

## CONTACT US

Office: 800-933-7362

## 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*  
Bill Emmert  
Larry Ott  
George Bennett  
Mark Demske  
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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## IN MEMORIAM

Noble REMC was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Kenneth Ott, a long-term director of the co-op. He served this cooperative and its members with integrity for more than 20 years from 1977-1998. We honor his service to the community, and offer his family condolences during this time.



# MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE *merry and bright!*



The holidays are a time of year many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities.

We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Noble REMC, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive.

## REFLECTION

In looking back at this past year, I’m grateful we were able to make a positive impact in the community through programs such as Indiana Electric Cooperatives’ Community Day and Operation Round Up, where, thanks to your contributions, we donated more than \$44,000 to local nonprofits and their projects.

We were also grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise awareness of electrical safety. This year,

we provided 11 safety demonstrations to around 600 students.

In fact, we continue to work closely with our local high schools to award college scholarships. In 2019, we awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to local seniors, all of whom were from Central Noble. (This is the first time three students from the same school received the award!)

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we’re providing information about our community solar program, Co-op Solar; presenting high voltage demonstrations to first responders and emergency personnel; or helping you find ways to save energy at home. We want you to know we’re here to help.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you — the members of the co-op — and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to serving you and the greater community. On behalf of the Noble REMC family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

**RON RAYPOLE**  
President/CEO

# New faces bring new energy



AUDREY BOWSER



LUKE GILLIS



MIKE KLOPFENSTEIN



KYLER LIKES



MIKE MCCRAY



ZAC MCCRAY



JOHN STRZEMPKA

The past few months have been marked by a lot of change at Noble REMC, especially in our operations department. With retirements and transitions of former employees, we've welcomed a handful of new faces to the cooperative.

Father and son duo, **Mike and Zac McCray**, joined the cooperative in June as journeymen linemen. It's uncommon to see family members want to spend that much time with each other, but after working together for nearly a decade at another electric utility, they have a proven history of professionalism and teamwork.

"It's been a joy to see where he started and where he is now in his career, to see how much he's learned," Mike said of his son, Zac.

But they're always careful to keep their professional and their personal lives separate, perfecting the balance over their years together. It gives them the opportunity to see each other in another light and provides some additional time

together, Zac commented.

"I enjoy seeing him every day," Zac said. "And giving each other a hard time is always fun."

Having started in June as well, **Audrey Bowser** joins the face of our organization as a customer service representative. She comes to the cooperative with previous experience at LaGrange County REMC, so remember to say hello when you visit our office or give us a call.

Also joining our operations department is **Mike Klopfenstein** as an apprentice lineman and **Luke Gillis** as a tree trimmer and groundman with our right-of-way crew. Klopfenstein has been a part of the team for almost six months, while Gillis became a part of the team in October.

With the changing environment of technology and operations, the cooperative also redefined two existing roles to help the REMC run more efficiently.

**John Strzempka** took on the newly-created role of GIS technician in our engineering department in July. With a focus on keeping our mapping and outage system as up-to-date as possible, he'll be the lead to make sure the operations department stays at the top of its game.

The newest, and youngest, of the recent hires is **Kyler Likes**, who is also taking on a new role as utility laborer. He was hired in October and will be shared between the right-of-way crew and linemen to assist where necessary.

It may seem like a lot of change – and it has been – but these decisions and hires are made to ensure the cooperative is progressing and evolving with our technology, as well as keeping pace with the needs of our members.

We welcome all of our new employees and appreciate all they currently do, and will do in the future, for the success of Noble REMC!

# PAYING IT FORWARD WITH PENNIES

During the holiday season, generosity can be found in many different places and in many different ways.

Whether it's helping someone cross the street, shoveling a neighbor's snowy sidewalk or serving meals for those in need, there's always a way to give back.

At Noble REMC, we're fortunate to have members who choose to give back throughout the year through our Operation Round Up program.

More than 80 percent of our members allow us to round up their bills every month, equaling about \$6 a year for each household. While that may not sound like a lot, when you put all those pennies into a charitable trust, it adds up.

