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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

BEAT THE PEAK



Let's face it. Electricity is one of those non-negotiable "must-haves." And you probably have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before.

As demand for electricity rises, Noble REMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you might expect based on your own family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day due to consumer demand. Noble REMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during the times of highest energy use, or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Noble REMC, typically pay more for electricity during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside and heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

Here's an easy way to think about the "peak times" concept — it's similar to the demand for concert or theater tickets. Costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper — like at a bargain matinee performance, for example.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, which is from 5-8 p.m. for Noble REMC, we encourage you to take some simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few degrees, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances until off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip and then turning it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods.

And don't forget about our time-of-use rate program, Charge Ahead, provided specifically to electric vehicle owners to incentivize charging their vehicles off-peak! (See page 25 for more information.)

When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach is that it allows greater control over your bill. Reducing peak use impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. Since energy costs have risen across the U.S., collectively conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy-intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



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Get involved by running for **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Noble REMC is looking for passionate and hardworking members who want to use their experience and perspective to serve their fellow co-op members and community on our board of directors.

We're not looking for electrical expertise — we can teach you that. We're looking for drive and vision to lead our cooperative into the future.

There are three districts up for election this year, and they include:

District 4: All of DeKalb County served by Noble REMC and parts of Salem Township in Steuben County and Perry Township in Allen County.

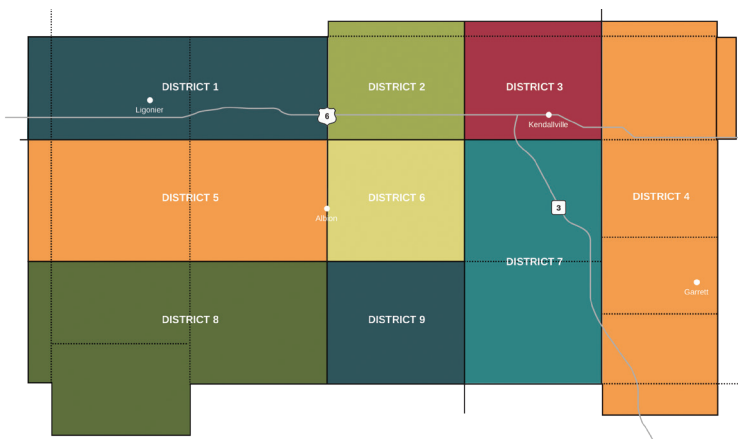
District 5: Sparta and York townships in Noble County and part of Turkey Creek Township in Kosciusko County.

District 9: Green Township in Noble County.

To run for election, qualified members of Noble REMC, who live in Districts 4, 5 or 9, must file a petition with the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

The REMC will provide the petitions for election, as well as other board information. Completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative no later than March 20.

For more information about the board of directors' election process, please call Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis at 800-933-7362.



EnviroWatts funding for eco projects available

It's not an easy task to take on by yourself — helping to improve the local landscape. Let Noble REMC and our members help.

Each year, we provide grants from our EnviroWatts program to benefit nonprofit service organizations working to better the environment locally.

Is your organization cleaning up a local river or lake? Are you trying to plant more native species in your area? Do you promote recycling or educate the public on environmental issues?

Perfect! This grant could help boost those endeavors and benefit the community at large.

Noble REMC is now accepting grant applications from such organizations to help in completing their eco-friendly projects. For a full list of details and a copy of the application, visit nobleremc.com/envirowatts.

Completed applications are due into the Noble REMC office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6.

EnviroWatts is only possible because of our members. Those who participate pay an additional 1 cent for their first 500 kilowatt-hours each month. Those kilowatt-hours are then generated from renewable, environmentally preferred sources, and those pennies go directly back into the community through grants to these improvement initiatives.



LIGHTING THE WAY

CELEBRATING WINS AND MEETING CHALLENGES

Celebrating his 28th anniversary at the co-op this month, Tim Andrews knows how to work through adversity and celebrate the wins.

Andrews started his career as a meter reader in 1995 before moving to warehouse coordinator, where now he's in charge of pulling materials for each day's projects, as well as keeping an inventory to make sure we're set for the future. And in a time of supply chain issues, he's had to get creative.

