

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

Comments from your CEO



Boyd Huff, CEO

The Power of Membership

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative. Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Indiana electricity consumers pay power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots at electric co-ops like ours. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, co-ops try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who

keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your co-op's directors (fellow members, by the way) have only one thing in mind: keeping lights on safely, reliably, and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. And that's what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life

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QUESTIONS FOR BOYD

My question or comment is:

Name: _____

Account No.: _____

Phone () _____

If you have any questions for Boyd, please call 1.800.529.5557 or 765.458.5171. You may also e-mail Boyd Huff at bhuff@wwwvremc.com

A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative

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For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.vremc.com

Liberty Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
 Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

To Report an Outage or Emergency:

Call 1-800-776-0493

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Be ready to provide the following information:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed
- Map location number
- Your phone number - *needed to call back or confirm power restoration*
- The type of problem you are experiencing - *flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.*

We appreciate your call and will work promptly to assist you.



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President & CEO - Boyd Huff
 Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason

have come to recognize the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively as it delivered affordable power to rural Americans.

October is set aside to recognize the special nature and accomplishments of cooperative businesses. The seven principles upon which

electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and members' economic participation, among others—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

Leadership at Whitewater Valley REMC shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting in the Spring, visit with us in person and share

insights on how you want your business operated.

In these days of economic turmoil, folks who receive electricity from co-ops are lucky. As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Directors and employees at your co-op share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.



Find the Hidden Account Number!

No one found the hidden account number from September. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website – the next hidden account number could be yours!

October Due Dates

During October the due dates for payment of your electric bills are October 19th and 26th.

Remember, we recommend that you allow five business days for the mail to reach the payment processing center. That way, you'll never run the risk of being late.

Payment Options

US Mail: Send your payment to:
Whitewater Valley REMC
P.O. Box 3199
Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

Internet: Log-on at www.wvvremc.com

Liberty Office: In person or in the drop box

Automatic Withdrawal: Simply request a form or download at www.wvvremc.com and submit it to our office

FCN or Franklin County National Bank: In person or in the drop box (Please bring your payment stub with you)

First Merchants Bank both Richmond Locations: In person or in the drop box (Please bring your payment stub with you)

If you would like more information about payment options, call 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557.

Celebrate Co-op Month With Us

Stop in to Whitewater Valley REMC in Liberty in October for a complimentary gift bag filled with great items from the cooperative. During the week of October 24-28 we will be serving refreshments to celebrate National Cooperative Month. (Only WVVREMC members will receive a free gift bag, one per adult.)

On October 26, we will be selling bagged lunches between 11 a.m.

and 1 p.m. For \$6, you will get a beef and cheddar sandwich, chips, cookie, fruit, and soda or water. Lunches will be 'to go' only. Proceeds from the lunches will go to the Electric Sliders Relay for Life Team. Anyone can stop in between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick one up.



October CFL Winners

Congratulations to the following members! They each won a complete home CFL package from the cooperative.

October winners are:
Ronald Derenski, Cedar Grove
Roger Lumpkin, Modoc
William Reece, Centerville
Mark Teuschler, Centerville
Robert Wilson, Liberty

Each month we randomly select five members to receive a complete home CFL package (while supplies last).

In addition to the drawings each month, the cooperative is giving away free CFL bulbs at the cooperative office in Liberty. There is a limit of six free bulbs per member.

For more information on CFL's and other energy saving ideas go to www.wvvremc.com and click on the Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit link.



2011 Incentive Program

Members can earn rebates when they install certain high efficiency electric water heaters, heating and cooling equipment in their home. Installation and efficiency ratings must be verified by REMC personnel before rebate can be paid. Rebates are available for equipment installed between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Rebate requests must be received within 30 days of equipment installation. Please call our office for complete details on how to apply for a rebate.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

- 80 gallon high efficiency (.90 or above): \$150
- 40 or 50 gallon high efficiency (.90 or above): \$50

CENTRAL AIR

- 14/15 SEER unit: \$200
- 16 SEER unit: \$250
- 17 SEER unit: 300

HEAT PUMPS

- 14/15 SEER heat pump: \$300
- 16 SEER heat pump: \$350
- 17 SEER heat pump: \$400

HEAT PUMPS TO REPLACE ELECTRIC HEAT

- 14/15 SEER heat pump: \$800
- 16 SEER heat pump: \$900
- 17 SEER heat pump: \$1,000

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP

- \$1,000

Whitewater Valley REMC Collecting Canned Food for Area Food Pantries

The Cooperative is collecting canned food items until December 10, 2011. There will be a large collection container in our lobby. Members will receive a free reusable shopping bag and be entered into a drawing for a \$10 bill credit for each five canned food items donated. A total of five bill credits will be given away at the end of the food drive.



