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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 Demsko  
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*



# PRIORITIZE SAFETY

## year-round



May is designated as Electrical Safety Month, but we know it's important to practice safety year-round.

Everyone – from Noble REMC's crews to you, the members we serve – should prioritize safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted in electrical fires and accidents in their own homes, but many of these accidents are preventable.

Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. That is why we joined the Commitment to Zero Contacts safety initiative four years ago – to remind ourselves each day to work safely in order to go home to our families every night. We commit to this through our use of the S.A.F.E. app, which provides job briefings onsite before starting a project, and continual safety training throughout the year.

We also want to help keep you and others in our community safe. That's why Noble REMC hosts safety demonstrations for community organizations and schools throughout the year to demonstrate electricity's dangers. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips:

**If you are in a vehicle that collides with a utility pole, stay in your car until emergency crews and electric company personnel arrive.** Power lines could detach from the pole and make contact with your vehicle, putting you in danger of electrocution if you exit the vehicle. The only time you should leave the vehicle is if it's on fire, and then you should jump with both feet out of the vehicle and hop away to safety.

**Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

**Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle by having too many devices running on one circuit.

**Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.** "Daisy chaining" them together could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord, or you risk overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard.

**Talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity.** Warn them about overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

It's right there in our mission statement: Where safety is the standard and members are the priority.

**RON RAYPOLE**  
President/CEO

# GET READY TO CAST YOUR VOTE!

The record number of ballots returned over the past two years with mail-in voting has shown us that members, like you, prefer this option for the Noble REMC board of directors' election. So, the week of the Member Appreciation Event on May 23, we will once again mail election ballots to your home, with a return date two weeks later.

**Noble REMC's Annual Meeting will then be held virtually on Facebook Live at 5 p.m. on June 14**, just as we have the past two years. This is where we will broadcast the state of the cooperative, as well as announce the winners of the board of directors' election. The video will stay on our Facebook page for viewing at a later time if you aren't able to see it while it's live.

## HOW TO VOTE

All Noble REMC members will receive a paper ballot in the mail, where you will mark your vote, tear off the ballot on the perforation and send it back in the prepaid return envelope.

Ballots must be postmarked by June 7 to be counted in this year's election.

It's so quick and easy, you don't even need to set it down on the counter when you return from the mailbox. Have your pen ready, make your marks and send it right back!

**NOTE:** Please do not include any bill payments in the prepaid return envelope. We understand it's tempting with the free postage, but these will not be opened until our credentialed ballot committee meets in June to tally the votes, possibly making your payment late if included. Instead, call our secure pay line or pay through SmartHub, which are both free options

to you and available right from your home.

## MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

### DISTRICT 1

**JAY WYSONG**, a Wawaka farmer who operates Wysong Farms and Prime Care Ag, currently represents District 1. He was first elected in 2019.



JAY WYSONG

He attends Stones Hill Community Church, and loves to spend time with his wife, Sandy; two children; and five grandchildren. He also enjoys riding bicycles and traveling.

### Why does he want to serve on the REMC Board of Directors?

"For me, it is about wanting to give back to the Noble REMC members and the community which the REMC supports. Bringing reliable electricity to our homes and businesses at an economical cost is very important to me. It takes committed individuals to step up and lead the co-op. I enjoy being involved in this endeavor."

### DISTRICT 2

Formerly in agricultural sales and management and now semi-retired as a bus driver, **RICK ROBERTSON**, of Kendallville,



RICK ROBERTSON

was elected to represent District 2 in 1996 and currently serves as the board's chairman.

He serves on the boards of the Noble County Community Fair Corporation and Noble County Farm Bureau, and is a member of the South Milford Church of Christ, Brimfield/Rome City Lions Club and Noble County Emergency Planning Committee. He and his wife, Deb, have two children and three grandchildren.

### What qualifies him most to represent District 2?

"I have a passion for my community and a willingness to serve. I have 35 years of experience in business and management in our local agricultural industry. I am willing to take the time to listen to members and share their concerns and needs. I am committed to lifelong learning to make the most informed decisions to benefit our present and future members."

### DISTRICT 8

**DOUG BURNWORTH**, a Kimmell farmer and operator of Stringtown Seed and Chemical, has represented District 8 for 18 years and currently serves as vice chairman of the board.



