



**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
ELECTION  
SPECIAL  
EDITION**

## YOUR CO-OP. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

You have a voice when it's time to make decisions that affect your family's electric bill.

Why should **ALL**  
NREMC members  
**VOTE?**

Unlike most electric companies, we belong to our members. **This means you have a voice when it's time to make decisions that affect your family's electric bill.** Voting can be done online, by mail, or in person beginning Aug. 7. Turn to the inside pages to learn more about this year's election.

**YOU** have a voice in strategic direction

**YOU** have a voice in long-term planning

**YOU** have representation

Learn more by reading our FAQs on the inside pages!



# Board of Directors Election

Northeastern REMC’s service area is divided into nine districts, with one Board member serving a three-year term from each district. Although Board members are elected from districts, they represent the NREMC membership as a whole. This is why when members vote annually, they can cast their vote for all districts up for election. This year, members will elect a director from Districts 2, 3, and 4.



## Why vote in the Board of Directors Election?

### YOU have a voice in strategic direction

The Board of Directors sets the co-op's overall strategic direction, goals, and policies. Their decisions can impact the co-op's financial performance, service reliability, rates, investments in infrastructure and new technologies, and strategic direction.

### YOU have a voice in long-term planning

We are focused on providing reliable and affordable electricity not just for the present but also for future generations. The Board's decisions on long-term investments, energy sources, and sustainability initiatives can significantly impact the co-op's long-term viability and the communities we serve.

### YOU have representation

By actively participating in the election process and carefully evaluating the candidates running for the Board, you ensure that your interests are well represented. Having different perspectives and voices on the Board will ensure our entire membership is well represented in the decision making process

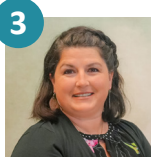
### ? Who is currently serving in my district?



Rob Higgins



Doug Schrader



Ingrid Tippmann Nicholson



Tom Western



Gary Gorrell



Joe Kruyer



Cathy Egolf



Erik Linnemeier



Jeremy McClish

## ? Frequently asked questions

Look for these frequently asked questions throughout the issue. As always, we're happy to answer any questions you have about the election process.

### ? What does the Board do?

The board provides policy and strategic direction that represents the best interests of the whole membership.

### ? How were these candidates selected?

A nominating committee of NREMC members evaluates each candidate through an application and interview process.

### ? How many years do directors serve?

Each year, three of the nine Board of Directors positions are up for election for new three-year terms.

### ? How do I enter to win the \$100 bill credit?

You're automatically entered when you cast your vote online or mail in your ballot.

4901 East Park 30 Drive | Columbia City, IN 46725

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL EDITION

You could win a \$100 bill credit by voting!



Voting begins on Aug. 7

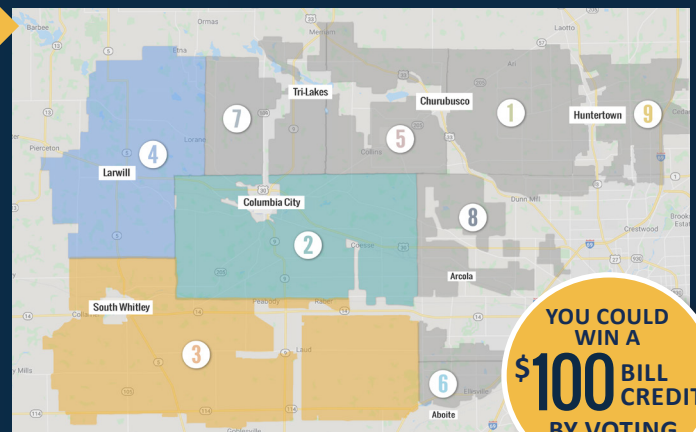
You're automatically entered when you cast your vote online or mail in your ballot.

# YOUR CO-OP. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

- Meet your candidates.
- Review the FAQs.
- View all the ways you can vote.
- Learn more about the election process.

... and more!



**LIGHTPOST**

July/August 2024

**NORTHEASTERN REMC**  
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



260-625-3700

nremc.com

Watch video bios of each candidate at [nremc.com/election](http://nremc.com/election).



