



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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ABOVE: CEO Mary Jo Thomas presents an electric meter lamp to retiring board member Gary Stokes.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO 2019 Annual Meeting Recap



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

“
We are here to serve you, just as we have done in the past, and will continue to do.
”

I would like to thank all the members who attended the 2019 Annual Meeting. This year's theme was **A Celebration of Success** and marked a special year for the cooperative as we celebrated our 25th year as Whitewater Valley REMC.

The meeting included a presentation to two retiring board members – Jim Doerstler and Gary Stokes. Mr. Doerstler and Mr. Stokes played an important part in the consolidation of Wayne County REMC and Fayette-Union County REMC and we are grateful for their continued service to WWVREMC. Members voted to fill their spots on the board of directors, and we are happy to announce and

welcome two new board members: Ryan Drake, Cambridge City, North District Director and Nathan Cantrell, Liberty, South District Director. Incumbent Rod West, Liberty, Central District Director and Chairman of the Board was re-elected.

The video this year highlighted how the cooperatives were formed and how we have progressed the past 25 years into Whitewater Valley REMC after the consolidation. We reflected on the past, but also went over our accomplishments from 2018 followed by giving the members a snapshot as to what's ahead for the coop.

The video also covered the new

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May Due Dates

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



ABOVE: Whitewater Valley REMC employees, Jennifer Scott and Brooke Reiboldt, register members at the 2019 annual meeting.

Scholarship Awards

The cooperative's Scholarship Program awarded its sixth round of awards at this year's annual meeting. Ten local students received a \$750 scholarship. The winners were:

- Angela Boswell, *Richmond*
- Karah Carpenter, *Centerville*
- Raynor Eddy, *Richmond*
- Gracelyn Fultz, *Williamsburg*
- Raenna Kunkel, *Brookville*
- Tyler Osborne, *Liberty*
- Dannielle Savage, *Fountain City*
- Brooke Shelton, *Liberty*
- Erich Vernon, *Milton*
- Addison Walther, *Centerville*

The program was established to assist those members, or dependents of members, desiring to further their education. Because the program is open to graduating high school seniors, as well as freshman, sophomore, or juniors in any recognized college, university, trade or vocational school, but not older than 25 years of age, parents or legal guardians of the students could attend the meeting and accept the award for the student.

2019 Annual Meeting Winners

Prize Winners

Several prizes were awarded during the evening, including winners' choice of an iPad, KitchenAid Stand Mixer, and a Smart TV. Other cash prizes and bill credits were given away for a total of 25 prizes. Here are the winners.

- Erin Grimes, *Liberty* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Ronald Hoff, *Brookville* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Mark Nicholson, *Fountain City* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Carol Ott, *Centerville* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Ronald Baumer, *Cambridge City* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Randall Nicholson, *Greens Fork* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Joseph Jennings, *Centerville* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Jerry Rowe, *Greens Fork* | \$25 Bill Credit
- David Sheets, *Richmond* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Jack Bales, *Richmond* | \$25 Bill Credit
- Terry Bertsch, *Cambridge City* | \$50 Bill Credit
- Jerry Manning, *Lynn* | \$50 Bill Credit
- Melinda Murray, *Richmond* | \$50 Bill Credit
- Richard Nicholson, *Fountain City* | \$50 Bill Credit
- Doug Swafford, *Liberty* | \$50 Bill Credit
- Penny Hensley, *Liberty* | \$100 Bill Credit
- John Albright, *Richmond* | \$100 Bill Credit
- Ed Phenis, *Lynn* | \$100 Bill Credit
- Robert Nocton, *Williamsburg* | \$50 Cash
- Dale Walker, *Liberty* | \$100 Cash
- Leroy Lengle, *Connersville* | \$100 Cash
- Lisa Longnecker, *Hagerstown* | \$75 Cash
- Terry Lunsford, *Brownsville* | Smart TV
- Terry Dare, *Liberty* | KitchenAid Stand Mixer
- Jonathan Goins, *West Harrison* | iPad

Co-op Election Results

Members re-elected one director and two new directors during the 2019 annual meeting. One Nominating Committee member was re-elected, and two new committee members were also elected during the meeting. Directors and committee members each serve three-year terms.

