



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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National Lineworker Appreciation Day: April 14, 2025

Administrative Professionals' Day: April 23, 2025

APRIL DUE DATES

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







www.vremc.com



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

Please mark your calendars for our exciting, family-friendly Annual Meeting on **Thursday, June 12**.

This year's theme is "Field of Dreams: If You Build It, They Will Come." As we celebrate our new facility, we customized this annual meeting to express our

appreciation for our members. This year, we are merging a member appreciation event while still including the important information you have come to expect from past annual meetings.

The family-friendly gathering will include a meal, ice cream, popcorn, games, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon artist, entertainment by Sean Lamb & Janet Miller, a hotline demo, a meet and greet with the CEO, and prizes will be given away throughout the evening. The night will wrap up with scholarship drawings and a grand prize of \$1,000 cash! Along with these fun activities, we will share our progress from last year, provide updates on our priorities for this year, and discuss the cooperative's financial health. The meeting will take place at our new facility. Be on the lookout for the complete agenda coming soon!

Parking

Parking for the annual meeting will be located at Whitewater State Park. From there, the Union County Transit will shuttle you to our facility. The Liberty Volunteer Fire Department and the Liberty Sheriff's Department will help with directing traffic as you enter the state park. Shuttle buses will run continuously from 3:45 p.m. until all attendees have returned to their vehicles after the meeting. Members bringing someone with disabilities who have a handicapped parking sticker or license plate can park at our facility. All

other attendees must park at Whitewater State Park and use the shuttle service. There will be no charge for our members entering the park.

Voting

Voting for our Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee will occur before the meeting and open on **May 12**. Please watch for your electronic ballot if we have your email address on file. Mail-in ballots will only be sent to those without an email address. Additionally, SmartHub users can vote directly through the SmartHub application. If you vote by mail, please send your ballot in the postage-paid envelope directly to Survey and Ballot Systems. Please do not send the ballot with your bill or bring it to the office to ensure your vote is counted. The hidden account number is 326018. To learn more about the candidates up for election, please refer to "Meet the Candidates" in this issue, visit our website's annual meeting page or view our YouTube channel for personal messages from the candidates. All voting members will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$20 bill credit throughout the year. Five winners will be announced each month in the *Powerlines*.

This year's event will surely please all ages with a fun evening filled with delicious food, treats, prizes, and entertainment. We will also have informational booths at the event to showcase your numerous benefits as a member of WWVREMC. Attending the annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn about what's new at your cooperative and to engage with board members, staff, employees, and fellow members. We genuinely value your involvement and look forward to connecting with you. We'll be mailing out registration cards this month, so keep an eye on your mailbox. You'll need your card to register for your complimentary meal, and don't forget to bring it with you on event night so we can get you registered for prizes. We're truly looking forward to seeing you there and sharing this wonderful evening together!

meet the **BOARD CANDIDATES**

Three positions on the Board of Directors and three positions on the Nominating Committee are up for election. Below and on the following pages, you will find information about each candidate running for the 2025 WWVREMC Board of Directors. The next issue of the Powerlines will provide information about the candidates for the Nominating Committee. Complete information about all candidates is available now on our website, wwwremc.com/annual-meeting, and our YouTube channel. Each member is allowed to vote for one candidate in each district.

Members who have an email address on file should watch for their electronic ballot in their inbox. Mail-in ballots will be mailed for those without an email address. Additionally, SmartHub users can vote directly through the SmartHub application.

The election will open on May 12, 2025, with ballots accepted until June 10, 2025. Voting will not take place during the annual meeting, but winners will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

All candidates were asked to provide the following information:

1. Number of years as a member of Whitewater Valley REMC
2. Education and specific degrees
3. Current employment and employment history
4. Leadership and community activities
5. Why are you interested in becoming a member of Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors or serving another term?



