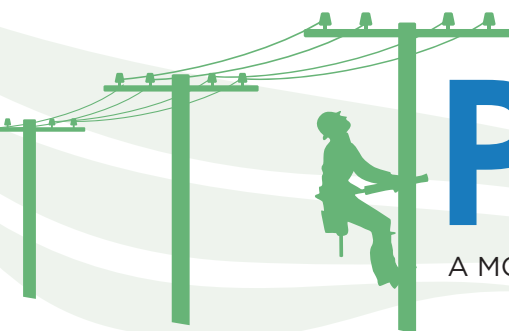


APRIL 2022

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

SPRING BRINGS NEW AND IMPROVED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CO-OP MEMBERS



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April Due Dates

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

YouTube Instagram Facebook Twitter LinkedIn
wwwremc.com



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

It's been a busy and productive first quarter at the cooperative. As I write this, we are putting the final plans in place for the 2022 annual meeting. We're hopeful the event will be an in-person meeting, but plans are in place should changing COVID-19 protocols make it necessary to modify or cancel. Members

should have received their voting packets by now. Please return your ballots before the April 17 deadline.

I'm pleased to announce that our energy efficiency incentives program will continue in 2022. The newest program - Electric Lawn Equipment Rebate Program added in 2021 is now the Electric Outdoor Equipment Rebate Program. Additional equipment has been added to the program and I encourage you to visit our website for details, a list of qualifying equipment, and how to apply for your rebate.

Our HVAC Tune-Up incentive is also being continued. 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 check-up with a licensed HVAC contractor to ensure your system is operating efficiently. Spring is the perfect time to have your HVAC system checked to avoid costly bills

or repairs when your air conditioning is needed most during the summer months.

Do you ever wonder what is behind the light switch? How you can be more energy efficient, or what new electric technology is available? To help answer those questions and more, we have been working with our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, to develop a new website called WhyElectrify.com. WWWREMC wants to be your trusted source of information for these topics. WhyElectrify.com launched in March and I encourage you to check it out.

In our quest to provide our member-owners with the best service possible, WWWREMC will begin conducting surveys throughout the year. These transactional surveys are conducted after the cooperative has performed a service or responded to a member request. They will be completed to measure member satisfaction with the outcome of work performed. We value your feedback, and your input helps us in our goal to always improve and provide the best possible service to you - the member-owners of WWWREMC.

As you can see, we hit the ground running in the first quarter. And we will keep the momentum going throughout 2022. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of our new programs and services, please contact us. We are happy to answer your questions.

OPERATION ROUND UP® NEWS

During the first quarter of Operation Round Up® for 2022, the WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. was able to award \$9,082 to 12 organizations. All the grants were given to local WWVREMC service area applicants.

You can find an application for a grant on our website at www.wwvremc.com.

LISTED BELOW ARE THE ORGANIZATIONS WHO RECEIVED GRANTS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022:

Achieva Resources Corporation, Inc.

Towards the purchase of program assessment tools | **\$750**

Birth to Five

To help fund team building activities | **\$300**

Boys & Girls Club of Wayne Co., Inc.

Towards the purchase of art supplies | **\$1,000**

Connersville Parks & Recreation

Towards expenses for the J. Long Memorial Second St. Park renovation | **\$750**

Family Earth Day Celebration

To help fund Wayne County Earth Day activities | **\$500**

Franklin County Middle School Applied Skills Class

Towards the purchase of supplies for a breakfast shop at Franklin County Middle School | **\$750**

Northeastern High School After Prom

To fund "After Prom" activities | **\$500**

Rebel Bots Robotics Club

Towards the purchase of a second robot | **\$532**

Sisters in Christ

To help provide meals and support to families in need | **\$1,000**

Union County 4-H Association

To assist in sponsoring three-day camp experiences for grades 3-12 | **\$1,500**

Union County Youth Cheerleading (Grades 3-6)

Towards the purchase of cheer uniforms | **\$500**

Western Wayne FFA

Towards expenses for the Soils team to travel to the National Land and Range competition | **\$1,000**

Are you considering solar panels as an alternative energy source for your home?

Not every home in the Midwest is optimal for solar panels. How do you determine if yours is?

