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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 Demske
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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TURN TO PAGES 26 AND 27 FOR MORE NOBLE REMC CONTENT!

DIVERSITY MAINTAINS RELIABILITY



Life is a mixture of experiences and relationships. That's what makes it special – diversity.

Just like life, diversity in electricity is just as important, especially when it comes to our energy portfolio.

Noble REMC cares deeply about how our power is generated now and in the future, as it ensures the reliability of your service. That's why we're appreciative of our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), and its push toward renewable energy and diversity in its portfolio.

Diversity matters because when the sun's not shining or the wind's not blowing, we need to continue providing reliable electricity.

It's no secret electric power companies across the nation rely on coal to power our plants. Many of our power plants were built during a period when the federal government mandated the use of coal through the Fuel Use Act and during the oil wars of the 1970s.

But we're learning, evolving and balancing our mix of fuels to be more inclusive of changing technologies that allow more affordable clean electricity.

Over the past 15 years, WVPA has been making decisions and pursuing a path toward more solar, wind and landfill gas options for generating your electricity. (See graphic on page 27.)

Since as early as 2006, WVPA was capturing methane gas from regional landfills to power small turbines to make electricity.

In addition to purchasing electricity from several wind farms and utility-scale solar arrays, WVPA also developed the Co-op Solar program.

Hopefully you recognize the name from your commutes down State Road 3 in DeKalb County. The 1-megawatt LaOtto

Solar Generating Station, near County Road 70, is one of the community solar arrays that feeds the program and the power in your home (and is serviced by yours truly, Noble REMC).

Co-op Solar spans WVPA's territory in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, providing power to its 23 distribution cooperatives from a number of smaller, community solar fields.

In creating this program, it has been able to bring solar power to regions where the technology was written off as unprofitable, and you've been able to benefit by participating in the program, which provides maintenance-free solar power.

And that's just the beginning.

WVPA will be purchasing 99 megawatts each from two solar farms in Illinois, which are scheduled to begin producing electricity by the end of October and add to the renewables* slice of the fuel mix pie. (WVPA will not be purchasing the renewable energy certificates that are attached to the farms.)

Also, the Gibson 5 coal facility, a plant we receive power from in southwest Indiana, is scheduled to be retired in 2026, further lowering the coal in our portfolio.

Investing in the diversity of our power generation allows us to keep moving forward in our goal to provide affordable and reliable electricity to you, our members. As technologies evolve, we'll continue to make decisions that best serve your needs.

**Wabash Valley Power supports renewable energy by owning landfill gas and solar generation and purchasing the output from wind, solar, and biogas facilities. The environmental attributes associated with this generation are sold separately to third parties, and therefore Wabash Valley Power does not claim the generation as renewable within our own supply portfolio.*

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

2021 OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Annual Meeting broadcast online

GET YOUR DEVICE READY FOR THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 5

The past year has been full of tough decisions in service to the health and well-being of our members, employees and community. One of these was moving last year's annual meeting online, with the hope to go "back to normal" this year.

Fortunately, it seems we're starting to see the other side of this pandemic. Unfortunately, we start planning this event in January each year. Because of that, we couldn't predict where we would be by June, especially in these unprecedented times. Therefore, we decided we couldn't take the risk of an in-person meeting in 2021. Your safety and health mean too much to us.

So once again, Noble REMC will be holding our Annual Meeting virtually on Saturday, June 5.

ANNUAL MEETING

HOW TO ATTEND

1. Grab a cup of coffee or tea the morning of June 5 and get cozy. The meeting will begin streaming at 10:30 a.m.
2. Open your phone, computer or tablet and visit facebook.com/nobleremc.
3. If you are prompted to log in but don't have an account, simply press "Not Now" to continue viewing.
4. Watch the meeting, which will broadcast on our page as the top post, to learn the results of the board of directors' election, the state of the cooperative and the members who won gift prizes for casting their vote.
5. Interact with us through comments, reactions and more!

