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OFFICE HOURS
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS
300 Weber Road
Albion, IN 46701

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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 Demsko
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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WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON

Are you?



Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Noble REMC crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the

circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and download our SmartHub app to stay up to date on power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Noble REMC, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Noble REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

We've made the commitment.
Safety is our top priority,
each and every day.

**COMMITMENT TO
ZERO CONTACTS**

2021 annual meeting recap

2020 was full of tough decisions in service to Noble REMC's members, employees and community.

While we were encouraged by the continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, too much was still undecided and unpredictable to plan and safely hold an in-person Annual Meeting and Picnic.

With safety a top priority, members voted on our board of directors by mail and the cooperative business meeting was held in front of a virtual audience June 5.

Running unopposed, all three candidates were voted into their respective positions:

- **ANDREW STRACK** will lead members in District 3,
- **GEORGE BENNETT** will represent District 6 and
- **MARK DEMSKE** will lead District 7.

The business portion of the annual meeting was held live on Facebook and focused on the current success of the REMC, while outlining the future of the cooperative.

During the meeting, Noble REMC President and CEO Ron Raypole introduced our new electric vehicle pilot program, Charge Ahead, and commented on the work still being done behind the scenes to explore whether the co-op can assist in providing broadband to its members.

His speech also focused on the co-op's continued commitment to the local community through our Operation Round Up grant program, our annual cash back distribution and the reliability and affordability of our service.

"It has been a crazy 15 months, to say the least, as we continue to adapt while still delivering excellent customer service and safe, reliable power that you have come to

expect. Even with the COVID restrictions, our employees did not miss a beat in taking care of you," Raypole said. "We hope that you think of Noble REMC as more than your trusted energy resource, but also as a local business, who supports the community and empowers economic development. Thank you again for allowing us to serve you."

Board Chairman Rick Robertson added that we are in solid financial shape and have worked to put a strategic plan in place, including maintaining safety as the co-op's first priority, operating efficiently, providing competitive rates and supporting economic development.

For members who weren't able to watch the meeting live, you can visit facebook.com/nobleremc to view the recorded business meeting. If prompted to sign up or log in, simply hit "Not Now," and it will let you view the video.

WYSONG EARNS CCD CERTIFICATION

We know it's been a while since you've seen your directors at the annual meeting and other community events. However, they've been working hard behind the scenes to continue to educate themselves through professional development and industry training. Noble REMC's bylaws state that our



JAY WYSONG

directors are required to complete the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate within their first three years of service. The coursework teaches director duties and liabilities, electric business overview, board operations and processes, strategic planning and

financial decision making.

The most recent director to earn the CCD distinction is **Jay Wysong**, who represents District 1, covering Perry Township in Noble County, Elkhart Township in Noble County and part of Benton Township in Elkhart County.

We're proud of the achievements our directors continue to accomplish in order to best serve our members. Thank you, Jay, for your dedication to the co-op!

Energy Advisor Brian Hawk sits in the driver's seat of Noble REMC's new electric vehicle, a 2021 Mustang Mach-E.



All 'Mach'-ed up

REMC PURCHASES ELECTRIC VEHICLE TO PROMOTE PROGRAM, EFFICIENCY

Noble REMC talks the talk, and now we walk the walk...well, drive is more like it.

The co-op recently invested in the purchase of the completely electric 2021 Mustang Mach-E to showcase the dependability and reliability of the technology and encourage our members to learn about the benefits of EVs.

If Energy Advisor Brian Hawk's smile isn't enough to convince you to go electric, wait until you see it in person.

Our Mach-E has a target range of 270 miles, with all-wheel drive and

an extended range battery, which is perfect for Brian and his work.

Many car manufacturers are committed to going electric in the next 10-15 years, and we want to make sure we're prepared to help our members with the transition by educating and creating opportunities for energy efficiency.

That's why we've created the Charge Ahead program, which provides EV owners the option to sign up for our time-of-use rate. This allows them to save money – and the co-op as

well – by offering a lower rate for charging their vehicles outside of our peak time, when electricity is most expensive because of the demand on our system.

For more information on electric vehicles or our Charge Ahead program, visit nobleremc.com or call our office at 800-933-7362.

And if you see Brian out and about in the Mach-E, stop and say hello. He'd be more than happy to give you a tour of the inside – and maybe even a quick trip around the block.

LOCAL STUDENT EARNS HONORS IN ANNUAL CALENDAR ART CONTEST

Noble REMC congratulates Cameryn Proxmire, a local eighth grader, who was awarded honorable mention in the annual statewide Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest.

