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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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Reliable power for today — *and tomorrow*

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO and president of Noble REMC, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Noble REMC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our area. You may not realize it, but Noble REMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Noble REMC is using

technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology (AMI) enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Noble REMC save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. As technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Indiana and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Noble REMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

YOU DESERVE THE 'CREDIT'

CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE RETURNED TO MEMBERS

Your "REMC check" is on the way!

Many members refer to it by that simple name, but 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 adversely 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 1993, 1994, 2005 and 2022. Totaling \$744,734, 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 a nice bonus in your pocket, what's more important is that this cash back shows Noble REMC's strength and financial stability, as well as serves as a reminder that you hold us accountable.

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





Director Larry Ott on his farm in rural Avilla.

LIGHTING *the Way*

OTT'S LOVE FOR FAMILY AND SHOW CATTLE

Standing in the kitchen on his 200-acre farm in rural Avilla, you can see the love Noble REMC Director Larry Ott has for his family and his livelihood raising show cattle.

The walls of his home are lined with photos of his four children and nine grandchildren with their champion cattle at the Indiana State Fair and beyond. It's something he takes pride in and now exclusively sells his calves to 4-H'ers to continue giving back.

Though he didn't initially know his career would translate to the co-op world, his commitment to hard work and community shine through in his service to Noble REMC the past five years.

Let's learn more about Larry:

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

"Well, years ago there was an opening, and I was asked if I would be interested. Which I didn't know I was interested," he said with a laugh. "I just never even gave it a thought. One thing led to another, so I decided to go ahead and run — and I'm glad I did. It's worked out well. I enjoy the people and the organization. It's easy to take the REMC for granted, just knowing it's always there. But now, you know the nuts and bolts of the organization."

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

"One of my favorite things was learning how it all works. Like I said, I had no idea before. With all the training courses that you take and experience on the board, you just gain knowledge over time. And then, people in the community ask you questions, so we try to answer their questions and make sure everything is running smooth in their eyes."

WHAT'S SOMETHING MEMBERS MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS A DIRECTOR?

"I get emails every day of the week. You're always reading and learning and studying and broadening your knowledge. I mean, literally, every day of the week you can read and learn something."

WHAT'S YOUR CAREER OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP AND HOW DOES IT HELP YOU AS A DIRECTOR?

"For 30 years, I worked at Dana in Fort Wayne, and I've always farmed and raised livestock. The kids were in 4-H, so we went to a lot of 4-H shows. Then, I started driving a school bus. This year is my 20th year driving a bus. I'm trying to retire, but they wouldn't let me last spring because they're so short-handed."

"It helps me to know so many people. I know their kids. I've hauled them for 20 years, you know. We're getting into another generation of kids now, so I see them and I know them. If they have a concern, it's probably the same concerns I have. And that might not be earth-shattering, but it's kind of the way it is."

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

"My wife and I have been married for 51 years, and we bought this farm the same day our first daughter was born. We bought the farm in the morning, went out for dinner and had our baby in the afternoon."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"The kids and grandkids."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MOVIE?

"Anything that John Wayne's in."

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO?

"Country and western. I didn't know there's any other kind."

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING ON TV?

"'Yellowstone' is our favorite to watch. We try not to miss any of them."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"More locally, it's probably Brevin's in 'Busco (Churubusco)."

Giving back and looking ahead

When we think of how to have the greatest impact in our community, Noble REMC looks at a multitude of worthy causes across our service territory.

Our Operation Round Up program is a large contributor to this mission. Through the program, grants are distributed each quarter to local nonprofits working hard to improve community members' quality of life.

With more than 85% of our members participating in the program, the pennies donated by rounding up their bills each month are making a big impact, from assisting local schools to food banks to healthcare facilities.

The fourth quarter distribution of the Operation Round Up Trust Fund

awarded \$10,219 to six different organizations in our community, including:

Central Noble Jr.-Sr. High School, \$1,000, PE/Health equipment and food

Central Noble Elementary Fifth Grade Class, \$1,044, educational field trip

McMillen Health, \$1,000, preventative health education program

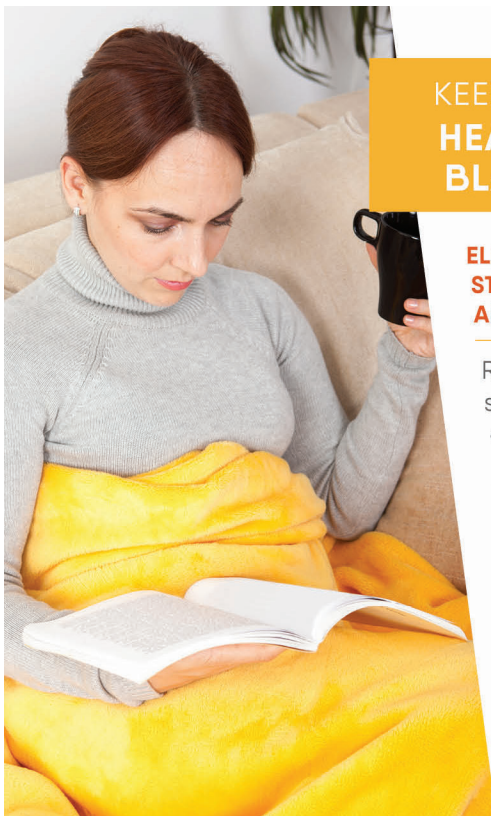
Community Harvest Food Bank, \$1,500, Noble County Farm Wagon

St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc., \$3,175, AED and accessories

Country Meadow Elementary School, \$2,500, outdoor games and 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. 2 to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded from nobleremc.com.



KEEPING WARM HEATING PADS, ELECTRIC BLANKETS AND SPACE HEATERS

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS AND BLANKETS ARE GREAT WAYS TO STAY WARM WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPS. BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT SAFETY BEFORE YOU PLUG IN THESE CHILL-CHASERS.

Remember: an electric space heater is a temporary option for supplemental heat. When you leave a room or go to sleep, turn off your electric space heater.

Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord to avoid overheating.

Never fold electric blankets or heating pads, and avoid using them while sleeping. Inspect them for dark, charred or frayed spots, and check to see if the electric cord is cracked or frayed.

Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test them once a month.

