

FEBRUARY 2022

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**Mark your
calendars for
our Annual
Meeting on
April 19!**



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

As I write this message, we are planning for an in-person annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19 at Civic Hall in Richmond.

It will be nice to meet in person again. The

cooperative's annual meeting is the largest event we host as far as member attendance and engagement goes. The board of directors decided to keep mail-in voting since that has proven to be a popular option for members. But members are still encouraged to attend the meeting. We'll have several bill credits and cash prizes to give away during the meeting, as well as the ten scholarships awarded through the WVVREMC Scholarship program.

HOW DO I VOTE?

Members will receive a voting packet in the mail with instructions for electing directors and nominating committee members around March 24. Follow the instructions to cast your vote by the April 17 deadline.

There are three director positions and three nominating committee positions to vote for. Please vote for the candidates in all three districts, even if you do not live within that district. Return the ballot in the provided postage-paid envelope and send it directly to Survey and Ballot Systems. To ensure your vote is counted, please do not send in your ballot with your bill or bring the ballot to the office.

WHEN DO I VOTE?

Voting will open March 24, 2022, and closes April 17, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Please follow the instructions for casting your vote included in the voting information packet you receive in the mail.

We certainly have missed seeing all our members in person and hope you'll join us to see how we are working for you.

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

    
wwwremc.com



2022 Cooperative 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 2022 annual membership meeting is Tuesday, April 19. In accordance with WWVREMC bylaws and nominating policy, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates.

DIRECTOR SLATE

North

Ryan Drake, Cambridge City (Incumbent)

Central

Rod West, Liberty (Incumbent)
J. Roderick Weiss, Richmond

South

Nathan Cantrell, Liberty (Incumbent)
James Barricklow, West Harrison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

North

Bill Day, Fountain City

Central

Gail Smoker, Centerville (Incumbent)

South

Barry Edwards Sr., Liberty
Jennifer Horning, Connersville

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Three board seats are up for election in 2022. The members running for Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors are shown on the left and their information is listed below and on the following page. Members can vote for one candidate in each district. All members will receive a ballot in the mail including instructions on how to vote. Ballots will be mailed to all members in March and will be accepted through April 17, 2022. Voting for the board of directors will not take place at the annual meeting.

All candidates were asked to provide the following information:

1. Number of years as a member of Whitewater Valley REMC
2. Education and specific degrees
3. Current employment and employment history
4. Leadership and community activities
5. Why are you interested in becoming a member of Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors or serving another term?

NORTH DISTRICT

RYAN DRAKE, CAMBRIDGE CITY (INCUMBENT)

**Number of years as a member of
WWVREMC**

9 years

Education

I graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management and Economics. I am currently taking courses to complete my Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate offered by NRECA.

Employment

After college I joined the family farming operation where we raise livestock and grain.

Leadership and community activities

I have volunteered as the Wayne County 4H Swine Superintendent for the past 10 years. I serve on an advisory panel for Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. and am a member of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Cambridge City.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I would be honored to serve another term as a WWVREMC director. My expertise in operating a business and the knowledge I have gained through REMC training over the past years has equipped me as an effective board member. I believe I have the knowledge to help guide our cooperative in making decisions to continue to provide the

reliable electric service that the Whitewater Valley has come to know. Our local electric cooperative is an integral part of rural living and I want to ensure that it continues to be an asset to the community it serves.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

ROD WEST, LIBERTY (INCUMBENT)

**Number of years as a member of
WWVREMC**

16 years

Education

I graduated from Union County High School and completed my Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I am a Licensed Professional Engineer by the State of Indiana and hold a NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate.

Employment

For the past 29 years, I have been in the Design Engineering and Codes & Standards departments at Schneider Electric, formerly known as Square D Company. I hold 12 US Patents for electrical equipment and participate on several technical committees covering electrical safety and maintenance of electrical equipment. I am also a Code Making Panel member for the National Electrical Code (NEC).

Leadership and community activities

I am currently serving as Chairman of the Board at WWVREMC. As the father of 5 daughters, my wife and I attend and volunteer at multiple school and

4-H activities. I am an active member of Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church where I serve on the finance committee, administrative council, and joined the Redbird youth mission trip. In the past, I also served as Liberty town council president and as a LECS committee member at the Union County Foundation.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed my time serving on the board and have learned a lot about our cooperative, its employees, and our member-owners. I am proud of the many advancements and accomplishments that WWVREMC has made over the past several years. As someone who serves on many committees, I can honestly say we are lucky to have a board that brings such diverse experience levels, backgrounds, and skills together to make the best possible decisions for our membership. In these often divisive and challenging times, I believe our entire cooperative, including the board of directors, is unified with a goal of providing and using safe, reliable, and affordable electric power and I would be honored to continue to serve as a member of its board of directors.

J. RODERICK WEISS, RICHMOND

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
26 years

Education

Graduate of Richmond High School.

Employment

I am the owner of Mint Management, LLC, Mint Reality, LTD, Spearmint I Limited Partnership, Spearmint II Limited Partnership, J&MW Holdings, LLC, and CMW Real Estate, LLC.

Leadership and community activities

I currently serve on the executive board and finance committee of the Richmond YMCA. In the past, I also served on the Kiwanis executive board, and as treasurer/secretary for the Eastern Indiana Officials Association, and I am a past board member and board president of Richmond Evening Optimists.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

I want to learn more of the operations of WWVREMC. To help serve and lead the cooperative in the 21st century.

SOUTH DISTRICT

NATHAN CANTRELL, LIBERTY (INCUMBENT)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
4 years

Education

Graduate of Union County High School.

Employment

Fulltime farmer.

Leadership and community activities

I have been a Union County 4-H volunteer for 12 years and served on the 4-H board for 10 years.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I've enjoyed representing the members as a director of WWVREMC for the past 3 years. I believe the board has faced some challenges but has navigated through them to put WWVREMC in a great position going forward. It is with the upmost honesty and integrity when I tell a member that every decision made or vote cast by the Board of Directors at WWVREMC is done so with the cooperative and its members best interest in mind. I would greatly appreciate another term as a director to serve the members of WWVREMC. Thank you.

JAMES BARRICKLOW, WEST HARRISON

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
39 years

Education

I graduated from East Central High School.

Employment

I am a retired lineman from Duke Energy where I worked for over 43 years. My previous work experience includes Campbell Hausfeld, Cincinnati Gas & Electric, and CENERGY.

Leadership and community activities

I previously served on the church council at St. John's United Church of Christ.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

I wish to be of service and help the members of WWVREMC.

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

RICHARD KOLB WINS!

Richard Kolb, Metamora, found his hidden account number in the December 2021 newsletter and won a \$25 bill credit. Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours!

Congratulations to our 2021 Operation Round Up Membership Campaign Prize Winners!



Thanks to everyone who signed up as a new Operation Round Up participant, made a one-time donation, increased their monthly donation amount, or donated their capital credit refund back to the program.

The winners of the \$100 Amazon gift cards are Robert Ison, Cedar Grove; Warren Jones, Cambridge City; and Gary Snowden, Cambridge City. Christina Clevenger, Centerville and Don Scheumann, Laurel, each won a \$25 bill credit.

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

Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members attending the 2021 annual meeting continues. The hidden account number is 765100. Here are the winners.

FEBRUARY

Beth Chaddon, Brookville

Clyde Kassens Jr., Liberty

Leo Lewis, Fountain City

Gary W. Patterson, Liberty

Rowena S. Warner, Centerville

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.

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- The type of problem you are experiencing - flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

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