

SAVE TIME AND VOTE ONLINE



BEGINNING AUG 12

- Log into your NREMC account online at nremc.smarthub.coop
- Click on the “VOTE NOW” button.
- You’ll vote for one candidate for each district.
- That’s it! You’re done!

PLUS ENTER TO WIN A \$100 BILL CREDIT JUST BY VOTING!

DISTRICT 1 - EEL RIVER TOWNSHIP IN ALLEN COUNTY & A SMALL PORTION OF NOBLE COUNTY



Robert Higgins
District: 1

Rob Higgins has served Northeastern REMC members as the co-op’s District 1 director for six years. He has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate, and currently serves as the Board Secretary.

After serving for four years as a Fire Support Specialist in the United States Army, Higgins began building a career in the communications and electric utility industry. Now with over 20 years of experience, Higgins holds the credentials of Registered Telecommunications Project Manager and Outside Plant Designer, and currently is the Outside Plant Manager for both the Electric Department and Essential Services for the City of Auburn.

Higgins’ primary responsibility was the deployment of the City’s fiber to the home network. He now manages all projects related to providing fiber optics to homes, as well as the City and County fiber network and fiber optic design. Higgins is also responsible for coordinating projects for the Electric Department. He reviews bids, makes bid recommendations, interviews contractors, collaborates with the Board of Works, and collaborates with the General Manager for budgeting and purchasing.

When not at work Higgins enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife, Tabatha and daughter, Adrien.

DISTRICT 8 - LAKE, WASHINGTON AND ABOITE TOWNSHIPS IN ALLEN COUNTY



Erik Linnemeier
District: 8

Erik Linnemeier has served as District 8’s director for three years. He grew up in the Northeastern REMC service area and upon graduating from Carroll High School, Linnemeier joined the 122nd Indiana National Guard. After an Honorable Discharge from both the Air Guard and the United States Air Force, Linnemeier began a career as a tool and die maker while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. This led him to positions with Industrial Engineering, L.H. Carbide, Micropulse, Inc., Hirata, and ultimately to his present position as Vice President of Advanced Machine and Tool, a global production engineering company specializing in the design and build of industrial automated robotic assembly equipment.

Linnemeier is a current member of Pine Hills Church. He is a former school board member of Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School. He assists with business and government affairs at the Lake Township Trustee Office, is a member of the Arcola Volunteer Fire Department, and is a long-time Allen County 4-H Fair Horse and Pony member.

Linnemeier and his wife of 23 years, Jody, have three children all raised in Northeastern Indiana.



Gopal Acharya
District: 8

Gopal Acharya has an undergraduate degree in Engineering and a Master of Science Degree in Business from the University of Toledo along with a Master of Science Degree in Information Technology from Regis University.

With more than 22 years of experience as an IT professional with expertise in IT Strategy, Project Management and Implementation, Acharya has worked at leading multi-national corporations in positions such as IT Architect, IT Manager and Project Manager. He currently works as an IT Architect and Business Analyst responsible for improving Supply Chain processes at a leading direct seller of cookware and home accessories.

Gopal has previously served on the board of S.V. Temple in Edina, MN where he was also the Principal of the S.V. Temple School which imparts cultural, language and religious education to children of multiple age-groups and grade levels.

Gopal and his wife happily reside in Fort Wayne with their two children where they actively participate in cultural and social outreach events.

DISTRICT 9 - PERRY TOWNSHIP IN NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY



Bernd Buldt

District: 9

Bernd Buldt is originally from Germany and moved to Fort Wayne in 2006. While in Germany he earned the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree both in Protestant theology and in philosophy from the University of Bonn where he also minored in education and Scandinavian languages. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Bochum and the habilitation from the University of Konstanz. He held visiting positions at the University of Vienna in Austria, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, and at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

In 2006, he accepted a position as department chairperson with Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (now Purdue Fort Wayne.) He served in that position for more than ten years which provided Buldt with experience in managing, budgeting, and committee work. He has been a regular faculty member of the school since 2017.

Buldt's research specialization is in mathematical logic and the history of mathematics which brings him into regular contact with colleagues from around the world.

Throughout his time here, he has volunteered for or was voted into various service or leadership positions on campus and in professional organizations.

He has been married to his wife, Brigitte for 32 years and, together, they have raised four boys. Both he and Brigitte love the outdoors, and, facing an almost empty nest, recently invited a new family member to join: Jäger von Bismarck, a Weimaraner puppy.



Carol Cooper

District: 9

Carol Cooper was elected last year to complete the term of a former board member who passed away. Cooper is now running for her first full term.

Cooper resides on McComb Road in Hometown. She has earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wayne State University in Detroit and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's Executive MBA program. She received her undergraduate degree from Wayne State University. Currently Cooper is the Chief Operating Officer of Dermal Research Laboratories. She and her business partner hold several patents for pain relievers for both people and animals.

Previously, she was involved in product development, purchasing and internal consulting for the Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Raleigh, North Carolina. Cooper was also a chemistry professor at LaRoche College in Pittsburgh.

Cooper is active in the Sweet Adelines International Chorus and is a supporter of the Summit City Chorus. She has sung with the Pride of Toledo Chorus and the Towns of Harmony Chorus. Cooper also serves as Vice President of the Fort Wayne area Philanthropic Education Organization for which she has conducted educational programs and is developing a local scholarship program for graduating high school seniors.

Cooper has two sons, Mark and Greg, and four grandchildren.



Doree Lemert

District: 9

Doris "Doree" Butler Lemert is a Fort Wayne native, and a graduate of Northrop High School and Purdue University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Communications.

In 2014, she retired from a 30+ year career in marketing and communications. This included positions in the media, working for WOWO Radio in Fort Wayne and WHO Radio in Des Moines, Iowa. She served as Vice President of Advertising, Promotions and Telebanking for Norwest Banks Iowa, N.A.

Following the birth of their daughter, Lemert and her husband returned to Fort Wayne, where she co-owned a small business. Lemert then joined Kosciusko REMC, serving as the first female marketing and communications manager in the co-op's history.

During her tenure at the electric cooperative, Lemert earned accreditation as a Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC), giving her strong working knowledge of the electric cooperative industry.

In retirement, Lemert works part-time for Northwest Allen County Schools, assisting elementary students in reading. She also enjoys freelance writing for KPC Media, covering feature stories for multiple publications. The Lemerts attend Pathway Community Church, and she has served on multiple boards, including the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

She and her husband, Bruce, have one daughter, Abby.



Jeremy McClish

District: 9

Jeremy McClish, who resides in Northwest Allen county has a Master's degree in Professional Communication from Purdue University and a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from Indiana University with a minor in Communication. Most recently, he earned a financial management certificate from Cornell University.

McClish is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne and has held this position since 2017.

Prior to this role, he managed Lost Valley Ranch, a working guest ranch in the Colorado Rocky Mountains and also handled business development and community relations at Kodo Care Pharmacy in Illinois. Over the course of his career, McClish has worked closely with five different CEO's and three different boards. He has experience in both creating and executing strategic plans. He has managed two million-dollar budgets and staffs ranging from twenty to sixty employees.

He is currently serving the community through his role at Habitat for Humanity as well as through Pathway Community Church. He and his wife serve in the children's ministry, marriage ministry, as well as various discipleship groups.

Jeremy also serves on the board for Northeastern REMC's Operation Round Up®.

McClish and his wife, Molly, have three children.