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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
Jay Wysong

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ron Raypole,
President & CEO
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 their 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!

5 REASONS WE LOVE SERVING YOU



February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to

a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like National Tater Tot Day. But they all have something in common — they were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

For example, Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them — with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Noble REMC.

- 1. We love serving our members** because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, Noble REMC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed 85 years ago — to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
- 2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help members of our community through programs like Operation Round Up and EnviroWatts, which

give to nonprofit organizations doing good work.

- 3. Members of our co-op also serve on our board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs.
- 4. You help us get it right.** Our members keep us in the know. When Mother Nature throws us a curveball, our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. Your understanding and support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services because your opinions are critical for the co-op's success.
- 5. You and other Noble REMC members make up the community we serve —** and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Noble REMC donates to local events, schools, youth organizations and nonprofits. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Get involved by running for THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Noble REMC is looking for passionate and hardworking members who want to use their experience and perspective to serve their fellow co-op members and community on our board of directors.

We're not looking for electrical expertise — we can teach you that. We're looking for drive and vision to lead our cooperative into the future.

There are three districts up for election this year, and they include:

District 1: Currently represented by Jay Wysong, this district includes Perry and Elkhart townships in Noble County and part of Benton Township in Elkhart County.

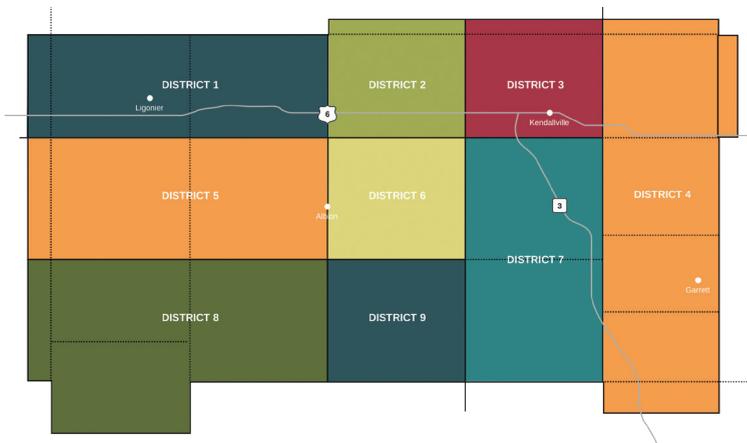
District 2: Currently represented by Rick Robertson, this district covers Orange Township in Noble County and part of Johnson Township in LaGrange County.

District 8: Currently represented by Doug Burnworth, this district encompasses Washington and Noble townships in Noble County, part of Tippecanoe Township in Kosciusko County and part of Etna-Troy Township in Whitley County.

To run for election, qualified members of Noble REMC, who live in Districts 1, 2 or 8, must file a petition with the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

The REMC will provide the petitions for election, as well as other board information. Completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative no later than April 4.

For more information about the board of directors' election process, please call Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis at 800-933-7362.



ENVIROWATTS: IT'S WORTH EVERY PENNY

It's not an easy task to take on by yourself — helping to improve the environment. Let Noble REMC and our members help.

Each year, we provide grants from our EnviroWatts program to benefit nonprofit service organizations working to improve the environment locally.

Is your organization cleaning up a local river or lake? Are you trying to plant more native species in your area? Do you promote recycling or educate the public on environmental issues?

Perfect! This grant could help boost those endeavors and benefit the community at large.

Noble REMC is now accepting grant applications from such organizations to help in completing their eco-friendly projects. For a full list of details and a copy of the application, visit nobleremc.com/envirowatts.

Completed applications are due into the Noble REMC office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7.

EnviroWatts is only possible because of our members. Those who participate pay an additional one cent for their first 500 kilowatt hours each month. Those kilowatt-hours are then generated from renewable, environmentally preferred sources, and those pennies go directly back into the community through grants to these improvement initiatives.



LIGHTING *the Way*

ROB HAUCK'S CO-OP ROOTS



Noble REMC Line Foreman Rob Hauck stands at the back of a bucket truck.

Noble REMC wouldn't be successful without our employees. To highlight the work that they do, we've launched a new series – Lighting the Way – to place a spotlight on those who help the co-op thrive.

"I'm a co-op boy."

Originally hailing from South Dakota, Line Foreman Rob Hauck didn't plan to follow in his parents' footsteps. His mother worked for an REA and his father was a general manager at a co-op lumber yard and fertilizer facility.

"It was just the path I found, I guess."

His path at Noble REMC started in 2004 as a journeyman lineman, with a transition to staking technician, before becoming line foreman in 2020.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY?

"I graduated with an associate degree in utility line and then I got a job at Northeastern REMC out of college. Worked there a couple of years, and I moved to South Dakota and worked at another co-op, closer to my hometown. Then, I met my wife and came back here."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR DAY AT THE CO-OP?

"I enjoy the camaraderie of the guys since I don't have much customer interaction anymore. I enjoyed the customer interaction in staking. It was suited toward me. I can talk my way through about anything."

WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR LINE OF WORK?

"In general, we expect all of our linemen to be able to troubleshoot, fix and do everything associated with being a lineman — from underground to overhead to substation work. We're not big enough to have a certain individual just work on substations or just regulators or controllers. We expect everyone to have a general understanding of everything."

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

"I like to tinker. I enjoy trying to fix things. I also enjoy kayaking, fishing, and spending time with my wife and daughter."

DOES THAT MEAN YOU TINKERED A LOT AS A KID?

