

SPOTLIGHT

Re-opening the lobby

We've recently reopened the lobby and we're so happy to see our members again! The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 7:30am - 4:30pm

Please keep in mind:
 - Maximum lobby occupancy is 4.
 - If you feel ill, please do not enter.
 - Masks are encouraged.

Thanks for helping us keep our employees and members safe! Don't forget that you can still use the drive through, drop box, and you can manage your account and pay your bill online at nremc.com. Please keep in mind that this is subject to change based on area health updates.

Closed on Labor Day

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. You can always manage your account or pay your bill online at nremc.com.

Employee Milestone

Gwen Pulver is celebrating 30 years at Northeastern REMC this month! Thank you for your continued service!



Gwen Pulver
Dispatcher

30 Years

Our Vision

Service, Satisfaction and Safety - Second to None!

Our Mission

To meet our members' on-going need for reliable energy service at a good value while meriting trust and confidence.

2019 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 LightPost. You can view past issues and past reports on our website.

		2019	2018
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS for the year ended December 31	Operating Revenues	\$106,178,057	\$111,708,065
	Operating Expenses		
	Purchased Power	\$82,752,482	\$89,690,823
	Other Operations	8,392,481	7,712,638
	Maintenance	2,750,598	2,784,965
	Depreciation	5,329,914	5,003,939
	Taxes	1,476,097	2,058,925
Other Interest and Deductions	125,425	123,762	
Total Operating Expenses	\$100,826,997	\$107,375,052	
Interest on Noncurrent Liabilities	\$2,066,948	\$2,065,746	
Operating Margins	\$3,284,112	\$2,267,267	

Non-Operating Margins	G & T and Other Capital Credits	\$224,795	\$468,444
	Interest Income	40,145	38,020
	Miscellaneous	115,734	298,480
Total Non-Operating Margins	\$380,674	\$804,944	

Net Margins	\$3,664,786	\$3,072,211
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		2019	2018
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET December 31	Utility Plant	\$146,923,495	\$141,514,471
	Construction Work in Progress	995,068	812,072
	Accumulated Depreciation	(65,897,362)	(63,615,105)
Net Utility Plant	\$82,021,201	\$78,711,438	
Total Other Assets and Investments	\$14,958,584	\$15,655,478	

Current Assets	Cash and Temporary Investments	\$658,829	\$518,634
	Restricted Cash	0	0
	Accounts Receivable	9,008,993	9,783,776
	Accrued Utility Revenues	1,536,276	1,584,778
	Materials and Supplies	1,125,080	1,067,028
Current and Accrued Assets	334,443	351,400	
Total Current Assets	\$12,663,621	\$13,305,616	
Deferred Charges	\$5,070,478	\$6,927,505	
Total Assets	\$114,713,884	\$114,600,037	

Equities and Liabilities	Equities		
	Memberships	\$402,945	\$394,155
	Patronage Capital	42,382,728	40,982,311
	Other Equities	14,378,488	13,606,263
Total Equities	\$57,164,161	\$54,982,729	
Long-Term Debt	\$40,671,013	\$38,653,532	

Current Liabilities	Current Maturities of Noncurrent Liabilities	\$1,815,022	\$1,578,780
	Notes Payable	1,450,000	5,500,000
	Accounts Payable	7,758,594	7,891,817
	Current and Accrued Liabilities	5,598,021	5,417,919
	Total Current Liabilities	\$16,621,637	\$20,388,516
Total Deferred Credits	\$257,073	\$575,260	
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$114,713,884	\$114,600,037	

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

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



Let us help with trees close to power lines.

To provide you with the most reliable service, we try to bury most of our electrical lines. Where that isn't possible, we use overhead lines. Sometimes these run through wooded areas which requires a lot of vegetation management including tree trimming, re-clearing, or both to maintain safe and uninterrupted service to you and your neighbors.

Tree limbs may become a safety hazard when in contact with power lines. Attempting to trim a tree in contact with a power line puts you in danger of electrocution. It's important to allow Northeastern REMC to trim or even cut down trees near power lines. When you encounter a tree in the vicinity of a primary power line, immediately contact us or call 911.

It's also helpful to get in the habit of inspecting your trees after a storm. You may not notice a branch that may be stuck among other branches and it's important to have it removed before the next storm or high wind gust.

