

CONTACT US
Office: 800-933-7362

24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE
855-951-3596

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

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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

PAYING BY PHONE? THERE'S A NEW NUMBER!

Noble REMC's secure pay line has recently changed. Members looking to pay their bill by phone 24/7 will need to update their black books or contacts to 855-951-3596. Thank you!

EXTREME WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS POWER RELIABILITY



When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same time — in the morning and in the early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Noble REMC, we work closely with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and Noble REMC will inform you about the situation.

Noble REMC and WVPA take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning. However, it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure

on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- **Charge electric vehicles between 8:15 p.m. and 6 a.m. to cut demand and energy costs during peak hours.** Give us a call for more details on how to save money through our EV time-of-use rate.
- **Stagger your use of major appliances** such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.
- **Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency** with regular maintenance, as well as proper insulation.
- When possible, **use cold water to reduce water heating costs.**
- **Unplug devices when not in use** to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUNG AMONG US

The youth are our future, and their future can be even brighter by participating in these life-changing youth programs from Noble REMC.

CAMP KILOWATT, JUNE 5-8

"I had loads of fun and made so many new friends at Camp Kilowatt. It was by far the best summer camp I've ever been to. ... I loved every minute I was there." — Max Lower, 2023 Camp Kilowatt camper

Camp Kilowatt is a fun and unique camp experience for students entering seventh grade. The camp gives kids a chance to learn about energy while making new friends and enjoying activities and games. This three-day camp includes horseback riding, electric cooperative education, rock climbing, swimming and much more.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR TO D.C., JUNE 16-23

"It was truly a trip of a lifetime. I enjoyed the many memorials and museums we got to see. My favorite memory was meeting all kinds of new people. I made so many friendships that will last a lifetime from my state and other states. It was a trip I will always remember." — Alayna DeLong, 2023 delegate

During the month of June, Noble REMC sponsors an unforgettable educational adventure to Washington, D.C., for high school seniors-to-be. This weeklong trip includes visits to monuments and memorials and the making of lifelong friendships, as well as interactions with congressional representatives.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Noble REMC believes in the future of our area's youth and all they will accomplish. Each year, the co-op



awards three \$1,000 scholarships to help local high school seniors, whose primary residence is on our lines, further their education at an accredited college or trade school.

COOPERATIVE CALENDAR OF STUDENT ART CONTEST

This student art contest is like no other because the winning works are published in a wall calendar, which is seen by thousands of electric co-op members across the state. The contest is open to kindergarten through seniors in Indiana, with a

winner chosen and awarded a cash prize in each grade level. **Deadline to apply for 2025's calendar contest is March 29.**

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

Visit nobleremc.com/youth-programs, which links you to each program's specific page containing eligibility requirements and an application. **Deadline to apply, unless indicated otherwise, is March 1.**

If you have any questions, call our office at 800-933-7362.



John Strzempka sits in front of the computer-generated maps he uses as part of his job at Noble REMC.

LIGHTING the Way

STRZEMPKA FINDS MAGIC IN MAPS

GIS Technician John Strzempka (silent “z”) may have followed his heart, and his now wife, to northeast Indiana, but it’s his love of mapmaking that secured him his career at Noble REMC.

He sees cartography (the process of mapmaking), and its new use in geographic information systems, as a form of art. It’s his job to be able to convey a message quickly and easily to those who may not know much about the subject matter. And since he can’t draw to save his life — his own words, not ours — he uses his skills with a computer and maps to put ideas on paper.

Let’s learn more about Strzempka:

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT WORKING AT THE CO-OP?

I really like everyone that I work with. That helps a lot and makes it easier getting out of bed every day, knowing that you’re going to work with great people.

WHAT’S SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

It’s more than just connecting the dots. A lot of the job is mapping power lines, but there are other parts where we might want to show where we have the most outages on our system. So,

you give me a spreadsheet, and I can turn that into a visual representation of where everything’s at on a map and it makes it a lot easier to see where we have issues in our system. Then, we address those issues.