**INCUMBENT**

## Douglas Schrader

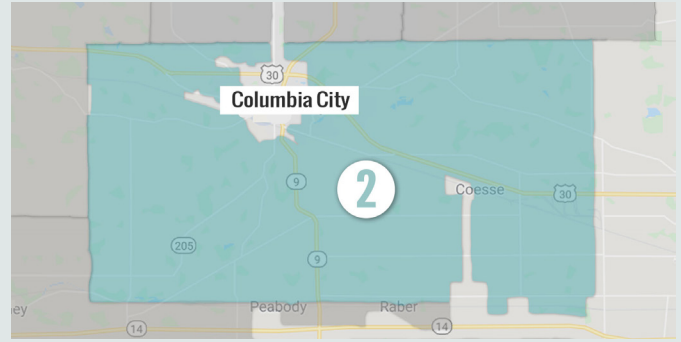
**⚡ District 2**

Doug Schrader has served on the Northeastern REMC Board of Directors for the past 44 years and has been a member of NREMC for 50 years. His role on the Board has included officer positions, including Board chair, treasurer, secretary, and vice chair, where he currently serves. During his time on the Board, Schrader earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Board Leadership Certificate.

Schrader's influence extends beyond the NREMC. He has represented NREMC on the Board of Indiana Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association for all co-ops throughout Indiana. His service on Northeastern's Customer Choice Services Corporation Board of Directors has been instrumental in bringing new business development and thousands of jobs to Whitley County via Park 30 Business Center, a testament to his impactful contributions.

Schrader graduated from Purdue University's Agricultural Short Course, which has served him well in his career of farming and raising livestock. This experience also led to serving multiple terms on the Whitley County 4-H Incorporated Board.

Schrader's commitment to service is not limited to his professional life. He has served as a volunteer firefighter in the Columbia Township Volunteer Fire Department, demonstrating his selflessness



## District 2

This district covers a large section of Whitley County including the rural area outside of Columbia City. This district includes Columbia and Union townships in Whitley County.

and dedication to the community. His longtime Oak Grove Church of God membership reflects his strong personal values and faith. Schrader and his wife make their home on Raber Road, just outside of Columbia City. This is also where they've lived, farmed the land, and raised livestock over the years. They have three grown children and are blessed with 10 grandchildren.

Schrader hopes to continue leveraging his years of experience to help Northeastern navigate many new complex projects while bringing local needs into the boardroom to ensure policies and programs offered at Northeastern REMC make sense for all members.



## Tim Kumfer

**⚡ District 2**

Tim Kumfer, a Columbia City resident of over 20 years, is currently the Director of Global Relations at Horizon International, a non-profit organization that provides financial support for the care of orphans in Africa. Before this, Kumfer spent 40 years leading other congregations in Warsaw and Connersville, Indiana, Battle Creek, Michigan, and Big Lake Church of God in northern Whitley County. He has also served as the Tillman Road Church of God Youth Pastor in Fort Wayne.

With a strong academic foundation, Kumfer graduated from Anderson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, Bible, and Religious Studies. His pursuit of knowledge continued with a Master's Degree in Ministry from Bethel University, a testament to his dedication and passion for his field.

Additionally, Kumfer served as the representative of District 3 of the Whitley County Council. He served as Council President during his time in office. He has also served as an adviser to Mayor Urban in Connersville. In his 40-year career, he has served on numerous boards for various organizations, including the Whitley County Family YMCA and the Alliance for Strategic and Economic Growth in Indiana Region 6. Kumfer also played a role in the Fayette County Comprehensive Plan Update 2011 Steering Committee while pastoring in east-central Indiana.

Outside of his professional life, Kumfer's personal life is equally fulfilling. He and his wife, Cynthia, have raised three children and are now proud grandparents to two granddaughters. Their shared love for nature and adventure is evident in their leisure activities, which include canoeing and beach outings. Kumfer's eagerness to continue his community service work, such as his aspiration to serve on the NREMC Board of Directors, reflects his deep-rooted values and commitment to making a difference.

