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**EMAIL**  
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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*  
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*

## 2020 CENSUS

The importance of facilitating a complete count in the upcoming U.S. Census cannot be understated. It determines where federal funding is distributed and draws the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts.

Help expand Noble County Economic Development Corporation's public awareness campaign by visiting "Count Noble — 2020 Census" on Facebook. For those outside of Noble County, visit 2020census.org to learn more about the process or how to become involved.

# DO YOU KNOW YOUR 'DEMAND'?



You may not think you need to understand energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to

that question is "yes," then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

Before Noble REMC can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by a generation and transmission cooperative. For Noble REMC, that cooperative is Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) — a name you may have seen in this publication previously.

Once the electricity has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines — you often see the large steel structures making their way across farms — to substations, where the voltage is reduced to an optimum level. The electricity then travels over our distribution power lines until it reaches the transformer on a pole or in a green cabinet (called a pad-mount transformer) on your property, where the voltage is again lowered and transported into your home. So, while you pay your bill to us — your electric distribution cooperative — we don't actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of WVPA.

We do help determine how much electricity our members need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in determining how much electricity WVPA needs to supply in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where these terms "consumption" and "demand" come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb "consumes" a certain number of watts, let's say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it "demands" a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on 10, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kW. However, you are placing a demand on the utility to have those kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of 10. This requires the generating plant to produce and deliver more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

A big component of Noble REMC's power cost from WVPA is based on the peak demand of our roughly 11,500 members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during weekday evenings when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most.

Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more to both Noble REMC and to our members. Take note (and take time) to schedule your electricity-dependent chores outside of the peak period from 4-8 p.m. on weekdays. We all save when you do.

Demand and consumption are the reason your electricity bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured, Noble REMC will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your family.

**RON RAYPOLE**  
President/CEO

# Get involved!

## CONSIDER RUNNING FOR YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you want to be in the room where decisions regarding the future of Noble REMC are made, now is the time to pick up and complete a petition for a seat on our board of directors.

The board is made up of nine individuals who represent their fellow members in his or her respective district. One of those could be you.

There are three districts up for election at this year's Noble REMC Annual Meeting and Picnic, and they include:

**District 4:** Currently served by Bill Knox, this district covers the eastern portion of our service territory, including all the areas of DeKalb County

served by the cooperative, part of Salem Township in Steuben County and part of Perry Township in Allen County.

**District 5:** Currently served by Bill Emmert, this district covers the west-central portion of our service territory, including Sparta and York townships in Noble County and part of Turkey Creek Township in Kosciusko County.

**District 9:** Currently served by Larry Ott, this district covers the south-central portion of our service territory and represents those in Green Township in Noble County.

To run for election, qualified members of Noble REMC, who live in Districts

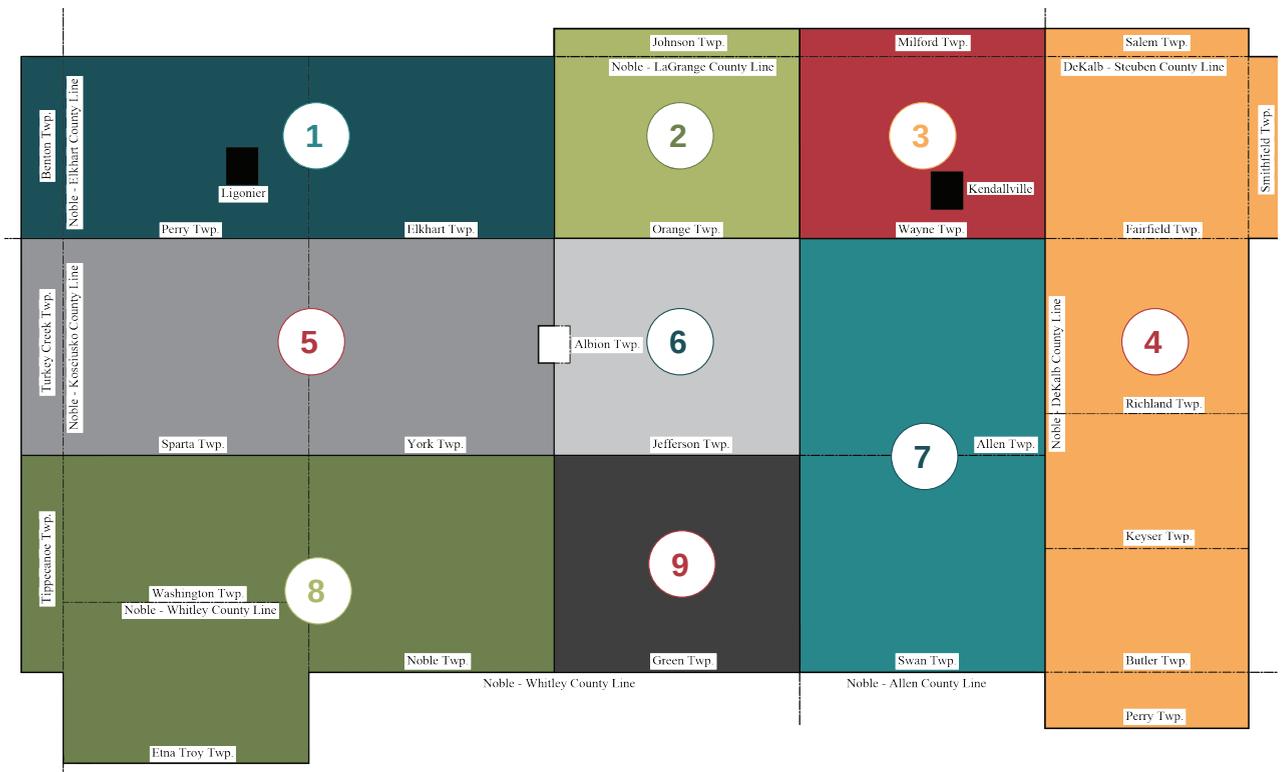
4, 5 or 9, must file a petition with the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

