

# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

    [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

### Happy New Year!



MARY JO THOMAS,  
CEO

Not since my days in IT and the Y2K countdown have I looked forward to saying goodbye to a year. But how do you make plans for the new year after the most unpredictable year many of us have experienced? At WWVREMC, you charge

ahead with hope that things will get better in 2021. Hope that there will be a vaccine readily available to the general population so that people are not getting sick at pandemic levels. Will we operate as before we heard of COVID-19? No, we will think more about keeping people healthy and business operations will be different. And while we know we can accomplish things in a virtual world, we also recognize how important human interaction is to our wellbeing.

As I shared in a previous newsletter, the WWVREMC board met last summer to set our direction for the next few years. From that the staff develops initiatives designed to meet the board's strategic goals. We have divided our strategies into four categories: People & Culture, Internal Processes, Financial, and Members.

- First, we begin with the foundation of our employees - we will empower them to establish a "member-focused" culture, we will be a preferred employer, and we will be a leader in employee and public safety.
- Next internal processes are laid out to focus on those items from the board's strategic planning session. Here we will be working on a strategic approach for vegetation management and succession plans for future employee retirements. We will develop initiatives to address better utilization of our resources, implement education and programs to encourage electric vehicle adoption, and develop policies for encouraging and accommodating broadband vendors to serve

our members. We will continue to explore and finalize a facilities plan.

- To ensure stewardship of our financial strength we will be looking for cost savings opportunities and continue our existing plans that maintain our strong financial position.
- These initiatives all work towards our members satisfaction with WWVREMC. We look to increase that satisfaction with member engagement opportunities and communications across several platforms, work to continually improve reliability and provide great service through extraordinary care.

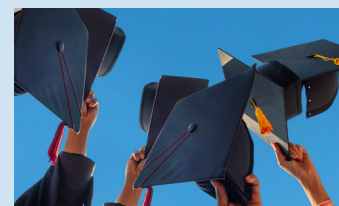
The strategies to learn about electric vehicles have already begun. You can find information on our website in the Electric Vehicles section. We are participating in a pilot with Hoosier Energy and other distribution cooperative members to learn about the benefits, costs, battery range, and charging characteristics. The pilot includes residential chargers for members who own an EV, and the installation of a commercial charger within our service territory.

Our current facilities include buildings and storage that are in multiple spots and present issues with safety, security, and no room for growth. We are working to remedy this and plan for the cooperative's future. Our goal is to solve our challenges in the areas of storage and security and provide for employee operating efficiencies.

Cost savings initiatives are always at the forefront for us and we know it's important to you. In 2021, our power provider, Hoosier Energy, will begin a redesign of the wholesale power rate to reflect the changes in their new resource plan. Significant time has already been invested to develop a new resource plan to meet member needs for the next 20 years. The plan calls for a combination of low-cost wind, solar, natural gas and storage



**PAGE 2** Energy Efficiency Calendar



**PAGE 3** CEO column continued, Scholarship Program, Why Involvement in Your Co-op Matters



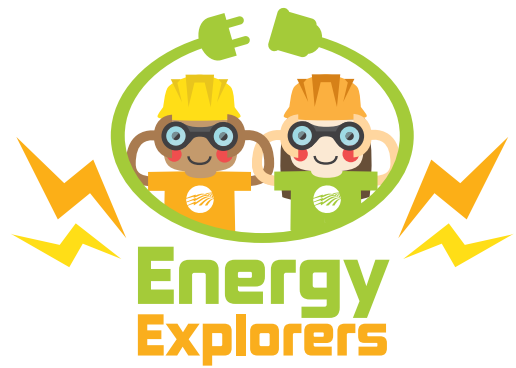
**PAGE 4** How Americans Use Energy, Bill Credit Winners

## January Due Dates

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

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# 2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR



There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills – and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.

## JANUARY

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave room.



## FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

## MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



## APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

## MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

## JUNE

Take short showers instead of baths.



## JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

## AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days.

## SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



## OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

## NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



## DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.

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resources that will provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy while saving members money over the next two decades. Time in 2020 was spent starting to secure resources. These changes in the resources will call for changes to the wholesale tariffs to send fair and accurate price signals to the distribution cooperatives. In turn, WWVREMC will need to adjust and modernize our rate tariffs. This whole process will take time and we do not expect any base rate changes until 2023. In the meantime, any intermediate cost savings from these changes will flow through the wholesale power adjustment and will be reflected as an additional charge or credit on your bill. Those credits started in 2020 with your August usage and we expect them to increase and continue in 2021. Good news for members.

As you can see, WWVREMC has a lot of plans for 2021 and beyond. We powered through 2020 and the board of directors and employees are ready to tackle all that this year brings to serve you, our member-owners.

## Whitewater Valley REMC Scholarship Program

As a cooperative, we are committed to the communities we serve and want to provide WWVREMC members the opportunity to develop their skills and continue learning by assisting their efforts to further their education with scholarships. A scholarship program has been established to help those members, or dependents of members, desiring to further their education.

WWVREMC will be selecting ten students from eligible applicants to receive \$750 scholarships! Winners will be announced during the annual meeting held in March. Applications must be submitted to the WWVREMC office no later than 4:30 p.m. on **February 15, 2021**. Scholarship funds will be dispersed to the school for those drawn upon proof of enrollment to the college or trade school.

Visit [www.wwvremc.com/content/youth-programs](http://www.wwvremc.com/content/youth-programs) to learn more and apply.



America was founded on a **cooperative spirit**. Working together, helping each other for the mutual good – this is the American way. And for good reason: cooperative organizations provide their members economic, social and cultural benefits that often wouldn't be available otherwise.

That's the way it is with electric power cooperatives which were formed to get power to the people, farms and businesses of rural America. One of the nation's first – Boone REMC – was formed right here in Indiana.

Since then, the citizens and employers in the communities Indiana's electric cooperatives serve have been our owners, and we've always put their needs first. Because if you receive your electricity from a cooperative, you belong to that cooperative not only as a **member-consumer**, but also as an **owner**.

Today, Indiana electric cooperatives serve more than 1.3 million individuals, families, farms, and businesses in 89 Indiana counties. With more than \$2.4 billion in system infrastructure, we're providing Hoosiers with the reliable electric power they need — and we do it while emphasizing environmentalism, sustainability and efficiency.

Indiana's electric cooperatives work

hard for you, our members, and the communities we serve. Our members have always come first – that's the cooperative spirit. And it's a spirit that focuses on today and tomorrow. Because, as the landscape continues to evolve, we want to ensure our members – our consumers – always have access to clean, safe, abundant electric power — now and for many years to come.

But we cannot do it without you. Cooperative members have several unique privileges and your involvement and participation are vital to your local cooperative's success and function.

You are entitled to participate in your cooperative's democratic process. You can vote in annual cooperative board elections and elect directors who are members just like you. Cooperatives also encourage you to voice your thoughts and ideas within the company. Members maintain equal status and work together for the good of the community.

Get involved today and contact your local electric cooperative. Have your voice heard and be an essential part of keeping electricity safe, reliable, and affordable in your community.

Sources: [www.indianaec.org](http://www.indianaec.org)  
<https://www.barryelectric.com/advantages-of-an-electric-cooperative/>



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

## NO DECEMBER WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number 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](http://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

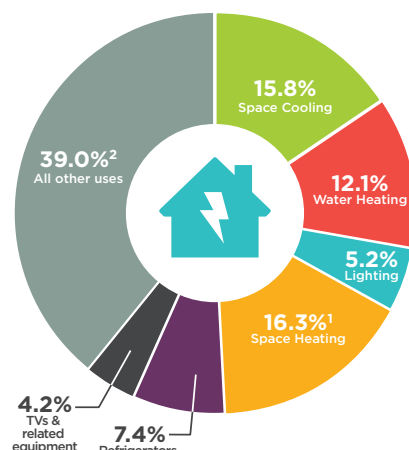
Call 1-800-776-0493, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com).

### 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.

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2020

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, computers and related equipment, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

## Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2020 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners. The hidden account number is 1460300.

### JANUARY

Michael Fitzgerald, West Harrison

Carolyn Griffin, Liberty

Jeffrey Heaston, Hagerstown

Philip LaFuze, Richmond

Anthony Neargarder, Union City

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for  
more  
info?

Visit [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com)



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