**VOTING  
BEGINS  
AUG. 7  
@ 8AM**



**INCUMBENT**

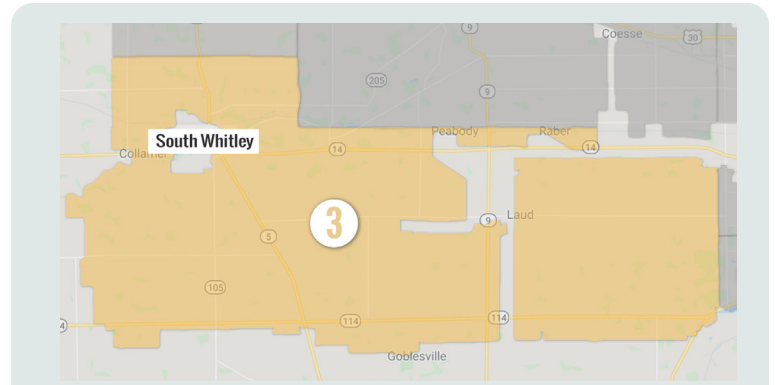
## Ingrid Tippmann Nicholson

**⚡ District 3**

Ingrid Tippmann Nicholson is a Columbia City native and has served on Northeastern REMC’s Board of Directors for six years. While representing District 3, Tippmann Nicholson has held the treasurer position and is currently the Board secretary and the finance and audit committee chair. While on the board, she earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Board Leadership Certificate, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Director Gold Certificate.

After her graduation from Bishop Dwenger High School, Tippmann Nicholson further honed her skills by earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Accounting from International Business College in Fort Wayne. Her strong academic background has equipped her with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve in her current roles as Test Coordinator at Bishop Dwenger High School and Administrative Coordinator at The History Center of Allen County. Tippmann Nicholson has been an active member of the community.

Tippmann Nicholson and her husband are raising their family in Washington Township in Whitley County where they have been NREMC members for eight years. Tippmann Nicholson wants to continue to serve the members of NREMC and is eager to continue



### District 3

This district covers a large area in southwest Whitley County including the rural area outside of South Whitley. The townships included are Cleveland, Washington and Jackson townships in Whitley County, Chester township in Wabash County, Jackson, Clear Creek and Warren townships in Huntington County, and Jackson township in Kosciusko County.

working tirelessly to uphold our values and drive positive change for our community. With unwavering commitment to our members and advancing our mission of sustainability and community empowerment, she believes in the importance of listening to our members’ concerns, advocating for their needs, and striving for innovation to ensure a resilient and prosperous future for our cooperative.



## Cari Juillerat

**⚡ District 3**

Cari Juillerat has spent the past 12 years at Lake City Bank, where she was recently named Vice President, Agricultural Banking Officer. She specifically works with the ag portfolio at Lake City Bank and has worked with several customers throughout Indiana, with a large concentration in Whitley County. Juillerat has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Finance from Purdue University.

Juillerat’s deep-rooted commitment to her community is evident in her extensive involvement. She has served as the President of Whitley County Young Farmers for three years and as a Board member of Whitley County Farm Bureau. Her advisory role for the Whitley County 4-H Rabbit Club for over a decade and her five-year tenure on the Advisory Board for the Kosciusko County 4-H Beef Club highlight her dedication to youth development.

Additionally, her two years as a livestock judging coach for National FFA Organization’s Whitko chapter further demonstrate her commitment to community service.

Outside of her professional and community commitments, Juillerat finds joy in her personal life. She and her husband of 13 years, Travis, have been NREMC members for the past nine years. In their free time, they enjoy UTV riding and watching and playing sports with their son.

When asked why she wants to serve on the Board of Directors, Juillerat said, “I want to serve on the NREMC Board to help serve the community I live in. I think my banking and finance experience could be helpful to the NREMC and the Board. I have been involved with several other organizations and enjoy serving the community I have always lived in. I want to help do anything I can to help better Whitley County and the surrounding area.”

**? Do I only vote in my district?**

**Members can cast a vote in each district race. Director candidates are elected at large to ensure that all areas are represented.**



### WATCH CANDIDATE VIDEOS

Learn more about each candidate by viewing their video at [nremc.com/election](http://nremc.com/election).





## Dustin Auer

District 4

Dustin Auer, a longtime resident of Whitley County, is a Deputy Sheriff with the Whitley County Sheriff Department. His duties include patrol officer work and coordinating the department's drone program. Auer also owned a gun shop and gunsmithing business from 2011 to 2014, where he manufactured and sold custom firearms.

Throughout his professional life, Auer has always strived to improve the community and is intentional in his efforts to improve the day of each and every person he interacts with.

Auer is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management through Indiana Tech and expects to graduate in 2026.

In addition to his community service, Auer has also served his country with distinction. Enlisting in the Army Reserve, he rose to the rank of sergeant and was deployed to Iraq in 2007 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. In this role, he spearheaded all acquisitions and distribution of supplies, a testament to his leadership and strategic decision-making abilities.