Proxmire attends St. John Lutheran School in Kendallville and will receive a \$75 cash prize, as well as be featured in 2022's calendar. Members can pick up

a calendar later this year at the office.

Her artwork, at right, is a vibrant mosaic of a fox made out of magazine photo clippings. View the winning artworks at indianaconnection.org/art-gallery.

Thank you, Cameryn, for representing Noble REMC with your creative and beautiful art!



RELIABILITY

IT'S A FULL TIME JOB

Much like taking a car in for an oil change, Noble REMC's electric grid system goes through routine maintenance to ensure its reliability in providing power to our members.

It's not the most visible work that we do, but it's some of the most important.

"It's about being proactive, rather than reactive," said Operations and Engineering Manager Doug Dickmeyer. "One of my priorities is focusing on scheduling preventative maintenance."

The most recent example was our restoration and upgrade of our Skinner Lake Substation early last month.

Noble REMC's substations are

tested every five years by an outside contractor, which spurs changes when opportunities for improvements are found.

While it was de-energized, our operations and engineering crews worked to replace and install additional switches at the substation, allowing flexibility in transitioning how power is distributed if the substation experiences an outage or needs maintenance.

The Skinner Lake Substation is now one of four substations (out of our seven) which has this additional capability to be flexible on shorter notice. This is vital for the substation, which feeds the industrial park on the east side of Albion.

Other planned upgrades were made during the scheduled maintenance, such as replacing a battery system and improving technology for our power supplier. However, with any construction project, there was also an additional, but not so welcome, surprise — cracks in one of the transmission meters.

If the crack wasn't found and replaced, there would have been an outage within the next year, Dickmeyer explained. That's why this maintenance work is done.

"Preventative maintenance helps us avoid potential outages by keeping everything in good condition and also helps shorten outages when they inevitably occur," Dickmeyer said.

Noble REMC's operations crew works on improvements during scheduled maintenance at the Skinner Lake Substation in Albion in early June.



CELEBRATING 85 YEARS HONORING DECADES OF PROGRESS

Similar to our current investment in electric vehicles and research into broadband internet options, Noble REMC has always strived to be at the forefront of new technology and services that could better our members' experience.

Our 85 years of archives mentions everything from essential items still in use, such as automated metering infrastructure, to the ones we had to look up online. (What in the world is an "electronic secretary" anyway?)

There were a lot of firsts in technology at the co-op, but these really stood out:

COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

From preparing for a possible crash of our system in the age of Y2K (Does Gen Z know about the hysteria surrounding the year 2000?) to now primarily working online, like many industries, computers and access to the internet brought a new age for the co-op.

Meters can now be automatically read from co-op headquarters. Members can view and pay their bill electronically, rather than receiving it in the mail. Outages, and their restoration, can be followed instantaneously on our website or SmartHub app. Members can also more easily connect with us through social media.

REMC "on line"

The Internet has become a very popular way to communicate and obtain information in today's fast-paced world. The lives of our customers are busier than ever and with computer technology becoming more affordable, this is a perfect opportunity for us to provide more services to you. So in addition to phone, fax, mail and in person, you can now reach us through the internet at: **REMC@noblecan.org**. This address will be listed on the previous page every month along with all the phone numbers in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Please feel free to take advantage of this additional way to reach us.

Plans are currently underway for the building of Noble REMC's World Wide Web site. We will be sure to let you know when that is up and running.

The April 1997 edition of the Electric Consumer – now known as Indiana Connection – announced Noble REMC's first email address as a way to connect.

From the first mention of our "homepage on the Internet" (yes, with a capital "I") in 1997, the internet has only brought us closer to you, our members, and helped you to have easy access to the services you need most from us.

BRANCHING OUT WITH NEW PRODUCTS

Our foundation will always be providing reliable electricity to our members, but over the years, Noble REMC has dipped its toe into other technologies and products.

The first mention is in 1958 when we began selling retail electrical products, specifically the Mirro Matic line of pressure cookers. Over the years, we've sold lightbulbs, electric grills and smokers, water heaters and more.

Then in a progressive move, the

board of directors in 1999 approved the creation of a subsidiary corporation in case there was an opportunity to diversify. And funny enough, in 2000, Noble REMC entered into two different business collaborations.

The first was to re-sell long distance telephone service. It was so popular that four years later, the program exceeded more than 10,000 customers! But as with everything, purchasing long distance service became obsolete with cell phones and new phone plans taking the spotlight.

Later in 2000, the co-op entered into a joint venture to provide metered propane service to our members. The endeavor was successful for 15 years before the co-op decided on a natural transition out of the industry.