But that's the fun of life — meeting and overcoming the challenges.

Let's learn more about Tim:

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK AT THE CO-OP?

"I actually took a \$5 an hour pay cut to come here, just because I didn't see my previous job as a long-time position. I was in the middle of building our first home and had just had our first kid a few months before. The REMC had a good reputation. If you can get in at the REMC, then get in."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

"Probably talking with people. When I was out on the system, whether it be with locating or whether it was meter reading, and that kind of stuff, even collections, I enjoyed collections. It sounds stupid, but I did. It's fun trying to read people, and meet them where they're at."



Warehouse
Coordinator
Tim Andrews

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY:

"I was born in Kokomo. My dad was a Methodist pastor, so we moved around a lot as kids. In seventh grade, dad came here. Then, I started dating my high school sweetheart — who ended up being my wife. We've got five kids, and now I've got my fifth grandchild on the way. We got our five, so we get our basketball team, and now with five grandkids, we have another basketball team."

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR TIME OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

"Spend it with my wife and kids and grandkids. I like to travel, seeing different things. I love to garden — anything outdoors. We've got fruit trees and put out a pretty good-sized garden. And I love sports."

WHAT IS A MOVIE YOU CAN REWATCH OVER AND OVER?

"Hoosiers. Easy. Yeah, I've watched it hundreds of times, and it never gets old."

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

"Um, it has to probably be the Bible. Book-wise, I enjoy studying history of wars and stuff like that, but it's sports too. Other than the Bible, probably a book by Todd Gongwer called 'Lead

... for God's Sake.' That was a good book, dealing with sports but also leadership."

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

"Tera (Andrews' wife) helps lead worship music and praise team in our church, so I hear music all the time at home. She's practicing. All the kids are musical. All of them can play the piano. My mom was a music teacher. My grandpa was a music professor in colleges. And the only thing I can play is the radio! But, I listen to everything."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"It's got to be my family. And, I guess — I hate using proud because I don't want to sound arrogant — not letting my stroke shut me down. (Andrews suffered a stroke in 2020.) It's been tough. I heard a saying that I kind of like, 'The same water that softens a potato, hardens an egg. It's what you're made of, not the circumstances.' Nothing's the same as it was before. So, I guess coming back from that, you know — it had nothing to do with me, it was all the Lord — but it's the only reason I was able to come back so absolutely."

Burns *Retires*

HE DID RIGHT-OF-WAY THE RIGHT WAY

Then: Ray Burns was a kid who had to hide his long hair in his first interview.

Now: He's retiring as a leader at Noble REMC, with 23 years under his belt.

Burns, right-of-way foreman, hung up his chainsaw at the end of December after more than two decades of helping to keep our members' power on by maintaining clearance around lines and managing vegetation around poles.

It's one of the most important jobs at the co-op that unfortunately doesn't get a lot of the limelight.

But that was OK with Burns, whose goal was just to do the best job he could and earn his paycheck each week.

"It's hard work. I don't know what people think, but it's hard work," Burns said. "I was just here to do my little piece. It's all I wanted to do."

Burns has worked with trees all of his life, starting at home where he cut and burned wood, to his summer job at age 16 working with a local tree service to make money to go on dates.

The only time he wasn't doing tree work was his time served in the U.S. Army, which he joined at age 18, but after his five years of service, he continued cutting trees on the side while he did other jobs.

That is until he became a full-time tree trimmer at Noble REMC in 1999.



Burns, left, talks with Groundman Kyler Likes about the best strategy for cutting a tree limb.

"A lot of people say tree work is unskilled labor, but it's not. You have to know how to look at a tree and figure out how to disassemble the tree and do it safely," Burns said. "Then you've got to be half crazy to do this job, because who wants to be up in the air with a chainsaw in one hand and a limb in the other hand, and then work around power lines on top of it?"

But Burns did more than just his day-to-day job. He was involved in different committees at the co-op that give back to the community, including our Operation Round Up board and Charitable Giving committee. He also helped to organize our float in each year's



Burns in 1999, during his first year as a Noble REMC tree trimmer, throwing a limb into a chipper.

