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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



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POWER IN YOUR HANDS



It's a simple question with a big answer: What makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities?

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Noble REMC's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here — to pay for the electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, such as our Member Appreciation Day, so we can hear from you. We also offer our Annual Meeting online each year for those who would like to engage with us from the comfort of their home.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're a part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy — and supply chain issues — throw at us.

Noble REMC is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through a free energy audit and our energy efficiency rebate program, Power Moves.

If you want to receive important information from Noble REMC, such as power restoration updates and billing alerts, sign up for our text message or email notifications through our SmartHub app.

Please know that you — the members of Noble REMC — are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.



RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

PCA REFLECTS INCREASED COSTS

To recover an increase in the cost of power we purchase and distribute from our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), Noble REMC recently set our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to \$0.015 per kWh.

The change is effective with August's electric use, which will be reflected on the bill you receive this month.

Delivering reliable power at the lowest possible cost continues to be the mission of both Noble REMC and WVPA. We are all working hard to manage expenses to continue to deliver on this mission, with Noble REMC remaining one of the lowest-cost energy providers in our area.

FROM FARM TO TABLE

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VISIT PORK 'N CLEAVER
WHERE IT'S FARM
TO FORK WITH
BEEF 'N PORK

The sign hanging above Pork 'N Cleaver's front door says it all: "Farm to Fork. Beef 'N Pork." It's a line of work the owners know exceptionally well. The Albion-based Earnhart family is known for their prize-winning hogs.

Driving past the outside, at first glance you may think Pork 'N Cleaver, at the corner of U.S. 33 and State Road 9 in Merriam, is a new restaurant offering.

"We get that a lot," said owner Steve Earnhart, and the idea isn't out of the question.

For now, the business is focused on providing locally sourced and butchered pork, beef and chicken; a variety of baked goods; barbecue sauces and other local products.

It was a transition they didn't see coming, but when they found themselves losing money selling hogs, they began looking for another outlet for their expertise.

After helping a butcher shop in Ohio, they — Steve Earnhart; his son, Derek; and daughter, Darbi Konkle — decided they could do the same for themselves and provide a need for the local community.

They found the perfect location just a few miles from their own farm, allowing them an easy commute and a prime location at the intersection of two major highways in the area.

And when they began planning for construction of a new building, one of their first calls was to Noble REMC's Energy Advisor Brian Hawk, who had previously helped secure cash-back rebates for a pole barn Earnhart outfitted with new LED lighting.

Construction took about three years, with the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues affecting the family's plans. However, the co-op secured three-phase service to the new building and worked with our Power Moves energy-efficiency rebate program to provide nearly \$8,000 in cash back for LED lighting, variable frequency drives on the refrigeration and an air-source heat pump in the office.

Now it's a bright spot in the community — in more ways than one — and has been met with a great reception since the doors first opened in May.

"It's been good. Everybody's glad it's close and local and the meat's local, born and raised," Earnhart said,

noting that though the beef isn't from their farm, it's still raised locally, as is everything they sell. "The response we're getting from the beef and steaks; people are saying it's the best steak they've ever had."

Just a few months in and Derek Earnhart is already hearing from the community about what else they'd like to see from Pork 'N Cleaver — restaurant-type offerings on the weekend, such as pulled pork or brisket sandwiches, and more local vendor items.

Don't worry. They're on it.

But for now, they're happy to provide fan-favorite porkburgers, tomahawk pork chops and their numerous flavors of brats.

To keep up to date on their offerings, check out their Facebook page, "Pork-n-Cleaver," or head their way to see their new building and local selection.



The Earnhart family — from left, Darbi Konkle, Steve and Derek Earnhart — laugh with Noble REMC Energy Advisor Brian Hawk after being presented with a \$7,948 Power Moves rebate check for their energy-efficient choices at their new butcher shop, Pork 'N Cleaver.



Noble REMC Director Joe Hutsell outside the Noble REMC office.

LIGHTING *the Way*

HUTSELL AIMS TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Born and raised in Noble County, Noble REMC Director Joe Hutsell sees it as his mission to give back to the community that gave so much to him growing up.

He started as a volunteer firefighter at age 18 and soon moved to his position as a member of the Noble County Sheriff's Department. This year marks his 45th year in law enforcement, in addition to his work in the community, whether on our board or on the West Noble School Board.

To him, it all ties into his duty to serve and protect. Let's learn more about Joe:

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE SO FAR AS A CO-OP DIRECTOR?

"It's been an eye opener, to be honest. To learn about transmission and distribution, seeing what the cost of it is and how it comes and where you get it from — it's just been really intriguing to find all those things out. It's not just flipping a switch. All the other directors are so willing to help you and fill you in on what you don't know."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF SERVING OUR MEMBERSHIP?

"I think it's being a part of helping the members and being able to always remember that I am a member, as well. We're working for the members,

to look out for the members and to be the most efficient."

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

"I think they don't know, as far as the time commitment as a director, what you have to put in as far as being on top of things and being willing to take the time out to read the particular material you've been provided with and so forth."

HOW DOES YOUR CAREER HELP YOU IN YOUR ROLE AS A DIRECTOR?

"Well, I've been a policeman for nearly 45 years, and I think it just helps to be able to stay in perspective because you're a policeman to serve, protect and help. And I think that you're a director to actually serve and fulfill the customers' needs as well. I think it's kind of a dual role."

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM THE AREA?

