

CONTACT US

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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*
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*

WE'RE ON YOUTUBE!

Are you a visual learner? You're in luck, because Noble REMC is on YouTube! Our channel, [youtube.com/nobleremc](https://www.youtube.com/nobleremc), currently hosts videos about everything energy efficiency – from air sealing your home to answering questions about electric vehicles. The channel also provides a behind-the-scenes fun look into our Lighting the Way series, which you can find on Page 7. Find us and subscribe for more content!



THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11



You've likely noticed Noble REMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough – but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water.

Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their careers – because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker it can take more than 8,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because

working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, Noble REMC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. Family members understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at Noble REMC, we have nine lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain more than 1,255 miles of power lines across eight counties.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



NOBLE REMC
**MEMBER
APPRECIATION EVENT**



DATE

MAY

23

Come celebrate being a Noble REMC member, alongside your neighbors and friends!

NOBLE COUNTY COMMUNITY FAIRGROUNDS, KENDALLVILLE

FREE PORKBURGER DINNER AND SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM

LOCAL COMMUNITY BOOTHS

MUSIC

FAMILY FRIENDLY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Visit with our employees and directors, as well as your community!

TIME

5:30^{PM}

UNTIL

8^{PM}

Noble REMC Administrative Assistant Elena Vargas.

LIGHTING *the Way*

ELENA DOES A BIT OF EVERYTHING



Noble REMC wouldn't be successful without our employees and directors. To highlight the work that they do, we've launched Lighting the Way to place a spotlight on those who help the co-op thrive.

In her 13 years at Noble REMC, Elena Vargas has seen it all. She's gone from interacting with our members as a cashier and receptionist, to now helping our employees and board of directors as our administrative assistant.

She juggles everything without dropping a beat — whether it's human resources, payroll and accounts payable or handling the needs of our employees and directors.

Elena is the go-to for any and all questions, but now it's time for her to answer a few questions of our own.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE CO-OP AND MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK HERE?

"I used to work with a former employee's wife. She would always say how her husband loved to work at the co-op and if I ever had the opportunity to get in, to do so. So

when she heard there'd be an opening soon, she let me know."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

"Talking with people. I enjoy them coming into my office to talk about anything, and I like helping them with anything they need, either personally or work-related."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

"I help a lot at my church with anything that might come up. Recently, I've helped make freezer meals to help foster families. Wherever I might help, I volunteer. Besides that, I'm a busy mom of a 16-year-old and 11-year-old. It's just go, go, go. There's always something, having kids."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"I'm most proud of the opportunities I've had presented to me as an individual. I was not born here, but I was raised here. I thank my parents for making that hard decision of moving from a different county to the U.S. It's been great. I love being here,

I love the people. It's a place that I'm glad to raise my own kids."

FAVORITE MOVIE?

"I am a big fan of Selena (Quintanilla-Pérez), so when her movie came out ... I could watch it again right now and enjoy it like it was the first time I was watching it. It was a good representation of Selena. When I was younger, I listened to her music — I mean, I memorized every single song — so I was heartbroken when she died."

FAVORITE TV SHOW?

"I am weird in this area. I love watching Dr. Pimple Popper and all of the shows that have to do with skin conditions. You name it. There are so many shows — I could list them all — and go on and on."

WHAT IS SOMETHING SURPRISING OR INTERESTING ABOUT YOU?

"I asked my kids this question. They said, 'You're OCD, mom.' I love to clean. That de-stresses me."

Noble REMC routinely receives thank you notes, just like this one, for ORU donations to local causes and organizations.



Celebrating 20!

OPERATION ROUND UP CELEBRATES TWO DECADES OF GIVING

Giving more than \$900,000 over 20 years is no small matter – though it was made possible penny by penny.

This month marks 20 years since Noble REMC held its first meeting of Operation Round Up, a program that provides members a way to give back to area nonprofit organizations by allowing their bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar and donated to local causes every quarter.

Those pennies have changed lives, from providing AEDs to fire departments to supporting educational programs and materials at local schools and extracurricular groups to improving area parks for local residents.

Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis, who was there from the beginning as an employee of the co-op and a member of the inaugural ORU board, said the founding of the program locally was an example of two important principles of the cooperative world: cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community.

Initially created by fellow electric cooperative Palmetto Electric in South Carolina, word-of-mouth about ORU's success reached Indiana, and the program was seen as an opportunity for Noble REMC to reach and support even more of the community.