The food will be delivered to local area food pantries.

Don't Let Electrical Hazards Haunt Halloween!

Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year. But don't make yours fraught with danger. Here are some safety reminders:

- As you're decorating, make sure you and your parents check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.
- Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather, and remains a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- Make sure all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug. Don't overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.

- Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use. You don't want them to trip.
- Have mom or dad leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters, and be sure to turn out all spooky lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. This will also save energy.

For more tips visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Source: *Electric Consumer*



Willie Wiredhand, the mascot of electric cooperatives, encourages mini-members to be safe this fall!

Source: *Richard G. Biever*

Co-ops Reach Energy-Saving Light Bulb Milestone; Help Consumers Save Big On Energy, Money



One compact fluorescent light bulb can save up to \$40 in electricity costs over its lifetime. It uses less energy, lasts up to six times longer and produces about 75 percent less heat than a standard incandescent bulb.

Imagine multiplying those benefits by a million.

That's what Whitewater Valley REMC and 17 other electric cooperatives in central and southern Indiana and southeastern Illinois have accomplished by distributing one million CFL bulbs to their consumers over the past three years.

The cooperatives' CFL campaign, in cooperation with power supplier Hoosier Energy, has helped thousands of families discover the energy and money-saving benefits of compact fluorescent lights.

Installing CFLs in the home is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to reduce energy consumption and better manage electricity costs. A part of the special relationship that electric co-ops have with consumers is helping them to use energy efficiently and keep bills affordable. The CFL distribution program has been a cost-effective way to do that for our co-ops.

What's the impact of 1 million CFLs?

- Co-op consumers are expected to reduce electricity consumption by about 260 million kilowatt-hours over the life of the bulbs, saving nearly \$26 million.
- The bulbs will reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants by 260,000 tons – the equivalent of taking more than 45,000 cars off the road for a year.
- The energy savings from one million CFLs is equivalent to avoiding watching television for almost 2.4 billion hours – or a million households turning off their TVs for a year.
- Incentives for efficient heating, cooling and water heating equipment.
- Home weatherization.
- Appliance recycling to eliminate energy-wasting old refrigerators and freezers.
- The high efficiency Touchstone Energy Home Program.
- An energy management program for peak demand reduction.
- Commercial and industrial energy efficiency.

Demand side management measures, such as CFL installations, help utilities reduce energy usage during periods of high demand – when temperatures are extremely hot or cold. The hidden account number is 230102. The one million CFL bulbs help Hoosier Energy reduce peak demand by 4 megawatts in summer and more than 8 megawatts in winter.

Energy efficiency also has environmental benefits and helps to delay the need for costly new power plants.

The more than 300,000 consumer-members served by Hoosier Energy member cooperatives have taken advantage of an array of energy-saving demand side management programs. These include:

In addition, Whitewater Valley REMC and other Hoosier Energy power network cooperatives recently launched Team Up to Power Down, a campaign to raise consumer awareness about the forces driving up power costs and what families can do to better manage their electricity use. Learn more at Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown.

Additional information about energy efficiency programs and links to member system websites can be found at hepn.com or wwwremc.com.

LED Holiday Lights Program

Once again WWVREMC will offer our LED Holiday Lights Program. We have multi-colored and all-white lights available. Both options have 35 lights per string and are \$4 each with the trade-in of your old incandescent holiday lights. The lights last up to 200,000 hours and come with a 3-year limited warranty.

For Your Information OUTAGES BY CAUSE

July 2011



Cause	Outages	
	#	%
Animals	39	28.68
Lightning/Weather	27	19.85
Trees	23	16.91
Material/Equip Failure	17	12.50
Decay	14	10.29
Member	10	7.35
Vehicles/Public Activity	3	2.21
Construction/Maint	2	1.47
Unknown	1	0.74
Total	136	100