

**CONTACT US**

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**24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE**

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**WEBSITE**

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**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**

300 Weber Road  
Albion, IN 46701

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 137, Albion, IN 46701

**EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGES**

To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rick Robertson, *Chairman*  
Doug Burnworth, *Vice Chairman*  
Bill Knox, *Treasurer*  
Andy Strack, *Secretary*  
George Bennett  
Mark Demske  
Joe Hutsell  
Larry Ott  
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Sarah Dreibelbis,  
*Office Manager*  
Doug Dickmeyer,  
*Manager of Engineering & Operations*  
Kevin Dreibelbis,  
*Communications & Marketing Manager*  
Adam Chitwood,  
*Manager of Finance & Accounting*

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

One of the pillars Noble REMC prides itself on is providing excellent service to our members. To make sure we're doing all we can, we recently began sending follow-up surveys through text messaging to members we interact with, asking for your feedback. So don't be surprised if you hear a notification on your phone after speaking with one of our member services representatives, linemen or engineers out in the field!

## CO-OP PROGRAMS HELP YOU DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON — AND BEYOND



"The holidays." I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and

nostalgia, recalling family gatherings and traditions.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Noble REMC, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our members, because we're part of the same community.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, our mobile app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. It also allows you to receive outage and restoration notifications in real time.

We also offer energy efficiency programs to save you money and energy. Give our energy advisor a call to learn about our Power Moves rebate program and other opportunities to save now and in the future.

Our Operation Round Up grant program helps our community and residents' quality of life by supporting local nonprofit organizations. Through members' generous donations over the last 19 years, we've been able to give more than \$850,000 to those in need.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future.

In our area, we're seeing increased interest in renewable energy sources. Noble REMC and our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, have been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables. This allows our members access to renewable energy at an affordable price, without the large investment in installation and maintenance at your home. (Learn more on page 7.)

You may have noticed our all-electric Mustang Mach-E around town. We invested in an electric vehicle (EV) to promote greater understanding and use of EVs, especially when it comes to fuel and maintenance savings, given the focus on electrification of the transportation sector.

But one of our most important investments is in our local youth. Noble REMC supports schools, youth clubs and programs. This includes providing three \$1,000 in scholarships for local students each year and our annual camping trip for selected seventh graders, now named Camp Kilowatt. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send two high school juniors to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you — the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Noble REMC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.

### RON RAYPOLE

President/CEO

# YOUR CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

## MORE THAN \$700,000 GIVEN BACK TO MEMBERS

A little extra cash in your pocket is never a bad thing, especially around the holiday season.

As Noble REMC does each year to give back to the people who built us – you! – we’re once again returning our excess revenue to you, the members we serve.

This cash back is given over time, with disbursements benefiting members from as far back as 30 years ago to as recent as last year. The years and amounts are decided by the board of directors – members elected by you – each year.

This year, those receiving cash back include members from the

years 1991, 1992, 2003, 2004 and 2020. With the retirement of funds totaling \$718,080.47, the amount each member receives is based on how much power the member used in those years.

So, how will you receive your cash back?

- Current members will receive a check for the amount allocated to them.
- But as many of you know, processing printed checks can become costly. For this reason, members will only receive a check if the amount is \$10 or more.

- If you don't reach that \$10 threshold, don't worry. Your patronage capital will accumulate over time and be returned when the balance reaches at least \$10.



While a nice bonus in your pocket, what's more important is that this cash back shows Noble REMC's strength and financial stability, as well as serves as a reminder that you hold us accountable.

We don't answer to shareholders; we serve you, our members.

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## Welcome Justin Fry to the REMC team

Noble REMC wouldn't be successful without the hard work of our employees, and we were fortunate to recently welcome a new face to our team!



**JUSTIN FRY** joined our operations department in August as its newest journeyman lineman. He comes to the co-op with experience as a lineman for

Auburn Electric, where he got his foot in the door by his work in helping to build the fiber network in the city.

Fry made the transition to the REMC when he learned what sets us apart from other utilities.

"The structure of the co-ops is what attracted me to Noble REMC — the idea of networking between the cooperatives," Fry said. "The idea of serving members and supporting other co-ops is appealing to me."

He said he's looking forward to being a supportive lineman to the rest of the department, and he's eager to provide reliable service to you, our members.

When he's not working, Fry loves spending time with his wife, Ashley, and children — Riley, Cooper and Lauren — at his home in Avilla ... and, of course, any spare time he can find is spent with a fishing pole in hand.

# REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Times are changing, and Noble REMC is changing with them.

Recent improvements and evolution in technology has led to a surge of discussions on the benefits of renewable energy and decarbonization.

Plans are being made across the globe to go green, and our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, recently announced its own proposal to reduce its carbon footprint – and by extension, yours.