If you'd like us to take a look at a tree that's close to a power line, please call us at 1-888-413-6111 or fill out the form at nremc.com/trees to arrange a time for us to stop by.

Crews participate in Pole Top Rescue

Recently, our line crews participated in Pole Top Rescue and Bucket Rescue Training. Every summer, our crews review how to use their bucket trucks, ropes, and climbing gear to remove someone who may be unconscious from atop a power line pole.

During this training, each lineman must climb a pole and rescue a 185-pound training mannequin. The lineman must then secure the mannequin using ropes and pulleys and safely deliver them back to the ground. Because every second counts when trying to save someone's life, each lineman is timed. They should be able to call for help, put their gear on, climb up the pole, lower the mannequin to the ground and begin CPR in less than eight minutes. In a real life situation each second could be the difference between life and death.

It's no question that the job of a line worker is dangerous, and it's important that they are all skillfully trained in lifesaving techniques and protocols. This training is given annually and co-led by our Safety Coordinator, who has been participating in these rescue trainings for more than 15 years, and our partners at Indiana Electric Cooperatives.



NORTHEASTERN REMC
A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

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LIGHTPOST

July/August 2020

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Membership Corporation

nremc.com

Spend less time worrying and more time where it really matters.

For many members, the COVID-19 pandemic is not just a public health crisis – it is a growing economic crisis as well.

The suspension of disconnects kept power flowing to homes and businesses across Northeastern Indiana during the first several months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many members even contributed to our neighbor-aid program to help others pay their electric bills. The generosity of our members is something we don't take for granted.

Now, as many businesses reopen and more and more people are headed back to work, we wanted to shift our focus to giving you as many options as you need to get your electric bill back on track.

The temporary suspension of disconnects, was not a bill waiver, and we understand the difficulty in getting caught up on any bill after falling behind. This is why our team has come up with some creative options for you to choose from.

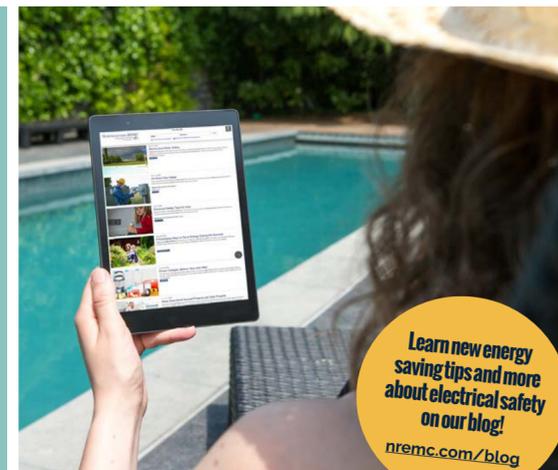
The most important thing you can do is talk to us. Please don't feel embarrassed if you need to discuss payment options. We understand that COVID-19 has caused circumstances out of everyone's control. We're here to help and are committed to continuing to power life's moments for you and all of our members.



In this issue:

- COVID-19 Update (cover)
- Get to know your board of director candidates (page 3-5)
- How to vote (page 4-5)
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- Tree trimming close to power lines (page 7)
- Line crews participate in pole top rescue (page 7)

...and more!



Learn new energy saving tips and more about electrical safety on our blog!
nremc.com/blog

LIGHTPOST

Questions? E-mail memberservices@nremc.com

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1-888-413-6111

Line Locating: Please call 811 at least 2 business days prior to digging.



Your co-op. Your vote. Board of director voting begins on August 12

Unlike most electric companies, we *belong* to our members. This means when it's time to make decisions that affect your family's electricity, you have a voice. This year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all voting will be done online or by mail. To find out more information about all of the candidates running this year, turn to the inside pages and watch your email for links to their candidate videos and instructions for voting.

District: 1 | Candidate

(running unopposed)



Robert Higgins
incumbent

District: 9 | Candidates



Bernd Buldt
challenger



Carol Cooper
incumbent



Doree Lemert
challenger



Jeremy McClish
challenger

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 currently holds the elected position of Lake Township Trustee in Allen County Indiana performing governmental affairs and budgeting. He is a member of the Arcola Volunteer Fire Department and is a 10 year contributor to the Allen County 4-H Horse and Pony club.

