

CONTACT US
Office: 800-933-7362

24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE
833-410-0497

WEBSITE
www.nobleremc.com

EMAIL
remc@nobleremc.com

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
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



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We love trees, too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade that trees provide, but without regular

trimming, trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix.

When trees grow too close to power lines and poles, they can cause service disruptions and outages or interfere with our work. That's why Noble REMC trims branches and limbs that grow over and into our lines and sprays herbicide on vegetation growing under our lines and around our poles.

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to you, our members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights-of-way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

As the weather warms, you will see our right-of-way crew out

CLEARING RIGHTS-OF-WAY THE RIGHT WAY

doing what they do best — keeping you and your family safe, while maintaining service reliability for you.

This year, our spraying crew will be focusing its efforts on the top one-third of our territory, which covers our entire service territory north of U.S. 6.

The spraying application uses non-restricted chemicals that are scientifically designed to work on plants, not people or animals.

If you would like to maintain the right-of-way that crosses your property in some other way, "Do Not Spray" signs are available at the Noble REMC office, but you must make sure the signs are visible and legible from the roadway and notify us of your location.

We appreciate your understanding as the Noble REMC right-of-way crew works hard each and every day to keep trees, limbs and vegetation clear from all sides and underneath more than 1,250 miles of energized line in our service territory.

Our primary concern is to maintain public safety and the safety of our employees, as well as to keep power flowing reliably across our distribution lines to you and the nearly 10,000 other members we serve.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 14

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS VIRTUAL MEETING ON FACEBOOK

It's that time of year again — time to vote for your board of directors and mark your calendars for the Noble REMC Annual Meeting!

Our election will once again be conducted by mail this year, so be on the lookout and check your mailbox in mid-May for your ballot.

Feel free to keep your pencil or pen handy to mark your choices and send it right back to us, or wait to mail back your ballot until after you've met your board of director candidates at the Member Appreciation Event on June 1.

Noble REMC's Annual Meeting will then be broadcast on Facebook June 14. This is where you can learn about the state of the cooperative, as well as hear the results of the board of directors' election.

If you would like to watch last year's meeting or read the minutes from the meeting, visit nobleremc.com/annual-meeting.

More details on the election and annual meeting will be outlined in future issues of Indiana Connection, as well as on our social media channels. Stay tuned and tune in June 14!

SAVE
THE
DATE

Annual
Meeting

JUNE 14

NOBLE REMC INVITES YOU TO OUR MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT



JUNE
1

Come celebrate being a Noble REMC member, alongside your neighbors and friends, and meet your board of director candidates!

NOBLE COUNTY COMMUNITY
FAIRGROUNDS, KENDALLVILLE

FREE PORKBURGER DINNER
AND SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM

CASH PRIZE DRAWINGS

LOCAL COMMUNITY BOOTHS

MUSIC

FAMILY FRIENDLY GAMES
AND ACTIVITIES



5:30 P.M.

UNTIL

8 P.M.

LIGHTING THE WAY

AMBER KUNKEL PUTS MEMBERS FIRST



AMBER KUNKEL

From a family strongly rooted in the Central Noble area, Amber Kunkel knew she would always stay a self-professed “small-town girl.”

That’s fortunate for us here at Noble REMC. She’s gone above and beyond as our member services representative — connecting with our members and helping them when and where she can.

Though she dreams of vacations full of sandy beaches and the bright sun, there’s nowhere else she would rather live than here with her family, friends and community.

Let’s learn about Amber:

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

“Actually, my mom worked here when she was right out of high school. She worked here until after she had my brother and I, and she’d always told me what a great place it was to work. Shortly out of high school, I started in the manufacturing world in customer service. I never really thought I’d have the chance to work here, so when the opportunity arose, I jumped on board and started as a receptionist.”

WHAT’S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR JOB?

“First of all, I love serving the members — that is why I love my job. They may not know that I’m also a member. So, with many of the questions, concerns, maybe even complaints at times, I am dealing with the same issues as far as outages or updating my payment information. I’m in the same boat with them.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WITH YOUR SPARE TIME?

“Honestly, I’ve spent a lot of my adult life at wrestling, track, volleyball and baseball events with my kids. So, I guess it would make sense that I like to watch sports. We follow the Wisconsin Badgers because of Central Noble alum Connor Essegian. We also follow the Indiana University Hoosiers because I’m a Hoosier, as well as the Indianapolis Colts and the New York Yankees.”

HOW DID YOU BECOME A FAN OF THE YANKEES?

