

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



wwwremc.com



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and WWVREMC all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members

and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Just like all co-ops, WWVREMC was created out of necessity--to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1936, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped

power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain--the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. WWVREMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

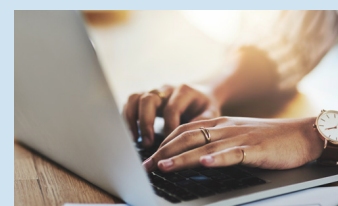
Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, energy efficiency HVAC incentives, etc.



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October Due Dates

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

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of WWVREMC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars--it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

WWVREMC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

To celebrate National Co-op Month, we'll be giving away free energy efficiency kits at the office during the month and drawing for bill credits.

Time to Show Our Appreciation

October is National Cooperative Month and National Customer Service Week is October 4-8. To show our appreciation to YOU, WWVREMC will be offering members a special gift*. During October, members can stop in the office and pick up their gift anytime during regular office hours.

For an extra thank you, all members will be entered to win bill credits. We will give away ten \$10 bill credits at the end of the month. Any member who stops in during the month and picks up their gift will be entered twice in the drawing.

**While supplies last.*

GET FAMILIAR WITH CYBER BASICS

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being "cyber smart" is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyber attacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. Furthermore, as has been underlined by these recent breaches, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors. Here are a few quick tips:

Enable multi-factor authentication

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFAs make it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.

Use strong passphrases/password manager

This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic has certainly contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.

Perform software updates. When a device prompts that it's time to update the software, it may be tempting to

simply click postpone, and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait - update.

Do your research. Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new you are downloading to your device, such as apps. Before downloading any new learning app on your device, make sure that it's ok by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

Check your settings. Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls, and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

Being cyber smart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyber attacks. No single tip is foolproof but taken together they can make a real difference for taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy, and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially - and prevent lost time and money, as well as annoyance.

OPERATION ROUND UP® NEWS

During the third quarter of Operation Round Up® for 2021, the WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. awarded \$7,700 to 5 organizations. All the grants were given to local WWVREMC service area applicants.

If you know of an organization in need, there are still more opportunities for us to give in 2021. The next deadline for the fourth quarter grants is due by October 11th. 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 THIRD QUARTER OF 2021:

Abington Township Volunteer Fire Department | Towards the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus' (SCBA's) for the department | **\$4,500**

Centerville Senior High School | Towards the purchase of updated library reading material | **\$1,200**

College Corner Union School PTO | Towards rental expenses of games for the fall school carnival | **\$500**

Girls, Inc. of Wayne County | Towards the expense of "puberty packs" for students participating in new outreach program | **\$500**

Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation | Towards expenses for the 2021 Conservation Days | **\$1,000**



Buzz and Emma Ullery, Executive Director, Brighter Path, Inc.

Grant Recipient Highlight – Brighter Path

Meet Buzz. He is the therapeutic mini horse used in the traveling Marvelous Minis program at Brighter Path. Buzz keeps busy traveling around and visiting those who might be in need of some animal therapy but cannot visit the Brighter Path barn. When we visited with Buzz in August, he was getting ready to go to Morrison-Reeves Library.

For more about Buzz, Brighter Path, and the work they do, visit brigherpathinc.com.

Operation Round Up® Fall Membership Campaign Begins This Month

It's time for our annual Operation Round Up membership drive. Sign-up during October, November and December and be entered for a chance to win prizes. Submit your pledge before December 31, 2021, to be eligible for prizes. Winners will be selected from all entries on Facebook Live at the end of the campaign.

PARTICIPATION IS EASY Operation Round Up is a great way to help your community. If you are not a participant, simply sign-up, and WWVREMC will automatically 'round-up' your monthly electric bill to help organizations within the cooperative service territory. You may also elect to contribute a one-time donation of a specified amount or contribute a specified amount to the fund monthly. Since the program began in 2003, donations have resulted in nearly \$575,000 being awarded to organizations throughout our communities, showing how much our members care about making a difference.

While Operation Round Up is a voluntary program, the more support received from our members; the more lives will be changed!

Complete the form below, checking the appropriate box and fill in the amount of your donation where applicable.

Yes! Sign me up for Operation Round-Up®.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Account Number: _____

- New participant, round-up my monthly bill.
- In addition to my round up, I want to contribute \$ _____ each month to Operation Round Up®. (fill in the additional dollar amount to be added to monthly electric bill)
- I want to make a one-time contribution. My check is enclosed.



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

NO SEPTEMBER WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours!

Director Candidate Applications

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

WWVREMC members interested in running for a seat on the WWVREMC Board of Directors are encouraged to read the Director Candidate Information Sheet and complete an application. The information sheet and application can be downloaded from the cooperative website.

Members interested in serving on the nominating committee can download the Nominating Committee Candidate Information Form. The hidden account number is 856201. More information on the 2022 district election will be included in upcoming issues of the Powerlines but time is running out to submit an application for consideration at the 2021 nominating committee meeting(s). Applications are due by November 1, 2021.

Visit www.wwvremc.com/be-active-member for more information.

Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

SmartHub

Log-on at wwwvremc.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 2021 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

OCTOBER

Waymon J. Brown, Richmond

Rayetta Gilkey, Liberty

Jason C. Laughlin, W. Harrison

Lee Wanda Washnock, Brookville

Kevin Young, Connersville

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 wwwvremc.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 for more info?

Visit wwwvremc.com



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