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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

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Doug Burnworth, *Vice Chairman*
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Manager of Engineering & Operations
Kevin Dreibelbis,
Communications & Marketing Manager
Adam Chitwood,
Manager of Finance & Accounting

Get out & VOTE



Why is voting important?

Author Sharon Salzberg explained, "Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this

country, and this world," and politician Jens Stoltenberg said, "By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions." Or to put it more bluntly, comedian George Carlin, stated, "If you don't vote, you lose the right to complain."

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Noble REMC members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020.

YOUR VISION, YOUR VOTE

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Noble REMC board members

provide strategic guidance on the direction of our co-op and how we serve the community. Board members embody the voice and identity of our community, and you have the opportunity to vote for your board of directors each year at our June annual meeting.

STAYING IN SYNC WITH THE COMMUNITY

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Noble REMC board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot and get out and vote.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



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Go Paperless!



GET YOUR BILL AT THE TOUCH OF YOUR FINGERTIPS

Ready to stop filing your paper monthly bills in a folder, where they sit until spring cleaning sees them tossed in the bin? Go paperless through Noble REMC's SmartHub!

You don't need to be tech-savvy to go paperless with your monthly bill. It's as easy as pressing a button.

Just ask the one-third of our SmartHub users who are currently enjoying their paper-free option.

Once you sign up, SmartHub will send an email to the address linked to the account when your bill is available, prompting you to log into your account to make your payment. This allows you to seamlessly

pay your bill, while also allowing you to view the history of your payments and your use — down to the hour — right at your fingertips.

Oh, and did we mention the added benefit of being the eco-friendly choice? With paperless billing, you're stopping the need for paper to be used for the statement, as well as two envelopes, and the need to transport the letter to your home.

To go paperless:

- Open the SmartHub app on your mobile device and choose "Paperless Billing" under your settings to switch the toggle and turn it on.
- Visit nobleremc.com and put in

your SmartHub account information at the top of the screen, which will take you to the online version of the system. Click "Update My Paperless Settings" and click the button to make the switch.

- Call our office to speak with one of our customer service representatives, who can make the change for you on your SmartHub account.

Noble REMC aims to ensure our members have the best options of service to fit their lifestyle. Paperless billing is another choice for those who want all of their information easily accessible in one place.

CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN AREA

Each quarter brings new opportunities for our members to help the community through Noble REMC's Operation Round Up program.

The co-op is grateful for the more than 80% of members who participate in the program, allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. These cents are then kept locally through community grants given each quarter.

Organizations awarded funding from the July distribution of Noble REMC's Operation Round Up Trust Fund, totaling more than \$6,000, include:

- **Kendallville Public Library** was awarded \$1,500 for the purchase of automated external defibrillators.
- **Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation & Community Center** received \$3,000 as part of its capital campaign.
- **Black Pine Animal Sanctuary** was granted \$1,967 for the purchase of lawn equipment.

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 Thursday, Oct. 1.

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

Ask the energy advisor

Churches, farms can earn cash back, too

By Brian Hawk

Working for Noble REMC for as long as I have has allowed me to drive nearly every square inch of our system. It's made me even more appreciative of the different types of landscapes throughout the multiple counties we serve.

One part of the drive that always catches my attention is the buildings. I appreciate the different home styles, but I am always most impressed with the barns and churches. There is a level of difficulty in the construction processes of the big old barns and churches that gives me a greater admiration for these buildings.

And while I was driving to an appointment recently, I realized, our local farms and churches may be missing out on rebate opportunities for choosing energy efficiency upgrades.

The POWER MOVES® program is a great resource not only for commercial, industrial

and residential members, but for farms and churches as well.

The program is specifically designed to promote the installation of energy-efficient electrical equipment and products, replacing older, inefficient electrical appliances and options.

What a lot of people don't know is that farms and churches fall under the commercial and industrial portion of this program. Rebates are available for a wide range of upgrades.

Something as small as a screw-in LED bulb, all the way up to construction of a new building can earn cash back.

- Lighting is always an easy win when it comes to energy efficiency. And, it makes the rebates you receive for doing so like icing on the cake!
- If your building is heated or cooled with an electric appliance that is older and

inefficient, there are rebates available to help offset the replacement costs as well.

