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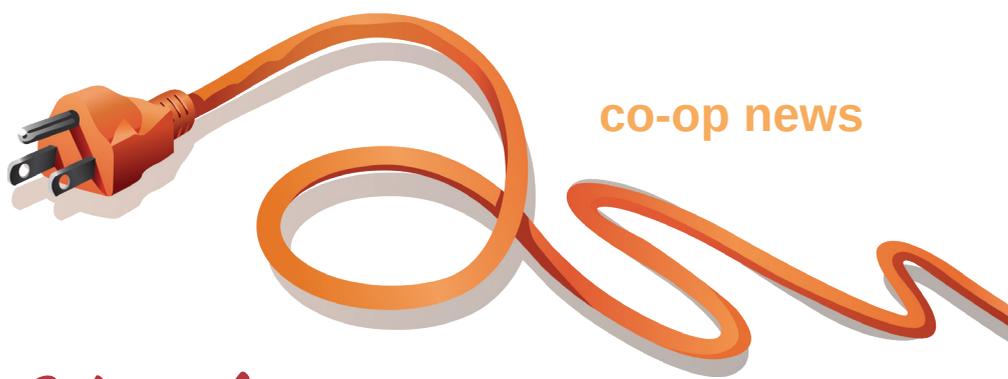
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Unplug to be more connected



“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.”

Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of

unplugging in today’s device-driven, multitasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest trends on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge — even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use, also known as “vampire” energy loss. Televisions, gaming consoles, phone chargers and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Take a stroll on the Fishing Line Trail. Stop by Country Heritage Winery for a wine tasting. Visit Black Pine Animal Sanctuary for a bit of adventure. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

Speaking of spending time outdoors, you can also enjoy energy savings by incorporating LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Save energy by keeping warm summer air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

You can help us control our costs by using less power during our peak load time, from 5-8 p.m. throughout the week. These are the hours when we pay the most for our power. By delaying running your dishwashers or laundry and adjusting your thermostat a few degrees warmer, we can all save money.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While Noble REMC can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Bob Lortie, at right with Noble REMC CEO Ron Raypole, is retiring after 42 years as the District 1 director.

Looking back

He's served the cooperative nearly the length of two generations, but now he's ready to move on to give the next generation an opportunity to lead.

Director Bob Lortie will be handing over the reins of the District 1 seat he's held for 42 years at this year's annual meeting and picnic. District 1 includes Perry and Elkhart townships in Noble County and part of Benton Township in Elkhart County.

With a recent decision to move out of his district area, he became ineligible to serve on the board in his District 1 seat. But since he's moving west of Kendallville, to a property on REMC lines, he laughed as he joked that he just "might have to run against Rick" Robertson, the current District 2 director.

With the move as his initial catalyst for his decision, he realized he also wanted to give others an opportunity to lead the cooperative.

"It's a great organization with fantastic

employees," Lortie said. "It's time for someone younger to take over."

At 76 years old, Lortie has seen the co-op transition and evolve over the past four decades, changing alongside the advancement in technology.

He remembered starting his service at the REMC when it was located on Main Street, where Central Noble School Corporation's central office is currently housed. Then the co-op moved into its current headquarters on Weber Road, he explained. And then it was remodeled. And then it was added on to.

When he started, Noble REMC didn't own any substations. Now we've built five and purchased one.

He's seen four different managers and CEOs lead the cooperative, and was part of the transition to advanced metering infrastructure.

But his favorite experience? The relationships.

"The whole co-op system is a family organization, from statewide to neighboring counties to those you meet at functions like the annual meeting," Lortie said.



The Albion native who graduated from Albion-Jefferson High School won't be going too far. Already retired from his work as a district manager for a nutritional company, he'll use his additional free time to play more golf and travel a bit.

The next District 1 director will have large shoes to fill, but Lortie knows that person will do just fine.

"Don't be scared," Lortie said. "It's a learning curve."

Local students awarded scholarships

Noble REMC recently awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to help students in our community further their education.

To be eligible, the recipients' parents or guardians must be members of Noble REMC. Candidates were judged anonymously based on grade point average, a short autobiography and letters of recommendation, as well as their involvement at school and in the community.

This year's recipients are:

THADDEUS FOSTER is a graduate of Central Noble High School and plans to attend Purdue University to pursue a degree in agricultural



engineering. After earning his degree and becoming an engineer, he also hopes to run his family farm on the side. He is the son of Bert and Chris Foster of Albion.



MELEAH LEATHERMAN is a graduate of Central Noble High School and will attend the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. She plans to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and work in

an emergency room or obstetrics department. She is the daughter of Dennis and Lori Leatherman of Albion.



ANNA STAYNER is a graduate of Central Noble High School and plans to attend Indiana University Fort Wayne to pursue

a degree in nursing. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse and raise a family in her native Noble County. She is the daughter of Rodney and Jennifer Stayner of Albion.

Rounding up to give back

We know how generous our members are in giving back to the community we serve and belong to. Now everyone else will too.

Twelve organizations will be receiving grants through the most recent disbursement of Noble REMC's Operation Round Up Trust Fund, which is made possible by the more than 80% of our members who allow us to round up their bills every month. This monthly donation averages about \$6 a year.

