

# ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

**CONTACT US**

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**24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE**

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**WEBSITE**

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**EMAIL**

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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*



In one of the most notable inaugural speeches ever, President John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, "Ask not what your country

can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good, because our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to a common goal.

On a smaller scale, the same can be said about our co-op, specifically about our board members. Noble REMC's directors are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is composed of farmers, business owners, bus drivers and more. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in our service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important local issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want leaders with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We're seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and an increased

preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Noble REMC is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within the community.

## TO RUN FOR ELECTION

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve.

There are three districts up for election this year:

**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, and 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, do not hesitate to call our office at 800-933-7362.

**RON RAYPOLE**  
President/CEO



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## co-op news

# 'SPARK'ING AN INTEREST

The youth are our future, and we want to educate them early about the cooperative difference. That's why Noble REMC, alongside our fellow regional electric co-ops, took part in JA JobSpark in November at Kruse Plaza.

With more than 5,500 local eighth graders participating, JobSpark is described by Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana as a career and workforce-ready initiative created to connect area students to businesses and organizations in northern Indiana, with a hope to "spark" their interest in careers and get them excited for their future.

The two-day event provides the opportunity for students to learn about the skills needed for careers as well as the education or training necessary to achieve their career goals. In return, it gives businesses and organizations



Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis helps a student use linemen tools at November's JA JobSpark.

an opportunity to help build our future workforce.

Noble REMC, Northeastern REMC, Heartland REMC, Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, LaGrange County REMC, Marshall County REMC, Steuben County REMC and Kosciusko REMC worked together to create an engaging interaction with area students, including those from Central Noble, Churubusco, Garrett, West Noble and DeKalb middle schools, that would let them try their

hand at the work that our linemen do on a daily basis.

We set up a bucket truck and utility pole for students to use linemen's tools on (non-energized) electrical equipment – while racing for a spot on our leaderboard and earning a special gift for their efforts.

It was a huge hit with the students, and we hope it achieved its purpose — sparking an idea of what co-ops do for the community and how they can be a part of that someday.

## Power supply costs continue to rise

It's a message that's being heard in every industry — costs are rising for goods and services.

While Noble REMC and our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), have done all we can to keep expenses down, we're continuing to face rising costs due to increases in fuel prices and materials needed to maintain a reliable distribution system, as well as supply-chain constraints.

WVPA is a not-for-profit, like Noble

REMC, so the increased cost of generating and transmitting electricity to over 325,000 members in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri must be recovered from its consumers. As a member of WVPA, Noble REMC will be affected by the increase.

To recover these increases, Noble REMC will increase our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) by \$0.002 per kWh, making it now \$0.0055 per kWh.

The new PCA, for the average member who uses 1,000 kWh a month, will now be \$5.50 per month, beginning this

month. The change will be seen on the electric bill you receive in February and will continue until further notice.

Noble REMC remains one of the lowest-cost energy providers in our area. We, alongside WVPA, are working hard to manage expenses to continue to deliver on this mission, but with the state of the energy industry, we need to adjust to fluctuating prices.

Visit [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com) as well as [powermoves.com](http://powermoves.com) to learn ways you can save energy and money.

# LIGHTING THE WAY

## DOUG'S MISSION: KEEPING YOUR LIGHTS ON

It's his job to keep your lights on, and he does everything in his power to maintain and improve that reliability.

As manager of engineering and operations, Doug Dickmeyer has found a career with the perfect balance of engineering projects inside the office, while also being able to go out in the field to work alongside our operations team — his favorite part of the job. It's what drew him to his first position as a system engineer for the cooperative.

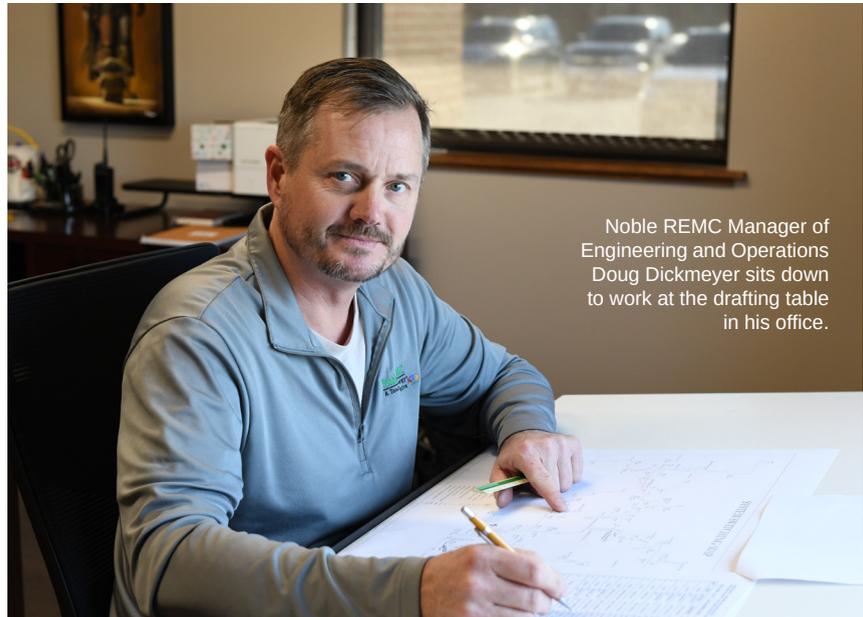
The local Boy Scout leader and self-proclaimed science nerd is happy to spill about his time both in and outside of the co-op for our members:

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK FOR NOBLE REMC?

