

## On budget and ahead of schedule NREMC flips the switch on region's largest utility-scale batteries

In December, NREMC announced that we would be breaking ground on the two revolutionary new battery sites this summer. We are thrilled to report that not only did we break ground, but that both battery sites are fully installed and operational ahead of schedule! These battery sites in Northwest Allen County and Southeastern Whitley County quietly charge during off-peak hours overnight to be ready to deliver their energy-saving punch at peak times when power is most expensive.

You may have seen our “beat the peak” promotions or received notifications about peak events recently that affect your smart thermostat. These new batteries have a similar goal; reducing our reliance on the grid during those peak times.

“Because our team was able to get the battery sites up and running early in the peak season, we should be able to reduce peak energy consumption sufficiently to save at least a million dollars. The season is not complete until the end of September however, so we will have a much better sense of exactly how much has been saved then.” said Eric Jung, NREMC’s President and CEO.

These battery sites are the first two aimed at tackling rising transmission costs, with three more sites across Northeastern’s territory to be installed next year.



Above: Photos from the installation of the battery storage at the Perry substation, and Eric Jung, CEO, gives a tour of the new site to employees and the board of directors.

### Board of Directors Special Edition of LightPost

## Your co-op. Your vote.

### Get to know candidates now on the inside pages!

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.** Voting can be done online, by mail, in-person in our lobby or on-site at this year's annual meeting on September 11. 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.



[nremc.com/election](http://nremc.com/election)



# 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

COLUMBIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL | SATURDAY, SEPT. 11  
10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

## The Business Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held at **Columbia City High School** just south of Columbia City on State Road 9. Unlike past years, we will not be combining the meeting and a member appreciation event. Instead, a family fun event will be held this fall. We're still working on the details, but it's guaranteed to be fun for all ages!

## Election and Door Prizes

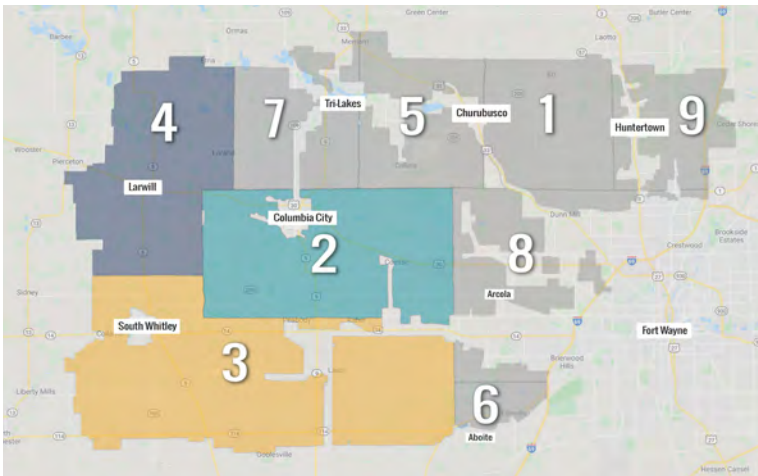
Members are encouraged to vote in this year's Board of Director's Election by voting online, by mail, or during the business meeting. Each completed ballot (online, mail, or in-person) will be eligible to win a \$100 bill credit by random draw. Mailed ballots should be mailed no later than **Friday, September 3** and online votes must be received by **Friday, September 10 at noon** to be eligible to win.

## Business Meeting Agenda

The business meeting agenda is below and we look forward to providing you with an update about your electric cooperative.

- Call to order/Welcome from CEO, Eric Jung and the Board of Directors
- Invocation
- Keynote video (recap of 2020)
- Voting Results
- Adjournment

# YOUR CO-OP. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE



Northeastern's service area is divided into **nine districts**.

**Members choose representatives** to serve on the board of directors.

Each year, **three districts** are up for election.

Voting begins Aug. 11

Go online to [nremc.com/election](http://nremc.com/election) to find your district

# GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

The Northeastern REMC Board of Directors is democratically elected by its members. They oversee the cooperative's operations and work to represent the best interests of their fellow members. While director candidates run in the district where they reside, they are elected at-large to ensure that all geographic regions within our service territory are represented. This means members can vote in each district race. **This is your opportunity to have your voice heard.**



**Doug Schrader** *[incumbent]*

**Doug Schrader** has served on the Northeastern REMC Board of Directors for the past 41 years. His role on the board has included officer positions, including board chair, vice-chair, treasurer, and board secretary, where he currently serves. Schrader has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Board Leadership Certificate during his time on the board.

