



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC





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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

New Programs & Services for Co-op Members



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

Wow! I can't believe I am writing my April article. Where does the time go? As I write this, we are putting the final plans in place for the 2021 Annual Meeting. We will have election results in the May issue as well as prize winners and a list of the ten students who won scholarships.

But back to what's new and available now. I'm happy to report that the cooperative office has reopened to welcome members in to conduct business with us and protocols are in place to keep everyone healthy and safe.

WWVREMC and Hoosier Energy have been working together to update the energy efficiency rebates and incentives program to offer members new options in 2021. The new programs include an HVAC tune-up rebate and electric lawn equipment rebates. Members can receive a rebate of 50% off a qualifying HVAC tune-up cost (up to \$50). The HVAC tune-up rebate is available for your pre-season heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (HVAC) check-up with a licensed HVAC contractor to ensure your system is operating efficiently. A rebate for mini-split single room installations has also been added to the HVAC incentives.

We now offer rebates on electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers and string trimmers - up to \$50 towards the cost of new equipment. The brand you choose is up to you, as well as where you make the purchase.

You may recall that the cooperative began exploring the use of electric vehicles in 2020. We are excited to roll out Cooperative Charge. This program is for our members who are interested in purchasing or leasing a fully electric vehicle, also known as an EV. As part of the program, members can receive a Level 2 residential EV

charger at no cost. Installation and maintenance costs are not included. Data from the electric vehicle charger will be used to better design future EV programs. We have a limited number of free chargers that will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

The Rural Energy Audit Program is back for our farm and rural businesses. This program was a pilot a couple of years ago and WWVREMC and Hoosier Energy have teamed up once again to offer this program to improve efficiencies for our rural business accounts.

For more information on all these programs, please give us a call or visit our website.

And when you visit our website, you will notice a new look! We have been hard at work building a new site with new features to better serve you. We are in the final weeks of editing and auditing the site and plan to launch the new website this spring.

Finally, I will end with two new member support initiatives. First, we are testing a chat feature on our website to gauge the ease of use for members to communicate with us during office hours. This new feature will be tested using different vendors to fit our budget and software compatibility. We will keep you updated on our progress.

And the second initiative you may have noticed on your past couple of bills is a new pay option. Transactions are made through VanillaDirect with many locations throughout the cooperative's service territory. Members may visit our website, or vanilladirect.com for payment locations and information.

As you can see, we have been very busy here at the cooperative. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have held the 2021 annual meeting, conducted the election of directors and nominating committee members, and rolled out several new programs and services. All in the first quarter of 2021. Whew!



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Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 12, 2021

April Due Dates

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

OPERATION ROUND UP 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ROUND UP GRANTS IN 2020 Last year, the WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. granted \$28,010 in assistance to local organizations. A total of \$569,921 has been awarded since the beginning of the program. The current monthly income to the program is just under \$2,200, with about 38% of WWVREMC members contributing to the Trust every month. In addition to monthly contributions from the members who "round-up" their bills, the Trust receives one-time donations from individuals throughout the year. Over \$2,100 was pledged in one-time donations and capital credits donated back to Operation Round Up® during our fall membership campaign. We appreciate the generosity of each donation made to the program. Thank you.

WHO RECEIVES ROUND UP

ASSISTANCE? The mission statement of WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. is to make a difference in our community by the accumulation and disbursements of funds for charitable purposes within the WWVREMC service territory. Funded projects contribute to economic development and community benefit and are given to worthwhile philanthropic organizations throughout our area.

GIVE TO ROUND UP Sign up today by calling 765-458-5171. It's easy to support the program by just "rounding up" your bill to the next full dollar amount. The average donation is about 50 cents per month or about \$6 per year, and it is tax-deductible for most people. Together with other members who support this program, your pennies can really make a big difference in the lives of people in the WWVREMC service territory.

ROUND UP TRUST BOARD

Craig Hale, President
Sara Jane Moyer, Secretary
Gary Stokes

Since all administrative costs are covered by WWVREMC, all donated dollars are distributed to worthy groups and organizations.

OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020:

Abington Township Volunteer Fire Dept. | Replacing self-contained breathing apparatus | **\$1,500**

Achieva Resources Corporation, Inc. | Towards the purchase of program materials for children enrolled in its EXCEL program | **\$1,400**

Bear Creek District - Crossroads Council | Underwrite cost of scouting-registration/uniforms | **\$750**

Birth to Five | Parents as Teachers national conference attendance | **\$300**

Boys & Girls Club of Wayne County, Inc. | Pay for event presenters, art supplies, snacks & incentives | **\$1,500**

Brighter Path | To help fund cost of Marvelous Minis traveling mini horse therapy service | **\$800**

Centerville High School After Prom | After Prom 2020 | **\$500**

Connersville Fire Dept. | Adult & infant CPR mannequins and AED trainer | **\$1,500**

Connersville Parks & Recreation | Towards expenses to build the Frazee Park Shelter | **\$1,000**

Earlham College for Chanticleer String Quartet | COVID-19 outdoor activities | **\$500**

Fayette County Community Voices | Towards student transportation to outdoor education program at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary | **\$1,200**

Girls, Inc. of Wayne County | Towards expenses for raised garden beds | **\$560**