If you would like to read over last year's annual meeting minutes or review our 2020 financials before the meeting, please visit nobleremc.com/annual-meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

HOW TO VOTE

All Noble REMC members will receive a paper ballot in the mail like last year. Mark your vote for your directors, tear off the ballot on the perforation and send it back in the prepaid return envelope.

Ballots must be postmarked by May 28 to be counted in this year's election.

It's so quick and easy, you don't even need to set it down on the counter when you return from the mailbox. Have your pen ready, make your marks and send it right back!

New this year is the opportunity to write your name on your ballot to be entered into a drawing for gift prizes, which will be announced during the meeting. The prizes will highlight local businesses and activities in our community, with a side of REMC merch, and could be all yours!

NOTE: Please do not include any bill payments in the prepaid return envelope. We understand it's tempting with the free postage, but these will not be opened until our credentialed ballot committee meets in June to tally the votes, possibly making your payment late if included. Instead, call our secure pay line or pay through SmartHub, which are both free options to you and available right from your home.

BOARD CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 3

Andrew F. Strack is a bus driver for East Noble School Corporation, as well as project manager for Cobblestone Golf Course and Event Center. He is the current director for District 3 and serves as secretary on the Noble REMC board. He is a member of the Kendallville Rotary Club. He and his wife, Yvonne, have four children and two grandchildren.



DISTRICT 6

George D. Bennett is a retired banker, previously serving as the senior vice president and Albion branch manager for Campbell & Fetter Bank. He is the current District 6 director and recently earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He is also president of the Noble County Plan Commission, chairman of the Parkview Noble Hospital Board, and serves as a member of the Noble County Council, Albion Rotary Club and Parkview Health Board. He and his wife, Shelley, have seven children and three grandchildren.



DISTRICT 7

Mark Demske is the owner and president of Biggby Coffee in Fort Wayne.



He currently serves as the District 7 director and recently earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from NRECA. He serves on the boards of Community State Bank and Community Foundation of Noble County. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Carrie, have two children.

The Noble REMC bylaws allow any qualified member to file a petition to seek election to the board of directors from the districts being elected that year. The filing period was not less than 60 days nor more than 150 days before the annual meeting. Notification of this election procedure was published in Indiana Connection in January, February and March, as well as posted at the REMC office. The individuals above have placed their names in nomination with 15 or more valid REMC member signatures. Their qualifications have been verified by an independent members' committee.



Don't forget to write your name on your board of directors' ballot before you return it to be entered into our prize drawing — featuring items from local businesses — at the annual meeting!

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NOBLE REMC

2020 was a historic year and brought with it both bad and good. We like to focus on the positive here at Noble REMC, such as:

- **Trevor Harlan** and **Luke Gillis** began the Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP) for linemen.
- More than 400 members signed up for our **SmartHub** app. Over half of our members have now set up accounts through SmartHub and use it to pay bills, check their use and keep updated about outage restoration efforts.
- Our **secure pay line** at 833-410-0497 was introduced and implemented to allow better payment security for you, our members.
- Noble REMC hit a benchmark of **36 consecutive years of safety accreditation** through NRECA's National Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program.
- The cooperative **retired more than \$1.4 million in patronage capital** — also known as "cash back" — to our members, bringing our total to more than \$10 million returned since the mid-1990s.
- Our operations department **connected electrical service** to 101 new homes. Supervisors completed 158 **job site crew safety inspections**.
- A ChargePoint **electric vehicle**

charging station, serviced by Noble REMC, was installed at Country Heritage Winery, located off of State Road 3 and County Road 68 in DeKalb County.

- Noble REMC granted **nearly \$50,000 to the community through Operation Round Up**, as well as **\$4,500 through our EnviroWatts program**.
- Twenty-three percent of our members responded to a **broadband high-speed internet survey**, asking for feedback on their current provider and what they'd like to see if the co-op pursues a broadband program.
- Our Power Moves energy efficiency rebate program **saved 664,550 kilowatt-hours** and awarded \$48,020 to commercial, industrial and agriculture members, as well as \$25,700 to residential members.

