

JUNE 2023

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

COOPERATIVE BY DESIGN: GET TO KNOW YOUR CO-OP NETWORK



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

Every day, WWVREMC is working hard to ensure all of our members have safe, reliable and affordable electric power. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

WWVREMC was formed in 1994 and is a consolidation of the former Fayette-Union County REMC and Wayne County REMC. Those two cooperatives were incorporated in January 1937 and August 1936, respectively. At their beginnings rural members banded together to form the cooperative and bring power to the rural areas when investor-owned utilities were not interested in building to homes and farms in our area. However, these co-ops were purchasing their power from those investor-owned companies.

This continued until 1949 when a group of farmers gathered at a café in Rushville, Indiana, to devise a strategy to strengthen several cooperatives. Their goal was simple: secure more reliable and affordable wholesale power compared to what they were receiving and paying to the investor-owned utilities. Shortly after their meeting, the group incorporated what would become Hoosier Energy and our two original cooperatives were two of the eight incorporating members.

Today, WWVREMC is one of 18 members of Hoosier Energy which provides the power and transmits it

to the 18 member cooperatives that then distribute that power to more than 760,000 consumers across Hoosier Energy's service area. The same principles that guided our leaders more than 70 years ago remain the same and today we still band together cooperatively to provide the best value for our collective members.

In the 1990's federal policies created fundamental changes and the restructuring of wholesale energy markets. Hoosier Energy was involved in the initial discussions to form an entity for greater efficiencies in the bulk power system and became a founding member of Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Hoosier Energy is also a member of PJM Interconnection (PJM). Like MISO, PJM is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op. When borrowing capital, we turn to National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives.

As you know, we generate an electric bill that we send to you electronically, through SmartHub or through regular mail every month. For this task we use National Information Solutions Cooperative, to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help manage your energy use and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto

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and workmen's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. The insurance cooperative allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a wide variety and a large quantity of materials to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with United Utility Supply. The power of this co-op allows us to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

WWVREMC is also part of the Cooperative Response Center (CRC), which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. CRC was founded in 1992 to provide after-hours services for 19 cooperatives in the upper Midwest. Today, they provide service for 530 members in 47 states out of three locations.

These are just a few of the cooperative entities that WWVREMC and our partners are members of. The cooperative model works well to provide representative and effective service and value in many areas of business.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide well over a billion people are counted as co-op members. So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

I hope this helps to explain some of our relationships and helps you to see why we chose the theme of the annual meeting as "Cooperative by Design." We are different – everything we do is on behalf of our member-owners. Our decisions are guided by those members – families, farmers, rural businesses – all those we serve.

Operation Round Up NEWS

Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up awarded \$15,300 to 21 community organizations in the first half of 2023.

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED GRANTS:

Alquina Blue Arrows Park, Inc. \$1,000

Community basketball court renovation

Boys and Girls Clubs of Wayne County \$750

Art supplies for annual art show program

Centerville After Prom \$500

To help fund after prom activities

Centerville Senior High School Drama Club \$500

Microphones for drama club and music department

College Corner Union Elementary PTO \$1,000

Replacing playground equipment

Community Care in Union County \$750

Preschool gardening project

Connersville Police Department \$1,500

To help purchase new K-9

Earlham College for Chanticleer String Quartet \$500

Violin performance for elementary students

Fayette County 4-H Council \$1,000

Electricity learning workshop and kits

Fountain City Police Department \$1,000

Reprogram portable radios and purchase vehicle radios

Hope Center \$500

Program materials

Imagination Library – Union County Public Library \$500

Books given to preschool-aged children

Northeastern Wayne Schools After Prom \$750

To help fund after prom activities

Play in the Park \$300

Bus transportation for ten field trips to the park

Randolph County Literacy Coalition, Inc. \$500

School book program

Randolph County Youth Leadership Council \$500

Scholarships

Safe Passage \$1,250

Domestic and sexual violence support

UCHS Parent After Prom Committee \$750

To help fund after prom activities

Union County Soil and Water Conservation District \$500

Union County Ag Day

Wayne County 4-H Association \$750

4-H youth development programming

WWES Virtual Travel Club \$500

Purchase supplies for art projects

A few cents can make a big impact. If you want to help support local organizations in your community, you can now sign up directly on our website to participate. Also, remember the next deadline for ORU applications is July 10. To enroll in our program or find an application, visit: www.wwvremc.com/operation-round-up.



STAY SAFE WHEN SETTING SAIL

Electrical safety is probably the last thing that crosses anyone's mind on a leisurely summertime boat ride. But because water and electricity are a deadly combination, before taking off, brush up on some boating safety rules.

"It's critical you stay away from electric power lines and other electricity sources whenever you go boating," said Derrick Mullins, operations manager. "After all, besides being a popular ingredient for summertime fun, water is a good conductor of electricity. Even when you're on a boat, electricity still tries to reach the ground below to the bottom of the body of water."

Boaters should constantly be aware of the location of power lines. That means paying close attention when raising or lowering the boat's mast or spar and ensuring drying sails and sheet lines don't blow into power lines.

"When docking your boat, enlist the help of another person to help guide you at least 10 feet away from all power lines," Mullins said.

Among other boating must-dos:

- While on the water, be cognizant of signs which indicate where underwater utility lines are located. Don't anchor your boat near them.
- Are you wishing to go fishing? Again, check for overhead power lines first — then cast your line.
- If your boat accidentally comes in contact with a power line, whatever you do, don't jump in the water. Stay on board and don't touch anything made of metal. Don't leave the boat until it has moved away from the power line.
- If you notice a tingling sensation while swimming, the water could

be electrified. Get out quickly, avoiding metal objects like ladders.

- Equipment leakage circuit interrupters protect swimmers nearby from potential electrical leakage into the water around your boat. Consider installing them on your boat.

To make sure your boat's electrical system is in ship shape, periodically have a professional marine electrician inspect it. It should meet local and state safety codes and standards. Make sure all the boat's AC outlets are three-prong. All electrical connections should be in a panel box, so contact is avoided. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) should be installed on your boat — as well as on the dock. When using electricity near water, use portable GFCIs labeled "UL-Marine Listed." Test all GFCIs once a month.



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

TERRY WILMOTH WINS!

Terry Wilmoth, Webster, found his hidden account number in the April 2023 newsletter and won a \$25 bill credit. Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours!

SURVEY REMINDER

Our 2023 member survey started last month and will continue this month. WWVREMC members may be contacted to complete the survey with an email invitation or by phone. The hidden account number is 8911.

We encourage members to provide feedback to improve our offerings and member communications methods. If you have any additional questions about the survey, please contact Sandy Cason, director of member services and corporate relations at (765) 458-5171.



Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 350
Liberty, IN 47353

SmartHub

Log-on at wwwremc.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

Save the Date

Whitewater Valley REMC's **Charity Golf Tournament** to support the Shedding Light on Hunger program will be held **Saturday, July 29**, at the Liberty Country Club.

Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2023 annual meeting begins. Here are the winners for this month.

JUNE

Leonard G. Conner Jr., Williamsburg

Barbara Short, Economy

George P. Volk, Cedar Grove

Charles Davis Jr., Hagerstown

Larry E. Clark, 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 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.



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