

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
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*

SURVEY CONTINUES

You may receive an email from us this month asking to participate in a survey of residential co-op members. Formerly, this survey was done via telephone but has now changed to an email survey.

Please take the time to fill out this survey as it helps our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, determine how much power we'll need in the near future. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact our office at 800-933-7362. Thank you!

You deserve the credit



Many members simply refer to it as "the REMC check," however, the annual disbursement of capital

credits is one of the most tangible benefits to being a member of Noble REMC.

It's also the basis of one of our most important cooperative principles — members' economic participation, which outlines that members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

Simply put: You are our owners, and once expenses are paid and some is saved for contingencies, what money remains — known as margins — is allocated back to you as capital credits.

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 decision to refund capital credits is made by your elected board of directors, which must consider whether such a distribution would impact the co-op's financial state, as well as if it complies with our bylaws and loan agreements.

Those receiving cash back this year include members from 1992, 1993 and 2021. Totaling \$726,392, 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?

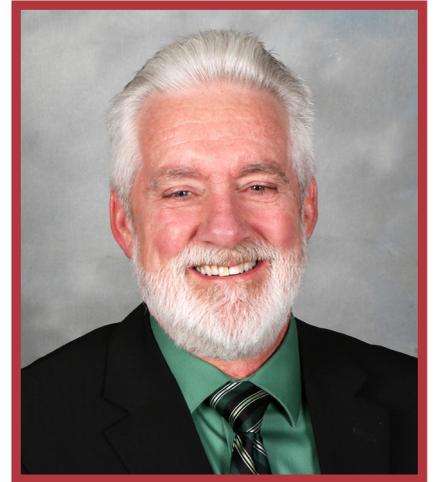
- Current and former members will receive a check for the amount allocated to them.
- But as many of you know, processing printed checks can become costly. For this reason, members will only receive a check if the amount is \$10 or more.
- If you don't reach that \$10 threshold, don't worry. Your capital credits will accumulate over time and be returned when the balance reaches at least \$10.

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

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

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

Bennett earns director certification



Congratulations to Noble REMC Director George Bennett, pictured at right, who recently received the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

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 and national organizations to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of our members.

This includes NRECA's Board Leadership Certificate which recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the BLC have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses, including topics such as risk management, power supply,

parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

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



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



The first 200 youth who enroll in area county 4-H programs for 2023, 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.

LIGHTING THE WAY

DEMSKE MAKES HIS MARK

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

Director Mark Demske's day starts at 3:30 a.m. and doesn't end until he puts his kids to bed around 9 p.m. And in between? It's go, go, go, as he oversees his Biggby Coffee franchises and gives back to the community he grew up in — including serving on Noble REMC's board of directors.

Though he jokes he "looks tired all the time," it's because he ensures he makes the most out of each day, even making time to sit down and answer a few questions for the co-op.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO RUN FOR THE REMC BOARD?

"I guess the real reason was Bob Marshall. He and I were on the EDC (Noble County Economic Development Corporation) board together for 10 years, and he was coming off this board. I called him and was like, 'Hey, is it a good board to be on?' Because not all boards are built the same. He told me it's one of



Noble REMC Director Mark Demske poses in front of the REMC office.

the best boards he'd been on — so, it's Bob's fault."

WAS THERE ANYTHING SPECIFIC TO THE CO-OP THAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE POSITION?

"I've been on for-profit boards and nonprofit boards but never a not-for-profit board. It takes a while to understand the whole economics behind it, so from that aspect, it was a new challenge."

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT SERVING OUR MEMBERS?

"Oh, I think getting to know everybody on the board. You know, I only knew Andy (Strack) prior to being on the board. So just getting to know their past and how they've come to be on the board and their experiences."

ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM HERE?

"I grew up in Avilla, and other than going away to college in the '90s, I've been around here. I worked for Community State Bank for 14 years, had a house in Fort Wayne, and then one popped up that we liked at Noble Hawk there, so we moved this way."

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE A BIG GOLFER?

"Before kids, I got out a lot more. Now that I've got two kids, I don't get out like I used to, so, no. I mean, they're six and 10 now. I used to play like three to four times a week, but now, yeah, not as much."

SINCE YOU OWN THREE BIGGBY COFFEES, WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO COFFEE ORDER?

"I'm kind of basic. I mean, black coffee, Americano or, you know, black iced coffee. I don't need all of the sugar."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MOVIE?

"In the last 10 years? Not so much. Whatever the kids are watching pretty much. When they come in, they change things to what they want to watch, and some of the stuff I want to watch, they shouldn't be watching."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"St. James. We live just down the street from there, so it's somewhere we've always gone, and then I worked there as a bartender for about eight, 10 years. We've just known everybody for years."

WELCOME JARRETT HAWK TO THE REMC



JARRETT HAWK

Noble REMC is happy to welcome Jarrett Hawk to the co-op as the newest member of our right-of-way crew.

An Albion native and Central Noble High School graduate, Hawk began his position as a tree trimmer in August and is excited to be working to serve his community.

"I wanted to do something within my community, something that's for a bigger purpose," Hawk said. "I enjoy being out in the community, meeting new people each day. I love working outside."

There's been a lot to learn — from how to run a bucket truck to the safety implements involved to communication among team members — but he's brought a lot of experience in being flexible day-to-day from his prior experience working on a farm.

"I farmed for years and through that, I got to do a ton of different things and run a ton of different equipment. Nothing was the same day to day, and it gave me a lot of experience in different jobs," he said.

That diversity is what drew him to this position as well, and he's looking forward to "working hard and proving himself in the company to see where that takes him."

Outside of the co-op, Hawk, who lives in Albion, loves to fish, hang out with friends and drive fast cars.

Small change makes big impact

When we look at how to have the greatest impact in our community, Noble REMC



looks across our service territory at a multitude of worthy causes.

That's why we're so grateful to our members who help us in our mission to give back through our Operation Round Up grant program.

With more than 85% of our members participating, the pennies donated by rounding up your bill each month are making a big impact. Your contributions are reaching every part of our community, from local food banks to historical initiatives to youth programs.

The fourth quarter distribution of the Operation Round Up Trust Fund awarded \$8,250 to eight different organizations in our community, including:

Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc., \$1,500, Noble County Farm Wagon

Five Medals Living History, Inc., \$1,000, Five Medals at the Trace Event

McMillen Health, \$1,000, Preventative Health Education Programs

Wolf Lake Gun Club, \$1,500, tables, chairs and picnic tables

Camp Lutherhaven, \$1,000, touchless drinking fountain and bottle filling station

Churubusco Jr./Sr. High School Fine Arts Department, \$1,000, replacing and upgrading lighting

Kendallville Heritage Association, \$250, history program

Noble House Ministries, Inc., \$1,000, commercial-grade equipment

Thank you again to those members who choose to participate in the program and contribute to improving the quality of life in our area. None of this would be possible without your generosity.

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