2020: YOUR CO-OP AT A GLANCE

- 8 counties served in northeast Indiana
- 33 full-time employees
- 415+ years of combined service
- 11,400 meters served
- 1,249 miles of electric line
- 9 meters per mile
- 101 new residential services
- \$1.4 million given back to members



Noble REMC recently installed an EV charging station at the popular Country Heritage Winery in LaOtto.



Central Noble Elementary School was awarded \$1,500 to expand its outdoor learning center (the recent pavilion is pictured here) with the planting of pollinator gardens. Photo credit: Central Noble Fifth Grade Teacher Deb Sieber.

It just takes ‘cents’ to make a difference

Two worthwhile projects in the community received funding to improve the local landscape, while also educating students about their impact on the environment. The funding came through Noble REMC’s EnviroWatts program which supports environmental community projects each year with the money contributed by our generous members.

Projects receiving funding were:

- **St. John Lutheran School** in Kendallville was granted \$1,150 to implement a composting program led by its students. After witnessing the amount of waste from their lunchroom, the school envisions the program as an opportunity for students to learn firsthand the benefits of composting and to teach the scientific process of breaking down organic waste into fertile soil. The school will use the funding to purchase the compost tumblers, bins, aerators, thermometers and starter — items that will make the program sustainable for

years to come. The resulting soil will then be used at the school to create a prayer garden.

- **Central Noble Elementary School** in Albion received \$1,500 to create pollinator gardens of herbs and vegetables, as well as to plant native vegetation and trees. The school’s goal is to provide habitats for bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife, as part of its outdoor learning space. The outdoor learning initiative allows students to work, create and explore in the nature around them, as well as allow for environmental education. The space continues to grow and evolve, with opportunities for students to learn about tapping Maple trees, raising chickens and caring for honey bee hives.

This assistance to our community’s projects was provided with just 40 participating Noble REMC members. Think of what could be done with even more support.



ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN ENVIROWATTS?

It only requires a maximum of \$5 a month (just cents a day) — less than a meal at McDonald’s or drink from Starbucks.

When you sign up for EnviroWatts, you pay an additional 1 cent for your first 500 kilowatt-hours each month. Those pennies then go into a fund to be awarded annually to environmental improvement projects, but what’s more, that energy is then generated from renewable, environmentally preferred sources.

You help the environment two-fold. Not bad, huh?

Sign up today by calling our office at 800-933-7362 or visiting nobleremc.com/envirowatts and filling out and returning the form provided for member participation.

THE EVOLUTION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

THEN

The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Early variants were powered by galvanic cells rather than rechargeable batteries. The lead-acid battery was invented in France in 1859 with further French development leading to manufacturing of these batteries on an industrial scale in the early 1880s. This allowed a rechargeable battery to be installed on the vehicle.

Soon manufacturers were selling a wide array of EVs ranging from trams to trolleys, to cars, and even locomotives. Interest in electric cars blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in number of EVs on the roads.

But the rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile and EVs simply did not have the range required. Enter Henry Ford and the mass-produced, affordable internal combustion engine, and the EV's fate was sealed.

NOW

Fast forward to modern times and thanks to the electric cooperative movement, which included the founding of Noble REMC, electricity is available everywhere in the U.S., the majority of roads are paved and environmental concerns are increasing awareness.

While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a concern among drivers dubbed "range anxiety." This stems from the limited range of EVs and the lack of a rapid charging

infrastructure in rural areas. Just like their 20th century predecessors, pure EVs are great "city cars."

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. Range is steadily expanding, and battery management systems are squeezing out more miles. At the same time, more companies and utilities are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in popular public locations.

Have you seen — or used — our ChargePoint charging station, located at Country Heritage Winery in LaOtto?

In addition, prices are dropping, and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. On top of this, the cars are just plain cool. Many models showcase a minimalist interior with all the necessary controls and information presented on a large touchscreen in the center of the console as opposed to using the traditional instrument cluster.