"I am from here. I grew up in Cromwell. I've been married to my lovely wife, Janet, for 23 years. We have three children — Jackie, Jake and Jenna. We also have three grandchildren, who are awesome."

"And I would tell you that you have the best kids in the world, but you can't, because I do."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"Just family, my kids. My kids are the best."

WHAT MOVIE HAVE YOU SEEN MORE THAN ANY OTHER?

"Top Gun' and 'Top Gun: Maverick.' They really tied them together well. 'I feel the need, the need for speed.'"

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING ON TV RIGHT NOW?

"We watch 'Yellowstone' — it's kind of the one that we've been watching here lately the most."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

"The Charger House. I go there every morning for breakfast. Every morning, except for Sundays. But normally during the week, if I can. We call it 'the round table,' a bunch of different guys over there every morning."

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO YOU TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN THIS ROLE AND OTHERS?

"Because the community served me a long time ago growing up. It's my turn to return what the community gave to me. And we have a great community. The rural area is where it's all at. We're a community, we're not just a number. Where you can go to the grocery store and see somebody and say 'hi' and talk to them for a little bit."

Welcoming our new EMPLOYEES

It was the cooperative difference that attracted two of Noble REMC's newest employees, and it seems they're doing all they can to make a difference in their respective positions.

Journeyman Lineman **TYLER RHOADES** and Right-of-Way Crew Member **COLE KNOX** each started their tenure at Noble REMC in March. Both quickly found their place within the organization and out on our lines.

Rhoades, a Michigan native, had worked at local municipal and investor-owned utilities before making the transition to the co-op world after hearing others speak of the benefits.

"I've worked with people in the past that worked for the REMC, and they loved it," Rhoades said. "That always stuck in the back of my head."

He had originally planned a different journey for his life — initially studying criminal justice — but after working with electricians during a summer job in high school, he couldn't quite shake the thought of doing something in the electric industry.

"I love being outside. It has its ups and downs, especially when it's hot or cold, but I like the autonomy and freedom of being out there with the guys," Rhoades said. "It's a big puzzle. Every job is completely different, and everyone has a different way to do something."



TYLER RHOADES

When he's not at work, Rhoades stays busy spending time with his partner, Kasidy, and three children, who are all under four years old. He also enjoys hunting and fishing, just like "every other yeehaw out there," he said with a laugh.

A native of Albion, Knox found himself back home after previously living in North Carolina, while he served in the U.S. Marine Corps — which is where he found his love of working outdoors doing more manual labor.



COLE KNOX

He said he had always heard that Noble REMC was a great place to work, and the opportunity to be outdoors on our right-of-way crew, helping to maintain our lines, was too much to pass up.

"I love being outdoors, so I was excited to be able to work outdoors every day," Knox said. And so far, it seems to be a perfect fit. "I have enjoyed being able to go to different parts of our service area that I hadn't been to before."

Similar to Rhoades, when Knox isn't working, he's spending as much time with his family as he can. He and his wife, Chloe, and one-year-old twin boys, love hunting, fishing and riding horses.

"Pretty much anything that gets us outdoors is what we'll be doing."

We welcome Tyler and Cole to the co-op team!



CREATE AN ELECTRICAL SAFETY PLAN

BEFORE YOU PLANT A TREE

TREES AND POWER LINES OFTEN COEXIST WITHOUT PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN PLANTING A TREE.

QUICK TIPS FOR SAFELY PLANTING A TREE:

Call 811 to have underground utilities marked at least a few working days, but no less than two full working days, before digging (IC 8-1-26). Knowing their locations helps you dig safely, and planting a safe distance away will help prevent damage from roots.

Create a basic plan, or a sketched diagram, before you begin planting to avoid future troubles. Using the information from the underground utility locator service will be a big help in setting some guidelines.



OPERATION ROUND UP: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"Commitment to community" is one of the pillars that sets Noble REMC apart from other organizations.

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 schools to food pantries and medical assistance programs.

The third quarter distribution of the Operation Round Up Trust

Fund awarded more than \$12,000 to seven different organizations in our community, including:

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, \$1,000, meat processing

Central Noble Junior/Senior High School, \$2,500, sixth grade outdoor educational trip

Boomerang Backpacks, \$1,500, for food

Lighthouse Childcare & Learning Service, \$2,651, air purifiers and a defibrillator

St. John Lutheran School, \$1,000, reading programs and books

East Noble Band Boosters, Inc., \$2,465, drum major podiums

HearCare Connections, Inc.,

\$1,000, hearing aid services

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. 29 to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded at nobleremc.com.



Every mile matters with 'Charge Ahead'

Noble REMC aims to always be at the forefront of new technology, especially when it betterers the lives of our members and the co-op.

That's why we're excited about the rise and diversity in electric vehicles. It gives us an opportunity to innovate. That's what led to the launch of our electric vehicle (EV) pilot program last year — Charge Ahead.

The program provides members who own electric vehicles the option to increase their energy efficiency, while also saving them money, through the introduction of an exclusive time-of-use rate.

Those who sign up and "charge ahead" with us will receive a discounted rate for charging at certain



Noble REMC's electric Ford Mustang Mach-E at a local car show.

times of the day. We hope this will encourage EV owners to charge their vehicles outside of our peak time from 5-8 p.m., when electricity is more expensive because of the higher amount of demand on our system. This will allow EV owners to

save money, while also helping us to maintain the reliability of our grid.

For more information, call our office at 800-933-7362 to speak with Energy Advisor Brian Hawk about Charge Ahead — because every mile matters.