

JUNE 2022

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



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June Due Dates

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

    
wwwremc.com



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

Working for You

I want to thank all of you who came to our 2022 Annual Meeting. I can't tell you how excited I was to be back and in person this year following two years of virtual meetings. This year's theme was Working for You. As we continue to find ways that provide convenience to all our members, we decided to add

a LIVE broadcast of the meeting on our Facebook page. This way, if you weren't quite ready to be back in person, you could still have an opportunity to feel connected by joining us virtually. If you happened to miss the live broadcast, you can view the meeting on our website, Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

Each year we show a video at the meeting. The video this year highlighted how the cooperative continued to work through pandemic restrictions keeping service to the member our number one goal while focusing on strategic initiatives and goals set for the year. A snapshot of what's ahead for the cooperative was also presented. The video is a part of the live broadcast, presented separately on our website and YouTube channel.

During the meeting, I was honored to acknowledge longtime WVVREMC member and nominating committee member Gary Ruf. Mr. Ruf recently announced his retirement after serving five terms (15 years) on the nominating committee. Over those years he provided guidance and leadership to several newer committee members. The cooperative is grateful for Mr. Ruf's years of service and commitment to WVVREMC.

The meeting format was a little different in the way the election was conducted. Members voted by mail prior to the meeting, so no candidate speeches were given, and no ballots were collected during the evening. Registration for the meeting was down from previous meetings with 197 members present. A total of 1,116 members cast their vote by mail to elect directors and nominating committee members. Ballots cast plus in person attendance provided over 11% participation rate in this year's meeting and the Board, employees and I appreciate everyone who attended and/or voted. For comparison in previous years and with only in-person voting, our participation rate was around 4%. The winners of the election were announced during the meeting. Scholarships were awarded to ten local students and several prizes were given away.

With another annual meeting in the books, the planning for the 2023 meeting will begin. As mentioned during the meeting by Todd Duke, current nominating committee chairperson, this group will meet soon for orientation, instruction, and to begin looking for those interested in serving the cooperative. They will start with the list of members who said yes to the question included on the ballot regarding member interest in serving the cooperative. Be watching for information or reach out to let us know you are interested in knowing more about this opportunity.

As mentioned during the meeting, it is our pleasure to serve you and we will continue to keep working for you – the member-owners of WVVREMC.

Read more annual meeting highlights on page two, including the election results, first round of bill credit winners, prize, and scholarship winners. Visit our Facebook page to view the recording of the meeting.



Co-op Election Results

During the 2022 annual meeting, members re-elected three incumbent directors and one incumbent nominating committee member. Members also elected two new nominating committee members. The hidden account number is 1154000. Directors and committee members each serve three-year terms.

Incumbent Ryan Drake of Cambridge City ran unopposed and was re-elected as the North District Director. Incumbent Central District Director Rod West of Liberty won re-election, and incumbent Nathan Cantrell of Liberty won the South District Director.

Re-elected to the Nominating Committee was Central District incumbent Gail Smoker of Centerville. The two new Nominating Committee members were Bill Day of Fountain City in the North District and Jennifer Horning of Connersville in the South District.

Following the cooperative's bylaws, WWVREMC board members elected board officers at the first regular board meeting following the annual meeting. That meeting was held Tuesday, April 26, 2022.



Whitewater Valley REMC officers and representatives are:

Rod West, Chairman of the Board
Ryan Drake, Vice Chairman
Jodie Creek, Secretary-Treasurer, Hoosier Energy Representative
Nathan Cantrell, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The cooperative's Scholarship Program awarded its eighth round of awards at this year's annual meeting. Ten local students received a \$750 scholarship. The winners were:

Kalin Baumbauer, Bath
Austin Farley, Centerville
Macie Hawk, Cambridge City
Howard Hobson, Economy
Michael Horning, Connersville

Ethan Jennings, Connersville
Isaac Nicholson, Fountain City
Raigen Singer, Liberty
Garrett Walther, Centerville
Ashley Wampler, Milton

The program was established to assist those members, or dependents of members, desiring to further their education. Because the program is open to graduating high school seniors, as well as freshman, sophomore, or juniors in any recognized college, university, trade or vocational school but not older than 25 years of age, parents or legal guardians of the students could attend the meeting and accept the award for the student.

PRIZE WINNERS

Several prizes were awarded during the evening, including the top prize of \$500 cash. Other cash prizes and bill credits were given away. Here are the winners.

Ronald Wood - \$500 cash
Rea Riggin - \$250 cash
Charlie Bartlett - \$100 cash
Scott Reed - \$75 cash
Ben Smith - \$100 bill credit
Michael T. Duke - \$100 bill credit
Max Smith - \$100 bill credit
Shanon Getz - \$100 bill credit
Patricia Goble - \$50 bill credit

Patricia Gentry - \$50 bill credit
Donald Matix - \$50 bill credit
Richard Lafuze - \$50 bill credit
Nancy Laughlin - \$50 bill credit
Steven Keys - \$25 bill credit
Marshall Smith - \$25 bill credit
Earl Ballinger - \$25 bill credit
Donna Leitner - \$25 bill credit
Ronald Buckley - \$25 bill credit

New Ways to Use Electricity

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as



Why go electric – beyond the savings this incentive provides?

You can say goodbye to gas cans and mixing two-cycle fuel. With electric equipment, all you have to do is keep your battery packs charged. This incentive will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to apply, call us or visit our website.

gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug-in such as power inverters, air inflators and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited—electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes—even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increased renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick—improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.



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

NO MAY 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.remccom.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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2022 election begins this month. Here are the winners.

JUNE

Paul Miller, West Harrison

Thomas L. Moore, Liberty

Ronald Rose, Connersville

Nathan P. Cottrell, Centerville

Ruth Purcell, West Harrison



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