BILL DUCEY, FOUNTAIN CITY

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

13 years

Education

B.A. Washington University, St. Louis, 1977

M.D. Chicago Medical School, 1981

Fellow American Board Surgery, 1987

Employment

Retired. General & Vascular Surgeon, Reid Health, 1987-2017

Leadership and community activities

Reid Foundation Board, 2023 - Present

Richmond Neighborhood Restoration, 2025

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

Energy distribution has always been vitally important to communities, and this remains very true today. The role of local power cooperatives has never been more vital. Cooperatives like REMC are instrumental in promoting energy solutions, ensuring a ready power supply, and enabling both sustainability and growth of communities like ours. My desire to join the board of directors of REMC stems from a deep commitment to community development, and the belief that community stability and growth are fostered by ample power delivery at the best possible rates for the cooperative customers. My focus would be on maintaining and enhancing power availability, reliability, and affordability.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



ROD WEST, LIBERTY

(Incumbent)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

20 years

Education

I graduated from Union County High School and completed my Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I am a Licensed Professional Engineer by the State of Indiana, a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator by NAFI, and hold both the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership (BLC) certificates.

Employment

For the past 32 years, I have been in the Engineering and Codes & Standards departments at Schneider Electric, formerly known as Square D Company. I hold 12 US Patents for electrical equipment and participate on national technical committees covering electrical safety and maintenance of electrical equipment. I am also a Code Making Panel member for the National Electrical Code (NEC).

Leadership and community activities

I am currently serving as Chairman of the board at WWVREMC. As the father of 5 daughters, my wife and I attend and volunteer at multiple school and 4-H activities. I am an active member of Hanna's Creek Christian Church where I recently began serving as an elder. In the past, I served as Liberty town council president and as a LECS committee member for the Union County Foundation.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed my time serving on the board and have learned a lot about our cooperative, its employees, and our member-owners. I am proud of the many advancements and accomplishments that WWVREMC has made over the past several years. As someone who serves on many committees,

NORTH DISTRICT



RYAN DRAKE, CAMBRIDGE CITY *(Incumbent)*

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC

12 years

Education

I graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management and Economics. I also completed my Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, which was offered by NRECA.

Employment

After college, I returned home to become an owner/operator of our family farming operation in Cambridge City, Indiana.

Leadership and community activities

I have been a Wayne County 4-H volunteer for many years and have coached middle school basketball. I am also a lifelong member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

It has been an honor to serve as a director for the past six years, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve another term if re-elected. I have served as Vice Chairman of the board for the past two years and have also served on several committees over the years. I feel my education and operating our diverse family farming operation have given me a strong foundation for my conservative business approach. I believe this is vital for a cooperative board.

I can honestly say we are lucky to have a board that brings such varied experience levels, backgrounds, and skills together to make the best possible decisions for our members. Even in these often contentious times, our entire cooperative, including the board of directors, is unified with a goal of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric power and I would be honored to continue to serve as a member of the board. I humbly ask for your support.



LUKE MEDVEGY, CENTERVILLE

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
2 years+

Education

Bachelor of Science, Major: International Business,
The University of Tampa (Tampa, FL)

Master of Arts, Major: Diplomacy, Norwich University (Northfield, VT)

Master of Business Administration, Major: Strategy, Indiana University
(Bloomington, IN)

Diploma (Graduate), Leadership, Conflict Management, Space, U.S. Strategy &
Chinese Strategy, Command and General Staff College (Fort Leavenworth, KS)

Employment

From 2023 – Current, AES Corps; From 1998 – 2023, United States Army

Leadership and community activities

With over 20 years of service as a U.S. Army Officer, I have led organizations at multiple levels, driving them toward success and earning the highest Department of Defense awards for excellence. Leadership, strategic planning and a commitment to service have been at the core of my career, and I continue to apply these skills post-military to improve my community. As a parent with four children in the local school system, my family is actively engaged in various sports and school activities, reinforcing my dedication to the well-being and growth of our community. Beyond my military service, I have taken on leadership roles that directly impact Veterans, First Responders, and entrepreneurs. I serve as the President of American Heroes Equine Connection, a nonprofit supporting Veterans with PTSD, and as the Executive Director of Veteran Affairs and Strategic Partnerships for the American Vertiport Owners and Operations Association. Additionally, I mentor transitioning service members through Post-Veterati and advocate for veteran entrepreneurship as an Indiana Ambassador for the Institute of Veteran and Military Families. My lifelong commitment to leadership and service positions me well to contribute meaningfully to WWVREMC's mission and the community it serves.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