Candidate **Ryan Drake** of Cambridge City won the North District Director. Incumbent Central District Director **Rod West** of Liberty won re-election and candidate **Nathan Cantrell** of Liberty won the South District Director. Re-elected to the Nominating Committee was South District incumbent **Gary Ruf**, Connersville. Candidates **Gail Smoker** of Centerville and **Amy Fouche**

of Richmond were elected to the Nominating Committee for the Central and North Districts, respectively.

In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, WVVREMC board members elected board officers at the first regular board meeting following the annual meeting. That meeting was held Monday, March 25, 2019, in Liberty, Indiana.

Whitewater Valley REMC officers and representatives are: **Rod West**, Chairman of the Board; **Joe Nocton**, Vice Chairman; **Jodie Creek**, Secretary-Treasurer, Hoosier Energy REC, Inc. representative; **Mark Singer**, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

CEO COMMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

May \$20 Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for additional bill credit winners continues. Five names are drawn each month from all attending members of the 2019 annual meeting for a total of sixty bill credits by the time we host our 2020 Annual Meeting.

David Brumfield, Winchester; **Dale Canter**, Centerville; **Justin Dare**, Liberty; **James L. Fleming**, Williamsburg; **Douglas D. Snyder**, West Harrison

rates that went into effect on April 1, 2019. Information was shared in the lobby and in goody bags on the lighting store and My Solar – the community solar project.

For the sixth year the cooperative awarded scholarships to ten local students. This has been a great addition to our youth programs and annual meeting. In honor of our 25 years, 25 door prize winners were drawn.

Also, from those who attended the meeting, five names will be drawn each month to receive a \$20 bill credit. The drawings began in April and will continue through March 2020 for a total of sixty bill credits. Winners will be contacted by the cooperative office, published in the Powerlines newsletter, and on the cooperative website.

As I mentioned during the meeting, we are pleased to have many reasons to celebrate our 25th Anniversary successes. Just as we have done in the past, we are here to serve you now and into the future.

Operation Round Up 2018 Annual Report



Round Up Grants in 2018

In 2018, the WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. Fund granted nearly \$29,000 in assistance to local organizations and surpassed half million dollars in grants since the beginning of the program. The current monthly income to the program is just under \$2,200, with about 42% of WWVREMC members contributing to the Trust every month. In addition to monthly contributions from the members who "round-up" their bills, the Trust receives one-time donations from individuals throughout the year. Over \$1,400 was pledged in one-time donations and in capital credits donated back to Operation Round Up® during our fall membership campaign. We appreciate the generosity of each donation made to the program. Thank you.

Who Receives Round Up Assistance?

The mission statement of WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. is to make a difference in our community by the accumulation and disbursements of funds for charitable purposes within the WWVREMC service territory. The hidden account number is 1056403. Funded projects contribute to economic development and community benefit, and are given to worthwhile philanthropic organizations throughout our area.

Give to Round Up

Sign up today by calling 765-458-5171. It's easy to support the program by just "rounding up" your bill to the next full dollar amount. The average donation is about 50 cents per month, or about \$6 per year, and it is tax deductible for most people. Together with other members who support this program, your pennies can really make a big difference in the lives of people in the WWVREMC service territory.

Round Up Trust Board

The Round Trust board includes Bruce Cowen, Chairperson; Craig Hale, Vice Chair; Carol McQueen, Secretary.

Since all administrative costs are incurred by WWVREMC, all donated dollars are distributed to worthy groups and organizations.

Operation Round Up grants awarded in 2018:

Nearly \$29,000 Awarded to Community Organizations

Boy Scout Borg/Troop 16 Robotics Team | \$500

to help build a robot to participate in the FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, a competition among high school students awarding college scholarships in STEM-related fields

Boy Scouts of America Crossroads of America Council | \$1,000

toward expenses to replace underground water valve to restore water to Bear Creek Boy Scout Camp

