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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

CHECK OUT OUR COVER STORY!

Be sure to read
this month's
cover story on
page 21, "No
Small Beans,"
featuring Country
Roads Coffee —
a Noble REMC
member, located
just south of Albion.



Engagement *matters*

YOUR VOICE CAN STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY

For most people, their electricity provider is just the company that keeps the lights on. But an electric cooperative's relationship with its members is different.

Since Noble REMC was founded in 1936, electric cooperatives have succeeded because our members stay politically engaged. Today, that engagement is more important than ever. Electric cooperatives continue to be well positioned to create a bright future for the communities we serve by engaging in political activity.

Politics can be a touchy subject these days, but electric cooperatives were borne out of the political process. Unlike other electric companies, the members of Noble REMC have the right and responsibility to democratically elect our board of directors. Just like other elected officials, those directors are responsible for promoting the interests of the members they serve.

We advocate for rural Hoosiers, like you, to maintain and improve the quality of life in our communities and continue providing safe, reliable and affordable energy. Important policies are advanced every year because electric cooperatives stand up and speak out.

Noble REMC and our fellow co-ops need your help in the process, too. Indiana's electric cooperatives thrive when our members stay politically engaged and advocate

for policies that help us best serve our consumers.

How can you do this? It all starts with grassroots advocacy. In the context of the electric cooperative program, "grassroots" is a powerful word.

For us, grassroots advocacy happens when directors, employees and you, the members, take an active role in the political process to protect our cooperative from harmful legislation and regulation, while also promoting the value of cooperative ownership to our legislators.

By becoming a grassroots advocate, you will be informed about legislative and political utility matters at both the state and federal levels. You will receive updates through email or text alerts, including educational resources, surveys and opportunities for active participation. As a grassroots advocate, you will be on the front lines of keeping rural Hoosiers' voices unified, loud and strong.

Visit action.indianaec.org to sign up to become a grassroots advocate for Noble REMC and Indiana's electric cooperatives.

Together, we have a strong voice. Let's use it to improve rural communities across Indiana.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

GOBBLIN' UP THE REBATES

LOCAL BUSINESSES RECEIVE CASH BACK THROUGH POWER MOVES PROGRAM

When we promote our Power Moves energy efficiency rebate program, members usually think of the savings potential within their own homes.

But Noble REMC business customers are reaping big rewards by choosing energy-efficient upgrades to their existing buildings or making those decisions from the first brick that's laid.

Cash back is given for everything from LED lighting to variable frequency drives to geothermal or air source heat pumps.

But don't just take our word for it.

Here are a few of the recent checks we've been privileged to present to our commercial and industrial members:

Manufacturer **N.A. Busche Real Estate** earned \$15,639.56 in lighting rebates for upgrades to its lighting system, including occupancy sensors, at its Albion plant.

Noble Organic Grains in Wawaka received \$24,728.58 in cash back rebates for investing in variable frequency drives for its farming operation.

Single Source Medical received \$12,238.87 for the construction of its newest plant in Merriam, which included energy-efficient lighting and variable frequency drives.

MCJ, Inc., earned \$2,000 for an installation of a variable frequency drive for the irrigation equipment on its farm in western Noble County.

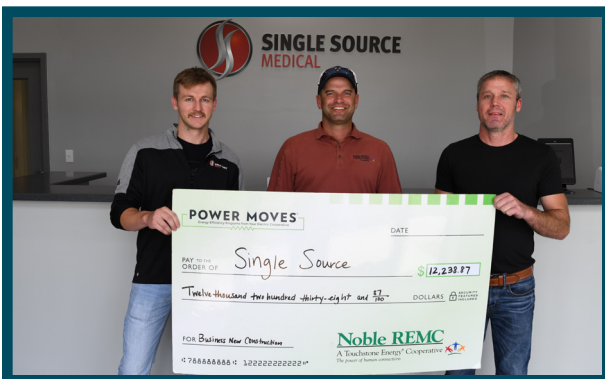
To learn more about our available rebates, visit nobleremc.com/rebates or call our office and speak with Brian Hawk, our energy advisor.



