



## Storm leaves Ellsworth in the dark for four days

It has been a “Minnesota spring” indeed! Instead of warming temperatures, we’ve seen colder than average temperatures, snow, blizzards, hurricane-like winds, thunderstorms and power outages.

According to the National Weather Service, on Friday, April 13 at 7:40 a.m. gusts in parts of Rock and Nobles counties surpassed 75 miles per hour dismantling about 90 Sioux Valley Energy transmission poles along Interstate 90. This caused several communities to be without power, including Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) members in the city of Ellsworth.

Multiple crews and cooperatives worked to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. Those that helped included Nobles Cooperative Electric, Sioux Valley Energy, Redwood Electric Cooperative, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, East River Electric and Karian Peterson Construction.

This storm delivered quite a blow

to parts of our area. Linemen worked through treacherous conditions to bring power back to members. The cooperative spirit could also be felt in the small community of Ellsworth. The Ellsworth Fire Department went door to door to check on the 460 residents and made sure they were aware they would be without power until the transmission lines were rebuilt. Many arrangements were made to accommodate (26-19-42) the elderly members who could not tolerate the cold temperatures. Some were relocated to the Parkview Manor Nursing Home, which was the designation for the elderly. Others went out of town to stay with relatives.

After about 80 hours of darkness and about 90 transmission poles replaced, Ellsworth had power.

Even though this winter has been a trying time for both linemen and members, this collective effort has given our communities the opportunity to let the cooperative spirit shine.

## Energy saving tip

**Laundry Tip:** Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

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

## Mark your calendar

**May 25..... Electric bills due**

**May 28..... Memorial Day**

Our office will be closed. Linemen will be on call for outages.

**June 17 ..... Happy Father'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.



Cover photo: Downed transmission lines on the I-90 overpass near Magnolia that feeds the city of Ellsworth. An April 13 storm blew through the area leaving about 90 poles in its wake. Photo courtesy of Rock County Star Herald.

**2** Manager's message

**3** Fulda Fire Department receives \$10,000 grant

**4** 2018 Youth Tour Winners announced



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

### 2018 Annual Meeting

I would like to thank the members that came to our annual meeting in Fulda on April 5. We tried something a little different this year by having it on an evening during the week. It was a success! The Fulda gym was full of members participating in elections, learning about cooperative services and using the open floor to ask questions and express their thoughts. The annual meeting is a great example of what makes a cooperative different and better than other utility business models.

### Power outage felt in Ellsworth

Crews braved the storm and did all they could to repair the outages, while assisting Sioux Valley Energy in the clean up from the straight line winds that were experienced. These winds took out 90 transmission poles that feed the city of Ellsworth.

The large size of the transmission poles didn't allow NCE to help in all of the restoration effort. However, we were kept informed of the progress and did our best to pass on all relevant updates to the members as

## Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay You may win a \$25 bill credit



**Dean Lanners**  
April Winner

Take a minute to **sign up for Auto Pay**. You could win a **\$25 credit** on your NCE bill.

Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in our monthly contest. **The Auto Pay promotion will run all year**. Each month a winner will be randomly selected to receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill.

There is no fee to sign up for Auto Pay. By enrolling, you choose to conveniently have your bill payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. This eliminates mailing payments and helps avoid late payments. Whether you're home or away, this service keeps your payments on time. No fees. No checks. No postage.

Visit our website ([www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)), go to "Quick Links" and click on "Auto Pay Sign Up Form." You may also sign up by calling our office at 800-776-0517. Join now to be eligible for our Auto Pay drawing.

the transmission crews worked day and night to restore power to Ellsworth. While we could not have predicted something of this (539-41-120) scale happening, last year we began construction on a second line to power the city from the north. This project will continue, along with a line constructed from the west allowing us multiple options of backfeeding in the near future.

I want to thank our member-owners for their patience (26-9-28) and understanding following the April snowstorm, particularly the city of Ellsworth.

### Spring planting

The calendar says it should be time for members to get in the fields

and begin planting, while NCE begins our construction work plan. I'm hoping we can go right from this extended winter season into late spring weather and get the wheels of progress moving forward. Have a safe spring and planting season!





