

OCTOBER 2026

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Celebrating the Cooperative Difference

New Concern for Community Program

Guy Wire Safety

PAGE 3

Small Change. Big Impact. Great Giveaway.

Operation Round Up® Grant Applications

Energy Efficiency Tip

PAGE 4

Test Your Powerlines Knowledge

Bill Credit Winners

Bright Kids, Safe Choices

August Powerlines Quiz Winner

OCTOBER DUE DATES

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



wwwremc.com

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

CELEBRATING THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE



JOSHUA JOHNSON
CEO

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric cooperative, we hope you think of Whitewater Valley REMC.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in

common: they're led by the people they serve, and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives, like WWVREMC, provide reliable electricity while investing in the people and places they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs, and strengthen the communities they call home, and that's exactly what makes WWVREMC different.

Our story began in 1936 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our members' best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

At WWVREMC, giving back is an important part of who we are. Through Operation Round Up®, with our members' support, we help fund local charities, nonprofits, and initiatives that address important needs throughout our service area.

We also invest in the next generation through scholarships, Camp Kilowatt, Youth Tour, Page Day, school safety presentations, and the Cooperative Calendar Art Contest.

Safety remains at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, we share educational safety messages through videos, billboards, social media, and community outreach. These efforts focus on topics such as power line safety, safely exiting a vehicle after an accident involving utility equipment, farm safety, protecting linemen in the field, and kid safety messages from our mascot WATTson.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Our commitment extends far beyond providing electricity. Each year, employees volunteer their time through Community Day, completing projects such as painting, repairs, tree trimming, and community beautification efforts. We also support local events, participate in youth activities, and continue our Shedding Light on Hunger program, which has helped address food insecurity in our area since 2012.

Through initiatives like Friday Night Lights, we connect with families across our six-county service territory while supporting local athletic booster clubs. During the holiday season, employees continue the cooperative spirit of giving through a food drive benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to improving the quality of life for our members, neighbors, and future generations.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the linemen restoring power after a storm. It's the member support representatives answering your questions when you call. It's team members volunteering at community events. It's the board members — your neighbors — who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to celebrate the cooperative difference with us because WWVREMC belongs to you. As a member-owned cooperative, your support, involvement, and trust are the secret ingredients behind everything we do.

To show our appreciation, stop by our office during regular business hours throughout October to pick up a special gift as our way of saying thank you for being an important part of our cooperative family. Gifts are available while supplies last.

Whether it's WWVREMC, your local credit union, or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership makes our mission possible — and keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.



NEW CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAM

As part of our commitment to the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, WWVREMC is excited to launch our new Concern for Community Program.

For many years, our employees have come together each October to complete a large volunteer project that benefits a local organization or community. While we will continue that tradition, we are expanding our efforts to serve our communities year-round. Our goal is to complete one community-focused volunteer project each quarter, enabling us to make an even greater impact across our service area.

Through this program, local nonprofit organizations can apply for volunteer assistance from WWVREMC employees and indicate where help is needed most. We want to hear directly from our communities about projects that can make a meaningful difference.

Applications are now available on our website at www.vremc.com/concern-for-community-program, and we encourage organizations to apply. Together, we can continue building stronger communities, one project at a time.



Guy wires play a critical role in community safety

REMEMBER THESE GUIDELINES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Don't attach anything to a guy wire
Signs, decorations, pet leashes, and sports equipment can strain the wire or the anchor over time.

Be careful when mowing, trimming, or digging nearby
Hitting a guy wire with lawn equipment can damage it and create a safety hazard.

Remind children not to play on or around guy wires

They may look like fun to climb, but they aren't designed for play.

Speak up if something looks wrong

If you notice a guy wire that's loose, damaged, or disconnected from the ground, contact your local electric cooperative to have it checked by a professional.

Small Change. Big Impact. Great Giveaway.



Join Operation Round Up this fall and help support local nonprofits while earning a chance to win a Pit Boss 850 Navigator Wood Pellet Grill!

Have you ever wished you could make a difference in your community with just a few cents? With Operation Round Up, you can!

This voluntary program allows members to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. The extra change, averaging only about \$6 per year, goes into a fund that supports nonprofit organizations doing important work throughout our local communities.

YOUR CHANGE AT WORK

Since Operation Round Up began in 2003, more than \$739,000 has been awarded to nonprofit organizations across our service area. Those funds supported programs and projects designed to improve the quality of life throughout our communities, including, but not limited to:

- **Emergency services** that help protect and respond to the needs of our local communities.
- **Schools and educational efforts** that benefit local students and learning opportunities.
- **Youth programs** that create meaningful opportunities for young people in our area.
- **Community projects** that strengthen the places where we live, work, and gather.
- **Local nonprofit programs** that provide valuable services and resources close to home.

Each quarter, a volunteer board of trustees reviews grant applications and distributes funding to organizations serving our communities. Every member who participates helps make this valuable support possible.

JOIN OPERATION ROUND UP FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

There has never been a better time to join Operation Round Up! Members who

join during this year's Fall Campaign, which runs from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a **Pit Boss 850 Navigator Wood Pellet Grill**.



New participants are eligible to enter, and members who are already enrolled can qualify by making an additional donation. It is a great opportunity to support local organizations while also having the chance to bring home an exciting new grill!

IT'S EASY TO PARTICIPATE

New participants can enroll by selecting the Operation Round Up option on their billing form or signing up online at www.vremc.com/operation-round-up.

Current participants can make a one-time donation of at least \$10.

Members can also add an additional monthly contribution beyond their regular rounded-up amount.

Or simply call our office and let one of our member support representatives sign you up over the phone.

SMALL CHANGE CAN CHANGE LIVES

Operation Round Up is one of the easiest ways to give back to the community. Most members barely notice the few cents added to their monthly bill, but when those contributions are combined, they can make a meaningful difference for organizations serving our friends, families, and neighbors.

Join Operation Round Up this fall for your chance to win. Together, our small change can make a big impact!

OPERATION ROUND UP® GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 13

Do you know a local nonprofit, school, fire department, community organization, or other group making a difference in our communities?

They may be eligible for funding through Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up® program.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
October 13, 2026**

- ☒ Nonprofits
- ☒ Schools
- ☒ Fire Departments
- ☒ Community Organizations

Apply online at:
www.vremc.com/operation-round-up

energy efficiency TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check. *Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*

TEST YOUR POWERLINES KNOWLEDGE

How well did you read this month's Powerlines?

Take the quiz for a chance to be entered into a drawing for a **\$25 bill credit**.

You can find the direct quiz link in the digital Powerlines newsletter sent to your email, or visit our website, www.remcc.com, to test your knowledge.

Good luck!

PAYMENT OPTIONS

U.S. Mail

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

SmartHub

Log on at www.remcc.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

Sign up on SmartHub, over the phone, or in the 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



BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2026 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners:

OCTOBER

Richard Gelling, Centerville

William Herrmann, Connersville

Mark Rosenberger, Liberty

Thomas Tiller, Liberty

Renae Holt, Liberty

BRIGHT KIDS | SAFE CHOICES

**NEVER CLIMB
ON PADMOUNT
TRANSFORMERS**



Brought to you by:



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Liberty Office Hours

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.

Quiz winner AUGUST POWERLINES

Congratulations on winning a \$25 bill credit!

Gloria Payne | Liberty, IN



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

765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557 • www.remcc.com • info@www.remcc.com

President and CEO - Joshua Johnson • Powerlines Editor - Jennifer Scott