

**CONTACT US**  
Office: 800-933-7362

**24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE**  
833-410-0497

**WEBSITE**  
[www.nobleremc.com](http://www.nobleremc.com)

**EMAIL**  
[remc@nobleremc.com](mailto: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

**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*



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/nobleremc](http://www.facebook.com/nobleremc)



Follow us on Twitter  
[www.twitter.com/NobleREMC](http://www.twitter.com/NobleREMC)



Follow us on Instagram  
[www.instagram.com/nobleremc](http://www.instagram.com/nobleremc)



Subscribe to our YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/nobleremc](http://www.youtube.com/nobleremc)

# WE EXIST TO *serve you*



"We're here to serve you." These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

Noble REMC was created by our community to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op to bring electricity to an area where there was none. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, Noble REMC is continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained on providing safe and reliable energy to our members at the lowest cost possible, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out our "Ask the Energy Advisor" video series on YouTube for ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling a free energy audit with our energy advisor to identify ways you can save. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisor would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important

to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle options. Noble REMC has been proactive in providing a time-of-use rate exclusively to our EV-owning members to incentivize charging vehicles outside of our peak use hours from 5-8 p.m. This, in turn, saves money for both the individual member as well as their fellow members and co-op by lessening the demand on our system during our highest cost hours. No matter what you drive, we want to help you achieve energy savings.

So, the next time you hear the phrase "we're here to serve you" from Noble REMC, we hope you know that we mean it. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options to power your life.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through our SmartHub app or our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



**RON RAYPOLE**  
*President/CEO*



Members are lined up and ready for their free porkburger meal as the event begins.

# Warm weather, warmer smiles at the 2023 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

It may have been a hot evening, but that didn't stop nearly 1,100 of you from coming out to celebrate Noble REMC's second annual Member Appreciation Event on June 1.

Members and their families enjoyed a myriad of activities we had set up at the Noble County Community Fairgrounds.

From a free porkburger meal and ice cream to horse and pony rides, a petting farm and bounce houses, it was a night full of entertainment and good company. Members interacted with

community organizations who set up informational booths, as well as talked with your board of directors' candidates who were eager to engage with those they represent.

Our journeymen linemen spent the evening conducting two high-voltage demonstrations to teach about the work that they do and electrical safety, while also educating a bit about our utility trucks and lineworker gear.

Most of all, we enjoyed being among our members and celebrating all that you do for us as

customers of the cooperative and residents of the community. It was a great reminder of what makes us great: that Noble REMC was built by our community to serve our community.



A little girl smiles as she enjoys her porkburger meal.



Journeyman Lineman Zane Gray shows the dangers of electricity during a high-voltage demonstration.

## ANNOUNCING OUR PRIZE WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of our \$50 cash prize drawing, who attended and registered at our Member Appreciation Event!

Lisa Butler

Donita Fulk

Donald Mosley

Robert Treesh

John Wechter





Noble REMC's Adam Chitwood takes a break to answer a few of our questions.

# LIGHTING *the Way*

## CHITWOOD SEES PUZZLES IN NUMBERS

**N**umbers and math aren't for everyone. For most of us, it might as well be another language. But for Manager of Finance and Accounting Adam Chitwood, it's more like a puzzle that needs to be solved. Everything comes down to "that penny equals another penny," as he explains it.

After four years at Noble REMC, it's apparent that Chitwood enjoys the challenge of a puzzle — from his myriad of hobbies to how well he's fit in his place within the cooperative world. Let's learn more about Adam:

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO APPLY HERE AT NOBLE REMC?

"My best friend from high school's dad was the CEO at a co-op, so I've always heard about the co-op world. And from an early age, I'd say like sophomore year, I took an accounting class, and it really clicked with me. Kind of over the years, working at other places, I've always had somebody talking to me about the co-op world and how great it was. When the opportunity arose, I applied. It just seemed like a natural fit."

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

"I've really come to appreciate the complexity of the electrical business, how each department and each co-worker kind of fits into that puzzle. Each person brings their own expertise, but we all work together.

And you know, 99% of the time things go like they're supposed to, and then when that 1% rolls around, we talk about it and figure out how we can make sure that doesn't happen again."

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

"My hobby is having hobbies. I dabble in a lot. I like to read occasionally. I'm more of a binge reader where I'll start reading something and I'll really get into it. Then, I'll go three or four months between books, or I'll start a book and get about halfway through and then stop reading it.

