



RINGER

AUGUST 2023

photo by Jill Perdue



Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2023 NCC Annual Meeting of members was held at NCC in Ray on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. A delicious picnic style meal was served by the NCC employees to over 325 people at the NCC warehouse. Prior to the business meeting, DMJ, a mother-daughter duo from Williston entertained the crowd. About 39 children enjoyed the kids' activities, including inflatables and the Kidz Korner where kids were able to try out some Virtual Reality Goggles. Members were encouraged to visit the demonstration booths including a Virtual Reality Experience, myNCC Connect App, a 3D printer, SmartHub and new this year was a touch a truck type demo of the Ditch Witch equipment used at NCC.

The business meeting was called to order by President AJ Cvancara at 6:00PM. Jennifer Gjovig, Legal Counsel reported on By-laws changes. Jen Bingeman reported on the co-op's audited financial state at the end of 2022. NCC had a strong year financially generating a net margin of just under \$4 million. Two directors, AJ Cvancara, District #3 representing Alamo, McGregor, Noonan and Wildrose and Jim Simonson, District #7 for Crosby were re-elected to a three year term to the Board of Directors. General Manager/CEO, Jeremy Becker stated that 'connectivity is a necessity' and again mentioned that NCC continues to see the demand for Internet climb as the applications and uses for it continue to multiply. Broadband usage has increased by 180% from 2017 to date with 89% of the network traffic consisting of streaming video and social media applications. Becker welcomed the Portal exchange into the cooperative and mentioned that plans for construction are set to tentatively begin this Fall with cutovers in the members' homes in 2024. He was happy to announce that the NCC Board of Directors approved a \$1.5 million general retirement for 2023. Members having done business with NCC in 1996, 1997 and/or 2022 will see a check in the mail sometime in the August timeframe.

Many prizes were given away throughout the meeting. The grand prize of \$500 cash was won by Gary Reinholdt of Epping. Kids grand prizes of a Hoverboard and Playstation 5 were Mylee Dosch of Powers Lake and Briggs Vejtasa from Tioga. A full list of prize winners is published on the NCC Facebook page, and can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



NCC Employees served 325 meals.



Playstation 5 winner
Kate Vejtasa & Briggs Vejtasa



Hoverboard winner
Mylee Dosch



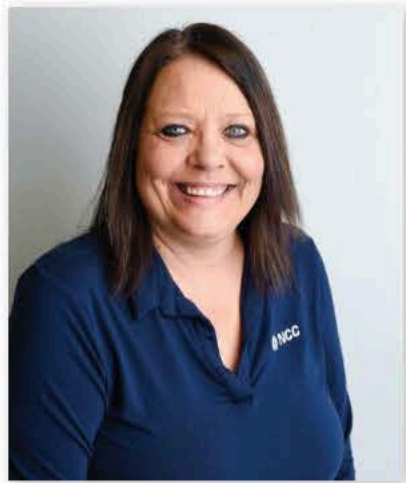
Gary Reinholdt won the \$500



Lovera Dosch won
the 4D SmartTV



Jeff Robillard
with
Mila Weflen
at the 3D
printing booth.



Sheri Torgerson

Please join us in celebrating the retirement of employee, Sheri Torgerson a Customer Experience Representative. An Open House was held in her honor on June 30th. We wish you the best in the future, and have enjoyed the 29 years you've spent with us at NCC! Congratulate Sheri if you see her around!

We welcome Carrie Pederson as the new Customer Experience Representative, who started at NCC on June 1st. She has held positions in the agriculture industry after graduating from NDSU with a Master of Science. She lives on a farm near Ray with her family and enjoys golfing, farming and watching movies. Carrie said that she has enjoyed working at NCC because every day is different and the NCC family has been incredibly welcoming and great to work with. Welcome Carrie!