Then our volunteer board of directors awards the funds to nonprofit, community-based organizations in Noble, DeKalb and adjoining counties each quarter, benefiting the communities to

which our members and the cooperative belong.

In the latest distribution of the Noble REMC Operation Round Up Trust, totaling more than \$11,500, we were able to give back to local schools and food banks, including:

**Noble House Ministries**, \$1,500, adult parent program

**McMillen Health**, \$1,000, preventative health education program

**Boomerang Backpacks, Inc.**, \$1,500, backpack food supplies

**Smith-Green Community Schools**, \$1,000, 4-H livestock judging team

**West Noble Primary School**, \$500, Guys Night Out program

**East Noble Band Boosters**, \$1,000, uniforms

**Central Noble Elementary School**, \$700, JA BizTown program

**Smith-Green Community Schools**, \$2,460, FFA and ag welding shop equipment

**Emmanuel**

**Lutheran Church**, \$1,000, non-food items

**Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc.**, \$1,000, Noble County Farm Wagon

To be considered for the next cycle of disbursements, local nonprofit organizations are encouraged to fill out and return an application to the Noble REMC office by Jan. 2, 2020.

Applications are available now at the Noble REMC office in Albion or can be downloaded from [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com), under "Programs."



## A time for giving (cash) back

You may have seen or read about "patronage capital," wondered "What?!" and glossed right over it. Well, don't do that this time!

We'll keep it short and sweet for you: For being a customer of Noble REMC, you get cash back over time. That's it. It's money in your pocket.

Belonging to the community we serve, we share our excess revenue back with the people we serve: you!

This is done over time, with disbursements benefiting members from as far back as 30 years ago to as recent as last year. The years

and amounts are decided by the board — members elected by you — each year.

This year, those receiving cash back include members from the years 1989, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2018. With the retirement of funds totaling more than \$1 million, the amount each member receives is based on how much power the member used in those years.

So, what should you expect?

- Members will receive a check for the amount allocated to them.
- As printed checks can become costly,

members will only receive a check if the amount is \$10 or more.

- If you don't reach that \$10 threshold, don't worry. Your patronage capital will accumulate over time and be returned when the balance reaches at least \$10.

While a nice bonus in your pocket, what's more important is that this cash back shows Noble REMC's strength and financial stability, as well as serves as a reminder that you hold us accountable.

We don't answer to shareholders; we serve you, our members.

# Heating up with incentives on water heaters at your co-op

Looking to replace a water heater in your current home or install one in a newly constructed house?

Noble REMC should be your first stop.

As a member, you receive multiple benefits in the form of free equipment, reimbursements and discounts, if purchased through the co-op.

## REPLACING AN EXISTING WATER HEATER

Those replacing their water heaters can purchase them at cost from us for:

- 50-gallon water heater — \$340
- 50-gallon heat pump water heater — \$1,220 (This is also eligible for a \$400 Power Moves® rebate.)

## NEW HOME INSTALLATION

For a new home needing one water heater:

- 50-gallon water heater — FREE

- Heat pump water heater from Noble REMC — \$150 credit (This is also eligible for a \$400 Power Moves rebate.)
- Any size water heater, purchased elsewhere — \$340 credit

For a new home needing two 50-gallon water heaters:

- First water heater — FREE
- Second water heater — \$340

OR

- First water heater purchased elsewhere — \$340 credit

Reimbursements for installation and service:

- Electric Replacement Installation Allowance: \$50
- Gas Replacement Installation Allowance: \$100

- Annual Service Reimbursement (parts from us are no charge): \$85

\* Must be done by a qualified plumber or electrician.

\* Member pays the invoice and brings us a copy for reimbursement, which will be delivered in the form of a check.



For more information and options pertaining to our water heater program, contact our office at 800-933-7362 or visit us online at [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com).



## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL 4-H PROGRAM!

The first 200 youth who enroll in 4-H by Jan. 15, 2020, and whose families are REMC electric customers, will have their 4-H program fees reimbursed by Noble REMC.

Upon enrolling and paying the \$15 program fee, a credit voucher can be obtained by eligible participants by contacting their county's Purdue Extension office. Bring in or mail the voucher to the REMC for a \$15 bill credit.