Christmas in the Village Parade. Have you seen all of the lights and decorations on our bucket truck as it's paraded through Albion? That was Burns.

He wouldn't tell you all of that, but he's left big shoes to fill. Instead, he'll tell you that Noble REMC provided him with a good life, and he hopes that he did what he was hired to do.

"I think I've deserved the paychecks that I've worked for."



Noble REMC 2022 Youth Tour candidates Miriam Kline and Ryan Norden in Washington, D.C.

UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

CAMP KILOWATT

Date: June 7-10

A fun and unique camp experience for students entering seventh grade and whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are Noble REMC members. The camp takes place in early June and gives kids a chance to learn about energy plus make new friends, enjoy traditional camp activities and games — including swimming, horseback riding and canoeing.

If you know someone that would enjoy these free and engaging opportunities, encourage them to visit nobleremc.com/youth-programs for an online application. Deadline to apply is March 1.

QUESTIONS?

Call Noble REMC at 800-933-7362.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

Date: June 11-18

During the month of June, Indiana's electric cooperatives sponsor an unforgettable educational adventure to Washington, D.C., for high school seniors-to-be. This seven-day trip includes visits with Indiana's congressional leaders on Capitol Hill and a youth event with student delegates from across the country.

COOPERATIVE CALENDAR OF STUDENT ART CONTEST

Indiana K-12 public, private or home-schooled students are invited to enter the Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest for a chance to illustrate an award-winning wall calendar. Each year, 13 first-place winners and additional honorable mention winners will have their artwork featured in the calendar — and will receive cash prizes. Winners will also have their artwork displayed at the annual Hoosier Salon exhibition. Learn more at IndianaConnection.org/for-youth/art-contest.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, Noble REMC awards three \$1,000 scholarships to help area students further their education at an accredited college or trade school of their choice.

The student must be an actively enrolled senior, and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a Noble REMC member, which means their primary residence is served by the REMC. Candidates are judged anonymously based on grade point average, a short autobiography and letters of recommendation, as well as their involvement at school and in the community.

To apply, download an application at nobleremc.com/scholarships and return it by March 1.

Charge Ahead program revs up

Do you own an electric vehicle and are looking to save money on the cost of charging at home?

Noble REMC has a program to fit your needs: Charge Ahead.

By signing up, the program provides members who own electric vehicles the option to increase their energy efficiency, while also saving them money, by offering a time-of-use rate for their electricity.

EV owners will be given a discounted rate for charging their vehicle outside of our peak time from 5-8 p.m., when

electricity is more expensive because of the higher amount of demand on our system. This will allow EV owners to save money, while also helping us to maintain the reliability of our grid.

The technology behind EVs is changing fast, extending battery lives while bringing down costs for consumers and expanding its appeal to even the most rural areas. As your local electric cooperative, we can't help but think about how EVs will impact energy use and how we can

CHARGE AHEAD



Every Mile Matters

stay ahead of the curve. We plan to be prepared when EVs make their mark in northeast Indiana, and the first step is to Charge Ahead.

For more information or to sign up for the program, please call our office at 800-933-7362 to speak with Energy Advisor Brian Hawk about Charge Ahead, because every mile matters.

DID YOU KNOW WE'RE ON YOUTUBE?

Are you a visual learner? Do you find yourself searching the internet for educational and how-to videos?

You're in luck, because Noble REMC is on YouTube!

Our channel currently hosts videos about everything energy efficiency — from air sealing your home to answering questions about electric vehicles — hosted by our own energy advisor, Brian Hawk.

We also create and feature videos highlighting the benefits of being a member of an electric co-op, as well as a look at the people behind

your power. If you've read our Lighting the Way series here in the magazine, there's a companion video piece each month that features a few more obscure questions that may just bring a smile to your face. (If you've ever wanted to know what our employees would do in an apocalypse or who their celebrity crush is, look no further...)

Check out the channel by visiting youtube.com/nobleremc, and if you like what you see and want to be notified of new videos each month, subscribe to our channel!