The REMC will provide the petitions for election, as well as other board information. **Completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative no later than April 6.**

Candidates will stand for election at the annual meeting, which will take place on Saturday, June 6, at Noble REMC headquarters.

For more information about the board of directors' election process, stop by the office or call us at 800-933-7362.

## NOBLE REMC DISTRICT MAP





# Ask the energy advisor

## Plugging the (ice) dam

By **Brian Hawk**

Here we are, kicking off a new year of “Ask the Energy Advisor.” It’s my hope you found the previous year’s articles helpful when it comes to understanding your energy consumption and ways to save.

To kick off 2020, I’m taking you back to the winters of my childhood. I used to love sledding in my backyard, building snow forts, having snowball fights with my brothers, and when we were done with the snow, breaking the icicles off our house and having sword fights.

Now, as much fun as that was when I was a kid, I didn’t care for it too much when I bought my childhood home and had to pay the heat bill to make those same icicles!

I’m talking about a process commonly referred to as “ice dams.” This takes place when one spot on the roof becomes warmer than a spot lower on the roof. The melted snow travels along the roof deck, hits the cold spot

below and returns to ice. Typically, this happens right at the soffit, or the water can travel over the soffit to create the beautiful icicles most people have on their gutters — but those usually come with twinkly lights!

A few of the reasons this happens is insufficient insulation in the attic, air leaking into the attic and poorly insulated ductwork in the attic. In most cases, it is a combination of these along with changing conditions outside.

Insufficient insulation in the attic is probably the most noticeable of the reasons mentioned. The rule of thumb is if you can see your framing on the floor of the attic, the insulation is inadequate.

One of the most common causes of air leakage into an attic is recessed (can) lights. Older can lights had holes in them to let the heat out of the fixture, but this also allows heat from your home to escape into the attic. Improperly insulated or uninsulated

ductwork in an attic has the potential to not only allow air to escape into the attic, but also loses heat through thermal transfer as well.

All these scenarios have the potential to cause damage to shingles and sheathing, ceilings and walls during the winter months. And even when there isn’t any snow present, they will continually cause a drain on your heating system, as well as add to your cooling costs in the summer.

The moral of this story is: proper attic air sealing, insulation and ventilation may well be the best money you can invest when it comes to saving energy in your home.

*It’s a new year, and “Ask the Energy Advisor” welcomes your input. Have a question you’d like featured? Email [brian.hawk@nobleremc.com](mailto:brian.hawk@nobleremc.com) with the subject line “Ask the Energy Advisor,” and it may be published.*

**Brian Hawk** is the energy advisor at Noble REMC.

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## Don’t pay extra to pay your bill

“Darn it!” You forgot your Noble REMC bill payment was due today, and it’s after 4:30 p.m.

Not to worry! Our phones are manned 24/7 to take your payments and automatically apply them to your account.

Unfortunately, we’ve seen a rise in members using payment centers — located in grocery stores, gas stations and online

— to get their payment to us quickly ... or so they think.

These payment centers usually require a fee to be the messenger between you and us, promising immediate deposit or delivery of your payment by the due date. But they’re selling something they can’t guarantee. We’ve received many of these payments in our office days after they’re due, leading to disconnects that wouldn’t

have happened if the member had called us first.

Stop paying more than you need to for an unreliable service. Call us for free at 800-933-7362 to make your payment by check or with a credit or debit card.

Always call us first before using any service you find questionable. We’re here to serve you, day or night.