I am interested in joining the Whitewater Valley REMC Board of Directors because I am deeply committed to serving and strengthening our community. As a parent with children in the local school system and an active participant in community activities, I understand the importance of reliable, forward-thinking infrastructure, utilities and teams that supports both families and businesses. My experience at AES Corps, a global energy company, has given me a firsthand appreciation for the sacrifices our utilities and linemen make every day to keep our communities powered. Coupled with my military background of selfless service and being in the trenches, I understand what it means to serve others, work under pressure, and ensure mission success. Additionally, my leadership roles in the military, nonprofit sector, and veteran advocacy have reinforced my commitment to service and strategic decision-making. I want to bring my expertise in leadership, operations, and community engagement to help Whitewater Valley REMC navigate challenges, embrace innovation, and continue providing exceptional service to its members. By serving on the board, I aim to advocate for sustainable growth, responsible resource management, and policies that benefit our local families and businesses while supporting the dedicated professionals who keep our power running.

SOUTH DISTRICT



NATHAN CANTRELL, LIBERTY (Incumbent)

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
8 years

Education

Graduate of Union County High School

Employment

I am a full-time farmer. I reside in the southern district with my wife, Raychael, and two daughters, Grace and Raygan. We enjoy showing livestock as a family, and the girls are both active in youth sports year-round.

Leadership and community activities

I volunteered with the Union County 4-H for 12 years and served on the 4-H association for 10 of those.

Why are you interested in serving another term on Whitewater Valley REMC's Board of Directors?

I've enjoyed my last 6 years on the board of directors representing the southern district. I thoroughly enjoy serving and being a voice for the members of the cooperative and interacting with the members to discuss what the board has accomplished and what we would like to accomplish moving forward. WWVREMC is currently in a terrific position and will remain so, going forward serving its members to the absolute best of its ability. With the support of the members, it would be my honor to remain on the board and serve the cooperative for another 3 years. Thank you.



JASON RUF, CONNERSVILLE

Number of years as a member of WWVREMC
15 years

Education

Associate's degree in Agricultural Diesel Mechanics
from the University of Northwestern Ohio

Employment

Self-employed as a farmer and farm equipment mechanic
Jennings Township Trustee in Fayette County

Leadership and community activities

I worked with the advisory board of Jennings Township in forming the Alquina Blue Arrows Park Board. I have been a member of the Everton Elementary PTO for 10 years. I have been volunteering with the Connersville FFA as a coach and advisor for the Small Engines Contest for over 10 years and I also volunteer when needed to help with preparing for different contest or as a judge for district contest.

Why are you interested in becoming a board member of Whitewater Valley REMC?

My time as Jennings Township Trustee will be coming to an end soon because of moving out of the township back to our family farm. This is one way that I can still be involved in the community in a leadership position.

**See the full annual meeting slate
and Nominating Committee
candidate information
in next month's Powerlines!**

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO FEBRUARY 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.remc.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

This concludes our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits awarded to voting members from the 2024 annual meeting. Here are the winners. We will resume drawing for more winners after the 2025 annual meeting, which will be held in June.

APRIL

David Wiseman, West Harrison

Dustin Grimmeissen, West Harrison

James Scott, Liberty

Mark Snider, Winchester

James Migoski, Liberty

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU: PARTICIPATE IN OUR MEMBER SURVEY

You – our cooperative members – are our guiding force. This spring, we are conducting a survey to gather your input and shape our services.

WWVREMC members may receive a phone call or emailed survey invitation in April or May. Your responses will help ensure that we are serving our community effectively, planning to meet local needs, and responsive to opportunities to improve how we serve you.

As a community-owned cooperative, our members are our purpose. We exist to serve you, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service now and into the future. Thank you for your membership and your input!

April 14, 2025



April 23, 2025



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

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