

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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OCTOBER DUE DATES

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

WWVREMC is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

More than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month this month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership. We have chosen this time of year to host our open house and celebrate with you, our members. We are excited to share our new home with you during this month's celebration. In addition, please visit our office anytime in October to receive your special member appreciation gift. (While supplies last.)

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For WWVREMC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work

hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including WWVREMC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At WWVREMC, this happens when you pay your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive. Last month, we teamed up with Henry County REMC and attended a career

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Whitewater Valley REMC linemen shine at 2024 Lineman Rodeo

Congratulations to our WWVREMC linemen who competed at the Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo!

We sent three of our linemen to the state competition. The linemen competed in events that tested skills such as pole climbing, hurt man rescue, and safely changing electric line hardware. We are so proud of them! Here is a list of the awards we came home with:

**TEAM HURT MAN RESCUE
FIRST PLACE**

Brad Wildman, Abrem Losekamp and Ryan Chappell

**JOURNEYMAN SKILL CLIMB
FIRST PLACE**

Brad Wildman


**APPRENTICE SKILL CLIMB
FIRST PLACE**

Abrem Losekamp

**OVERALL APPRENTICE LINEMAN
SECOND PLACE**

Abrem Losekamp

Great job, everyone!
We are incredibly proud of you!



From left: Brad Wildman, Abrem Losekamp, Ryan Chappell



event sponsored by Junior Achievement. We had a wonderful time sharing about careers the cooperative has to offer to middle and high school students.

- 7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow. This month, we hold our annual Community Day. Our cooperative and electric cooperatives throughout Indiana share the common goal of improving the quality of life in our communities. This year, we will volunteer at Whitewater State Park to assist with some special projects.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people – the local communities we’re proud to serve.

OPERATION ROUND UP®

FALL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

BEGINS THIS MONTH

It's time for our annual Operation Round Up® membership drive. Sign up during October, November, or December, and you will be entered for a chance to win a prize. Are you already a monthly contributor to Operation Round Up? No problem! You can still make a one-time extra donation to participate in the fall campaign drawing. Make sure to submit your pledge before Dec. 31, 2024, to be eligible for the prize. The winner will be selected from all entries and announced on Facebook Live at the end of the campaign. The hidden account number is 472602.

PARTICIPATION IS EASY

Operation Round Up is a great way to help your community. If you are not a participant, simply sign up, and WWVREMC will

automatically 'round up' your monthly electric bill to help non-profit organizations within the cooperative service territory. You may also elect to make a one-time donation or contribute a specified amount monthly to the fund.

Since the program began in 2003, donations have resulted in over \$673,000 being awarded to organizations throughout our communities, showing how much our members care about making a difference.

While Operation Round Up is a voluntary program, the more support we receive from our members, the more lives will be changed!

Complete the form below, check the appropriate box and fill in the amount of your donation where applicable.

Yes! I want to help our community.
Sign me up for Operation Round-Up®



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Account Number: _____

- New participant, round-up my monthly bill.
- In addition to my round up, I want to contribute \$_____ each month to Operation Round Up®. (Fill in the additional dollar amount to be added to monthly electric bill.)
- I want to make a one-time contribution. My check is enclosed.

Send your completed form to Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353.



Growing Rooftop Solar Scams Prompt Action from Government

There has been an increase in residential solar scams lately, and we want to help you protect yourself. The Treasury Department has reported a rise in consumer complaints about misleading practices by some solar companies. These practices include deceptive claims about costs and savings and aggressive sales tactics.

There have been cases of false promises such as no electric bill, free solar panels, tax rebate checks, and companies posing as electric cooperative representatives or partners. These practices can result in homeowners ending up with ineffective solar panels and facing ongoing financial burdens.

As your electric cooperative, we recommend that our members stay vigilant, thoroughly research solar contractors, and report any fraudulent activity to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

Here are some simple tips to follow if you are in the market for solar:

1. Make sure you do your research
2. Verify credentials
3. Read reviews
4. Read the fine print
5. Ask questions

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO AUGUST 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 wwwremc.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 2024 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

OCTOBER

Kenneth Kavanaugh, Connersville

Dan Hollenberg, Modoc

Elizabeth Smith, Hagerstown

Jim Doerstler, Lynn

Larry Sintz, Brookville

DIRECTOR CANDIDATE applications

Are you interested in running for the WWVREMC Board of Directors? Applications are open on our website for consideration of our 2025 election. For more information, please download the Director Candidate Information Sheet and complete an application at wwwremc.com/nominating-committee. The Nominating Committee Candidate Information Form is also available for download for those interested in serving on the Nominating Committee.

Further details about the 2025 district election will be included in upcoming issues of Powerlines. Please be aware that applications must be received by Nov. 1 for consideration at the upcoming nominating committee meeting.

We appreciate your interest in serving your cooperative. If you have any questions, please contact our office for more information.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH AND NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

October is an exciting month for us at WWVREMC. We celebrate National Cooperative Month, and during the week of Oct.7, we will celebrate National Customer Service Week. As a token of our appreciation, we have prepared a special gift for our members. You can stop by the office anytime during regular office hours throughout Cooperative Month to receive your gift.

We appreciate your membership and hope you enjoy this small token of our gratitude. **Available while supplies last.*



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

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