Brighter Path, Inc. | \$415

purchase new riding helmets

Centerville Class of 2019 After Prom | \$500

to fund "After Prom" activities

Centerville Green Club | \$400

towards bottle cap benches project

Centerville Abington Community Dollars for Scholars | \$500

towards annual report printing expenses

Centerville/Center Township Public Library | \$500

towards pouring concrete floor in basement for storage space and kids projects

College Corner School Robotics Club | \$261

to purchase parts for robots for competitions

Connersville High School After Prom 2018 | \$500

to fund "After Prom" activities

Crossroads Council of America Old Trail District | \$500

towards summer camp expenses

Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church | \$250

towards youth mission trip to Red Bird Work Camp

Everton Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc. | \$900

towards the purchase of digital mobile and portable radios

Faith Builders Promotions, Inc. | \$500

towards One Sent Ministries bathroom renovation

Fountain City Fire Dept. | \$900

purchase of new protective helmets

Franklin County Extension Homemakers | \$500

towards expenses to update lights for safety issues with electric in building and for public visibility

Franklin County High School | \$375

towards expenses for Playhouse in the Park production of Cyrano

Franklin County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit | \$800

towards the purchase of narcotics detection training equipment

Gateway Hunger Relief Center | \$400

towards expenses of increased operating hours for the center

Genesis of Richmond | \$500

towards the purchase of a computer for clients to use for job search and applications

The Ha-ven | \$1,000

towards expenses to replace sinks

The Ha-ven | \$225

towards "Food for Life Skills" after school program

Hope Center | \$500

to purchase supplies used for free medical testing programs

Imagination Library of Franklin County | \$500

towards expenses to purchase preschool books for program

Ivy Tech Foundation, Inc. | \$500

to purchase gas cards for student transportation

Laurel Police Department | \$900

towards expenses to update computers

Laurel Police Department | \$1,000

toward purchase of training firearms

Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept | \$2,000

toward upgrading medical equipment and truck

Liberty Elementary School | \$500

towards travel expenses to low income students for trips to the Cincinnati Zoo, Indy Children's Museum and Newport Aquarium

Lincoln HS Bowling Club | \$300

towards expenses for participation costs for bowlers

Metamora Volunteer Fire Dept. | \$1,200

to purchase fire hose fittings and appliances

Northeastern After Prom Committee | \$500

to fund "After Prom" activities

Randolph Southern Kindergarten | \$576

to purchase supplies for "Cooking with Kindergarten" program.

Union County High School After Prom | \$500

to fund "After Prom" activities

Union County Middle School | \$314

toward travel expenses for a trip to Washington, D.C.

Union County Soil & Water | \$300

toward Union County Ag Day activities

Wayne County Cardinal Greenway | \$425

to purchase bicycle racks for trail heads

Wayne County Special Olympics | \$500

donation for polar plunge participants

Randolph County Literacy Coalition | \$500

towards expenses to expand School Book program

Randolph Southern Kindergarten | \$500

towards supplies for Cooking with Kindergarten program

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

NO APRIL WINNER!

There was no bill credit winner for April. Be sure to keep reading Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number and \$25 bill credit could be yours.

Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

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.)

First Merchants Bank (Richmond Location)

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)



For more information about payment options, please call us:

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557

2018 OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS AWARDED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Richmond Community Orchestra | \$400
towards the purchase of violins

Richmond Neighborhood Restoration | \$500
towards supplies and training for restoration projects

Richmond Symphony Orchestra | \$500
towards expenses to host author visit for 5th graders

Richmond/Wayne County | \$500
towards expenses to build eight pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park

Safe Passage, Inc. | \$900
towards the purchase of commercial grade washer and dryer

Sunrise Therapeutic Riding Center | \$750
to help fund scholarships for participants

Union County/College Corner Joint School District Libraries | \$500
to supplement book budget

Wayne County Historical Society | \$500
towards expenses to upgrade courtyard lighting

Wayne County Soil & Water | \$500
to help fund Wayne Co. Conservation Days

Western Wayne Elementary School | \$320
materials and resources for new interactive learning model

Whitewater Career Center | \$400
towards the purchase of books for classroom study



Office Closed May 27

Whitewater Valley REMC will be closed Monday, May 27 to honor all those who have served our country. The office will reopen at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28.



CAUSE	#	%
TREES	39	43.82
DECAY	14	15.73
MATERIAL/EQUIP. FAILURE	10	11.24
MEMBER	7	7.87
LIGHTNING/WEATHER	7	7.87
ANIMALS	5	5.62
POWER SUPPLIER	3	3.37
VEHICLES/PUBLIC ACTIVITY	2	2.25
UNKNOWN	1	1.12
CONSTRUCTION/MAINT.	1	1.12
TOTAL	89	100

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 or sign up for outage texting at wwwremc.com.

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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