"I play video games. I dabble in Dungeons & Dragons. I nerd out about things, and I investigate and dive deep into things ... and then I don't follow up on them," he said with a laugh.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

"I'm married and have three children. Every day is an adventure trying to figure out how to do this thing that we call parenting. You know, when my parents were raising me, I thought they knew everything and that they had it all figured out. Now as I'm reaching that age where my children are old enough to question things, I realize that I have no idea what I'm doing.

"I'm glad I have a partner that helps me through that — how we both understand that we know nothing, and

we put our minds together and then together we know even less, probably."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF MUSIC? AND WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU WENT TO?

"Oh, I listen to all types of music. In college, I worked at a CD store. I know most people don't know what CDs are anymore, but I worked in a CD bookstore, so I listen to everything from rap to folk.

"The last concert I saw was Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness with my daughter. It's the third time we've seen them. It's amazing that we kind of have that connection through that band. I also saw Blink-182 this summer with my high school friends. That was nice to go back to a concert that we had seen 20-some years earlier together."

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"Professionally? Getting my CPA was something that I had always wanted to do since sophomore year of high school, when I took the accounting class.

"Personally, I would say being married and having children, being able to see them grow up, and the teamwork that Heather (Chitwood's wife) and I show and being able to reflect a loving marriage to our children."

## MEETING BROADCASTS STATE OF YOUR CO-OP

Noble REMC's Annual Meeting is an opportunity for members to hear an overview of the past year's accomplishments, be reminded of our focus on our community and members, and learn the results of our board of directors' election.

And that's exactly what we broadcast on June 14 on both our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. (If you missed it, don't worry! The video will continue to be available for viewing on both platforms.)

The meeting detailed successes from 2022, including the celebration of 20 years of our Operation Round Up grant program, hosting our first-ever Member Appreciation Event and improvements to both our system at-large and in the office regarding cybersecurity.

Ron Raypole, president and CEO, assured members of the financial stability of the cooperative, as well as the importance of leading through our strategic plan.

"We'll continue to navigate the co-op's path forward by focusing on five key areas: ensuring safety remains our number one priority; operating efficiently, while maintaining 'best in class' customer service; providing competitive rates; maintaining system reliability; and supporting economic development."

Board Chairman Rick Robertson ended the meeting with the core priority of the event — the board of directors' election results. He thanked those who were willing to run and serve their community in such a capacity before announcing that all three candidates running for the Noble REMC Board of Directors were reelected to their respective positions:

- **BILL KNOX** will continue to lead members in District 4,
- **JOE HUTSELL** will continue to represent District 5, and
- **LARRY OTT** will continue to lead District 9.



Elizabeth Mattos' winning artwork.

### Congratulations to local student artist!

Indiana's electric cooperatives and its statewide magazine, Indiana Connection, recently announced the winners of the 26th annual Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest.

Noble REMC is proud to share that Kendallville resident and member Elizabeth Mattos received an honorable mention in the 12th grade category for her work. Congratulations, Elizabeth! We're honored to have you and your artwork represent our co-op in the calendar.

## IN MEMORIAM: SUE BROWNING

Described as someone who "got things done," Noble REMC employees and directors are mourning the loss of our former colleague and friend, Sue Browning, who passed away in May.

Browning began her career with the co-op in 1988 as the executive assistant to Manager Bruce Billow, acting as the secretary for the manager and staff. She processed payroll and coordinated training and travel for directors and employees. Over the years, her role evolved to include more human resources and employee benefits, eventually leading to her title of human resources and

staff assistant before she retired in June 2013 after 25 years of service.

But more than her work with Noble REMC, she was also a cheerleader and advocate for the community. Born and raised in Noble County, she served on the board of the Merry Lea Environmental Center, Central Noble Food Pantry and the Noble County Senior Pak program. She also chaired the Kiddie King and Queen contests for the Chain O' Lakes Festival and participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Lunch Buddies program.

In a story written about her retirement, then-CEO Monte Egolf put it best:

"She had a positive impact and made a difference for this organization. You could always count on Sue. You knew things got done. Sometimes, you wondered how they got done and realized it was probably Sue who did it."

We will miss Browning and will continue to honor her contributions to Noble REMC through her memory.

