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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*

**BE SURE TO VISIT
PAGES 29 AND
30 FOR MORE
INFORMATION
FROM
NOBLE REMC!**

ELECTRIC GRID 101

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life. It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids that operate independently, but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow — like traffic controllers for electricity.

THE JOURNEY OF ELECTRICITY BEGINS AT POWER PLANTS

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across

the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Noble REMC receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Wabash Valley Power Alliance. We work closely with WVPA to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in our hands, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system:

- High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances.
- Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted to be safe for use in homes and businesses.
- Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you see on the side of the road.
- Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.
- After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you — to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine — and one of our nation's greatest achievements.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

A MILLION THANKS FOR \$1 MILLION

Nearly 22 years to the day of its creation, Operation Round Up granted its one millionth dollar to the community.

And it's all thanks to you, our members. This is your milestone to celebrate.

You are the ones who contribute each month, but what you may not know is that it was one of your fellow members that got the ball rolling on instituting the program.

The Noble REMC Board of Directors learned about Operation Round Up when Palmetto Electric Cooperative from South Carolina, who created the program in 1989, spoke about it at a national conference. While we didn't implement it then, we received a letter a few years later, in 2000, from Albion residents Jason and Kimberly Manek. The Manekes learned about Operation Round Up while living in a different co-op's territory and thought it would be a great benefit for our area.

Then CEO Monte Egolf and Manager of Corporate Relations John English got to work, diving deeper into what the program would entail.

"Reaching out to our members, it didn't take much to convince them to volunteer for what would become the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees, who were tasked with deciding which projects to fund," said English.

By November 2001, the program and its bylaws were being written and implemented, and the co-op



Operation Round Up board members from throughout the years join together to celebrate the \$1 million milestone.

began promotions in January 2002 for the first rounding up of bills in April 2002.

Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis, who has served as an employee member of the Operation Round Up Board since it began, sees the impact these grants make when he calls the organizations to tell them their programs have been granted funding. To see those add up over two decades and the grant program reach \$1 million in giving has been a dream.

"To be a part of this program since its inception and to see how its grown has been awesome," Dreibelbis said. "Knowing how we've positively impacted hundreds of organizations and thousands of people is so cool."

Operation Round Up has reached every part of our community — from providing food for food banks

to outfitting fire departments with lifesaving equipment to funding programs and projects for local schools and beyond.

Giving back to our community who built us is the foundation of Noble REMC, and we're proud of our members who believe in that mission too.

"We have such a giving membership and great participation in the program, which allows us to continue to make a positive impact on the people in our service territory," Dreibelbis said. "Let's go for \$2 million!"

You, the 91% of our members who participate and round up, have helped to improve the quality of life for those around you, your friends, neighbors and family. Thank you for your generosity, and we can't wait to hit and celebrate the next milestone in giving.

OPERATION ROUND UP BY THE NUMBERS

22 years of giving • 784 grants • 240 organizations • 28 total board members • \$6 average annual



Organizations are always grateful to our members for their generosity, and it's been an honor to positively impact a wide variety of local people and projects, including fire and parks departments, community groups, youth programs and beyond.

OPERATION ROUND UP THROUGH THE YEARS

1989: Operation Round Up created by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina.

January 2002: Noble REMC adopts and promotes its own Operation Round Up grant program.

April 2002: Co-op began rounding up members' bills.

July 2002: First distribution awarded to community, totaling \$8,880 to eight organizations.

April 2013: Co-op reached \$500,000 in donations to the community.

January 2024: Noble REMC surpassed \$1 million in giving through Operation Round Up.

member donation • \$45,625 average annual disbursement • \$1,003,759 total granted since 2002

LIGHTING the Way

BURNWORTH
LEADS BY EXAMPLE



Director Doug Burnworth stands next to one of the original, and now restored, tractors he used working his father's farm.

Growing his family farm from 100 acres 50 years ago to the 1,000 acres it covers today, Director Doug Burnworth has learned a few lessons:

- 1) Don't ask someone to do something you wouldn't do, and
- 2) evolution and education provide you the foresight to make major decisions.

He's taken these lessons into his 20 years of leadership for District 8 of Noble REMC's board of directors, paving the way for progress and success at the co-op.

Let's learn more about Burnworth:

WHY DID YOU WANT TO RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Because of the history of the co-op, in where it started to where it is now and the people that got it there. It's amazing what people did back when they started co-ops to what co-ops are now. We've been able to build on what the founders started.

I also like being part of the community and serving. My dad was a director for 33 years, so I knew the co-op and what it stood for. There were a lot of tough decisions made over the years to get it to where it is. A lot of good people made a lot of good decisions for our co-op. You want to make sure you continue that and keep making it better.

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN AS A DIRECTOR?

To have a say so to represent the members is big to me. What I've

learned is you never quit learning. It takes a lot more time than what people realize. You've got to keep up on everything, and you need to go to educational classes. It just keeps evolving.

The biggest thing to really open my eyes is when I got on the G&T (generation and transmission) board and was Noble REMC's director for that board. You think you know how everything's ran, but you really don't until you get on that board and see just what's done so we can have power.

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

We hire the CEO to run the company. We don't run it. Major decisions are brought to us to decide on. But the everyday running of the company is not our responsibility.

HOW HAS YOUR CAREER AS A FARMER HELPED YOU IN YOUR DIRECTOR ROLE?