Auer is married to his wife, Erin, and together they have three boys, Liam, Ian, and Eli.

**District 4**

This district includes the rural area outside of Larwill and includes Richland and Etna-Troy townships in Whitley County.

When asked why Auer would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I am a firm believer in embracing modern technologies to help improve the functionality of already established systems. I personally designed, sourced, installed, and commissioned my own 15-kilowatt solar system, which totally offsets my family's energy usage and feeds back to support the co-op. My goals if elected would be to push for systems that both save co-op members money and help usher this establishment into the future."



## Wesley Wolfe

District 4

Wesley Wolfe, a member of NREMC for 13 years, works at Steel Dynamics (SDI) as a Melt Shop Maintenance Coordinator. A large part of this job includes planning down days and outages and organizing contracts to ensure seamless operations. Since joining SDI in 2010, Wolfe has held various positions showcasing his adaptability and versatility. Before this, Wolfe taught at Columbia City High School and The TROY Center. He has also been the Co-Vice President since 1997 at D&R Farms and Sons, a family-owned farm, demonstrating his long-standing commitment to his family and community.

Wolfe earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies Education from Purdue University and is actively pursuing a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Saint Francis. He has also obtained a SACA Basic Electricity Certificate from Ivy Tech Community College, further enhancing his skill set.

Wolfe has used his role to give back to the community. He has actively engaged with youth, providing them insights into employment and apprenticeship options. He also demonstrates his service to the community as a member of the Etna Troy Township Advisory Board, where he served as President through 2023.

Wolfe has been married to his wife, Sarah, for 11 years, and they have two children.

They regularly attend New Hope Wesleyan Church. In his free time, Wolfe enjoys fishing and traveling with his family.

When asked why Wolfe wants to serve on the NREMC Board, he said, "I would love to be part of a team that can positively influence the community. NREMC has shown, time and again, great passion for its members and the community. My experience at SDI has increased my collaboration and planning skills and developed my flexibility for unexpected changes. These skills will be an asset to the Board of Directors at NREMC."

**Why is it important for every member to vote?**

Unlike most electric companies, we belong to our members. This means you have a voice when it's time to make decisions that affect your family's electric bill.

**Look for election results on Monday, Sept. 9 on our website and Facebook page.**



## Upcoming Member Appreciation Nights

**Friday, Aug. 23**

*Clash of the Eagles*  
Churubusco @ Columbia City.  
Football game at 7 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 27**

Lewis Cass @ Whitko  
Football game at 7 p.m.

Stop by our tent to get a  
\$5 concessions voucher  
and a free gift!

## Thank you

Thanks to everyone who stopped by our tent at the Arcola National Truck and Tractor Pull. We hope you had a great time! Be sure to follow us on Facebook to learn about future events.

Our lobby will be closed on

## Labor Day

**Monday, Sept. 2.**

Don't forget that you can always access your account online 24/7 at [nremc.com](http://nremc.com) or call us at any time.

## Contact Us

[memberservices@nremc.com](mailto:memberservices@nremc.com)

**260-625-3700**  
[nremc.com](http://nremc.com)

Call 811 before you dig!

# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

## TO NORTHEASTERN REMC MEMBERS

One of our responsibilities to you, our members, is to publish our annual financial report. Each year, you'll find this summary in the July/August edition of *LightPost*.