# APPLY FOR *youth programs*

## PAGE DAY

JAN.  
22

Spend a day in the Indiana Senate with students from REMCs around the state. See

the Senate in action, observe policy debates, assist legislators during session, and tour the governor's office and Statehouse.

**REQUIREMENTS:** You must be available on Jan. 22 and have reliable transportation to and from the Indiana Statehouse that day. The program is open to high school students. Please confirm with school administrators, but Page Day is considered an excused absence in most instances.

**APPLY:** Apply by Jan. 10 at [GOIEC.org/2020pageday](http://GOIEC.org/2020pageday).



## TOUCHSTONE ENERGY CAMP

JUNE  
3-6

A fun, powerful and unique camp experience designed for students entering seventh grade in 2020.

Horseback riding, canoeing, zip lining, archery, swimming, learning about electrical safety and bucket truck rides. Apply at [TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org](http://TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org).

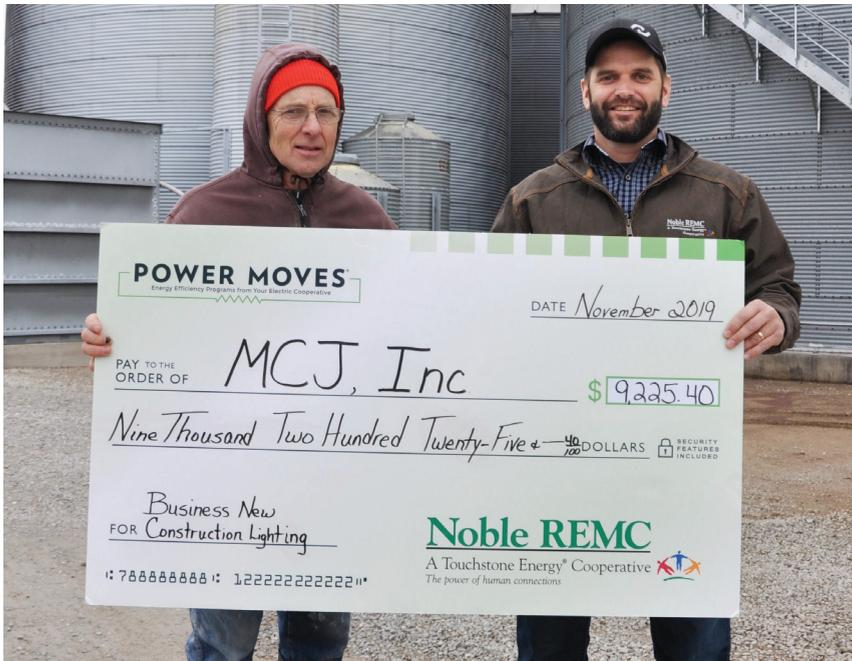
## INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

JUNE  
18-25

Noble REMC wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Monuments, museums, legislators, friends and history make this an opportunity not to be missed. Apply now by visiting [nobleremc.com/electric-cooperative-youth-tour](http://nobleremc.com/electric-cooperative-youth-tour), where a link to the application is available.

**Applications for Touchstone Energy Camp and Indiana Youth Tour are due by March 2.** For more information, call Nic Engle, Noble REMC Marketing Coordinator, at 800-933-7362.

# Save by making 'power' moves



Doug Moser of MCJ, Inc., left, accepts a \$9,225 Power Moves rebate check from Noble REMC Energy Advisor Brian Hawk, right. The Ligonier farm earned the cash back through the purchase of LED lighting for its newly constructed barn.

"What I've learned is that before you do any project, call the co-op to see what money is available."

That was the reaction from Jeff Jacobs of MCJ, Inc. when he saw the big presentation check for the farm's recent decision to go energy efficient with LED bulbs in its newly constructed barn.

It also came as a nice surprise when Noble REMC Energy Advisor Brian Hawk explained even more opportunities for savings. The Ligonier farm is taking two barns out of commission, removing old incandescent bulbs in the process, something that not many people know is part of our Power Moves® rebate program for businesses.

The group headed to the barns there and then to walk through and start the rebate application process.

"Just about anything businesses can do to become more energy efficient can be turned into cash," Hawk said. If he had one message to spread to business and home owners alike, it would be to contact the REMC before doing upgrades or construction, so he can offer them ways to save money now and over the life of their equipment. The program is expansive, so it's hard to cover everything in promotional materials or in a first meeting, he added.

To learn how you can save through Noble REMC's Power Moves program, contact Hawk at 800-933-7362.

## Keeping Warm

HEATING PAD,  
ELECTRIC BLANKET &  
SPACE HEATER SAFETY



**DO** read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.

**DON'T** leave a space heater or electric heating blanket unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

**DON'T** use the heater if plugs are frayed, worn or damaged.

**DO** keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.

**DON'T** use an electric blanket if there are dark, charred or frayed spots.

**DO** plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.