I've been blessed to be able to do what I wanted and what I love my whole life. I've done it for 50 years.

Farming has evolved just like the electric business, from one pole down the line to one light bulb. We went from a small tractor — you worked everything, you plowed everything and you didn't have any chemicals to kill weeds back when you first started — to what it is now with the rise of

technology and the genetics. It's grown just like the electric business has, so it gives you the ability to make major decisions. You have the ability and foresight to see exactly why you need to spend money to make it better or to make it better for somebody else.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I grew up here. In fact, I grew up on this farm, and I purchased it from my dad. My wife and I have five children together. We've also got 10 grandkids. I'm very blessed.

If someone had told me that I would be to this point when I was 21 or 22, I'd say there was no way. Dad had 100 acres. I bought that from him, and we bought the rest along the way. We've been really fortunate to be able to do that.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TV SHOW? BINGING ANYTHING?

Every night we watch "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

Charger House in Ligonier. If I'm not busy, I usually go up every morning for coffee. We sit at the round table, a lot of education there — not! Most people call that the "BS" table. It keeps you together. Good times with friends.

ROUND UP TO \$1 MILLION

Operation Round Up's first quarter distribution put us over the top for reaching \$1 million in giving back to the community. The recipients were:

Central Noble Canstruction, \$2,500, canned foods

Lakewood Park Christian School, \$1,200, baseball field electrical upgrade

Junior Achievement serving DeKalb County, \$1,000, Finance Park program

Junior Achievement serving Noble County, \$1,500, Economic Success program

Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, \$1,000, local school group programs

Inspiration Ministries, \$1,500, cargo trailer

DeKalb High School, \$500, winter percussion music equipment

DeKalb Central Foundation, \$600, bike helmets

Judy A. Morrill Recreation Center, \$2,500, educational classroom books and materials

Trinity Daycare Ministry, \$3,000, materials and supplies

For local nonprofit organizations seeking funding, fill out and return an application to the Noble REMC office by April 1 to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded at nobleremc.com.

BOARD ELECTION DETAILS

We're just weeks away from the deadline to apply to run for our 2024 board of directors' election!

Now's the time to visit nobleremc.com/board-directors for more information or call our office at 800-933-7362 to schedule a meeting to receive your petition.

Here's what you need to know:

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

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

District 6: This district includes Jefferson and Albion townships in Noble County.

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

- Those interested in running for election, and are in good standing with the cooperative, are encouraged to call our office to set up 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.

If you have any additional questions, we encourage you to call our office and speak with Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis, who will walk you through the process.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

to attend our
Member Appreciation Event



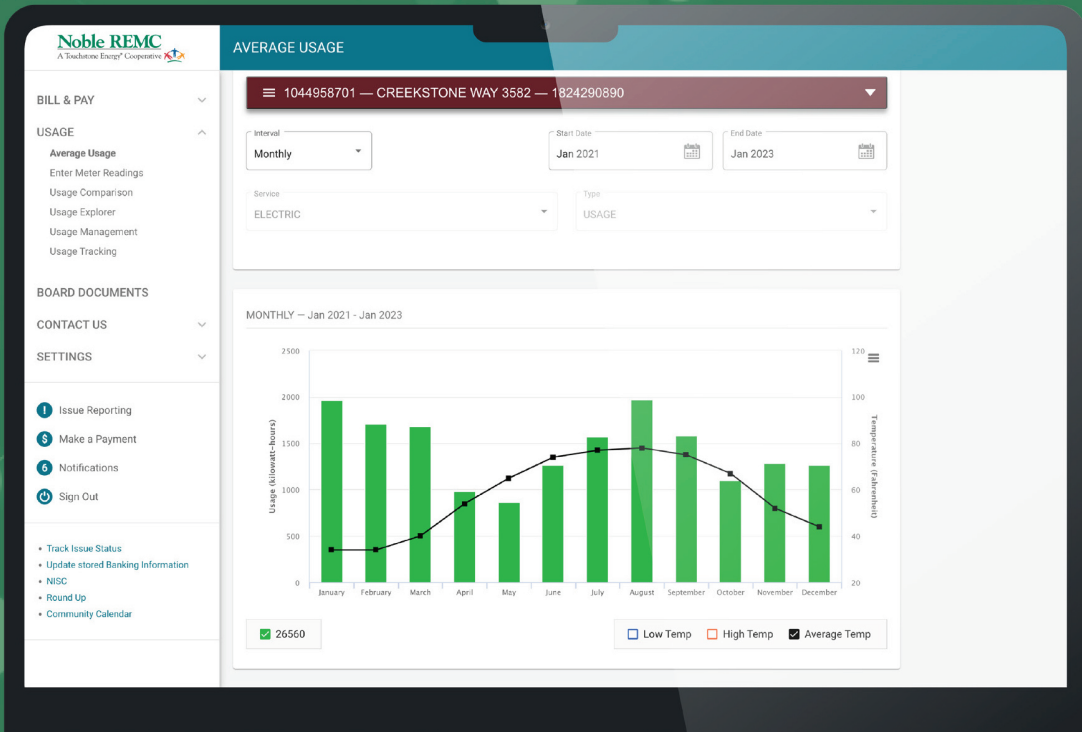
MAY
30

Noble REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





UPGRADE UNLOCKED



New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with our new, improved SmartHub on the web.

A simplified yet enhanced design, similar to the app, was unveiled in February.

This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze.



Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.