Carrie Pederson

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

– ADULT WINNERS –

• \$50 Cash from NCC:

Roger & Marilyn Baker – Ray
Ronald Laqua – Grenora
Harold & Ione Schmidt – Tioga
Corey Johnson – Williston
Helene Beard – Powers Lake
Bill & Elizabeth Suhr – Ray
Robert & Faye Sundin – Bowbells
Cecile Wehrman – Crosby

• \$50 Gift card, sponsored by vendor, CNE:

Gary Skogen – Epping
Bruce & Kathy Brogger – Williston
Richard Pressnall – Tioga
Oliver & Arlys Sovik – Alamo
Jeff Moberg – Tioga
David & Colleen Bergstrom – Ray

• \$25 Gift card, mug, towel sponsored by BAND:

Donna Mae Dragseth – Alamo

• Grand Prize \$500 Cash:

Gary Reinholdt – Epping

• Grand Prize Ring Video Doorbell:

Gene Olson – Crosby

• Grand Prize 4D SmartTV:

Lovera Dosch – Powers Lake

– KIDS' WINNERS –

• Phase 10 & Monopoly Deal Card Games:

Bristol Hill - Tioga

• Hover Soccer:

Skylar Haggin - Ray

• Simon Electronic Memory Game:

Harper Preble - Powers Lake

• Shark Bite Game:

Ryker Mattox - Ray

• Vtech Zoo Jamz Tiger Rock Guitar:

Cora Moberg - Powers Lake

• UNO Attack Card Game:

Conrad Kupper - Ray

• Vtech Pop-a-Balls Bulldozer:

Rowan Davis - Ray

• Vtech KidiGo NexTag Electronic Game System:

Ivory Vejtasa - Tioga

• Crayola Ultimate Light Board

• Drawing Tablet:

Emree Heier - Ray

• furReal North the Sabertooth Kitty:

Gracie Burchill - Wildrose

• LOL Surprise Remix Boombox:

Nolyn Mattox - Ray

• Vtech KidiZoom Camera Pix Plus:

Lucy Davis - Ray

• Gotrax Edge Hoverboard:

Mylee Dosch - Powers Lake

• Sony PlayStation 5:

Briggs Vejtasa - Tioga



Notice About Your Account

Federal law allows us to use information from your current records to market and advise you of new products and services that may satisfy your communications needs, unless you notify us otherwise.

What is this "information?" It is information called "Customer Proprietary Network Information" or "CPNI" - relating to telecommunications services you receive from NCC.

How can we use this information?

This information can be used to advise you about innovative communications services or new communications technology and products offered by NCC. We DO NOT sell or in any way provide this information to any other company other than the 911 records we are required by law to provide if you are a telephone customer.