		2023	2022
<b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS</b> for the year ended December 31	<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$121,854,700	\$148,122,518
	<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
	Purchased Power	\$94,096,307	\$121,547,957
	Other Operations	9,082,135	8,689,215
	Maintenance	3,398,770	3,704,307
	Depreciation	7,058,454	5,983,817
	Taxes	595,786	1,474,220
	Other Interest and Deductions	232,663	61,572
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$114,464,115	\$141,461,088
	<b>Interest on Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	\$3,585,724	\$3,315,943
<b>Operating Margins</b>	\$3,804,861	\$3,345,487	
<b>Non-Operating Margins</b>	G & T and Other Capital Credits	\$332,020	\$320,473
	Interest Income	51,177	146,975
	Miscellaneous	126,539	52,327
<b>Total Non-Operating Margins</b>	\$509,736	\$519,775	
<b>Net Margins</b>	\$4,314,597	\$3,865,262	
<b>Assets</b>		2023	2022
<b>CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET</b> December 31	<b>Utility Plant</b>		
	Electric Plant (at cost)	\$221,437,931	\$203,615,223
	Construction Work in Progress	10,077,191	6,961,426
	Accumulated Depreciation	(84,402,665)	(78,936,947)
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	\$147,112,457	\$131,639,702	
<b>Total Other Assets and Investments</b>	\$14,592,571	\$14,512,570	
<b>Current Assets</b>	Cash and Temporary Investments	\$933,052	\$951,700
	Accounts Receivable	9,411,099	9,470,118
	Accrued Utility Revenues	2,711,253	2,691,023
	Materials and Supplies	3,722,076	3,502,114
	Current and Accrued Assets	481,146	3,997,077
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	\$17,258,626	\$20,612,032	
<b>Deferred Charges</b>	\$2,527,588	\$2,979,296	
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$181,491,242	\$169,743,600	
<b>Equities and Liabilities</b>		2023	2022
<b>Equities</b>	Memberships	\$429,450	\$426,855
	Patronage Capital	49,438,518	47,098,806
	Other Equities	17,048,621	16,142,489
<b>Total Equities</b>	\$66,916,589	\$63,668,150	
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	\$83,648,205	\$76,544,677	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	Current Maturities of Noncurrent Liabilities	\$2,854,572	\$2,846,254
	Notes Payable	4,828,000	3,372,000
	Accounts Payable	10,982,703	11,630,120
	Current and Accrued Liabilities	11,786,779	11,278,236
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	\$30,452,054	\$29,126,610	
<b>Total Deferred Credits</b>	\$474,394	\$404,163	
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	\$181,491,242	\$169,743,600	



## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES EACH YEAR

- Cost of Power
- Depreciation Expenses
- Operations & Maintenance
- Taxes
- Customer Expenses
- Interest
- Admin & General Expenses
- Operating Margins

# This year, you have two ways to plug into your co-op update:

Attend the annual business meeting in person

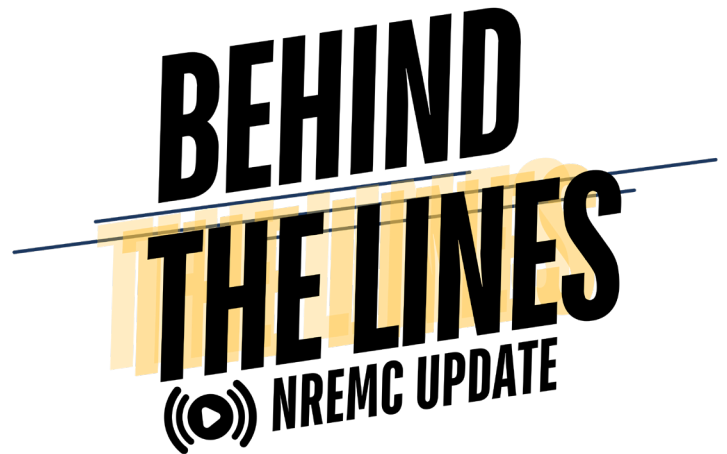
OR

Watch the NEW Behind the Lines Update online



Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10:00 a.m.  
Join us in the community room

4901 East Park 30 Drive | Columbia City IN 46725



Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10:00 a.m.  
[nremc.com/update](https://nremc.com/update)

Democratic Member Control

## How to cast your VOTE

You have a voice when it's time to make decisions that affect your family's electricity. Voting can be done online, by mail, or in person at the annual meeting. **Although Board members are elected from districts, they represent the NREMC membership as a whole.** This is why when members vote annually, they can cast their vote for all districts up for election.

### VOTE ONLINE

- Log in to your NREMC account online at [nremc.com/login](https://nremc.com/login).
- Click on the "vote now" button.
- You can choose one candidate for each district (not just the district where you reside).

### VOTE BY MAIL

- Each member will receive a paper ballot in the mail at the mailing address they have on file with NREMC.
- Follow the instructions listed.
- You can choose one candidate for each district (not just the district where you reside).

### VOTE IN PERSON

- Members can vote at NREMC using the tablets provided in the lobby during our normal business hours.
- Members can also vote in person at the annual business meeting on Saturday, Sept. 7.

THREE WAYS TO VOTE:  
ONLINE • BY MAIL • IN PERSON

VOTING  
BEGINS  
AUG. 7  
@ 8AM

FIND FULL DETAILS AT [NREMC.COM/ELECTION](https://nremc.com/election).