



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

FEBRUARY 2019

f in wwvremc.com



COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO

See you at the annual meeting



MARY JO THOMAS, CEO

“
You have a perspective that is valuable and we invite you to share it with the co-op.
”

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “what’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending WWVREMC’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to reconsider.

WWVREMC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss past priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Items under consideration include broadband feasibility studies, work plan projects and

continued on page 4



PAGE 2 2019 Annual Meeting Details and Important Information; Membership to Elect Three Directors



PAGE 3 Operation Round Up® Campaign Winners; Annual Meeting Slate, February Bill Credit Winners



PAGE 4 Hidden Account Number Announcement; Payment Options; Helpful Information; CEO Comments, continued; Outages by Cause

February Due Dates

The due dates for payment of your electric bills are **February 19 and 26.**

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

2019 Annual Meeting

DETAILS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Monday, March 4
Civic Hall, Richmond High School

25 prize drawings!

A Celebration of SUCCESS



Registration Gifts

Every member registering and voting will receive a \$10 bill credit and registration gift.

Schedule of Activities

5:30 PM	Doors Open
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Registration LOBBY
6:15 – 6:45 PM	Entertainment AUDITORIUM The Centerville Jazz Ensemble
7:00 PM	Business Session AUDITORIUM Call to Order & Welcome Invocation & National Anthem Introductions Reading of Official Notice Approval of 2018 Minutes Report of Nominating Committee Introduction of Candidates Election Chairman's Report President's Report Scholarship Awards Questions & Comments Election Results Prize Drawings & Adjournment

- 1st Place – iPad
- 2nd Place – KitchenAid Stand Mixer
- 3rd Place – Smart TV
- 4th Place – \$100
- 5th Place – \$75 cash
- 6th Place – \$50 cash

There's More!

- Four – \$100 bill credits
- Five – \$50 bill credits
- Ten – \$25 bill credits

REMEMBER, YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Elections: Membership to elect three directors and three nominating committee members to serve three-year terms.

Keep Winning All Year: All members attending will be entered to win additional \$20 bill credits each month following the meeting. Five members will be drawn each month beginning in April through March 2019.



Congratulations to our winners!

Congratulations to WWVREMC member Larry Tucker, Modoc, winner of the Operation Round Up® 55" SmartTV.

Additional prize winners included Becky Graber, West Harrison - \$25 bill credit; Melissa Krutz, Fountain City - \$25 bill credit; Matt Nepote, Richmond, - \$25 bill credit; and George Volk, Cedar Grove, \$25 bill credit. Thanks to everyone who submitted their pledge during the 2018 Fall Operation Round Up® campaign.

Annual Meeting Slate

Each year your cooperative holds an annual membership meeting, wherein elections are held to fill positions on the WWVREMC Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. The 2019 annual membership meeting is Monday, March 4 at Civic Hall in Richmond. A meeting invitation will be mailed to each member in February. In accordance with WWVREMC bylaws and nominating policy, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates.*

We look forward to seeing you at the WWVREMC annual membership meeting.

Director Slate

North

Ryan Drake, Cambridge City NOMINATION BY PETITION*

Timothy E. Franklin, Economy WITHDREW*

Joel Nunez, Williamsburg

Nathan Williamson, Economy

Central

Rod West, Liberty INCUMBENT

Steve Glynn, Richmond

South

Gary Stokes, West Harrison INCUMBENT, WITHDREW*

Nathan Cantrell, Liberty

Ellis McQueen, Connersville NOMINATION BY PETITION*

Nominating Committee Slate

North: Amy Fouche, Richmond

Central: Gail Smoker, Centerville

South: Gary Ruf, Connersville INCUMBENT

*Notes: Two nominations by petition were received after the Nominating Committee met and made their selections. The nominations by petition were made in accordance with Article IV Section 6 of the Bylaws. The Committee nominated a candidate for the North District Director position who subsequently withdrew his candidacy and the incumbent for the South District Director position who subsequently withdrew his candidacy.

Membership to Elect Three Directors

North District

Area north of I-70.

Ryan Drake, Cambridge City

Ryan Drake is a lifelong resident of Cambridge City. He graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management and Economics. After college he joined the family farming operation where they raise livestock and grain. He serves on an advisory panel for Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. and is a member of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Cambridge City. He has volunteered as the Swine Barn Superintendent for the Wayne County 4-H Fair for the past 5 years. He and his wife, Anna, have an 18-month old son. They have been members of REMC since 2013.

Nathan Williamson, Economy

Nathan Williamson is a lifelong resident of Wayne County. He is

a graduate of Purdue University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education and currently teaches agriculture mechanics at Hagerstown Jr/Sr High School. Nathan owns and operates a commercial seed dealership, farms corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and raises beef cattle. Williamson and his wife, Emily, have two children. They have been members of the REMC since 2012.

