

# Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2020  
Vol. 12 Issue 5



## NCE's Annual Meeting will be held remotely

In response to growing concerns over the rapid spread of COVID-19 and for the health and safety of its members, Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) is offering an alternate option to its traditional annual meeting format this year. The annual meeting was previously scheduled for April 6 at the Memorial Auditorium in Worthington. The new format will be the cooperative's first-ever "conference call" style annual meeting.

Since an in-person meeting could not be hosted, voting for this year's director election will be conducted via mail ballot only. **Please watch the mail for your ballot package and follow the instructions.**

"We wish we would have been able to hold the annual meeting in person, but that just isn't possible. We look forward to next year when we're able to meet in person," stated General Manager Adam

Tromblay.

NCE's 2020 Annual Meeting details can be found online at <https://noblesce.coop/2020-annual-meeting-conference-call-remote-only>. Members can also view the board candidate profiles on our YouTube channel.

While the in-person annual meeting was cancelled, a conference call only meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 starting at 7 p.m. Again, this will be a remote-only, business-only, conference call meeting. All special guests, speakers and gifts will be eliminated from the meeting. Member-owners wishing to participate in the annual meeting can use their phones, dial into the conference call and listen to the results of the election. Conference call information is listed below and will also be included with your balloting information and on our website.

**CONFERENCE CALL**  
**Wednesday, June 10**  
**at 7 p.m.**



### NCE's Annual Meeting

Toll Free Dial-In Number: (833) 643-9163

### Joining the conference call:

1. Prior to the conference call start time, dial in using the dial-in number provided.
2. Please wait for the conference call to begin.

## Energy saving tip

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

## Mark your calendar

May 25 ..... Electric bills due  
Memorial Day

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

# SAFETY FIRST!



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

America's Electric Cooperatives are on a quest for safety excellence.

## 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.



We are all in this together



The cooperative is only a call away



ORU scholarship winners



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

## We will get through this together

I hope you and your family are safe and able to find some peace through these unprecedented times.

As I write this column, I am listening to Governor Walz extend Minnesota's stay-at-home order. Hopefully, these changes and more will allow our businesses to start to open so we can get back to a "new normal."

No other event in our lifetime has affected every single person and every single business like this pandemic. While it's been wonderful to see the farmers working in almost ideal weather conditions, I feel for the members raising animals. I hope for a solution that will be effective and lasting for our grain and livestock farmers.

The office was closed to the public on March 16 for the health and well-being of our members and employees. We are thankful for your understanding. Although we would rather interact with you on a personal level, we look forward to when we can do

that again. We have some inside employees working from home, while also splitting the remaining billing and accounting departments on a two group rotation. This is an effort to keep the cooperative operating if someone was quarantined due to COVID-19. The team that was affected would remain quarantined, while the other team would step in and keep the cooperative operating.

Our Murray and Nobles County line crews are also no longer interacting with each other or our members.

Rest assured our power suppliers are going to very extensive lengths to assure power will continue to flow. I cannot foresee a scenario in which our power supply would be disrupted for any length of time.

At the April Board Meeting, the board made the decision to move our previously postponed annual meeting to a teleconference. Watch the mail for your ballot package. I hope you take the time to fill out your ballot and take part in the democratic process of electing directors who guide

your cooperative into the future. You can get to know the candidates running for the board on our YouTube channel. The meeting will be abbreviated from our standard meeting, but we will be answering questions. To submit a question, please email [nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com). It will be answered on the call or you can expect a prompt response from a director or staff member.

The cooperative knows there are many people struggling through the pandemic. If you are struggling with your bill, we ask you to communicate with us so we can work on a plan together.

We all have made adjustments to get through these uncertain times and have done what we had to do to make it work. The ability to adjust helps us and makes us undoubtedly stronger. The cooperative is no different. The global COVID-19 pandemic has forced us out of our comfort zone but together we can get through this. We are all in this together.

## Rescheduled Nobles Cooperative Electric NOTICE of Annual Meeting for Members

The annual meeting for Nobles Cooperative Electric members will be held via conference call on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 7 p.m. to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers.
2. The election of two directors and three nominating committee members of the cooperative.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting, or any adjournment, or adjournments thereof.

Voting will only be done by mail ballot. Please watch the mail for your ballot package.

Cindy M. Hokeness, Secretary  
Dated: April 24, 2020



Get to know your director candidates even more on NCE's YouTube Channel.