Linnemeier and his wife of 26 years, Jody, have three children all raised in Lake Township.



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.

Editor's note: This bio replaces the originally printed version that contained an error.



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 Huntertown. 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.

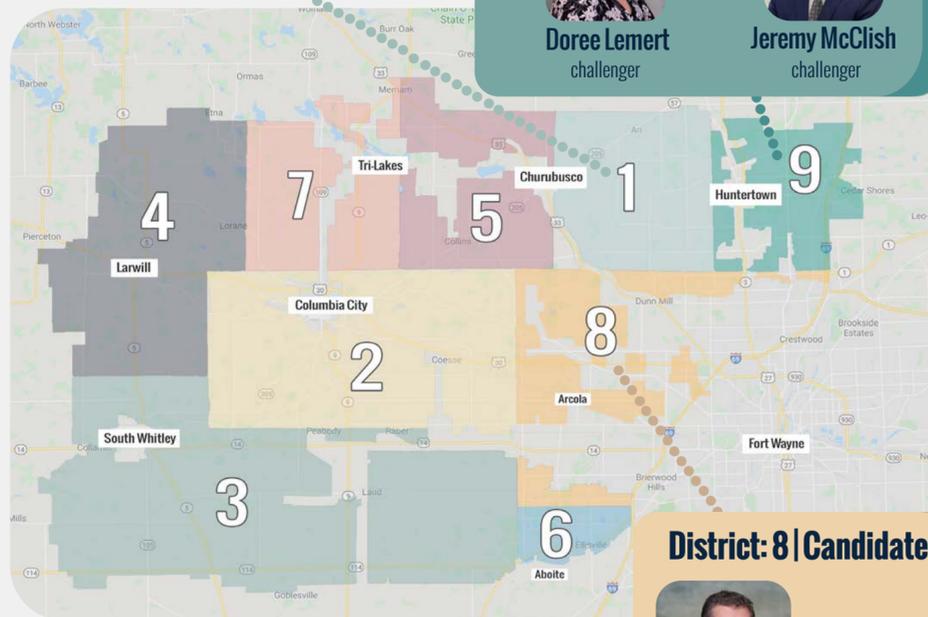
McClish is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne and has held this position since 2017.

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.



District: 8 | Candidates



Erik Linnemeier
incumbent



Gopal Acharya
challenger

Get to know your board of director candidates.

As a member of Northeastern REMC, you can have a direct voice in how it operates. Our service area is divided into nine districts and members are given the opportunity to select a representative from their area to serve on the board of directors. Each year, three district director positions are filled.

Every REMC member has the opportunity to vote for all district directors. Voting is not limited to the district in which you live. Votes will be cast online or by mail only due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nominating committee has carefully reviewed board applications and interviewed prospective board members. Now that this has taken place, we present to you this year's candidates.

BOARD ELECTION FAQs

Why can't I vote in-person like I always have?

The safety of our members and employees is our number one priority. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be allowing in-person voting in our lobby or at any NREMC event.

Does this mean the Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Night has been canceled?

The Annual Meeting will now be a virtual annual meeting, but the member appreciation night has been canceled. This was a decision made by our current board of directors and leadership team. More details about how to "attend" the annual meeting on Sept. 12 at 6:00 p.m. will be announced soon.

What does a board member do?

The board of directors is the governing body of the organization. The board sets policies and strategic direction.

How many terms does a board member serve?

Currently there is no term limit for board members. At the end of each three-year term, board members are allowed to run again by following the same election process as any other candidate.

Who is an ideal candidate?

The ideal candidate is someone who is passionate about Northeastern REMC's mission and the community we serve. A background in a business-related field is a plus. Must have an interest in the economical operation of the cooperative and can work in harmony with the whole board.

I want to run next year. What do I do?

Applications along with instructions and which districts are up for election will be made available in late April 2021 on our website.

LEARN MORE:
[NREMC.COM/ELECTION](https://www.nremc.com/election)

HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

BEGINNING AUG 12

VOTE ONLINE

- 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!



VOTE BY MAIL

- Each member will receive a paper ballot in the mail at their mailing address.
- Follow the instructions listed.
- You'll vote for one candidate for each district.
- Mail in your ballot using the enclosed envelope.