There’s a lot that goes into mapping that people overlook, like color scheme, fonts, the format and how clean it looks. You have to get your point across to someone who doesn’t know what they’re looking at.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

I like to cook outside on a campfire. Ribeyes are usually my go-to for that. It’s nice and peaceful outdoors, especially in the winter when no one is outside. Inside, I would say my favorite is any sort of Italian food. Homemade pizza (making the dough) is something I pride myself on.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

I’m the fifth of seven children in my family. I grew up in Findlay, Ohio, and pretty much lived there my whole life. Then I met Sarah, my wife, in college, and we actually do the same thing but at different co-ops. She got this job (at Steuben County REMC), and I followed her to Indiana. We’ve been here ever since. We have four cats — and three of them are great.

UP TO THIS POINT, WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

Being able to find someone that I love and marrying them.

WHAT MOVIE HAVE YOU WATCHED THE MOST?

I’ve probably watched “Dunkirk” the most.

USUALLY, PEOPLE CHOOSE LIGHTER FARE. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU WATCHED THE MOVIE?

Probably eight to 10 times. I really like World War II stuff. I think a lot of people misinterpreted the movie. They thought it was going to just be a war film, but it’s really artistic. I like the cinematography, and the music goes well with that. You watch it, and it just amazes me how, nowadays, I don’t think anybody would have that mindset to do what they did. To me, it’s a feel-good movie.

WHAT IS ONE THING WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

If I wanted a different job, I would become a volcanologist (someone who studies volcanoes). It’s just the beauty of them, I guess — seeing the magnitude of what earth can do. The fact that without volcanoes we probably wouldn’t be having this interview — thanks, plate tectonics! I minored in geology. Volcanology was probably my favorite class.



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

The idea of running for a spot on our board of directors may seem daunting, but is a great way to serve your community, impart knowledge and enact change.

You may think, “I don’t know anything about electricity. How can I lead a co-op?”

We’re looking for passion and perspective — not electrical expertise. We can teach you all about power generation, transmission and distribution. We need you to be a voice for your fellow members.

WHO CAN RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Three districts are up for election this year, including:

District 3: This district includes Wayne Township in Noble County and part of Milford Township in LaGrange County.

District 6: This district covers

Jefferson and Albion townships in Noble County.

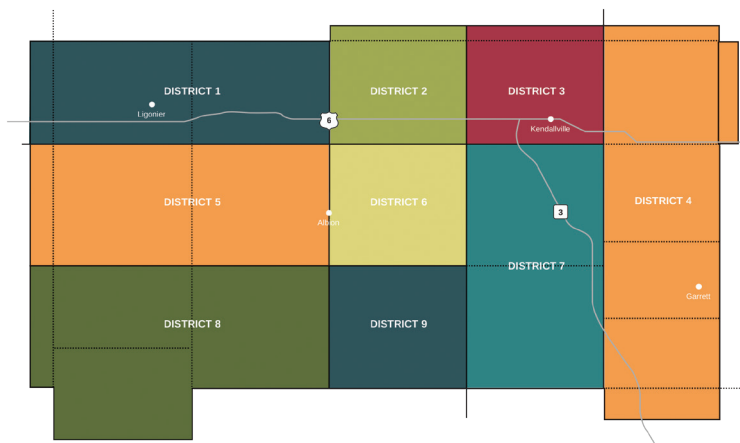
District 7: This district encompasses Allen and Swan townships in Noble County.

I WANT TO RUN FOR ELECTION. WHERE DO I START?

Those residing in the districts up for election, and who are in good standing with the cooperative, are encouraged to call our office to schedule a time to pick up a petition for election, as well as other board information.

Completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative **no later than March 20** and include the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

For more information, contact Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis at 800-933-7362 or visit nobleremc.com/board-directors.



Giving back to grow tall

Serving a rural area means serving more than just its people. Noble REMC aims to serve and protect the land, which supports us all.

Each year, we provide grants from our EnviroWatts program to benefit nonprofit service organizations working to better the environment locally in Noble, DeKalb or the surrounding counties.

Is your organization improving the air quality of our area? Are you trying to create or restore habitat for wildlife? Do you encourage recycling or educate the public on local environmental issues?

Perfect! Now’s the time to apply.

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 4.**

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.