"I could take things apart, but that doesn't mean I would put it back together correctly — I'm not saying it always worked when I put it back together. I always had a few screws left over."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"I'm happy in what I've achieved in my career. I take pride in the fact that I get along with coworkers, and I like to think that I'm easy to work with and fair."

FAVORITE MOVIE?

"I enjoy Star Wars — I like the original and I like the last three. The middle three (the prequels) were bad. Star Wars is what I grew up on."

WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

Talk radio. WOWO.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

Don Chico's.

Saying farewell

MARC GAERTE RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT NOBLE REMC

Marc Gaerte doesn't like to be the center of attention. Even this story, in honor of his retirement, makes him a bit uneasy.

But once he begins talking about his 25 years at Noble REMC, he relaxes a bit, remembering the moments that meant the most to him — like the first time he witnessed and felt the true impact of his work.

He was up and working well before the sun, helping to turn electricity back on near Green Center during an outage. He vividly recalls watching as each security light along the road came back on.

Now-retired Noble REMC Journeyman Lineman Dave Dunn yelled out his window, "You just became everybody's hero."

"I got the biggest grin on my face," said Gaerte with that same smile on his face.

His journey to Noble REMC didn't happen quickly.

An Albion native, he knew the

reputation and nature of the work at the cooperative — he knew he wanted a career that allowed him to be outside, without the confines of an office. As he describes it, "I tried so many times to get in," before he took a break from applying.

Luckily, he would soon get his break with a position on the right-of-way crew. Two and a half years later, he was working toward becoming a journeyman lineman. He earned his journeyman lineman status through Indiana Electric Cooperatives' Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program.

Gaerte enjoyed the challenge of what Mother Nature might bring and the change from hour to hour and day to day. He said even a project like a rebuild sometimes became too monotonous for him, having to perform the same action over and over.

He's going to ensure he has that same flexibility and spontaneity in retirement, while also taking some time to slow down and travel, fish



Marc Gaerte retired in December after 25 years working for Noble REMC's operations department.

with his two grandsons and take care of his beehives and garden.

But he said he will feel a void in his life for a little while, not having this job to come to, or, more importantly, seeing his fellow employees he now considers friends.

"It goes fast. Time went so fast," Gaerte said. "Good luck and work hard."

And our SmartHub drawing winners are ...

Thank you to all who signed up for SmartHub during our contest for a \$100 gift card, as well as those who had been loyal users before then!

We hope you're enjoying the many benefits of our app, including the ability to:

- Set up notifications to your phone and/or email to alert you when a payment is due, your energy use is unusually high or low and an outage occurs and is being restored
- Manage payment and billing options, including payment arrangements, auto pay and paperless billing
- Update your contact and account information

We announced the winners of the contest on Facebook in mid-December, but in case you missed it, congratulations to members **Jeff Artecki** and **Dustin Bell** for winning the gift cards! We hope you enjoy your prize, right alongside the ease of account management provided by the app.

FIVE REASONS TO APPLY FOR INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

Every June, selected high school seniors-to-be from co-op families attend Indiana Youth Tour — a weeklong leadership experience in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Noble REMC. It's an experience unlike any other, full of fun, friends and memories that last a lifetime.

So why should you apply?

- 1. It's not like your school trip to D.C.** Many of you may have already been to D.C., but this trip is specifically planned to be different. We go to the places you probably didn't visit on your school trip, and we give you more time to get an in-depth look at what our nation's capital has to offer.
- 2. You'll meet new people.** More than 100 Indiana delegates from across the state begin the week as strangers. By the end of the tour,

they have developed close bonds that can last a lifetime.

- 3. You can make your voice heard.** Each Youth Tour includes a day on Capitol Hill, where you'll be given the opportunity to visit a congressional office. There, you can meet a member of Congress face-to-face and discuss the issues that are important to you.
- 4. You'll learn about co-ops.** Today's young people don't just want to work — they want to work with a purpose. Cooperatives, such as ours, are places to do just that. We put people over profits and are governed by the people we serve.
- 5. It's free and fun!** There's plenty of downtime to relax and hang out with your fellow Youth Tour students, as well as several social events to meet students from

other states. And the cost of the experience is covered by Noble REMC. Just bring some money for souvenirs, and you're set.

To learn more or apply for Indiana Youth Tour, visit nobleremc.com/indiana-youth-tour before the application deadline of March 1.



Rachael Rogers and Maddy Dreibelbis represented Noble REMC during the 2019 Indiana Youth Tour.

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER AVAILABLE YOUTH PROGRAMS

COOPERATIVE CALENDAR OF STUDENT ART CONTEST

Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to enter their most creative artwork for this contest. The artist with the best submissions from each grade level receive \$200 and publication in the 2023 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art.

Contest rules and an entry form are available at indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest. Artwork must be received by March 18.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Each year, Noble REMC awards

three \$1,000 scholarships to help area students further their education at an accredited college or trade school of their choice.

The student must be an actively enrolled senior, their parents' or legal guardians' primary residence must be within Noble REMC's territory and they must be members in good standing with the co-op.

To apply, seniors can download an application at nobleremc.com/scholarships and return it to the cooperative by March 18.

CAMP KILOWATT

Current sixth graders can jumpstart their summer in June by signing

up for high-voltage fun.

A variety of exciting activities awaits boys and girls at Camp Kilowatt, a summer camp and memorable educational experience that will teach environmental education, co-op distribution, electrification and electrical safety. Campers will also enjoy horseback riding, swimming, rock wall climbing, archery, canoeing and arts and crafts.

For more information and to apply, visit nobleremc.com/CampKilowatt. Applications must be received by March 1.