Joel Nunez, Williamsburg

Joel Nunez is an Operations Director for Ha-Ste Manufacturing. He is a Winchester High School graduate and was raised on the family farm business. Nunez has served as a mentor for Christians in leadership roles of multiple doctrines. He organized the development of the local food pantry in Lynn and has traveled on several mission trips for disaster relief and ministry outreach trips across Indiana, other states and India. Nunez is married to wife Sheila, a fellow Christian minister.

They have been members of the REMC since 2001.

Central District

Area south of I-70 and north of the following: **Whitewater River and Fayette County Road 250 South to Wellsview Road, Wellsview Road to County Road 300 South, east to Union County Road 275 South to Dunlapsville Road, east on Dunlapsville to Retherford Road, east on Retherford to McDill Road, east on McDill to U.S. Highway 27, east on U.S. 27 to Union County/Butler County, Ohio Line.**

Rod West, Liberty

Rod West is the incumbent director seeking re-election from the Central District. He has served on the Whitewater Valley REMC board since 2013 and is currently Chairman of the Board. Rod graduated from Union County High School and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and for the past 26 years he has been

employed by Square D / Schneider Electric in Oxford. Rod holds 11 patents for electrical equipment and is a member of several electrical codes and standards committees, including the standard for electrical safety (NFPA 70E) and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

Rod is a member of the Methodist church in Liberty and is active in the community. Rod and his wife Laurie (Powers) have been married for 23 years and live on a small farm outside of Liberty. They have five daughters ages 9-19, who keep them busy with a number of community, school and 4-H activities.

Steve Glynn, Richmond

Steve Glynn graduated from Richmond High School and is currently enrolled at I.U. East pursuing his bachelor's degree. Glenn is a Project Engineer at Ahaus Tool in Richmond.

South District

All areas south of the southern dividing line for the central section.

Nathan Cantrell, Liberty

Nathan Cantrell is a lifelong resident of Union County and full-time farmer. He graduated from Union County High School and Whitewater Valley Technical Career Center. Cantrell was a member of 4-H for ten years and has served on the 4-H board for ten years where he has held various positions from president, vice president, and most recently treasurer. He also just finished his tenth year as the swine superintendent for the 4-H program. He is a member of the Northern Indiana Young Corn Growers Association.

Nathan and his wife, Raychael, have two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, raising show pigs, attending livestock shows and spending time with his family.

Ellis McQueen, Connersville

Ellis McQueen currently serves on the Whitewater Valley REMC Nominating Committee. McQueen is retired from the Connersville City Police department. He graduated from Connersville High School and the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. During his 28-year career he served in patrol, K9, SWAT, narcotics, the detective division and as deputy chief. He also served as a U.S. Army National Guardsman. He is a former real estate agent and earned a certification in horse training from Richie Wingfield Horsemanship in 2008.

Ellis is a member of Alquina Church where he serves as Pastor Parish Committee member, Activity Director for the Men's Group and Bible Study leader. Ellis and his wife Carol live in Fayette County.

February Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for additional bill credit winners continues. Five names will be drawn each month from all attending members of the 2018 annual meeting for a total of sixty bill credits by the time we host our 2019 Annual Meeting on March 4. Here are the February winners.

Harold Baker, Richmond; Jayma Randolph, Richmond; Julie Thomas, Farmland; Dale Walker, Liberty; Wayne West, Cambridge City



Each month we hide an account number in Powerlines. Did you find it?

NO JANUARY WINNER!

There was no winner for the month of January. Be sure to keep reading Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number and \$25 bill credit could be yours!

Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

SmartHub

Log-on at www.vremc.com

Pay-by-Phone

Call 844-827-4759. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

Liberty Office

In person or in the drop box.

Automatic Withdrawal

Simply request a form and submit it to our office.

FCN or Franklin County National Bank

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)

First Merchants Bank (Richmond Location)

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)



For more information about payment options, please call us:

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557

Helpful Information

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. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at www.vremc.com.

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.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO, continued from page 1

maintenance, cybersecurity efforts, economic development partnerships and community involvement. Annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are co-op members, just like you.

WWWREMC is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and

affordability of your energy, and WWWREMC wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While WWWREMC provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been awhile, please stop by. The hidden account number is 1559600. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you!

This year marks our 25th year as Whitewater Valley REMC so come to the meeting and celebrate with us. We'll have information, entertainment and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Monday, March 4 at Civic Hall, Richmond. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.



CAUSE	#	%
MAJOR STORM	240	61.86
TREES	39	10.05
ANIMALS	36	9.28
DECAY	24	6.19
MEMBER	13	3.35
VEHICLES/PUBLIC ACTIVITY	11	2.84
MATERIAL/EQUIP. FAILURE	7	1.80
LIGHTNING/WEATHER	6	1.55
UNKNOWN	5	1.29
CONSTRUCTION/MAINT	5	1.29
OTHER	1	0.26
POWER SUPPLIER	1	0.26
TOTAL	388	100



101 Brownsville Avenue, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353
765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557

www.vremc.com • info@www.vremc.com

President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason