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EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGES
To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

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The power of preparation



With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power

outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind our members and community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Fill your car with gas.

- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

KEEPING FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS SAFE

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress.

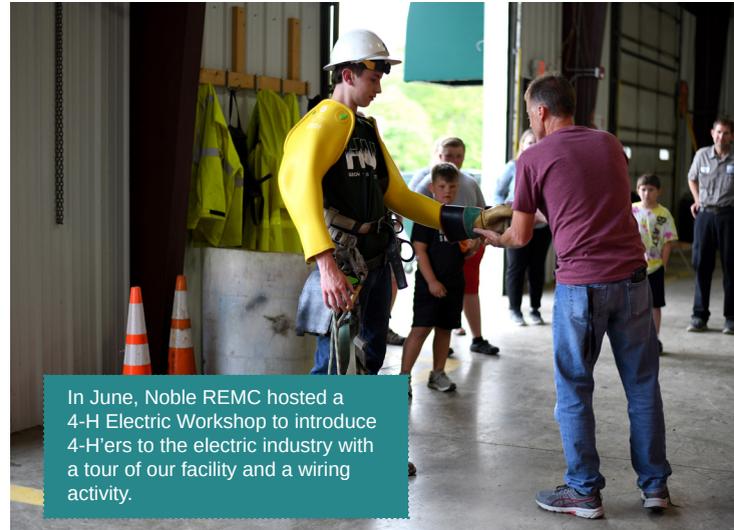
- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Noble REMC, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Noble REMC System Engineer Kenny Kill, right, and LaGrange County REMC Energy Advisor Jake Taylor, left, judge projects at this year's Noble County 4-H Fair.



In June, Noble REMC hosted a 4-H Electric Workshop to introduce 4-H'ers to the electric industry with a tour of our facility and a wiring activity.

FROM A TO Z WITH 4-H

One of our community's most valuable assets is its investment in its youth. Specifically, our local 4-H programs.

Noble REMC is proud to support the program from the moment a child joins to the culmination of his/her work at the 4-H Fair.

It all begins during registration, which takes place from October to January.

Since 2016, Noble REMC has provided the opportunity for its members' young ones to join 4-H for free through a voucher program.

This has covered 861 registration fees, across multiple counties in our service territory, through a bill credit of the same amount.

That means that many children have had the opportunity to be involved with hands-on projects, including health, science, agriculture and civic engagement, in a positive environment that encourages leadership roles for its participants.

It's a great first step, but then we take it a bit further — we put the focus on

those who are involved in the 4-H Electric program.

In June, we hosted a workshop at the co-op to help Noble County 4-H'ers learn more about our industry and ask any questions they may have about their electric projects in advance of showing them at the Noble County 4-H Fair.

It's our way to give back in the best way we know: by using our expertise to teach the next generation of electric industry leaders.

They tried on line worker gear and toured our garage, with a look at the utility trucks and equipment we use every day. Followed by some refreshments, 4-H'ers had the opportunity to show off their skills by being tasked to wire a light and fan with Play-Doh.

It wouldn't be long before we saw these same youth again.

Just a few weeks later, they presented their projects at the Noble County Community 4-H Fair, where Noble REMC employees, alongside our friends at LaGrange County REMC, acted as judges.

Seeing the amazing things they created — from a circuit board to a trouble light to even a lightsaber lamp — makes us proud to have such ingenuity in

our community and made us excited to see how they'll continue to progress and contribute in the future.

In past years, we've acted as judges not just for Noble County 4-H, but also 4-H fairs in LaGrange and DeKalb counties, helping where and when we can to support youth across our service territory and in neighboring programs.

4-H has been one of the most steadfast programs for our rural community, and Noble REMC is proud to stand alongside them as they mold youth into the confident leaders of tomorrow.

It's another way we demonstrate our commitment to the community and its future — one four-leaf clover at a time.



LIGHTING the Way

A BACK PORCH CHAT WITH JAY

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

Recently re-elected to his second term, Noble REMC Director Jay Wysong continues to learn and grow as he steps outside of his comfort zone as a local farmer to represent members in District 1.