"When I graduated from college with a degree in electrical engineering, I kind of had an idea of what I wanted to do. And my first job wasn't really that. So, power engineering was kind of something I was always interested in and fit me well: being able not just to work inside, but to work outside, too."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB?

"I'm not just inside working behind a desk, I'm able to get outside and visit with the guys and work with



Noble REMC Manager of Engineering and Operations Doug Dickmeyer sits down to work at the drafting table in his office.

them. That's probably one of my favorite parts of the job: working in substations, going outside and working with the crews. That's one of the best parts of the job, talking to everybody."

### WHAT'S ONE OF THE HARDEST PARTS OF THE JOB?

"I call it the whack-a-mole part of the job — the little problems that pop up that you didn't see coming. For example, last night we had a problem at 9-10 o'clock at night. Now we're working today to get the problems all fixed."

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

"I like to get away from the cell phone. I go hiking and camping, and things like that. Not every week, but usually every month or so, I spend some time outside and even do winter camping, which some people don't find particularly rewarding, but it gets me away."

### WHAT'S YOUR MOST-WATCHED MOVIE?

"I bet I've seen 'The Big Lebowski' 50 times. That's a weird one though. It really depends on what I'm in the

mood for. The ones I'd say I watch the most are just goofy, silly ones like 'Office Space' that I can just turn on and enjoy, but if I want to sit down and watch a show, that's one of my favorite ones."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"Oh, that would be Half Acre Café. I either get the small scrambler, or, nine times out of 10, I usually pick whatever they've got on special. Just about anything they make up there, I really like. Every now and then one of my sons will get up early on a Saturday and say, 'Let's go off to breakfast.' That's where we go."

### WHAT'S ONE THING WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

"I am a humongous science nerd. Getting up early on a Saturday, I usually watch things about space and black holes or the James Webb Space Telescope. I've enjoyed it ever since I was a kid. I used to ride my bicycle to a movie theater and watch 'Star Wars,' and it just fascinated me. If there was one thing I would do that's not electrical engineering, I would want to be an astronomer, to be honest with you."

# Saying goodbye



## HOVARTER RETIRES AFTER DEDICATED SERVICE AT NOBLE REMC



Noble REMC Mechanic Randy Hovarter works on a fabrication project in the garage at co-op headquarters.

“

You work somewhere so long, you get attached. I'm going to miss the people.

”

Becoming a mechanic was a natural path for recently retired Randy Hovarter. Growing up on a farm in rural Kendallville, he had to learn how to fix equipment on his own, tinkering and repairing machinery as issues popped up.

This led him to being pushed into a shop position at the local scrap yard at his first job. Eventually, Hovarter found himself on the road as a contractor, helping to fix utility fleets across three states. But when he found himself wanting to stay in one place 15 years ago, fate intervened with an opening here at Noble REMC.

Since then, he's seen the industry and its machinery change from simple engines to complex systems of electronics, bringing a new challenge to each day — one of his favorite parts of the job.

"From one day to the next, I don't know what I'm going to be doing, and that's what's nice about it,"

Hovarter said. "When I started, if you had a good battery and fuel, it would run. Simple as that. Everything was really simple to work on. Now it's all loaded down with electronics and one little sensor or sending unit can shut the whole thing down."

Now, after more than 30 years doing such work, he's ready to give his body, which has taken some wear and tear, some much needed rest ... at least for a little while.

Even in retirement, Hovarter still plans to tinker at home, whether it's on his father's 1948 tractor or some other old truck he plans to buy, but he's also looking forward to getting out on the road on vacation.

The first trip he and his wife, Sheila, are planning is to travel out West to Denver and then make a loop of the national parks and other sights, choosing to drive the less-traveled roads.

"Some of the neatest vacations we've ever taken, we just pull out the driveway and take off. A lot of times we don't even get on the interstate and stay on the two-lane state roads and see what you can see," Hovarter said. "I like to get off the beaten path. You see so much more stuff, and there's a lot neater people, too."

It's that care for people that's going to leave big shoes to fill. It's also what he'll miss most about his time at the co-op — those he'll leave behind.

But luckily, Hovarter still lives at the rural home he grew up in in Kendallville, so he won't be a stranger to the garage.

"You work somewhere so long, you get attached. I'm going to miss the people. But I'm not that far away either," Hovarter said. "They get tired of seeing me, I guess they know to kick me out."



## Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center



Noble REMC 2022 Youth  
Tour candidates Miriam  
Kline and Ryan Norden.

# UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

## CAMP KILOWATT

**Date: June 7-10**

A fun and unique camp experience for students entering seventh grade. The camp takes place in early June and 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.

*If you know someone that would enjoy these free and engaging opportunities, encourage them to visit [nobleremc.com/youth-programs](https://nobleremc.com/youth-programs) for an online application.*

### 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](https://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 or legal guardian 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](https://nobleremc.com/scholarships) and return it by March 1.