



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

SAVE THE DATE: WWVREMC ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 1



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Annual Meeting on April 1. This year's theme is "Building a Brighter Future." We're excited to share last year's progress, update you on this year's priorities, and discuss the cooperative's financial health with you. As a cooperative member,

we value your participation. Attending the annual meeting is an opportunity to hear what's new at your cooperative and visit with board members, employees, and other members. We value your participation, and we look forward to visiting with you.

We will continue with mail-in ballots again in this year's election for our board of directors and nominating committee. We are excited to announce that this year, we're also introducing a new option to vote online, giving you a choice in how you return your vote. You will vote for one candidate in each district, even if you don't live in that district. If you choose to vote by mail, please send your ballot in the postage-paid envelope directly to Survey and Ballot Systems. To ensure your vote is counted, please don't send the ballot with your bill or bring it to the office. Included in the mailing will be instructions for voting online. Rest assured, there are safeguards in place to prevent duplicate votes by both methods.

Voting will open on March 7, 2024, and close on March 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST. You'll receive your ballot, information, and instructions by mail. Please follow the instructions included in the voting information packet to cast your vote. All voting members will be put in a drawing for a chance to win a \$20 bill credit throughout the year. We will draw five winners each month, and we will announce those winners in the Powerlines each month.

As a member of WWVREMC, you have the power to help shape our community's energy future by casting your vote. Electric co-ops are democratically controlled by the members we serve, which means you have a say in who governs our co-op. By voting in the election, you can weigh in on the leaders who will make important decisions about the future of the cooperative and our local energy needs. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with those on the board currently and those running.

We have some new opportunities to share at this year's annual meeting. As you walk up to the annual meeting, Hoosier Energy will display in front of Civic Hall some of their electric vehicles (EVs) for you to explore. Their knowledgeable team will be on-site to answer any questions about EVs. In addition, the nominating committee will also be available in the lobby to discuss opportunities for you to serve the cooperative in 2025. Don't hesitate to stop by their booths, ask questions, and express your interest in serving the cooperative. The hidden account number is 1359410.

WWVREMC's board of directors are community-minded individuals with different skill sets. We rely on them to help us make more informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. WWVREMC has nine directors who live in the co-op's service area. We consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their unique perspective on various local issues. If you would like to learn more about the candidates, please see "Meet the Candidates" in this issue or visit our website and go to our annual meeting page.

We're also excited to give away several bill credits and cash prizes during the meeting, and we will be awarding ten scholarships to students for higher education pursuits through the WWVREMC Scholarship Program.

We hope to see you there!

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

2024 Cooperative
Annual Meeting Slate
Meet the Candidates

PAGE 3

Meet the Candidates,
Continued

PAGE 4

Bill Credit Winners
New Facility Update

FEBRUARY DUE DATES

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



2024

Cooperative Annual Meeting Slate

Each year, your cooperative holds an annual membership meeting, wherein elections are held to fill positions on the WWVREMC Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. The 2024 annual membership meeting is Monday, April 1, 2024. Meeting details will be included in the March 2024 newsletter. In accordance with WWVREMC bylaws and nominating policy, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates.

DIRECTOR SLATE

North

Mark Miller, Lynn (Incumbent)
Melvin Maddock, Greens Fork

Central

Jodie Creek, Richmond (Incumbent)
Tanya Beckman, Centerville

South

Terry Hillman, Connersville

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

North

Patricia Barnard, Williamsburg

Central

Todd Duke, Richmond (Incumbent)

South

Ellis McQueen, Connersville (Incumbent)
Kimber Simonson, Brookville

meet the **BOARD CANDIDATES**

Three board seats are up for election in 2024. The members running for Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors are listed below and on the next page. Members can vote for one candidate in each district. All members will receive a ballot in the mail, including instructions on how to vote, with the added option to vote online this year. **Ballots will be mailed to all members in March and will be accepted through March 28, 2024. Voting for the board of directors will not occur at the annual meeting.**

All candidates were asked to provide the following information:

1. Number of years as a member of Whitewater Valley REMC
2. Education and specific degrees
3. Current employment and employment history
4. Leadership and community activities
5. Why are you interested in becoming a member of Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors or serving another term?

