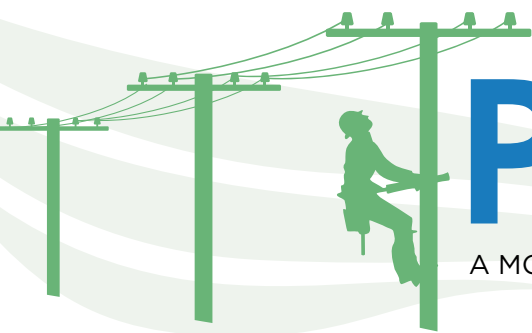


POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Working with Local Legislators



MARY JO THOMAS, CEO

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly

affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At WWVREMC, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. Afterall, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

WWVREMC is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

PROVIDING INDUSTRY GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing

energy industry, which is why WWVREMC provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who’ve been in the energy industry for years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

GRASSROOTS – THE UNIFIED EFFORT

Long-time members of the cooperative are familiar with the term “grassroots.” The electric cooperative definition of grassroots is “electric cooperative activists – directors, managers, employees and member-owners – who take an active role in the political process to protect their cooperative from harmful legislative and regulation, as well as to promote the value of cooperative ownership to their legislators.” The unified efforts and voices of the nation’s electric co-op supporters – grassroots – has proven to be the foundation of the industry’s 85 years of success in serving electric co-ops, their owners and their communities.

To become a grassroots advocate for Indiana’s electric cooperatives, visit action.indianaec.org/.

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January Due Dates

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



www.remc.com

Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. The hidden account number is 1438100. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for ways to manage your energy use and increase comfort in your home, SmartHub can be a useful resource. You can monitor your electric use and track just when your household energy consumption increases. By knowing how and when your family uses electricity, you can make small changes to avoid the high winter bills.




WHITWATER VALLEY REMC
SCHOLARSHIPS
2022

Whitewater Valley REMC continuously looks for ways to support our community.

That's why each year we assist our young members in their pursuit of higher education by awarding scholarships.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- › The parents or legal guardians of the applicant must be a member of Whitewater Valley REMC.
- › Students are allowed to receive only one Whitewater Valley REMC scholarship during their academic career. Previous recipients will be disqualified.
- › Scholarship funds may be applied towards tuition, fees and other related expenses at any recognized two-year or four-year college or trade school.
- › The student and/or the student's parent or legal guardian must be present at the annual meeting drawing. If the cooperative meeting format is virtual, applicants need to apply before the stated deadline to be entered for the current year's awards and winners will be announced during the virtual meeting.
- › Recipient must be eligible to enroll as a full-time student in the fall of 2022. Proof of enrollment must be presented to cooperative.
- › Full- or part-time employees of the cooperative; or a spouse, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandchild, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew of an employee or board director of the cooperative are ineligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP:

Visit wwwremc.com/youth-programs to submit an application. **Applications are due by March 10, 2022.**

APPLY TODAY



Cooperative CALENDAR of STUDENT ART



You could *win* **\$200**
 >> **ENTER YOUR BEST ARTWORK**
 Fill the pages of the 2023 calendar!

ELIGIBILITY

Indiana public, private or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2021-22 school year are eligible to enter the contest.

DETAILS AND DEADLINE

A complete set of rules and required entry forms are available at indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest. Artwork must be received by March 18, 2022.

ART CONTEST

Questions? Contact Indiana Connection, 317.487.2220 or info@indianaconnection.org.



You must be a junior to apply!

Ready to pack your bags?
 Apply by visiting www.remco.com/youth-programs.
 Applications are due by March 1, 2022.

APPLY NOW

MONUMENTS. MUSEUMS. LEGISLATORS. FRIENDS. HISTORY. TRIP OF A LIFETIME.



INDIANA
 YOUTH
 TOUR '22
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 16-23
 2022

What are you doing this summer?

Your electric co-op wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C.



SPONSORED BY WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC AND INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



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

JOHN FROST WINS!

John Frost, Williamsburg, found his hidden account number in the November 2021 newsletter and won a \$15 bill credit. 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.

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.)

VanillaDirect

Visit vanilladirect.com for payment locations and details.



For more information about payment options, please call us:

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

SAVE THE DATE

WWVREMC ANNUAL MEETING

April 19, 2022

Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members attending the 2021 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

JANUARY

Richard Martin, Modoc

Daniel Meyers, Bath

James W. Miles, Brookville

Harold Tincher, Centerville

Charles Wise, Jr., Richmond

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 and report your outage.

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.

Ready for more info?

Visit www.vremc.com



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