DOUG BURNWORTH

He is a member of Wolf Lake Baptist Church. He and his wife, Janelle, have five children and 11 grandchildren.

### Why does he want to serve on the REMC board of directors?

"To be a representative and voice for the members. To build on the success of Noble REMC and to keep Noble REMC one of the top co-ops in the state."

# LIGHTING *the Way*

Noble REMC Field  
Technician Brad  
Wentworth.

## BRAD LIKES BANTER AND THE BLUES



*Noble REMC wouldn't be successful without our employees and directors. To highlight the work that they do, we've launched Lighting the Way to place a spotlight on those who help the co-op thrive.*

Growing up on a farm, Brad Wentworth knows the power of electric co-ops. He's heard the stories of Noble REMC's history in providing power to rural areas, and now has played a hand in it himself. Wentworth has worked at Noble REMC for the past 24 years, currently as our field technician.

When he speaks, it's with a reverence to the co-op, and usually a smirk on his face and a one-liner at the ready.

Let's learn more about Wentworth:

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR JOURNEY HERE AT THE CO-OP?

"I started as a meter reader, and now I'm just an advanced meter reader," Wentworth said with a smirk.

"Since we no longer read meters because of the AMI (advanced

metering infrastructure), we now test 10% of the system every year. So, I make sure our meters are calibrated correctly, and we also look around to make sure there are no potential hazards since we don't frequent the meter as much as we used to.

"And we also do a lot of underground locates because you can't even dig for worms anymore without hitting something."

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

"That's easy. When I get to talk to some farmer that's a generation older than me, it gives me a chance to connect with the members that actually started the REMC. I can see in their eyes, farming wasn't just a job for them. It's a way of life for them."

### WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU WANT MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR JOB?

"I'm there to make sure everything is

in good service. I'm not there to spy on people."

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

"If I have a preference, I like to fish and hunt. I'd like it even more if I was 20 years younger."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

"'Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid' with Steve Martin."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF MUSIC?

"Blues."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"Shorty's Steakhouse in Garrett."

### WHAT'S SOMETHING SURPRISING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

"I'm a lot nicer than I appear."



# NOBLE REMC INVITES YOU TO OUR MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

DATE

MAY  
—  
23

Come celebrate being a Noble REMC member, alongside your neighbors and friends!

NOBLE COUNTY COMMUNITY  
FAIRGROUNDS, KENDALLVILLE

FREE PORKBURGER DINNER  
AND SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM

CASH PRIZE DRAWINGS

LOCAL COMMUNITY BOOTHS

MUSIC

FAMILY FRIENDLY GAMES  
AND ACTIVITIES

TIME

5:30<sup>PM</sup>

UNTIL

8<sup>PM</sup>

## 'CENTS' AND SENSIBILITY

How far can a few dollars go to help the environment? An investment of \$5 a month allows you to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources and enhance the local landscape, all by simply signing up for Noble REMC's EnviroWatts program.

And those dollars' impact will soon be seen locally, as two worthwhile projects from parks in our community received funding to improve their accessibility and recreation for area residents:

- **Albion Parks Department** was granted \$2,000 for the creation of wetlands at Hidden Diamonds Park. They will help foster new habitats for wildlife and provide better drainage for the property in preparation for a boardwalk and walking trails.

- **Churubusco Community Park** was awarded \$1,000 to install solar-powered light poles around the main entrance parking lot and Oscar's Playland. This will ensure a safer, well-lit environment for visitors, as well as lessen the park's carbon footprint.

This assistance to our community's projects was provided with just 45 participating Noble REMC members. Noble REMC thanks those members for their generosity, and just think of what could be done with even more support ...

### ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN OUR ENVIROWATTS PROGRAM?

You'll pay no more than \$5 a month – less than a meal at McDonald's or drink from Starbucks – to give back to both your community and the environment.



When you sign up for EnviroWatts, you pay an additional 1 cent for your first 500 kilowatt-hours each month. Those pennies then go into a fund to be awarded annually to environmental improvement projects. But what's more, that energy is then generated from renewable, environmentally preferred sources.

Sign up today by calling our office at 800-933-7362 or visiting [nobleremc.com/envirowatts](http://nobleremc.com/envirowatts) and filling out and returning the form provided for member participation.