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## REMC LINEMEN COMPETE IN STATEWIDE RODEO

A team of Noble REMC linemen competed at the Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo, held Aug. 24-25 in Danville. The two-day event showcased the skills and safety training of electric cooperative lineworkers.

Linemen competed in events that tested skills such as pole climbing, hurt man rescue and safely changing electric line hardware.

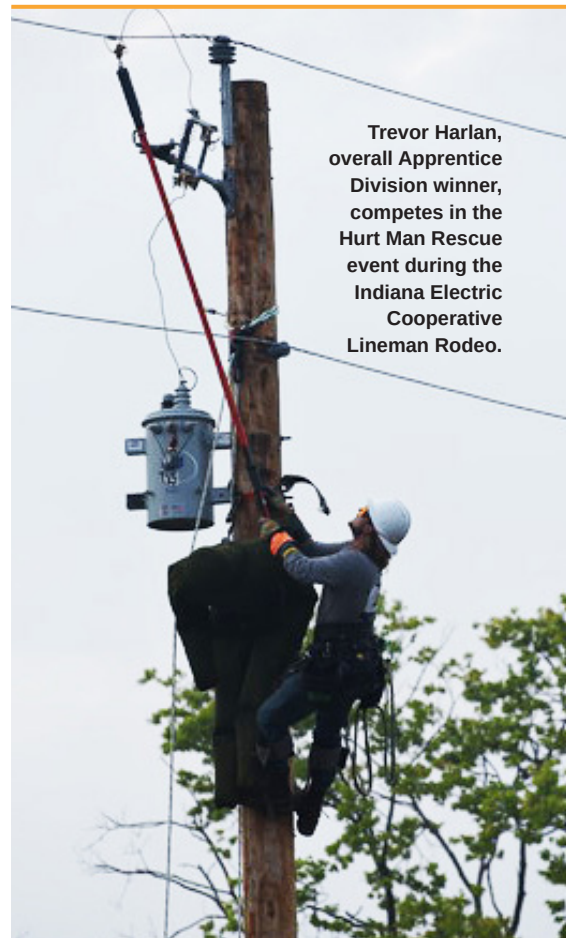
A total of 28 teams and 102 individuals from 24 Indiana electric cooperatives competed in this year's event.

The following linemen represented Noble REMC at the rodeo:

- **Trevor Harlan** (middle row, center, in above photo), apprentice lineman, was the overall winner in the Apprentice Division, as well as the first place winner in the Insulator Change-Out event
- **Justin Fry** (middle row, right), journeyman lineman, placed first in the Insulator Change-Out event in the Journeyman Lineman Division
- **Rob Hauck** (front row), line foreman, placed third in the Senior Journeyman Lineman Division in the Security Light Repair event
- **Cody Kirkpatrick** (top row, left), journeyman lineman
- **Tyler Rhoades** (top row, right), journeyman lineman
- **Luke Gillis** (middle row, left), apprentice lineman

"We're proud of our linemen who competed in this year's rodeo," said CEO Ron Raypole. "Noble REMC linemen have a lot of pride in the work they do, and they demonstrated their skills and dedication to their craft."

The Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo recognizes and rewards excellence in safety, skill and knowledge in the lineworker field.



Trevor Harlan, overall Apprentice Division winner, competes in the Hurt Man Rescue event during the Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo.



# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

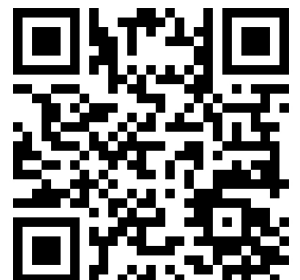
## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT MATTERS. YOUR VOICE CAN HELP WITH SOLUTIONS TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BETTER.

Indiana's electric cooperatives advocate for rural Hoosiers like you on the state and federal levels so they can maintain and improve the quality of life in rural communities and continue providing safe, reliable and affordable energy.

**Electric cooperatives need your help in the process, too.** Indiana's electric cooperatives thrive when their consumer-owners stay politically engaged and advocate for policies that help cooperatives best serve their consumers.

For electric cooperatives, grassroots advocacy happens when directors, employees and consumer-owners take an active role in the political process to protect their cooperative from harmful legislation and regulation, while also promoting the value of cooperative ownership to their 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 regularly 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.



SIGN UP TO BE A GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE AT [ACTION.INDIANAE.C.ORG](https://action.indianaec.org)



CEO Ron Raypole stands in front of the Noble REMC service territory map.



# LIGHTING *the Way*

## RAYPOLE RUNS THE CO-OP

Most people get interested in electrical engineering as they make their way through high school. Noble REMC CEO and President Ron Raypole learned firsthand working for a cabinet company (of all places) during college, when the owner asked him to help him wire a house. He started reading, learning and working with his hands — which he loved — and pivoted from a future in business (then, anyway) to engineering.