By 2050, WVPA aims to reach net-zero carbon dioxide emissions in its portfolio, with carbon output reduced 50% by 2031 and 70% by 2040.

While that date may seem far away for some, it's important that we maintain reliability of the electric grid while keeping costs affordable. This will be accomplished by supporting a diversified portfolio until we're sure we can maintain the same level of service you've come to expect.

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Times are changing, and Noble REMC is changing with them.

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Solar and wind can only produce electricity when the sun is shining and the wind is blowing. Until large utility scale storage technology advances to a point where it can sustain power for long periods of time while maintaining affordability, we need to use conventional sources, like natural gas and coal, to be the backup to renewables.

But what does “net-zero” really mean?

Net-zero carbon means that any amount of carbon dioxide produced

will be removed by an equivalent amount to attain a net total of zero emissions. Think of it like filling a bathtub with water. Being “net-zero carbon” means as they add water (carbon dioxide) to the bathtub (atmosphere), they will drain that water (carbon dioxide) out of the bathtub (atmosphere) so the tub remains empty.

This announcement means that you, our members, will benefit from greener energy, without the hefty investment and maintenance of your own solar array installation. Also, developing large-scale arrays have certain advantages, such as reduced equipment costs and efficiencies, that lower the kilowatt-hour costs for you as the consumer.

It's just another way Noble REMC is listening to our members and planning for the future of our cooperative!

## Interested in 4-H? Let us cover the cost

The first 200 youth who enroll in area county 4-H programs for 2022, and whose families are Noble REMC members, will have their 4-H program fee reimbursed by us.

When you enroll your child and pay the \$15 program fee, contact your county's Purdue Extension

office to ask for a credit voucher, which you can then mail or drop off at the REMC to receive a \$15 bill credit.

You get to enjoy the benefits of a wonderful organization, and we get to help our community. It's as simple as that.



# YOUR PENNIES HELP COMMUNITIES

**N**oble REMC may not be Santa Claus, but our members make us feel like it with each distribution of our Operation Round Up grant funding.

Closing out 2021 with our fourth quarter distribution, the pennies participating members donate by rounding up their bill each month are making a big impact.

This year through Operation Round Up, we were able to give back \$40,625 to 28 nonprofit organizations in our community. That's all thanks to you and your generosity to improve the quality of life in our area!

The latest distribution of the

Operation Round Up Trust Fund awarded \$11,450 to eight different organizations in our community, including:

- **Kendallville Public Library**, \$1,000, aquarium
- **McMillen Health**, \$1,000, local preventative health education programs
- **St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc.**, \$2,000, technology improvements
- **Noble County Extension Homemakers**, \$700, books
- **Helping Hands of Orange Township**, \$1,500, food

- **Noble County 4-H Livestock Judging**, \$1,250, educational stock show
- **The Arc Noble County Foundations**, \$2,500, virtual job shadow tool kit
- **Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast IN, Inc.**, \$1,500, Noble County Farm Wagon

For local nonprofit organizations who are seeking funding for a project, please fill out and return an application to the Noble REMC office by Monday, Jan. 3, to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded from [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com).

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## 85 years of progress ... and 85 more to come

Progress is measured in many different ways. Normally it's done in years, people or size.

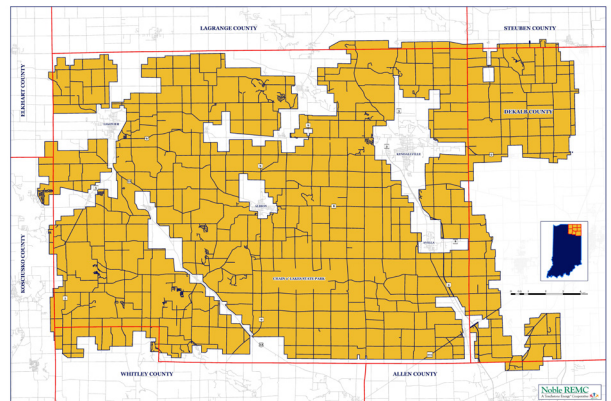
If you look at Noble REMC this way, since we were founded in 1936, we've grown to service nearly 10,000 members across eight counties and more than 1,250 miles of energized lines.

That's a huge leap from our first push to build our lines in 1937, constructing 65 miles of line to reach 255 members in Noble County.

But the real growth has been the connection we've made with our

members over the past 85 years. We pride ourselves on being your go-to community resource, while providing excellent service to power your lives.

That mission has never changed. We feel proud to continue to serve the communities who built us and innovate as technology moves us forward.



Thank you for celebrating our “birthday” with us this year, and we look forward to another 85 years and beyond of listening and learning how we can best serve you, our members!