N.A. Busche Real Estate earned a Power Moves rebate by upgrading its lighting system at its Albion plant.



Noble Organic Grains invested in its farming operation and earned cash back through Power Moves.



Single Source received a Power Moves rebate by making energy-efficient choices at its new plant in Merriam.



MCJ, Inc. earned a rebate for an installation of a variable frequency drive for the irrigation equipment on its farm.



Journeyman Lineman
Cody Kirkpatrick
speaks with a member.

LIGHTING *the Way*

KIRKPATRICK GOES FROM COACH TO CO-OP

It wasn't in his original plan to be a part of the electrical industry, but after some searching for what he wanted to do, Journeyman Lineman Cody Kirkpatrick found a home at Noble REMC through a family member's suggestion.

Now, he's taken his love of coaching and turned it into being a mentor to teach the apprentices on our line crew how to work efficiently and safely, especially during his favorite part of the job — restoring power outages.

Let's learn more about Cody:

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR JOURNEY HERE AT THE CO-OP?

"I started in 2012; the same day as Zane Gray (journeyman lineman, staking technician) and Ethan DeWitt (former Noble REMC lineman).

"I originally applied for the apprenticeship position. I didn't get it. But then I got the tree crew job, and I was on the tree crew for five years and then started the apprenticeship and graduated, and here we are today."

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK HERE?

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in life. I was going to college to be an elementary school teacher. I thought coaching was the way I wanted to go.

"Brooke's (his wife) grandpa was the line foreman here for 20 years or 30 years or something like that. He retired, and they had three people leave, so he said, 'Hey, try it out, see if you get it.' And that's literally how I got involved here. Then once I got in, I saw that the next step was going to be the line side and that's probably it for me."

DID YOU EVER GET TO DO ANY COACHING ON THE SIDE?

"Yeah, I coached from 2009 to 2015, somewhere around there. Got married, had kids, so time got crazy and then I didn't have time to do anything. Now I do a little bit. I coached my daughter's softball team. Now, I'm doing Saturday morning basketball stuff."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

"Probably restoring outages, just because not everybody can do it, you know? And then everybody's excited when it does come back on. They're always happy when the lights come back on."

WHAT ARE THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE JOB?

"That we can just flip a switch, and everything's back to normal. There are actual steps that have to go into doing

things, and they don't understand it. There's a lot more to it than just saying 'Yeah, there's the issue. I'll turn it back on.'"

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME AWAY FROM THE CO-OP?

"Family, fun time, friends. Hanging out with them."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"It's got to be the kids. It's got to be them."

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO?

"I'll listen to anything. I don't care what it is. I like karaoke. You got to get a few beverages in me, but I will karaoke almost anything."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"My wife and I really like El Mariachi. They give me a shirt every Cinco de Mayo. That's how often we go in there."

DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

"I've been on a couple boards. I was on the Albion Parks Department Board for three or four years, and then that transitioned to starting up the Augusta Hills LRCC with a group of people here in the community."



BACKUP GENERATOR SAFETY FOR YOUR HOME

A GENERATOR CAN BE THE KEY TO YOUR SURVIVAL DURING A STORM, BUT DO YOU KNOW THE RISKS IT CAN POSE TO YOU, YOUR HOME AND THOSE AROUND YOU?

GENERATOR DOS AND DON'TS

DO operate a generator outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation.

DO install CO alarms inside the home to provide an early warning of carbon monoxide.

DO NOT plug a generator into the wall without installing a transfer switch to prevent backfeed.

DO turn the generator on before plugging in appliances.



SIGNING UP FOR 4-H? LET US COVER THE COST.



The first 200 youth who enroll in area county 4-H programs for 2024, 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 the Purdue Extension office to ask for a credit voucher, which you can then mail to or drop off at the REMC office 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.

Noble REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative