, give us a call at 800-776-0517.



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507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

### Website

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

### E-mail address

[nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com)

### Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### 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\*  
David Clarke, Sec./Treas. - 425-2646\*  
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Jerry Beckering, Director - 442-8511\*  
Cindy Hokeness, Director - 478-4965\*  
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455\*  
\*Telephone prefix 507

### Next Board Meeting

February 22, 2019

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

## Country Cupboard

### Crock-Pot Rice

1 c. raw rice	2 c. milk
1 c. sugar	3 1/2 c. Half and Half

Mix in crock-pot. Cook 3 1/2 hours on high, stirring occasionally. Add shortly before serving: cinnamon to taste, 2 T. butter, 1 tsp. vanilla and raisins if desired. The rice mixture will stay soupy a long time, then it will thicken quickly.

Send your favorite recipe with **hamburger** 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 NCE location number. All entries must be received by January 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.