Hope Crisis Pregnancy Center | I Decide for Me Program | **\$750**

Huntsville Community Center | Towards expenses to replace flooring and storm doors | **\$1,000**

Ivy Tech Foundation | Purchase two Oculus Quest 64GB VR Headsets | **\$750**

Metamora Volunteer Fire Dept. | Towards the purchase of AED's | **\$1,500**

Natco Community Empowerment Center | To help fund cost of preparing 100 tax returns through the Love Makes Cent\$ program | **\$700**

Nettle Creek Friends Cemetery Association | Foundation Repair | **\$500**

Northeastern High School After Prom | To fund "After Prom" activities | **\$500**

Randolph County 4-H Club Inc. | RT2 read, taste, touch project for preschoolers | **\$500**

Randolph County Historical Society | Install electric service in the barn | **\$500**

Randolph County YMCA- Camp Slingshot | Towards the purchase of lights & decorations for 1st Annual Christmas Illumination project | **\$500**

Richmond Family YMCA | Sport & art supplies for after school daycare at Liberty | **\$500**

Richmond Friends School | Towards the purchase of motion activated cameras in birdhouses | **\$450**

Richmond Indiana Pickleball, Inc. | Upgrade electric panel for new lights | **\$1,000**

Surety Community Ladies Center | Educational classes to men and women | **\$500**

Union County/College Corner Joint School Libraries | Grant to supplement loss of budget dollars for cancelled book fairs due to COVID-19 | **\$650**

Union County High School After Prom | To fund "After Prom" activities | **\$500**

Union County Public Library | Towards the purchase of blue blocks for visitors to play/create with | **\$1,000**

Union County Sheriff's Office Reserve Program | Towards the purchase of six bullet proof vests/carriers for reserve deputies | **\$1,000**

Union County Soil & Water Conservation District | To help fund Union County Ag Day activities | **\$600**

Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District | Wayne Co. Conservation Days - 3rd & 4th graders | **\$1,000**

Whitewater Canal Trail, Inc. | Towards a two-mile extension to the Feeder Dam Trail | **\$750**

Whitewater Valley Arts Association | Towards the purchase of storage cabinets for gallery paintings | **\$600**

Whitewater Valley Land Trust Inc. | Signage | **\$750**

21st Century Energy Taskforce: Findings and Conclusions

HOW WILL THE 21ST CENTURY ENERGY TASK FORCE REPORT AFFECT YOU?

In 2019, the Indiana Legislature asked the 21st Century Energy Task Force to examine the state's policies regarding electric generation portfolios and how shifting to renewable energies could impact the reliability, affordability and resilience of electric utility service. Other Task Force assignments:

- Evaluate state regulators' role in protecting consumer interests
- Investigate how possible changes in generation portfolios could impact the state

After a year and a half of examination, the Task Force released 17 findings and eight recommendations for the General Assembly to consider. Here's what that means for you, your community and your cooperative:

- The Task Force recommended the General Assembly, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and utility companies work together to reduce

Indiana's average electric rates. The goal: to ensure Indiana's rates are among the lowest 25% of all states by the end of 2030. Your electric cooperative is committed to keeping energy safe, reliable and affordable for you. With more research and support from policymakers, electric co-ops have even more tools to work toward those goals.

- To ensure Indiana can continue to attract and retain businesses and maintain solid economic growth, we must carefully adopt renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources reduce carbon emissions, are presently economically competitive, and offer new opportunities for Indiana to attract new investment, jobs and infrastructure that grow local economies. Electric cooperatives invest in your community and are focused on keeping energy reliable and affordable. Many cooperatives already utilize renewable energy sources and seek new opportunities to facilitate economic growth. With additional support from the Legislature, cooperatives will be even more empowered to support renewable energy sources when it is appropriate and when it ultimately benefits you, their members.
- Renewable energy comes with risks that must be considered

and precautions that must be taken. Electricity generated from renewable energy sources is significantly more unpredictable than electricity generated from other resources because of its dependence of forces of nature (i.e. wind, sun, water). To keep electricity reliable and constant, power systems require different resources to compensate for the unpredictability of renewable sources.

Your electric cooperative has your best interests at heart: keeping your lights on and your costs low. Cooperatives consistently evaluate their electric portfolio and seek ways to improve your electricity's safety, reliability and affordability. They will continue to do so alongside the Indiana General Assembly as more renewable energy sources are gradually integrated into the power supply.

As more research is done on renewable energy and electric generation in Indiana, your cooperative will continue to advocate for your best interests at the state and federal level. The hidden account number is 742002. You can help by staying engaged as we share ways you can support your electric cooperative and encourage others in your community to register to be a grassroots advocate at <https://action.indianaec.org/register-to-be-an-advocate/>.



Receive a rebate of 50% off a qualifying HVAC tune-up cost.
Total rebate not to exceed \$50.

Better for the environment.

- no oil to change
- no pesky sparkplugs or fuel filters
- quieter than fossil fuel engines
- no need to purchase excess gasoline or fuel additives
- no carbon monoxide emissions



Talk to us about available rebates



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

NO MARCH 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.

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 of the 2020 annual meeting ends this month. Here are this month's winners.

APRIL

Matthew Barancin, Hagerstown

Everett Claypoole, Richmond

Janice Halloran, Liberty

Duane Hieger, Fountain City

Ronald Price, Union City

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.

Ready
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info?

Visit www.vremc.com



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