

JUNE 2025

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**.

YouTube Instagram Facebook X LinkedIn
wwwremc.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

This is a bittersweet writing of my monthly article as this will be my last. I will finish out my 28+ year career with Whitewater Valley REMC this month. It has been my honor to serve the cooperative

membership in the position of CEO since March of 2013. Time does fly. I have been blessed to work with the best team of employees and board members. Anything we have accomplished these past 12 years is due to the collaboration of that whole team.

My final major task has been managing the building of our beautiful new facility. We have referred to our land south of Liberty as our "Field of Dreams." You remember the line in the movie — "If you build it, they will come." I can relate that to the building of our facility and the building of our cooperative team. In the movie, it shows the special relationship between fathers and sons/daughters. That special relationship is silently portrayed in a game of catch. A few of us have

been reading a book by the actor who played the father in the movie, Dwier Brown. To quote from the end of his book he explained how in the game of catch, "throwing the ball was like 'I give to you' and catching the ball is like 'I get from you.' 'I give to you, I get from you. I give to you, I get from you,' over and over again." Such has been my career with my cooperative family, always a give and get relationship of working and growing together. It has been my sheer joy to work with this co-op family over the years, to watch them grow and take on new roles, to experience life's up and downs, to lean on each other in bad times and celebrate in good times. They are a very special group and are part of me. I will forever cherish the time we had together!

In retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my family, especially the grandkids. I want to be able to do more crafting, gardening, traveling, volunteering with church activities, etc. I will miss the daily connections with the employees, my colleagues across the state, and the membership.

I am a member, so until we meet again at an annual meeting, take care, be safe, and God bless!



A 42-Year Career Path

with notable accomplishments

1994-1996

Assistant Controller at Brooks Foods
in Mt. Summit, IN



2001

Promoted to Director
of Customer Service

*Graduate of Rural Electric
Leaders in Training Exchange
(RELITE) Program*

2011-PRESENT

Junior Achievement Board Member, Board President (2014-2016)



2013

Promoted to
President
and CEO

2019-2021

*President of the Hoosier Energy's Manager's Association
Chaired the Manager's Member Service Committee (2019-2020)*

2022

Junior Achievement Board Member of the Year

2025

Promoted RETIRED and MEO (Mamaw EO)

1982-1994

Various accounting positions with
American Water Works in Richmond, IN

AUGUST 1996

Hired at Whitewater
Valley REMC as
Accountant/Computer
Specialist



2005

Promoted to Director of Administrative
Services & Corporate Development

2012

Promoted to Chief Operating Officer

2016

*Cooperative Accelerated Leadership
Development Program Graduate*

2016-2024

OKI Junior Achievement Regional Board

2020-2023

*Member of the IEC Manager's Scholarship Committee,
Chairman (2022-2023)*

2024

*Union County EPIC Board Member of the Year
IEC CEO Executive Roundtable*



OPERATION ROUND UP® NEWS

Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up awarded \$18,000 to 22 community organizations in the first half of 2025.

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED GRANTS:

Abington Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

\$1,000 | Air bottles for SCBA and repairs for cascade to fill air bottles

Alquina Blue Arrows Park

\$1,000 | Restrooms and a cement patio

Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County

\$250 | Backpacks and school supplies

Centerville Class of 2026 After Prom

\$500 | Centerville 2025 after prom

Connersville Festivals Committee

\$250 | Celebration in the Ville (Music and Art Stroll)

Connersville Fire Department

\$1,000 | Water rescue equipment

Connersville Parks and Recreation

\$500 | Living Well, Aging Well Program

Every Child Can Read, Inc.

\$1,000 | Books for summer bookmobile

Family Earth Day

\$1,000 | Environmental Education Fair

Franklin County 4-H

\$750 | Laser tag game for the fair

Imagination Library of Franklin County

\$1,000 | Preschool books and postage

Laurel Town Park

\$1,000 | Veterans memorial

Lil Friends Of the Library Preschool

\$500 | Smart televisions, iPad case, and laptop

Metamora Community Park

\$1,000 | Picnic tables for the shelter building in the park

Metamora Volunteer Fire Department

\$2,000 | Chainsaws and leaf blowers

Neighborhood Health Center

\$1,500 | Grocery distribution

Play in the Park

\$500 | Carnival day

Randolph County Youth Leadership Council

\$500 | Scholarships

Short High - Union County Alumni Association

\$1,000 | Shelves for Short High School memorabilia

Union County Ag Day

\$1,000 | 3rd grade agricultural education

Union County After Prom

\$500 | Union County High School after prom

Union County Foundation

\$250 | Community garden



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. The hidden account number is 1373900. Also, remember the next deadline for ORU applications is July 14. To enroll in our program or find an application, visit: www.vremc.com/operation-round-up.

5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

1. **Raise your thermostat** setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. **Cook with smaller appliances** to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. **Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed** during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. **Use fans** to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to **off-peak hours** when demand is lower.



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the Whitewater Valley REMC Charity Golf Tournament, "Shedding Light on Hunger," on Saturday, July 26th, at Liberty Country Club! This event has been dedicated to addressing food insecurity in our community since 2012.

Our annual golf tournament plays a crucial role in our fundraising efforts and has successfully raised nearly \$60,000 to provide essential food assistance to children, seniors, and families in need. Did you know that in Indiana alone, 700,000 people struggle with hunger every day, and most of these individuals come from working families? Together, we can help make a significant impact in our community!

Last month, we sent sponsorship letters and team registration forms to our previous sponsors. If you are interested in participating in the golf tournament, becoming a flag sponsor, or learning more about sponsoring lunch bags for children, please contact Jennifer Scott at jscott@www.vremc.com.



HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO APRIL WINNER

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 855-940-3859. 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.

Franklin County National Bank (FCN)

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

New location is 1201 S. State Road 101,
Liberty, IN 47353

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

Since the 2024 annual meeting, all twelve months of bill credits have been distributed. More bill credit winners will be selected from all members who voted in the 2025 election from a random draw and they will start in the August Powerlines.



OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be **closed on Friday, July 4th** in observance of Independence Day.

energy efficiency TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov



1201 S. State Rd. 101, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353

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