NORTH DISTRICT

MARK MILLER, LYNN (INCUMBENT)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

36 years

Education

High School Graduate, Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate through NRECA

Employment

I started my own agricultural career at age 17, worked for the local John Deere dealership for nine years, and was a service manager when I left.

Leadership and community activities

I am a member of and serve as deacon and trustee of the Spartanburg Christian Church, a member of the Randolph County Antique Club, and serve on the New Liberty cemetery board.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed serving on the Whitewater Valley board. We are facing many new challenges in the future with supply and distribution. I would be honored to serve another term to see some projects finished.

MELVIN MADDOCK, GREENS FORK

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

10 years

Education

High School Graduate and Electronics Tech degree

Employment

I am retired after spending eleven years with GTE Telephone in Richmond as an outside plant and transmission engineer and twenty-five years of employment at US Sprint as a large customer technical consultant, planning & RFP response and negotiation, and large account sales manager.

Leadership and community activities

I am active in church and serve as an adult Sunday school teacher.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

I am interested in the rapid changes in the energy generation industry. I purchased an EV to evaluate the challenges of shifting to EV transportation. My communication experience enables me to evaluate the most cost-effective ways to help REMC meet the changing conditions and provide the optimum value to its members.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

JODIE CREEK, RICHMOND (INCUMBENT)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

15 years

Education

Graduated from Purdue University's School of Agriculture with a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics

Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership certificate, and Director Gold certificate through NRECA

Employment

I am a Senior Ag loan officer with Beacon Credit Union and work out of the Richmond office. I oversee a team of Ag lenders while maintaining my own loan portfolio.

Leadership and community activities

I currently serve as secretary/treasurer of the Whitewater Valley REMC board of directors and represent Whitewater Valley REMC on the board of directors as secretary of Hoosier Energy, REC., the cooperative's power supplier.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed my time as a director for the Whitewater Valley REMC membership. I genuinely believe in the "cooperative" way. The board works together to make informed decisions on policy and procedures for our local cooperative and our membership. I truly value the opportunity to be your voice and to make a difference for the membership we serve.

TANYA BECKMAN, CENTERVILLE

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

1 year

Education

Associate's degree

Employment

I work at Reid Health EMS Department and previously worked at Lucas Oil Stadium as a suite supervisor, application support specialist, and project manager.

Leadership and community activities

None currently as I am new to the Centerville/Wayne County area. I lived in Connersville for 17+ years and volunteered for any and all activities while my boys attended school.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

I have extra time to offer to help out the REMC community. I have enjoyed all communications with REMC and their staff.

SOUTH DISTRICT

TERRY HILLMAN, CONNERSVILLE (INCUMBENT)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

54 years

Education

Graduated from Whitewater Township High School in Franklin County. Received from Ball State University a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a Master of Science degree

Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership certificate, and Director Gold certificate through NRECA

Employment

I taught math and science at Connersville High School for 34 years and taught at IU East for 3 ½ years. My wife Linda and I farm grain and have a livestock operation in Fayette County.

Leadership and community activities

I have been a Supervisor for the Fayette County SWCD for the last 18 years. I was an elder at the Macedonia Christian Church for 47 years and now attend the Alquina Church. I serve on the FFA Advisory Board at Connersville High School.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

In today's changing world, it is necessary to make changes that will help improve the WWVREMC's members standard of living. I have taken over 30 courses offered by the NRECA over the last several years that allow me to gain knowledge and make informed decisions. I want to continue to be a contributing board director for WWVREMC.

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

RONALD KAISER WINS!

Ronald Kaiser found his hidden account number in the December Powerlines issue! Keep reading your Powerlines each month. The next hidden account number could be yours!

PAYMENT OPTIONS

U.S. Mail

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

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.
Log in 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.



BILL CREDIT WINNERS

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

FEBRUARY

Larry T. Wood, Connersville

Lawrence C. Kaufhold, Liberty

Scott Boling, Brookville

Charles W. Brown, Connersville

Stanley G. Fields, Connersville

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

We're happy to report that construction is on track for the predicted completion of June 2024. Stay tuned for more updates and progress pictures!



DEC. 2023



JAN. 2024



101 Brownsville Avenue, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353
765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557 • www.vremc.com • info@www.vremc.com
President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Jennifer Scott