

DECEMBER 2022

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Reviewing Cost of Services



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

At WWVREMC, we work hard every day to provide you with the best service possible while also striving to keep rates low.

However, just like a gallon of gas costs more than it did just a few months ago,

costs to deliver electricity have increased. Earlier this year our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, completed a redesign of their wholesale power rate. A periodic review is important, which is why we had also started a cost-of-service study. This review helps to ensure our current rates recover the current cost of things like materials, labor and the price of power in a fair manner across all types of members.

A lot has happened in the world and the energy industry since I first wrote about the forecast for rates beyond 2022. The results of events are being felt everywhere, including here at WWVREMC. While a transition in the energy market is occurring to renewable energy, the two most common forms of electrical generation remain based on coal and natural gas. Coal prices have increased by 295% and natural gas costs have increased by 250% since last year. These price changes in fuels are reflected in

our monthly Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA) rate. In 2022, this increase was an average of 6% higher, as reported in June 2022. The primary drivers of the increase are the ongoing war in Europe, fuel supply constraints, fuel and power price volatility — all factors that can be viewed with a great deal of uncertainty.

An analysis of our rates based on the new cost of service study has been completed. At the October 25, 2022, board meeting these proposed rates from the study were discussed and approved by the board of directors. A rate increase of approximately 8% will take effect in April 2023.

The cooperative will continue modernizing rates by moving fixed charges into the facility charge and variable charges into energy and demand charges. The new rates reflect this trend, the current cost to serve and the change in resources from our power supplier to a more diverse portfolio.

We will report more on the details of the rates and how they will affect your bill in upcoming newsletters. Updated rates will also be shared with members at the 2023 annual meeting. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact our office. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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December Due Dates

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



wwwremc.com

Operation Round Up® Fall Membership Campaign Continues

Our annual Operation Round Up membership drive continues. Sign-up now through the end of December and be entered for a chance to win prizes. Submit your pledge before December 31, 2022, to be eligible for prizes. Winners will be selected from all entries submitted 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 over \$622,500 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! I want to help our community. 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.



Employee News

Luke Girdley joined WWVREMC in September as an information technology assistant.

Luke grew up in Hagerstown,

Indiana, where he graduated from high school in 2019 with an academic honors degree. He currently attends Indiana University East pursuing a bachelor's degree in informatics (IT) with a minor in business administration.

A few of Luke's hobbies include reading, playing music and technology. In his free time, he helps assist with the Environmental Club at IUE in cleaning up the campus and other community places.

The directors, staff and employees of WWVREMC want to welcome Luke.

Holiday Energy Savings

Use a timer to manage outdoor holiday lights. Set the timer to automatically turn lights off or on.



OPERATION ROUND UP NEWS

During the fourth quarter of Operation Round Up for 2022, the WVVREMC Community Trust, Inc. awarded \$5,500 to seven organizations. All the grants were given to local WVVREMC service area applicants.

If you know of an organization in need, 2023 will bring more opportunities for us to give. You can find an application for a grant on our website at www.wvvremc.com.

Listed below are the organizations who received grants during the fourth quarter of 2022:

Birth to Five \$500

Rental space at Safety Village for activities

Christian Charities of Richmond & Wayne County \$500

Funds to help Rock Solid Ministries with the cost of frozen turkey dinner distributions

Franklin County Middle School Journalism \$1,000

Purchase recording and editing technology equipment

Imagination Library of Franklin County \$1,000

Funding for preschool books and postage for children

Union County Parks and Recreation \$1,000

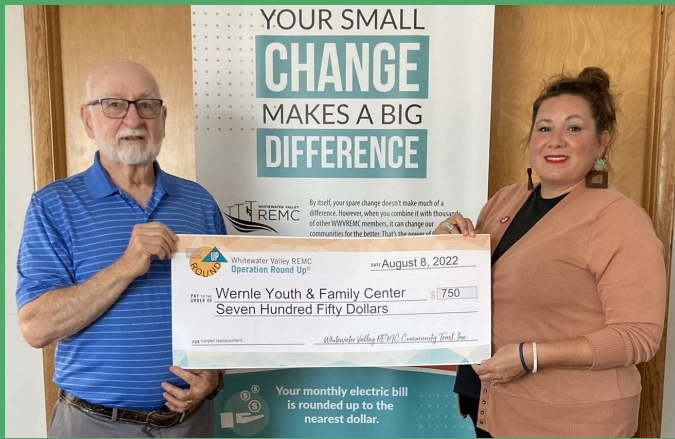
Composting toilets for park

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District \$1,000

Busing, lunch, drapery rental, and security for conservation days

Western Wayne Athletic Boosters \$500

Provide letter jackets for athletes



WVVREMC Community Trust Trustee Gary Stokes presents an Operation Round Up grant to Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center Junior Development Officer Lindsay Brown.

GRANT RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT WERNLE YOUTH AND FAMILY TREATMENT CENTER

Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center has been awarded a grant of \$750.00 from the Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Inc. The grant will assist in providing funds for purchasing new carpet in two of the buildings the children gather in.

2022 YEAR ENDS WITH CAPITAL CREDITS RETURNED TO WVVREMC MEMBERS

Your WVVREMC Board of Directors has reviewed the financial condition of the cooperative and is pleased to announce the retirement of \$885,000 in capital credits. Following the cooperative's capital credits retirement policy, 70% of the Generation & Transmission margins from 1993, and 10% of the most recent year 2021, will be retired and returned to members.

How much will you receive?

The amount you receive will be based on two factors; your length of membership with the cooperative and the amount of power used during the period being retired.

Refunds less than \$10 will be applied as a credit on your December electric bill. If your refund is more than \$10, you will receive a check in the mail. Checks will be mailed by the end of the year.

About Capital Credits

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay their shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives do not exist to earn a profit. You receive capital credits because you are more than a customer; you are an owner of WVVREMC. The hidden account number is 71601. These credits represent your ownership in WVVREMC

and are one of the unique and rewarding benefits you enjoy as a member of the cooperative.

Questions or problems with your refund?

For more information, frequently asked questions, search for unclaimed credits, learn how to donate your refund, or to resolve a capital credit issue, please visit our website www.wvvremc.com, call our office at 765-458-5171, or send an e-mail to info@wvvremc.com.





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

NO OCTOBER 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 350
Liberty, IN 47353

SmartHub

Log-on at www.remc.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.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

December 23, 24, 30

January 2, 2023

Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members
of the 2022 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

DECEMBER

Gary G. Grant, Brookville

Larry Lafuse, Liberty

Steven Wesseler, Liberty

Mark E. Crist, Liberty

Richard Fain, Brookville



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