



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric



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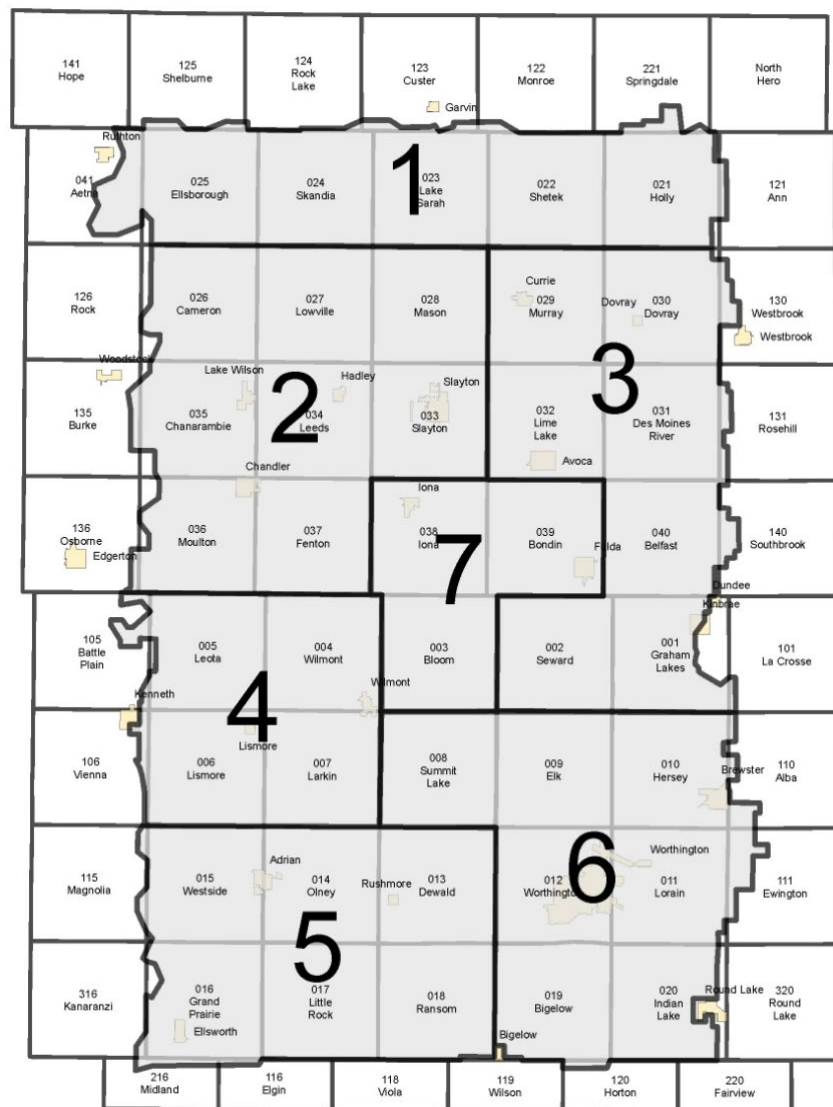
Safety. Teamwork. Accountability. Responsiveness. Transparency.

# **Nominating Committee Candidate Packet**

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## NCE's District Map



## **The story of rural electrification in Murray and Nobles counties**

Never underestimate the ability of a few men to change the pattern of life in a farming area.

Such was the case back in 1935 when rural electrification for Nobles and Murray counties was only a dream in the minds of a few progressive men in those two counties. It was still the era of kerosene lamps and lanterns. Refrigerators, running water in the kitchen and bathroom, electric lights in the house and barn — these were luxuries which only a small percentage of farm families were enjoying.

Then came 1935, an exciting year for it saw the preliminary plans being drawn up for what today is a prosperous and flourishing cooperative serving approximately 6,700 members. For months, the men responsible for introducing rural electricity met to lay the foundation for a new kind of cooperative undertaking. It was a new and dramatically different concept for a cooperative organization and the jeers and laughter of skeptics could be heard. There always will be those who deride the efforts of dedicated men to change the old order of life.

At the time, the drive to get an electric cooperative was taking place, Jay H. Seymour, who became the first manager of the cooperative, was stationed in Worthington as the emergency county agent. He became interested in the possibility of organizing an electric cooperative in Nobles County and began talking to key farmers throughout the county.

As Mr. Seymour kept urging the formation of an electric cooperative, his friends became infected with his enthusiasm. Tentative meetings were held throughout Nobles County to discuss formation of the electric system. By spring, it was apparent there was enough interest in the proposed cooperative to warrant calling a general meeting in Worthington on May 6, 1936. This meeting was well attended, and a skeleton organization was set up and a slate of directors chosen to represent every township in the county.

June 2, 1936, is an important date in the history of this rural electric system for it found the articles and bylaws being adopted and a name selected. The meeting had been arranged through the Nobles County Extension Service office.

In the meantime, farm leaders had not been idle over in neighboring Murray County. The Ellsborough Township Farm Bureau unit, working in cooperation with County Agent C. H. Schrader, did a survey of Ellsborough Township in the fall of 1935. This was a farm-to-farm canvass to determine sentiment regarding rural electrification. The survey indicated people in this township were intensely interested in securing electric service.

The Slayton unit of the Farm Bureau was the second one in Murray County to display interest in rural electrification. In 1936, the Slayton unit conducted a systematic survey which showed most farmers were very much interested in information of a rural electric system. Speakers were secured to explain the REA act at meetings of the Slayton unit.

The consolidation took place January 15, 1937. It banded the two groups into a single system and was the basis of a compact, well-integrated cooperative which has become one of the most successful enterprises in the history of the two counties.

## **Vision, Mission and Values Statements**

### **Vision**

Committed to improving the quality of our members' lives.

### **Mission**

To distribute energy and services to benefit members and to be valued by our communities.

### **Values**

**S**afety: We work safely for our members and our families

**T**eamwork: Our employees make the difference

**A**ccountability: All members have a voice and we answer to you

**R**esponsiveness: Deliver positive and innovative solutions

**T**ransparency: Practice open and honest communication

# **The Seven Cooperative Principles**

The power of seven! The roots of modern cooperatives stretch back more than 150 years. The cooperative principles and guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

## **Voluntary and Open Membership**

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## **Democratic Member Control**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

## **Members' Economic Participation**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all the following purposes: developing the cooperative, by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

## **Autonomy and Independence**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

## **Education, Training and Information**

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

## **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## **Concern for Community**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Nominating Committee Overview

**Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of seven (7) members of this Cooperative. One member of said committee shall reside in each district. No director nor any officer nor any employee of this Cooperative shall be a member of said committee.

After the three (3) year term of each nominator expires, a successor for each nominator shall be elected for a three (3) year term at the annual meeting of the members held in the year in which said nominator's term expires. Four (4) members of the Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Any vacancies on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and said successor nominator shall serve until the next annual meeting or until a successor nominator shall have been elected.

**Term:** Regular terms are three years at a time.

### **Time requirement:**

#### **Meetings**

Regular meetings

#### **Days**

2

### **Compensation:**

Regular fee

\$250

Mileage

IRS Rate