If you've never driven an electric



vehicle, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. Of course, there are limits on this 0-60 mph capability to prevent inexperienced and over-eager drivers from launching themselves into accidents and speeding tickets. They are also quiet and allow you to forever bypass the lines at the gas station — unless you are in need of some snacks and a slushy.

DO YOU DRIVE AN EV? LET US KNOW!

Noble REMC would like to learn more about how we can best serve our members who either currently own an electric vehicle or plan to purchase one. If either of those pertain to you, please fill out the form below and return it to our office with your next bill payment, or call our office at 800-933-7362 to speak with us about your plans.

DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE? _____

DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE ONE IN THE NEXT YEAR? _____

CAN WE CONTACT YOU? IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER BELOW:

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

85 YEARS OF CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

In our 85 years, your support of Noble REMC has turned into support for your community through our grant and youth programs, volunteer efforts and more – right in line with the cooperative value of “Concern for Community.”

Noble REMC has also supported local organizations including, but not limited to, Junior Achievement, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Relay for Life, and United Way. Below is just a sample of our community efforts.



GRANTS
OPERATION ROUND UP
\$867,605
for 709 grantees



SCHOLARSHIPS
\$24,000
to 24 local seniors since 2014



YOUTH
TOUCHSTONE ENERGY CAMP
38
total attendees sent to summer camp over 20 years



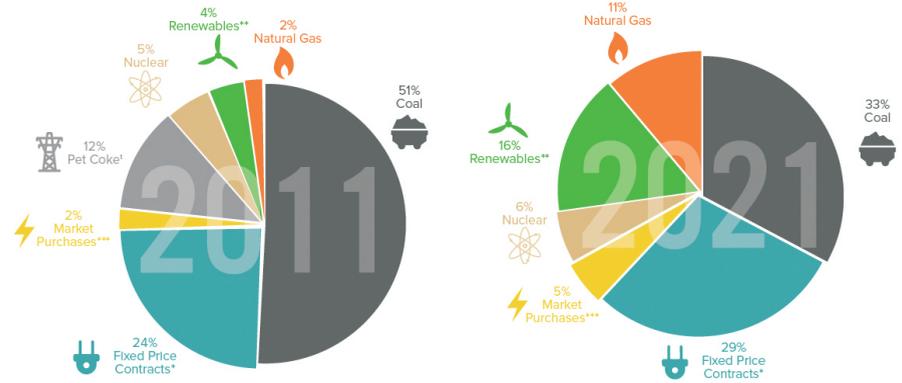
YOUTH
YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

sending high school juniors to our nation's capital since 1960



GRANTS
ENVIROWATTS
\$9,650
over four years of the program

WABASH VALLEY POWER ALLIANCE POWER SUPPLY THEN & NOW



***Fixed Price Contracts:** Our “fixed price” contracts with suppliers have been designed to eliminate the volatility that can arise in the energy markets. These contracts eliminate the risks associated with rising fuel costs and provide longer-term locked-in pricing.

****Disclaimer:** Wabash Valley Power invests in the development of renewable projects in a variety of ways. We have constructed several smaller solar arrays near the communities we serve and we contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind farms and large-scale solar arrays. We also purchase electricity from biogas created by large dairy farms in our service territory and finally, we capture the methane gas that escapes from landfills and turn that gas into electricity. However, because the majority of the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced by these renewable power sources are sold to third parties, we cannot “claim” those kilowatts that are generated as renewable within our supply portfolio. By selling these attributes, commonly referred to as “RECS”, we enable other organizations to meet their renewable energy goals and the revenue generated from these sales helps us lower the wholesale power costs to our 23 member distribution cooperatives.

*****Market Purchases:** A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet any additional supply needs that are not covered with existing plants and contracts. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants and within the grid system are often the primary drivers behind market purchases.

*Petroleum coke (pet coke) was the fuel source for a gasification plant, which closed in May 2016.



UTILITY POLES AREN'T BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign!

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.