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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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# See you at your annual meeting!



Do you know why the cooperative holds an annual meeting each year? It gives you the opportunity to vote for your board of directors, hear important financial information and, of course, pick up your free registration gift and energy credit!

Noble REMC's annual meeting and picnic is a community gathering where members can meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the errands of life and more of our interactions with others are online, we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like ours to bring together members from our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors than most, it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling,

saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts everyone involved.

Set for Saturday, June 1, Noble REMC's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of our co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electricity is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to come out and celebrate with your fellow co-op members.

We get out of life what we put into it. Noble REMC is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting Saturday, June 1!

**RON RAYPOLE**  
President/CEO

## Board applications sought

At this year's annual meeting on June 1, Noble REMC members have the opportunity to vote for individuals to represent them for the following districts:

**District 1:** Perry and Elkhart townships in Noble County and the part of Benton Township in Elkhart County served by the cooperative. Currently served by Robert Lortie, who will retire at the end of this term and will not be on the ballot in June.

**District 2:** Orange Township in Noble County and the part of Johnson Township in LaGrange County served by the cooperative. Currently served by Rick Robertson.

**District 8:** Washington and Noble

townships in Noble County and the parts in Tippecanoe Township in Kosciusko County and Etna-Troy Township in Whitley County served by this cooperative. Currently served by Doug Burnworth.

Qualified members of Noble REMC, who live in those districts up for election, may seek election by filing a petition with the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy. Petitions for election and other board information are provided by the REMC, and must be completed and returned no later than April 1. For additional information, stop by the office or call us at 800-933-7362.



Serviceman Dave Dunn smiles as he places his nameplate on Noble REMC's plaque of retirees. Dunn retired in early February after 24 years with the cooperative.

## Saluting service

### DUNN RETIRES FROM NOBLE REMC

Most people don't get to celebrate their birthday and retirement within 24 hours of each other, but that's just how Serviceman Dave Dunn planned it.

Dunn celebrated his 56th birthday on Feb. 5 and retired the next day after more than 24 years with the cooperative.

Starting as a journeyman lineman on Oct. 31, 1994, Dunn came to Noble REMC with about 10 years of experience. He began his career as an electrician and high-voltage lineman with the Marine Corps, where he served from 1981-1988 and realized he wanted to make such work his profession.

Spending time with municipal utilities, as well as working on the contractor side of the industry, he preferred the atmosphere of working in smaller communities and made his home with Noble REMC a few years later.

Over his career, he's dealt with the

worst and the best situations. This included being a member of the team that helped restore power during the 1991 ice storm in Indianapolis. He ended up breaking his nose but didn't want to miss any time on the job, so he downplayed the injury for the six weeks it took to get the city back up and running at 100 percent. He now laughs at the memory.

But the thing he'll miss most are his day-to-day interactions with our members. Transitioning to the role of serviceman nearly 10 years ago meant more one-on-one time with our customers, brainstorming how to help them through blinks, outages and more.

"I like talking to members to hear their problems and help solve them," Dunn said. Later, he joked he's just happy to be leaving the job with all of his fingers, toes and eyes.

Though he's retiring from the cooperative, he's adamant that he's not retiring from work. He'll be continuing in the industry as the owner and electrician of Dunn-Rite.

With any time he has left over, he'll be traveling out west frequently with his wife, Denise, in a motor home he's currently saving up to purchase.

He's heard of retired linemen having trouble sleeping through a storm, accustomed to being on alert for the possibility of being called to an outage, but he doesn't see that being an issue.

On his last day, he proudly wore a specially-made shirt his wife bought him for his retirement: "Retired lineman: Rain, shine, sleet or snow, I'm staying home."

"It's been great," Dunn said of his time at the cooperative. "I've enjoyed it."



# Ask the energy advisor

## By Brian Hawk

No, it's not the latest technology at your favorite airport. It's not the center of the wheel on a Smart car either. It is, however, the best way for you to manage your account at Noble REMC.

The SmartHub app is loaded with options from something as easy as viewing and paying your monthly bill, to setting use alerts to protect your wallet. In between, you can report an outage, set up outage alerts and view our outage map to see local impact. You also have the ability to make payment arrangements if you are running a little short on funds in a certain month.

As the energy advisor, my personal favorite is the "Usage" category. You can view a breakdown of your use from the previous day, week, year or beyond, providing you data to help you consume electricity more efficiently.

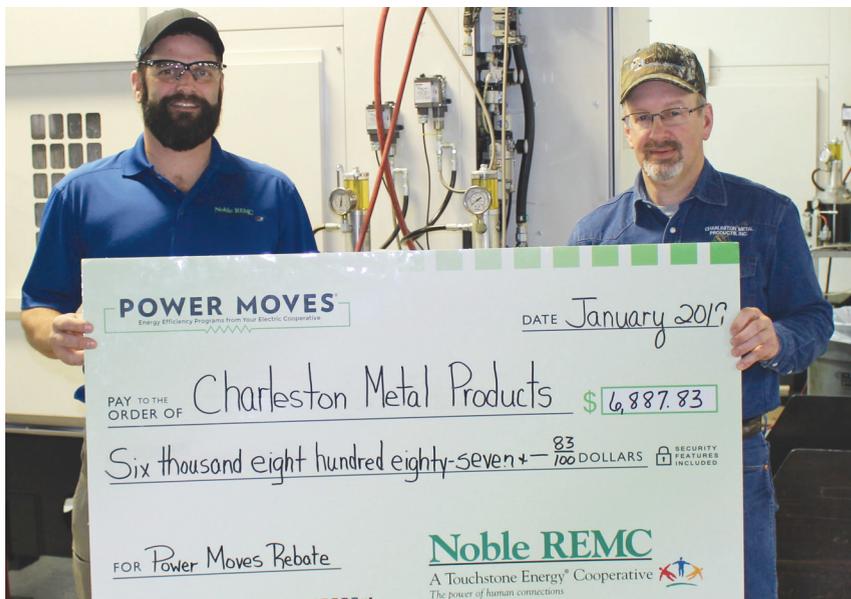
One of the handiest tools we can offer members is the use alert function, which allows you to set low-use and high-use notifications. With the frigid temperatures we had at the end of January, this had the potential to save you a great deal by notifying and allowing you to adjust your settings to lower your energy and cost.