It didn't take him long to work his way up the ranks in the electric industry.

Coming from the investor-owned utility world, he began his tenure at Noble REMC more than 22 years ago as our system engineer. He had always wanted to be in the co-op world, and he was soon promoted to manager of operations and engineering, before eventually earning his title as CEO and president in 2014.

Let's learn more about Raypole:

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB AS CEO?

"I really like what we do here. I'm all about service. That's kind of my — what do you call that? — love language. I want to fix everything for everybody. I think this is a good place to be to do that.

"My favorite part is being able to help our members. I want Noble REMC to be the best in the county with

customer service excellence. So, if I can help people out, I get a good satisfaction doing that."

### WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR JOB?

"They think all we do is sell electricity and that should be easy. But it's all the regulations, environmental regulations and the changes in our markets. Our whole industry's basically turned upside down right now. We've got to figure out how to get upright again. I don't think people understand how complicated it is."

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WITH YOUR SPARE TIME?

"I spend time with my family. I've been married to my wonderful wife for 36 years. We have two adult daughters — one we're fortunate enough to have live locally and the other one's in Indianapolis.

"Between the two of them, I've got five granddaughters under four. I love to spend time with the grandkids. Fortunately, one daughter lives next door to us so we see them about every day. I still cut their grass; it gives me time to go over there and hang out.

"In the summer, I like to work in the yard. I also enjoy working on home projects, spending time with my grandchildren and a lot of cars and motorcycles — if I get time for that."

### WHAT MOVIE DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WATCHED THE MOST?

"Top Gun.' I don't know how many times I've seen that movie. You can't get enough of that feel-good, adrenaline rush."

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC?

"80s and '90s rock. 96.3 is the only radio station out there. Heart and Journey are probably my favorites."

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TV SHOW OR SOMETHING YOU'RE CURRENTLY BINGING?

"I like the game warden show set in Texas — 'Lone Star Law.' I love those kinds of shows. It seems like the best job ever.

"I wanted to be a state trooper. That was my dream job."

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"Mexican food is my favorite, so I'll go to El Mariachi. I could eat Mexican every day."

### WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

"I enjoy woodworking. I built some cabinets in my house, but I haven't done it for quite a while because of my job. That's what I miss. But woodworking is my go-to if I have nothing else going on. I like to build stuff with my hands."

# New employees

## JOIN THE TEAM

One works outdoors to maintain our lines; the other works in our office to plan for the future of our lines.

Noble REMC welcomes **Sawyer Yoder** as our newest right-of-way crew member and **Everett Stangland** as our system engineer.

Yoder, a resident of Columbia City, started at the co-op in May and has enjoyed being able to work outdoors to trim trees and vegetation around our poles and lines.

So far, his favorite part of the job has been “seeing parts of the county you wouldn’t normally get to see,” and he looks forward to continuing to progress at the co-op by moving up the chain of command.

In his spare time, Yoder likes to work on vehicles and hang out with his family.

A month after Yoder arrived, Stangland began his tenure at the co-op as our system engineer after earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical

engineering from Purdue University Fort Wayne. He’s currently in the process of earning his master’s degree in electrical engineering as well.

Why did Stangland choose Noble REMC?

“Power distribution is what originally drew me toward engineering as a career path,” Stangland said. “I liked that REMC is local to where I grew up. I’ve heard a lot of positive stories about the REMC, and that encouraged me to pursue a position.”

He’s enjoyed spending the past few months getting to know his fellow employees, as well as learning our grid system. He hopes to continue gaining more skills and making even more contributions to our operations at the co-op.

When he’s not at work, Stangland enjoys being outdoors and playing disc golf as a member of multiple local clubs.



EVERETT STANGLAND



SAWYER YODER

## DON'T LET ENERGY WASTE HAUNT YOU!

Don't let standby power haunt your energy bills!

Phantom loads are electric devices that keep using power even when you're not using them. Stop these energy ghosts by unplugging such

devices when they're not in use.

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CEO Ron Raypole, right, presents Director Rick Robertson with the certificate for his Director Gold Credential.

## ROBERTSON EARNS GOLD CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Noble REMC Director **Rick Robertson**, who recently received the highest director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) — the Director Gold Credential!

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.

Noble REMC is committed to working with our statewide association and national organizations to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of our members.

This includes NRECA’s Director Gold Credential, which recognizes directors who have already earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and who wish to continue learning during their service on the board.

“The Director Gold certificate is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors,” said CEO Ron Raypole. “Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members directors’ ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.”

We give our thanks to Robertson for going above and beyond in his leadership of Noble REMC and our members!