## Let's talk—we are only one call away

The energy industry is undergoing rapid change, and technology is paving the way for innovation in the way energy is used, produced, stored and shared. Consumers are interested in more green energy alternatives while smart homes and apps make managing energy use and paying your electric bill more convenient than ever.

While the changing energy market has created more options for consumers, it has also resulted in more utility scams and misleading information surrounding solar installations in particular. That's because of two factors.

Utility scams are common because of the vast number of utilities that exist, and consumers are understandably anxious with the threat of disruption to their electric, heating or water service. Second, new products and services in the energy industry provide an opening for scammers and pop-up companies to provide misleading information or shoddy products and services.

### **Avoid Phone Scams**

A common phone scam typically begins with a phone number that appears to be from a valid utility company. The scammer will claim you have a past due account and threaten to disconnect service or take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within a very short, urgent time frame to pay the "past due" amount.

You can combat this scam by be-

ing aware of the status of your account. Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you have a question or concern about your energy bill, call us directly at 800-776-0517. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer.

### **Avoid Solar Scams**

Another scam we see from time to time is connected to solar. Homeowners with solar may receive a sales call offering an accessory, upgrade or extended warranty to their solar array. The calls could be from crooks claiming to represent a solar company, promising to replace faulty or broken parts or improve efficiency. Again, if you are not expecting the call, don't be fooled. These calls offering misleading information are likely a scam. Call the company that installed the solar array if you think there may be a problem. Other than occasional cleaning, solar (if installed correctly) is virtually maintenance-free.

### **Use Trusted Sources**

If you're considering solar for your home, make sure you are working with a reputable company. Because this is still an emerging industry with evolving technology, there has been a proliferation of pop-up companies in the market to make a

quick buck. Representatives of solar companies may have more sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

In this ever-changing environment, it's important to remember you have a trusted energy advisor – your local electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members.

Remember, we're just one call or click away, so please reach out with any questions about your electric service or bills – we're here to help.



**May Auto Pay winner:**  
Gary Hogan

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

# Operation Round Up scholarship recipients

The 2020 Operation Round Up scholarship recipients are: Chloe Bents (Worthington High School), Naomi Berglund (Murray County Central High School), Emmett Bickett (Worthington High School), Brooke Engbarth (Murray County Central High School), Danielle Hoekman (Southwest Christian High School), Carly



Holland (Tracy Area High School), Blake Madison (Adrian High School) and Noah Reyne (Adrian High School). Each scholarship winner receives \$650 after completing one semester of higher education. Congratulations to all 2020 Seniors!



*A dangerous situation can occur if a generator outlet is plugged directly into a wall outlet. This is called "back-feeding" and can create a serious electrocution hazard. This poses a serious threat to utility line workers trying to restore power in your area. If you are unsure about setting up a generator safely, contact a licensed electrician and they can easily and safely set one up for you.*

## Country Cupboard Three Layer Rhubarb Bars

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13" pan.

Combine: 1 3/4 c. flour, 2 T. sugar, 3/4 c. butter and 2 egg yolks

Press well into the greased pan and bake for 10 minutes.

Second layer: Combine 2 beaten egg yolks, 1 3/4 c. sugar, 5 T. flour and 4 c. finely cut rhubarb. Pour over first layer.

Third layer: Whip 4 egg whites with a pinch of salt. Gradually add 3/4 c. sugar, beating until very stiff. Blend in 1/2 c. chopped pecans. Pour over second layer.

Bake 30 minutes. Cut into squares to serve.

**Linda Beerman**  
Iona

## Frito Bars

1 pkg. Fritos (9 3/4 oz.)

1 c. sugar

1 c. light corn syrup

1 1/4 c. peanut butter

1/2 pkg. chocolate chips

1/2 pkg. butterscotch chips

Spray 9 x 13" pan with cooking spray. Put Fritos on bottom of pan. Cook sugar and corn syrup until it comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Pour mixture over Fritos. Sprinkle chocolate and butterscotch chips over the top. Pat down lightly. Cool and cut into squares. These are gluten free.

**Sue Davis**  
Cannon Falls

Send your favorite recipe with **potatoes** 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.



**Nobles Cooperative  
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Official monthly publication

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507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

### Website

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

### Email address

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

### Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
May 1 - September 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  
Adam Feste - 507-690-2741

### General Manager

Adam Tromblay

### Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052\*  
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497\*  
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965\*  
Bruce Barber, Director - 329-2991\*  
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074\*  
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903  
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455\*  
*\*Telephone prefix 507*

### Next Board Meeting

May 21, 2020

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