His responsibility taking care of thousands of acres of land and tens of thousands of pigs brings with it an entrepreneurial spirit and a care for relationships that serves him well in his role.

Let's learn a bit more about Jay:

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

"I've farmed my whole life and really put my heart and soul into that and spent a lot of hours working. As you start to get older, you start thinking, 'You know, maybe I need to start doing something else.'

"When the opportunity came, I thought it might be a good fit. I'm ready to slow down farming, not work quite so many hours, and this is another opportunity for me to stretch myself a little bit and to serve the community. I think that's important."



Director Jay Wysong sits on the back porch of his Wawaka home.

DID YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CO-OP BEFORE YOU RAN?

"I knew we got an electric bill from them. Other than that, no," Wysong said with a laugh. "I've learned a lot in three years."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING A DIRECTOR?

"In life, I think you always go back to relationships. As you look at any business, it's nice to make a profit, it's nice to have good numbers, but ultimately, it's about relationships in life."

THE WYSONG NAME IS WELL-KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY. HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAVE BEEN HERE?

"My grandpa grew up a mile that way (west). My dad and I grew up a mile this way (north), so we've got a little triangle here — three generations. And now my son and my nephew are back, so this is the fourth generation within a mile or two of Wawaka here."

I SAW SOME BIKES ON THE PORCH AS I WALKED IN. WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?

"That's our number one hobby: biking. We bike a lot. Sunday, we went for 25 miles, and in the evenings, after we eat dinner, we'll go out for a 6-8 mile ride. Ever since we've been married, we've enjoyed it. In fact, we even go when we're on vacation. We look at bike trails, and we take them with us. We've taken them to Florida, to Ohio, to Canada."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

"The Bible. I read a lot of novels, but I also read biographies, informational books. I like reading. It's one of my favorite pastimes. As Brian Shepherd (West Noble Primary School principal) would say, 'Readers are leaders.'"

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

"I love music. I'm a terrible singer, cannot carry a tune worth anything, but I love to listen to music, anything from country to contemporary Christian to hymns to the oldies."



REMC NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

To say we were surprised would be an understatement. To say we were beyond grateful would not.

In July, the Avilla Chamber of Commerce announced that Noble REMC was named “Business of the Year” as part of its Business Community Awards.

Presented by Chamber representative Kevin Kelly, pictured at right of award,

employees Amber Kunkel, Audrey Bowser, Zane Gray and Tina Gienger accepted the award on behalf of the co-op.

Kelly explained the award recipients are chosen after nominations are sent in and voted on by local residents – making it all that more special.

“This award recognizes Noble REMC for its innovation, commitment to

quality products and customer service, and for its support of the community,” the Chamber said in its announcement.

Thank you to those who nominated us, as well as to the Chamber for awarding us this honor. We are proud to serve our members in rural Avilla, as well as the entire community, each and every day.

\$9,500 DONATED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Commitment to community is one of the pillars that sets cooperatives, including Noble REMC, apart.



That’s why we’re so grateful to our members who help us in our mission to give back through our Operation Round Up grant program.

With more than 85% of our members participating in the program, the pennies donated by rounding up your bill each month are making a big impact.

Your contributions are reaching every part of our community, from local food

banks to recreational initiatives to fire departments.

The third quarter distribution of the Operation Round Up Trust Fund awarded more than \$9,500 to six different organizations in our community, including:

- **West Noble Food Pantry**, \$1,000, paper products and food
- **Albion Lions Club**, \$2,500, skateboard park equipment
- **Inspiration Ministries, Inc.**, \$2,500, housing supplies
- **Sparta Township Volunteer Fire Department**, \$500, training equipment

- **West Noble Middle School Charger Fishing Club**, \$800, fishing equipment
- **Wayne Center District No. 7 Historical Site**, \$2,500, restoration

Thank you again to those members who choose to participate in the program and contribute to improving the quality of life in our area. None of this would be possible without your generosity.

For local nonprofit organizations who are seeking funding for a project, please fill out and return an application to the Noble REMC office by Sept. 28, to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded from nobleremc.com.