NCE's General Manager Adam Tromblay (left) and Board President Ron Schwartau (right) presented a \$10,000 check to volunteers from the Fulda Fire Department.

## NCE and CoBank award “Sharing Success” Grant to the Fulda Fire Department

NCE is pleased to announce the Fulda Fire Department in Fulda as the recipient of this year’s NCE/Co-Bank “Sharing Success” Grant.

The Fulda Fire Department has been awarded two checks totaling \$10,000 – \$5,000 from NCE and \$5,000 from CoBank – to help purchase extracting equipment.

“Concern for community and cooperation among cooperatives are longstanding cooperative principles. Throughout rural America, cooperatives are working not only to provide value to their members but to improve the quality of life in their communities. We’re delighted to be able to support an area volunteer fire department through CoBank’s grant program. The people that make up these departments volunteer their time to respond to fires and other emergencies, and we are proud of the work they do in the rural communities that we mutually serve,” said Adam Tromblay, NCE’s general manager.

The annual “Sharing Success” grant opportunity, capped at \$10,000, is made possible by NCE, in partner-

ship with CoBank – a national non-profit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it serves. CoBank established a \$3 million fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. CoBank states that partnering with their customers to support worthy causes they care about is a great way for them to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

“Thanks to our (13-4-59) board of directors and CoBank, the “Sharing Success” Grant has enabled NCE to give back to the communities we serve,” Tromblay stated.

This is the second year NCE has awarded a “Sharing Success” grant to a local nonprofit. Applicants must be federally recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

NCE believes in commitment to community. We provide electric service to 6,700 members in Murray and Nobles counties.

## Member Corner

### Answers to questions from our members

#### *What is the difference between a kWh and kW?*

Think of electricity like a car. The odometer measures distance traveled, much like kilowatt-hours (kWh) measures energy used. The speedometer measures the maximum speed the car can travel, much like demand (kilowatt or kW) measures the maximum amount of energy used at one time. The car’s motor is built for the maximum speed, regardless of how many miles it may travel. The same applies to electric systems.

NCE has to build the electric distribution system to accommodate the maximum amount of electricity needed, even if the members do not use the maximum capacity.



#### *What can I do to reduce my demand?*

Depending on your operation, there may be several ways you can adjust your demand on the electric system. Ask yourself these questions: Does all of your equipment need to be running at the same time? What energy efficiency improvements can be made?



The winners of the 2018 Youth Tour are Tristan Thier, Betty Herrera, Matthias Kunerth, Kailee Haberman and Massen Kunerth.

## NCE announces 2018 Youth Tour Winners

Kailee Haberman, a sophomore from Heron Lake-Okabena High School, has been selected to represent NCE at the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 9-14. She will be representing NCE among 1,700 high school students from cooperatives across the country.

The second place winner selected was Matthias Kunerth, who attends Fulda High School as a senior. He won a \$500 scholarship. Massen Kunerth, a sophomore at Fulda High School, received third place and \$150. The fourth place winner was Tristan Thier, a sophomore at Adrian High School. He

received \$100. Betty Herrera, a freshman at Worthington High School, was another finalist.

The Youth Tour is open to all high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors that live or go to school in NCE's service area. Those that apply participate in the contest by filling out an application and writing an essay. A panel of judges review each submitted application and essay. They choose the finalists, interview them and determine which finalist wins the trip of a lifetime.

NCE sponsors this program to identify and encourage future leaders in (516-37-110) our community.

### Country Cupboard Fruit Salad

- 1 can peach pie filling
- 1 can pineapple chunks, drained
- 2 c. green grapes, whole or halved

Mix together and let set overnight. May add more or less of any of the fruit.

### 5 Cup Fruit Salad

- 1 - 11 oz. can mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 - 8 oz. can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 c. shredded coconut

Combine all ingredients, cover and refrigerate over night. Yields 6-8 servings.

Send your favorite recipe with **chicken** 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 May 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.

**Vonnie Rutgers**  
Brewster


- 2 c. fresh strawberries, whole or halved
- 3 bananas, sliced

**Shirley Lewis**  
Fulda

- 1 c. miniature marshmallows
- 1 c. sour cream



**Nobles Cooperative  
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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### Next Board Meeting

May 25, 2018

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