When you set use alerts slightly above or below your daily average, the app

will send you a text and an email when you use an amount of energy outside of your normal average for the day. This can help our geothermal and air-source heat pump members to watch for exceeded use of their emergency/auxiliary heat, as well as our members who go to Florida for the winter and want to keep an eye on their use at home.

There are more functions and benefits of using the SmartHub app than I have space in this column. Please call Noble REMC for more information and learn how to sign up today.

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



Noble REMC Energy Advisor Brian Hawk, left, presents Charleston Metal Products President Bill Tucker with the rebate check for making energy-efficient upgrades to his business.

## Company earns efficiency rebate

Charleston Metal Products of Corunna recently received a Noble REMC POWER MOVES® rebate check for improving the energy efficiency of the business. It earned \$6,887.83 for the installation of a variable-frequency drive air compressor, an efficient way to save money and energy.

If you are making energy-efficient upgrades to your home, farm or business or are in the process of planning new construction, please call Noble REMC Energy Advisor Brian Hawk first so that we can help you achieve the biggest return on your investment.

Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana received a grant from Noble REMC's Operation Round Up funds for East Noble High School's Campus Life program.



# Round up for others

It's not unusual to find yourself scrolling through social media and see local organizations asking for financial assistance or donations.

Programs through the local fire department, recreation center or school system are all in need of funding to help continue the work that makes such a difference in our lives and the lives of others in the community.

It can be overwhelming to try and decide where to donate any remaining dollars at the end of each month. The purpose of Noble REMC's Operation Round Up Trust Fund is to help in your endeavor to help others.

More than 80 percent of Noble REMC members participate in the program, allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each 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.

If you're unsure if you currently contribute to Operation Round Up, simply view your last bill. If you do, the amount will be listed under "Current Charges." If you don't and you'd like to help the community through rounding up your bill each month, please call our office at 800-933-7362

Organizations awarded funding from the January distribution of the Noble REMC Operation Round Up Trust, totaling more than \$13,000, include:

- **Central Noble Construction**, \$2,000, canned goods
- **Noble County Saddle Club, Inc.**, \$2,250, clubhouse/reception hall
- **Bear Lake Camp, Inc.**, \$1,700, camp bunk beds

- **Liberty Freewill Baptist Food Mission**, \$500, food
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana**, \$1,000, School Buddies program
- **Junior Achievement of Noble County**, \$1,500, Economics for Success program
- **West Noble Primary School**, \$1,000, Dual Language Immersion Program
- **Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana**, \$1,500, East Noble Schools Campus Life programs
- **The Arc Noble County Foundations**, \$2,000, safety exit doors

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 April 1. Applications are available now at the Noble REMC office in Albion or can be downloaded from [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com), under "Programs."

# Chitwood joins team

A few months into his new position as Noble REMC's manager of finance and accounting, Adam Chitwood is enjoying the challenge of learning about the cooperative difference in the electric industry.

Chitwood, an Auburn resident, has nearly 20 years of experience as a leader in finance, previously working at a public accounting firm and serving as a controller of a multi-company business in Fort Wayne. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Manchester University.

"As a certified public accountant, I've always been in a service business regardless of what job I worked at," Chitwood said. "The customer focus of the co-op environment provides a

great opportunity to have a meaningful and impactful position, both professionally and personally."



Learning something new about the electric industry every day, he's enjoying finding where the accounting department fits into the cooperative model and how he can assist in the cooperative's goal to provide affordable and reliable service to our members.

Adam lives in Auburn with his wife, Heather, and three children, Alice, Xavier and Logan.

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## Scholarship deadline is March 29

Each year, Noble REMC awards three \$1,000 scholarships to help area students further their education at an accredited college or trade school of their choice.

The deadline to apply is only a few weeks away, so don't miss your opportunity!

Applicants must be an actively enrolled senior. Their parents' or legal guardians' primary residence must be within Noble REMC's territory, and they must be members in good standing of the cooperative.

To apply, seniors can pick up an application at our office or download a copy at [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com). Applications must be returned to the REMC by March 29.

For more information, contact Noble REMC at 800-933-7362.



Shelby Miller was a scholarship winner in 2018.

## Are you owed patronage capital?

Noble REMC makes sure we do everything we can to deliver money back to all of our members who are due their share. That's why we've posted a list of names to our website for members, or former members, to check if they have unclaimed patronage checks.

Several names on the list are former members for whom we have no current address. Others are current members who neglected to cash their check from the previous two years.

The list of members who have unclaimed patronage capital checks can be found easily online at [nobleremc.com](http://nobleremc.com). At the top of the home screen, hover your cursor over "About Us," click on "Your Cooperative," and then scroll down to the "Patronage Capital" subhead. After clicking on the link to the list, look through the names, and if your name is there, please call our office and let us know.

Noble REMC attempts to return patronage for two years. Following those two years, the unclaimed patronage is returned to the cooperative.

If you have any questions about patronage capital or a patronage capital check, contact Noble REMC at 800-933-7362.