“My husband has always been a fan of the Yankees. I was a Red Sox fan when we first met, and he has since converted me. We watched the playoffs leading up to the World Series the first year we were together, so I decided I would make that switch.”

SPEAKING OF YOUR FAMILY, TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEM.

“My roots run very deep in the community. Not only was I born and raised here, so were my parents. Actually, you can take a walk through the school (Central Noble High School) if you’re going to any athletic event and there are photos of a lot of my family, including me, in the hallway. I am very proud to be a member of this community.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC?

“I love country. It’s soothing, it’s relaxing. I like Christian music. I can get down in a second with some ‘90s music though. But if I’m going to listen to something, honestly, it’s probably ‘Big Mad True Crime’ podcast.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?

“I’ve always been a small-town girl, but never been a farm girl. However, I did get addicted to ‘Yellowstone.’ And, I didn’t ever think I would say that I like the cowboy, but Rip Wheeler stole my heart.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

“I have been to Jamaica several times, starting with my honeymoon. It was also my first time out of the country. One of the coolest memories I have is when we were able to take all of our kids there. They were all still at home and in school, and we got to stay at an all-inclusive resort. Looking back, we just had some really great times that year. My favorite vacation spot, though, is anywhere with palm trees, sun and a beach.”

WHAT’S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU’VE EVER RECEIVED?

“It was from my grandma Mary. When I was very young, when I would always wish life away — I wanted to be a teacher, I wanted to grow up — she would always say, ‘The days are long, and the years are short.’ And I used to think she was just being silly, and now I realize she was right. She was the most incredible woman, one of the most incredible women I ever met.”

LOCK NEWEST ADDITION TO THE REMC TEAM

For his next career move, Brad Lock was looking for a slower change of pace, while being able to utilize his variety of experience in diesel technology. Noble REMC was the perfect fit.

Lock accepted the position of fleet mechanic and began his tenure with the co-op in late December 2022 upon the retirement of longtime mechanic Randy Hovarter.

Living in Churubusco, Lock had previously worked for the City of Columbia City as its mechanic. There he took on the responsibility of the municipal electric department's fleet, as well as every other vehicle — from street, police, fire, water and parks departments.

Why make the transition from such a large fleet to the more specialized vehicles of the Noble REMC?

"I wanted a shorter drive from my house, as well as a smaller fleet of vehicles to take care of, which would hopefully mean less stress," Lock said. "And I liked the idea of helping the community by keeping our fleet on the road by doing what I'm good at."

So far, he's found the co-op a place "full of good people" and looks forward to working here until he can retire.

Outside of the co-op, Lock likes to spend his spare time outdoors, whether it's hunting, riding dirt bikes and four wheelers or camping with his wife,



BRAD LOCK

Casey, and three kids — Parker, Charlotte and Stella. And as it is for most mechanics, he always has something in the barn he's tinkering with.

The directors and employees welcome Brad to the cooperative team!

195 years of service to co-op recognized

With nearly two centuries of dedication between them, Noble REMC recently honored employees and directors celebrating milestones in their REMC careers. Our co-op is only successful because of the individuals who devote themselves to providing the best service to our members, each and every day.

We are grateful for their commitment to our members and the cooperative!

This year, we celebrate and honor the following:

Dan Cochard, meter supervisor — 35 years

Sarah Dreibelbis, office manager — 35 years

Doug Eggl, serviceman — 30 years

Joan Gemmill, billing and data processing coordinator — 20 years

Tina Gienger, collections coordinator and member services representative — 20 years

Andrew Strack, director — 20 years

Zane Gray, staking technician — 10 years

Cody Kirkpatrick, journeyman lineman — 10 years

Marla Ober, systems administrator — 10 years

Larry Ott, director — 5 years

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FOR MORE CONTENT
FROM YOUR CO-OP

Operation Round Up 2022 financials

Thank you to the more than 85% of our members who allow us to round up your bills to the nearest dollar each month to give back to the communities you belong to and we serve! As you can see from these financials, pennies donated every month add up quickly, and when your donations are combined with others, it makes a huge impact in our communities. In 2022, more than \$42,000 was granted to nonprofit service organizations to help others.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NOBLE COUNTY

Fund Report — Dec. 31, 2022

Noble REMC Operation Round Up Trust

	YEAR-TO-DATE
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$22,890.86
RECEIPTS:	
Contributions and Pledges	\$52,750.09
Interest and Dividends Income	\$270.18
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$53,020.27
DISTRIBUTIONS:	
CFNC Administrative Fees	\$576.47.00
Grants Paid	\$42,427.00
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$43,003.47
ENDING BALANCE	\$32,907.66



CELEBRATE

the power behind your power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10