Those pennies per month are placed in a charitable trust, overseen by its own volunteer board of directors. This money is then awarded to nonprofit, community-based organizations in Noble, DeKalb and adjoining counties and benefits the communities the members and cooperative belong to.

Organizations awarded funding from

the April distribution of the Noble REMC Operation Round Up Trust, totaling more than \$11,500, include:

- **Central Noble Archery Club**, \$725, block targets
- **Orange Township Fire Department**, \$500, computer programming
- **Town of Albion**, \$1,000, HCI Pathway Project
- **Central Noble Sixth Grade**, \$2,000, outdoor education program
- **The Apple Tree Center**, \$1,000, water safety jackets
- **Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry**, \$1,000, meat processing for meals
- **Life and Family Services**, \$1,000, BABE educational program curriculum

- **City of Kendallville**, \$1,000, Kid City
- **Drug Free Noble County Inc.**, \$1,000, prevention support programs
- **DeKalb Chamber Partnership**, \$500, Leadership DeKalb event
- **Living Water Lutheran Church – Wolf Lake Food Pantry**, \$1,000, food
- **Big Lake Church of God**, \$800, AED and first aid kit

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 Monday, July 1.

Applications are available now at the Noble REMC office in Albion or can be downloaded from nobleremc.com, under "Programs."

Rappel retires after rewarding cooperative career

When you walk through the co-op's hallways and ask people how they would describe Kay Rappel, the word you hear most often is "class."

Sitting in the middle of linemen and engineers as the operations customer service coordinator, she is meticulously put together in a pair of shoes that perfectly matches her dress, every strand of hair in place, every piece of jewelry shining.

But more than that, she's class in spirit, and it's what our employees and members will miss most, after she made the decision to retire in May after 36 years at the co-op.

Beginning as a receptionist in October 1982, she worked her way to her current position about six years later, eager to learn more about the operations side of the business.

"I've loved it. I've enjoyed talking to members and working with them

to resolve their issues for them. It's always been about customer satisfaction," Rappel said. "I may not have been out in the field, but the other side was just as rewarding."

She's been a vital part of the evolution of the REMC's mapping system, taking it from paper, pen and stencils to the automated software system it is today. Connecting it with our outage system has made it the epicenter of our operations, she explained.

"It's like going from the Flintstones to now," Rappel said with her signature laugh. "Now our map is our heartbeat. It displays our connectivity and is becoming the hub of the company."

If our mapping system is the heartbeat, she is the heart of our operations crew.

The fast-paced environment kept her challenged, which was one of her favorite parts of the job. She continued

to learn and grow even in the hours leading up to her last day.

"It's just been a good place to work, with great opportunities for learning and challenging yourself," Rappel said. "Even this week, I learned something new on the map, and that was only two days ago!"

Her advice for the person who takes up her mantle? You need to be able to balance the work with providing excellent customer service.

"We can be so quiet, and then a substation goes out," Rappel said. "It goes from 0 to 100 real fast, and you need to be able to switch gears."

In her retirement, she'll be switching gears to a less intense environment, working on some projects around the house now that she won't have any time constraints. And, of course, the most important thing of all: spending more time with family.



Kay Rappel's name graces a plaque that features other Noble REMC retirees.



Honoring our heroes

Wearing shirts of red and hats adorned with stars, two gentlemen speak and laugh animatedly at the World War II Memorial. It's a strange sight, until you realize they're experiencing a reunion of sorts.

Though initially unaware, both discovered they were stationed at the same Air Force base in France at the same time as they served during the Korean, Cold and Vietnam wars.

If it wasn't for Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana, the reunion may never have happened.

This is just one of the many stories from April's 31st flight. More than 70 veterans who served during World War II, the Vietnam and Korean Wars, as well as the Cold War, were recognized for their sacrifice with an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials dedicated to them.

Noble REMC is honored to be a contributor to Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, which has hosted more than 2,200 veterans on such trips since the program began.

It's a long but rewarding day for the veterans, their guardians and all involved on the trip.

The veterans and their guardians started the day at the Fort Wayne National Guard

base, where they were given an early morning sendoff before flying to D.C. to visit as many memorials and monuments as possible in one day. These included memorials to World War II, Lincoln, Vietnam, Korea, Air Force and Women in Military Service.

At Arlington National Cemetery, the group witnessed the changing of the guard and the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Thousands of patriotic fans, family members and friends welcomed the Honor Flight participants home as they disembarked the airplane at Fort Wayne International Airport late that evening, with some veterans overcome with emotion at the sight.

Communications Specialist Kelly Lynch traveled with the group to document the day through photographs, including the ones featured here. The photos will be featured in a book, sponsored by the REMCs of northeast Indiana, that each veteran will receive to commemorate the day.

It was a day Lynch will never forget.

"Witnessing a Vietnam veteran saying hello to a 'brother' listed on the war's memorial wall and a female veteran being recognized for her service during the Cold War has engrained in me the weight of the

sacrifice each veteran gives during their service," Lynch said. "It was one of the most fulfilling and humbling experiences of my life."

Noble REMC is proud to stand behind and support these veterans through this honoring of their sacrifice. Honor Flight is a much deserved tribute to our veterans who bravely defended our country.