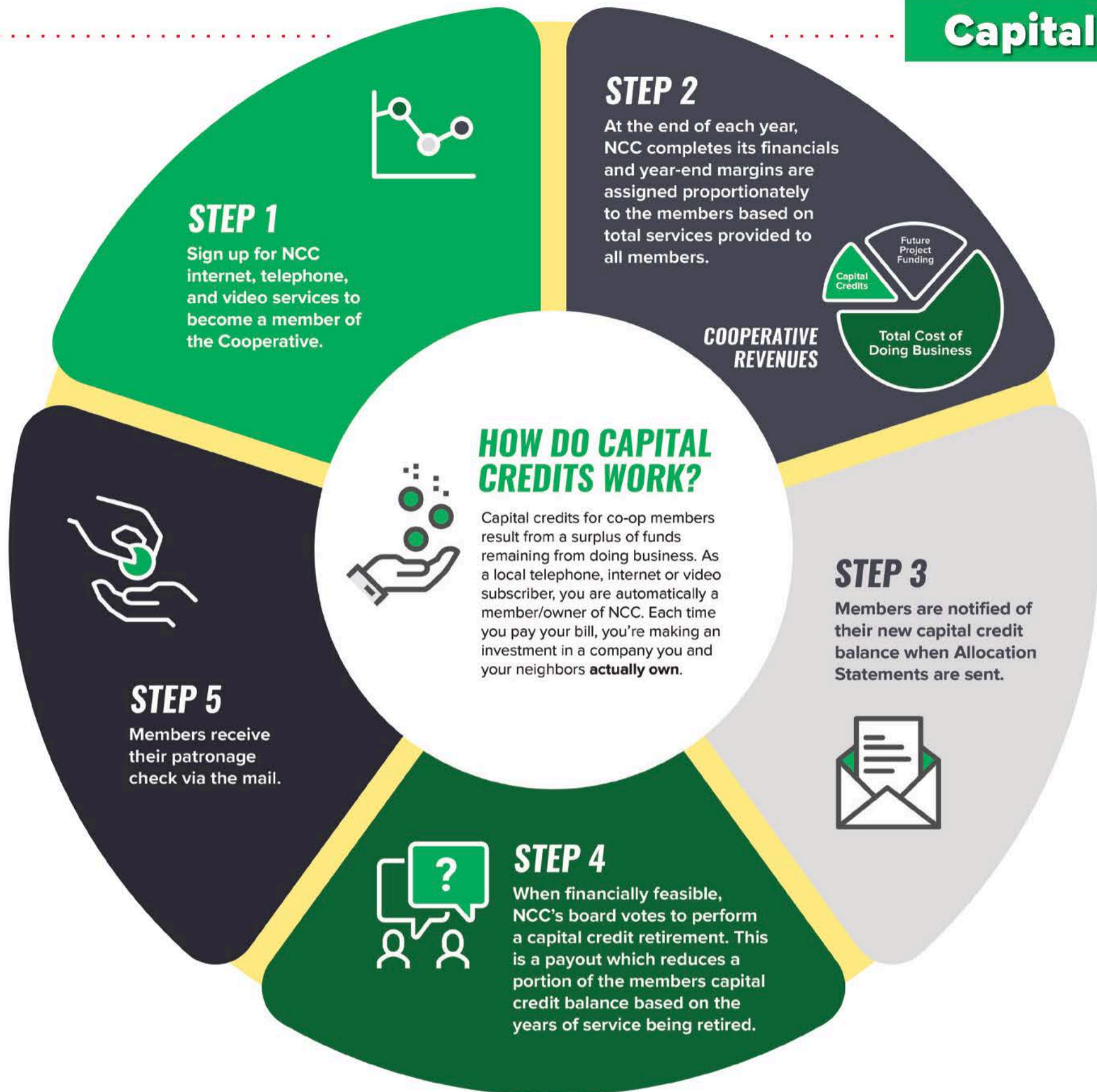
Who will be able to use this information? ONLY Northwest Communications Cooperative and the subsidiary companies of NCC can use this information.

Will NCC protect my information?

YES! You have the right, and we have the duty, under federal law, to protect the confidentiality of this information. Therefore, regardless of whether you consent or not, to allowing us to continue providing you with educational mailings, your account will be treated confidentially.

What action is necessary on my part to show consent? No action on your part is necessary. If you do not contact us within 30 days and indicate that we may not continue providing you with marketing and educational mailings, we will continue to do so.

What if I do not consent? You can contact us at 701-568-3331 or email ncc@nccray.com. You will not receive company information from us at that point. You may miss the opportunity to learn of new, innovative service proposals, new packaging that could reduce your monthly bill and other information that keeps you informed of NCC happenings.



Being a Member Pays! NCC to disburse \$1.5 million in capital credit dividends this summer.

We are excited to announce that as a cooperative member-owner, you could be receiving a dividend check as a part of our capital credits program!

THE COOPERATIVE BENEFIT As a member-owned cooperative, the credits represent each member's ownership of NCC. Capital credits are the margins credited or allocated annually by the NCC Board of Directors to the members of the cooperative based on their purchases from the cooperative the previous year. These margins are used by the cooperative as capital to operate the business for a period of time. Based on the financial condition of the cooperative, any excess is returned to the members in the form of capital credit dividends.

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY OF DIVIDENDS The \$1.5 million retirement will be distributed to members doing business with the cooperative in the years of 1996, 1997 and/or 2022. Both longstanding and new members will receive a check to be sent out in the August timeframe. Please make sure the address on file with us is current and report any changes to NCC at 701-568-3331.

Check out the 'Benefits of Being a Cooperative Member' video for a detailed explanation on how Capital Credits work. Visit nccray.com/capital-credits.

2023 Grant Deadlines

As a cooperative, we have a concern for community. In 2022, NCC donated nearly \$70,000 back to the communities we serve, in the form of donations, sponsorships, and scholarships. And as a cooperative, we share our financial success with our members. We are excited to again offer the following grant opportunities:

✓ **Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) Grant:**

NCC and the other Rural ILECs in ND are given \$3,000 to distribute to community owned entities, non-profits and other community-based projects. The minimum grant amount is \$500; the maximum is \$3,000.