"It was another way of giving back to our communities on a larger, more consistent level," Dreibelbis said. "This allowed us to give bigger dollars out in the community with a bigger impact."

And it was a success from the start. Eighty percent of our members chose to round up their bills to the nearest dollar that first year in 2002. The co-op has maintained that percentage throughout the past 20 years, now reaching more than 85% who take part.

"It's been going strong for 20 years, and it's still going strong," Dreibelbis said. "To give



The inaugural Operation Round Up Board included, from back row, left to right, Tod Croft, Tom Reed, Sheryl Prentice, Kevin Dreibelbis, Lanette Likes, Julie Farver, and John English.

back that much and touch that many lives is pretty incredible, especially with the little impact that there is to members' wallets."

Noble REMC has been fortunate to have an ORU committee made up of diverse members, from across our service territory, to represent our membership and decide where their donations would be best served in our communities.

But ultimately, it comes down to our members who give what many would consider little, to create a huge impact — together.

As the distributor of the funds, Noble REMC is usually the one who receives the thanks and appreciation from the organizations Operation Round Up helps.

But it's you, the members, who deserve the praise.

Noble REMC extends a huge thank you

to all the members who allow us to use their donation for a greater cause in our communities and looks forward to another 20 years of giving back.

OPERATION ROUND UP BY THE NUMBERS

85% Portion of Noble REMC members who participate.

125+ Number of different organizations funded.

\$903,730 Total amount invested into our local communities.

\$0.50 Average contribution per member each month.

It's almost time to vote for **YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

After receiving overwhelming support for mail-in voting for our board of directors' election over the past two years, Noble REMC will once again be mailing ballots directly to your home this year.

All Noble REMC members will be mailed a paper ballot the week of May 23. Simply mark your vote for your directors, tear off the ballot on the perforation and send it back in the prepaid return envelope.

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!

Ballots must be postmarked by June 7 to be counted in this year's election.

The results of the election will be announced during Noble REMC's annual meeting, which will be held virtually on Facebook Live at 5 p.m. on June 14.

IN SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS

Noble REMC is only successful because of the employees and directors who dedicate themselves to providing the best service to our members, each and every day.

We recently honored those celebrating milestones in their REMC careers. We are grateful for their commitment to our

members and the cooperative!

Rick Robertson, director – 25 years

Ron Raypole, president and CEO – 20 years

Brian Hawk, energy advisor – 15 years

Bill Knox, director – 10 years



RICK ROBERTSON



RON RAYPOLE



BRIAN HAWK



BILL KNOX

Thank you!

CLEARING RIGHTS-OF-WAY THE RIGHT WAY

We love trees, too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide, but trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

When they grow too close to power lines and poles, they can cause service disruptions and outages or interfere with our work. That is why Noble REMC trims branches and limbs that grow into our lines and sprays herbicide on vegetation growing around our poles.

As the weather warms, you will see our right-of-way crew out doing what it does best to keep you and your

family safe, while maintaining service reliability for you.

This year, our spraying crew will be focusing its efforts on the middle one-third of our territory, which covers the area from Lake Wawasee to east of Avilla and from Baseline Road to U.S. 6.

The spraying application uses non-restricted chemicals that are scientifically designed to work on plants, not people or animals.

REMINDER: *If you would like to maintain the right-of-way that crosses your property in some other way, "Do Not Spray" signs are available at the Noble REMC office, but you must make sure the signs are visible and*

legible from the roadway and notify us of your location.



Operation Round Up 2021 financials

Thank you to the more than 85% of our members who allow us to round up your bills to the nearest dollar each month to give back to the communities you belong to and we serve! As you can see from these financials, pennies donated every month add up quickly, and when your donations are combined with others, it makes a huge impact in our communities. In 2021, more than \$41,000 was granted to nonprofit service organizations to help others.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NOBLE COUNTY

Fund Report — Dec. 31, 2021

Noble REMC Operation Round Up Trust

	YEAR-TO-DATE
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$12,856.12
RECEIPTS:	
Contributions and Pledges	\$51,688.03
Interest and Dividends Income.....	\$30.09
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$51,718.12
DISTRIBUTIONS:	
CFNC Administrative Fees	\$358.38
Grants Paid	\$41,325.00
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$41,683.38
ENDING BALANCE	\$22,890.86