Solar panels should be installed to maximize the sun's potential energy. They must be installed in the right direction and angle to capture the sun's rays for the longest period of time during the day. The panels should be installed away from shading, like trees, hills, buildings, etc., especially those that cast long shadows during fall and winter months.

This region of the Midwest often has long winter months with fewer hours of sunshine and more days of cloud cover. This is a big issue since more electricity is used during the winter months to combat the cold nights and dark mornings when solar is producing little to no energy.

Homeowners often don't see the full potential of solar power because their energy usage does not align with solar. Most people use energy in the morning and evening hours, not during the middle of the day when solar may be at its peak performance.

The solar production curve is bell-shaped, peaking during the middle of the day. Usage cannot be offset at night without battery storage.

Batteries can increase the savings from your solar system by moving usage to times when the sun is not shining. But batteries can also double to triple the cost of the system, which then reduces the overall savings potential to the point that makes it uneconomical.

WWVREMC members can log in to SmartHub and see their actual kWh use by the hour to determine if investing in solar makes sense for them. Members can and should supply this information to vendors they may be working with for possible solar installations at their home. The hidden account number is 228401. Using incorrect electricity consumption data will make a homeowner's solar investment difficult to calculate, often leaving the homeowner less than satisfied with the payback of their investment.

Energy efficiency is still the best investment for the greatest savings in our area. Installing a solar energy system before you upgrade your home's energy efficiency will reduce your solar savings in the future. The best strategy is to complete all your energy efficiency upgrades, and then size your solar energy system based on the new usage for optimal savings potential.

WWVREMC has member-owned distributed generation options for members who wish to invest and install a renewable energy source at their home. If you have questions about energy efficiency or how to integrate solar panels into your home energy usage, visit www.wwvremc.com/member-owned-generation or contact WWVREMC, your trusted electric cooperative to assist with an informed decision.



The Power Behind Your Power

You've likely noticed WWVREMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, we thought we'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 65 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours and outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

April
11

LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

Despite the many challenges, WWVREMC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, sometimes days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in Liberty, WWVREMC has 13 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain over 1,900 miles of power lines across six counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. Lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINWORKERS?

Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

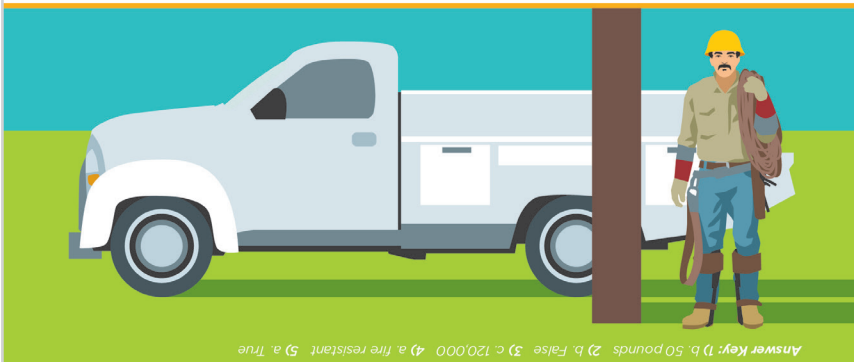
How much do you know about lineworkers?

Take the quiz below to find out!

(Use the answer key to check your work.)



1. Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear can weigh up to _____.
a. 15 pounds b. 50 pounds c. 80 pounds
2. Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.
a. True (no installation) b. False (They maintain, repair *and* install lines.)
3. There are approximately _____ lineworkers in the United States.
a. 50,000 b. 90,000 c. 120,000
4. Lineworkers must wear _____ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.
a. fire resistant b. extra thick c. leather or rubber
5. Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.
a. True b. False



The office will close at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 to prepare for the annual meeting.



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

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.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Administrative Professionals Day

April
27

Bill Credit Winners

This is the final drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2021 annual meeting. We will begin a new monthly drawing from all members who vote in the 2022 election next month.

APRIL

Rick Crane, Liberty

Timothy Pearson, Winchester

Harry G. Potter, Richmond

Brady Richmond, Richmond

Mark Stolle, Liberty



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