Applications due October 13, 2023.

About RDFC: RDFC is a non-profit corporation owned by North Dakota's electric and telecommunications cooperatives. NCC is a member of RDFC. RDFC's mission is to promote rural economic development, primarily focusing on creating new jobs and enhancing essential community services and facilities by providing affordable financing. They have larger loan programs that fund community-based projects and non-profit entities with low interest loans. For more information about RDFC, you can visit: www.ndarec.com/content/rdfc-rural-development-finance-corporation

✓ **Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Grant:**

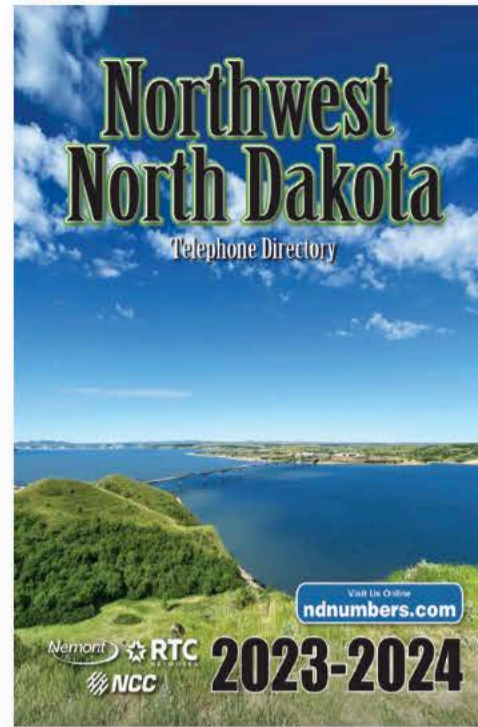
This program supports projects in these categories: Business and Economic Development, Community Development, Education and Telecommunications. The Community Grant program awards grants up to \$5,000 for nonprofit organizations and must be submitted by NCC on behalf of the organization.

Application due to NCC by August 29, 2023.

If you belong to an organization that might benefit from any of these Grant opportunities, please find more information and applications on our website at www.nccray.com/grants, or email angelas@nccray.com to request an application. Deadlines are approaching fast, so check them out today!

About FRS: The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) was established in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association and plays a unique role within the telecommunications industry by supporting rural telecom companies, consumers and policymakers with educational information, products and programming.

New Telephone Directories



If you subscribe to Telephone service from NCC, you should have received your free copy of the new Northwest ND Telephone Directory in the mail. Additional copies will be available at area financial institutions in the NCC service area. Please check your listing and contact Angie at NCC at 568-3331 with any changes, so that they can be made for the 2024-2025 print directory.

You can also visit NCC's Online Telephone Directory. You can find the link on our website www.nccray.com. The online directory is updated regularly for new listings which might not be in the printed directory, since it's updated once per year.

Important Notes

- **Photo Contest deadline is October 1st.** We are looking for photos from our area to include in the 2024 NCC Calendar. Send your high resolution pictures by email to ncc@nccray.com Subject: Photo Contest, or by mail to NCC, ATTN: Photo Contest, PO Box 38, Ray ND 58849.
- **NCC will be closed on Monday, September 4th** in observance of Labor Day. After hours support will be handling any troubleshooting calls and can be reached by calling our office number at 568-3331. Employees are on call for any emergency outages.

Dial 811 before
doing any digging. It's the law!



**NCC is Your Local Provider of
Internet, Telephone, TV and Security
Monitoring and Surveillance Services!**



Report Trouble: 611
Email: ncc@nccray.com
Website: www.nccray.com
Phone: 701-568-3331 or 800-245-5884
Directory Assistance: 411
Call Before You Dig: 811
Newsletter Editor: Angela Schepp
Design: lori@leutzgraphics.com

Summer Hours: M-F 8am to 4:30pm
NCC Message Center will take calls outside of these hours.

**Make a payment anytime by using
Secure Pay 1-888-816-8068
or SmartHub www.nccray.com
or download the app**