- If you're looking to install an irrigation pivot or you already have an irrigation system, installing a variable frequency drive on your pump motor is a great way to save on operational costs, and, yes, there are potential rebates available for this as well.

If there is one point I want to emphasize more than any other, it's this: BEFORE you make any decisions or install any equipment, please call or email me to discuss these potential rebates. There are efficiency minimums and industry standards that must be met to qualify, and we want you to qualify.

Contact me for more information!

Brian Hawk is the energy advisor at Noble REMC.

SUPPORTING LOCAL 4-H ELECTRIC PROGRAMS

Most of us were disappointed, yet understanding, about the need to cancel the traditional local summer fairs for the safety of the community.

Luckily, 4-H'ers were still able to participate in their programs, with restrictions put in place for social distancing and judging remotely.

Noble REMC traditionally volunteers to judge local 4-H Electric projects, and it was the same this year, with the addition of DeKalb County 4-H activities. Judging was completed alongside LaGrange County REMC.

For judging, first-year 4-H members built circuit boards; second-year members made a "shake" flashlight; third-year members created a trouble light or extension cord; and fourth-year and

advanced 4-H'ers selected their own project.

Congratulations to all who participated! Here is the list of local winners:

NOBLE COUNTY 4-H RESULTS

- Electric 1 Champion: Anthony Price
- Electric 2 Champion: Alex Dreibelbis
- Electric 4 Champion: Alex Tom
- Advanced Electric Champion: Emily Clouse
- Advanced Electric Reserve Champion: Mitchel Lemon
- Advanced Electronic Champion: Zachary Wigent

DEKALB COUNTY 4-H RESULTS

- Grand Champion: Isaiah Hefty

- Reserve Grand Champion: Caleb Schlabach
- Electric 1 Champion: Isaac Hefty
- Electric 1 Reserve Champion: Jayen Chapman
- Electric 2 Champion: Nathaniel Schlabach
- Electric 2 Reserve Champion: Brennon McCartney
- Electric 3 Champion: Elijah Hankey
- Electric 3 Reserve Champion: Brock McCartney
- Electric 4 Champion: Isaiah Hefty
- Advanced Champion: Caleb Schlabach
- Advanced Reserve Champion: Matthew Beckman



Caring is a year-round event

Sooner than we think, we'll be seeing the trees change color and watch as the leaves fall, but the need for environmental protection and care doesn't stop with the end of summer.

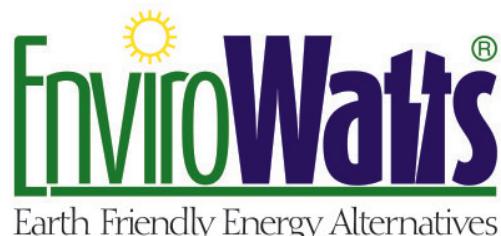
That's why Noble REMC provides a way to give back that spans the entire year – our EnviroWatts program.

Participation in the program is a two-fold benefit. Members donate 1 cent per kilowatt-hour for the first 500 kWh their home generates, totaling no more than \$5 each month. This money is then given back to the local community and its nonprofit organizations who are completing eco-friendly projects aimed at improving the natural landscape.

On top of that, those kilowatt-hours are then guaranteed to be generated from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and landfill gas.

This year, our EnviroWatts funding is being used by three organizations to positively impact a wide span of our service territory, and in turn, the community at large.

DeKalb County Central United Schools, the Town of Churubusco and Oak Farm Montessori School each received \$1,500 to promote its recycling program, plant greenery in a local rain garden and construct a permanent composting site, respectively.



If you're a participating member in our EnviroWatts program, thank you for your contribution to your community and its future!

If you'd like to join our other members in their efforts, fill out the worksheet below and return it to our office alongside your bill payment or in a separate envelope to P.O. Box 137, Albion, IN 46701.

I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVIROWATTS PROGRAM

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

EnviroWatts: One cent per kWh for the first 500 kWh/month, no charge over 500 kWh; total maximum \$5 additional monthly charge to your electric bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The EnviroWatts program is not tax deductible.

Noble REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative