

AUGUST 2025

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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AUGUST DUE DATES

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

    
wwwremc.com



ROD WEST
CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD

Have you ever attended a school track meet and cheered for your team during the 4x100m, 4x400m, and 4x800m relay races? If you have, you know that not only do you need fast runners,

but they must also be able to pass the baton smoothly and seamlessly. The same goes for leading a rural electric cooperative. Like a relay race, the handoff is critical when one leader takes over from another to continue the momentum that took months or even years to build.

As you know, our CEO, Mary Jo Thomas, retired in July. What you may not know is that the Board of Directors only hires one position at the cooperative — the CEO. Upon learning of her pending retirement, your Board immediately formed a search committee and began the process of identifying who would take over where Thomas left off.

That work is done, and we are pleased to announce Joshua Johnson's appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer for Whitewater Valley REMC. Johnson was selected following a thorough, comprehensive search of talent locally, regionally, and nationally, with more than 70 applicants in total.

Johnson brings nearly 25 years of broad experience in the electric cooperative industry, most recently serving as the Director of Procurement and Materials Management at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative in Virginia. He holds an MBA with a concentration in finance, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, an associate's degree in occupational technology, and an electrical maintenance certificate.

The Board wants to extend our sincere gratitude to Mary Jo Thomas for her 28+ years of dedicated service to the cooperative and we wish her all the best in retirement. We are also excited to welcome Joshua Johnson and look forward to him leading Whitewater Valley REMC into the future.

Summer Storm Season: Don't Forget to Report Your Outage

Summer storms can roll in fast — and sometimes, they take the power out with them. We want to remind all our members to please report any outage if your power goes out.

There have been times when members assumed we already knew they were without power, but we didn't. While some outages affect many homes and are easy to detect, others may impact just one or two. If your neighbors still have power, we might not know you're out unless you tell us.

Reporting your outage helps us restore service faster and more safely.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS DURING A POWER OUTAGE

- Check your breakers and fuses to make sure the issue isn't within your own equipment.
- Report the outage by calling 800-776-0493 or through your SmartHub account.
- While in SmartHub, sign up for text and email notifications to stay informed.

- Visit our website to view and track the outage map in real time.
- Have an emergency kit ready with essentials to get you through a couple of days if needed.
- Never go near downed power lines! They may still be energized and extremely dangerous — even if they don't look active.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and connected this summer. Stay alert, stay safe, and always report your outage!



ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN AT CAMP KILOWATT

One of the benefits of being a WWVREMC member is the fantastic youth programs we offer. We sent Julia (Wren) Bryant from West Harrison in June to attend Indiana's Electric Cooperatives annual Camp Kilowatt. The camp occurred June 4-7, 2025, at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana.

Julia reached out after attending camp and said, "I wanted to say how much I appreciate being sponsored so I could go to camp. I had lots of fun, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to go! Thank you, thank you so much!"

Students entering seventh grade this fall were eligible to attend and were selected by each local cooperative to participate in the four-day program. The agenda combined traditional outdoor camp activities, electrical safety practices, and cooperative business education. If this sounds like something your child might be interested in, we will share more information about the opportunity for 2026 in January.



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our first annual meeting at our new facility! Your presence made the event a success, and we hope you all had a wonderful time. We appreciate the members who took the time to fill out a survey that night; your feedback is invaluable to us, and we look forward to making improvements for next year. We are excited to announce that we will host this event again next year, back at our facility in June 2026! Below is a recap of the evening.

Highlights and Election Results

Prior to the 2025 WWVREMC annual meeting, 705 members exercised their right to vote in this year's election. Paper ballots were mailed exclusively to members without an email address on record, while electronic ballots were distributed via email to those with an email address or could be accessed directly through SmartHub accounts. We achieved a member participation rate of 7.0%. The hidden account number is 1339304.

ELECTION RESULTS

Rod West, Ryan Drake, and Nathan Cantrell were re-elected to the board of directors. Jennifer Horning retained her position on the nominating committee, while Lisa Helton was newly elected to represent the central district. Both directors and committee members will serve three-year terms.

STAY CONNECTED

For those who missed the annual meeting, a full recording is available on Facebook and our YouTube channel. Members can revisit the event and stay informed about the cooperative's progress.

2025 Raffle Winners

Connie Rhodus

Leaf Blower

Joan Kaufhold

Great Wolf Lodge Certificate

James Alderson

IN State Park Basket

Mitch Boger

iPad

John Cassel

Electric Scooter

Lori Duncan

Air Pods

Myron Moyer

Keurig

Jennifer Selm

Urban Air

Keith Lanning

VR Headset

Christa Ellis

Nintendo Switch

Melinda Murray

Cincinnati Zoo Pass

Gene Bekemeier

KitchenAid

2025 Grand Prize Winners



SCOTT OTTO
\$1,000 cash



JOHN FOHL
\$500 cash



MATTHEW WEBB
\$250 cash

2025 Scholarship Winners

Avery Schmitz
Autumn Cantrell
Benjamin Bryant
Emma Ludwig
Glory Ellis
Jaymi Hensley
Margaret Riffle
Oliver Webb
Stacey Glunt
Zoe Meek

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO JUNE 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

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2025 annual meeting begins. Here are the winners.

AUGUST

Jennifer Blakley, Liberty
Paul Dice, Connersville
Joseph R. Joy, Richmond
Daryl P. Terhaar, Richmond
John Van Hart, Connersville

energy efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.



Our office will be closed on
Monday, Sept. 1.



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