Schrader has represented NREMC on the Board of Indiana Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association for all co-ops throughout Indiana. He has also served for

years on Northeastern's Customer Choice Services Corporation Board of Directors, helping bring new business development and thousands of jobs to Whitley County via Park 30 Business Center.

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 has served as a volunteer firefighter in the Columbia Township Volunteer Fire Department, and is a long-time member of Oak Grove Church of God.

## District 2

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

Along with his wife, Sheryl, Schrader resides on Raber Road, outside of Columbia City, where they've lived, farmed, and raised livestock. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

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

Find your district  
at [nremc.com/  
election](http://nremc.com/election)



**Tim Kumfer** *[challenger]*

**Tim Kumfer**, a Columbia City resident of close to 20 years, is currently the Lead Pastor of Warsaw Church of God and has held this position for the past ten years. Before this, Kumfer spent eighteen years leading other congregations in Connersville, Indiana, Battle Creek, Michigan, and Big Lake Church of God in northern Whitley County. He has also served as the Youth Pastor at the Tillman Road Church of God in Fort Wayne.

Kumfer graduated from Anderson University with a Bachelor's Degree in

Sociology, Bible, and Religious Studies. He also has a Master's degree in Ministry from Bethel University.

Additionally, Kumfer is serving as a representative of District 3 of the Whitley County Council. He has served as an advisor to Mayor Urban in Connersville. He has served on numerous boards for various organizations in his forty-year career, 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.

Kumfer and his wife, Cynthia, have raised three children and now have two granddaughters. In their free time, they enjoy canoeing and spending time on any beach. Kumfer looks forward to finding opportunities to continue community service work and hopes to do so by serving on the NREMC Board of Directors.



## Ingrid Tippman Nicholson *[incumbent]*

**Ingrid Tippman Nicholson** is a Columbia City native and has served on Northeastern REMC’s board of directors for three years. In her first term representing District 3, Tippman Nicholson has held the treasurer position and is the current chair of the finance and audit committee. She has also earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate during her time on the board.

After graduating from Bishop Dwenger High School, Nicholson earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Accounting from International Business

College in Fort Wayne. Currently, Tippman Nicholson serves as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School and is also a part-time accountant for Native Legacy LLC of Arcola.

Her board experience outside of Northeastern REMC includes serving as the Treasurer for the St Elizabeth Ann Seton Athletic Board. She also volunteers for the Allen County Historical Society Gingerbread festival.

Along with her husband, Tippman Nicholson is now raising their family in Washington Township in Whitley County.

## 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 & Jackson townships in Whitley County, Chester township in Wabash County, Jackson, Clear Creek & Warren townships in Huntington County, and Jackson township in Kosciusko County.

Tippman Nicholson, who runs unopposed this year, is excited to continue representing her district for another three-year term.



## Tom Western *[incumbent]*

**Tom Western** has been a member of Northeastern REMC’s Board of Directors for the past 36 years. He has served as board chair (currently), vice-chair, and treasurer during his tenure.

Western has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Board Leadership Certificate during his time on the board.

Western is also the current Chair of Northeastern’s Customer Choice Services Corporation Board of Directors which oversees the Park 30 Business Center in Whitley County.

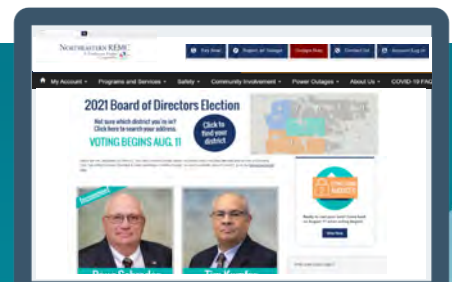
As a graduate of the Purdue University Agricultural Short Course, he has spent his working years in agribusiness. Western has served on various boards in the community and spent 12 years on the Whitley County Council. He has also served Whitley County as Commissioner.

## District 4

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

Along with his wife, Sue, Western has three children and six grandchildren. Together they attend New Hope Wesleyan Church and reside in Etna-Troy Township. Western, who runs unopposed this year, is looking forward to serving another three-year term where he will continue to stay on top of any potential problems facing electrical cooperatives like Northeastern REMC.

Learn more about each candidate and watch their videos before casting your vote. Go to [nremc.com/election](http://nremc.com/election)



## HOW TO CAST YOUR

# VOTE

BEGINNING AUG. 11

## VOTE ONLINE

- Log into your NREMC account online at nremc.com/login
- Click on the "VOTE NOW" button
- You'll 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'll choose one candidate for each district. (Not just the district where you reside)

## VOTE IN-PERSON

In-person voting at the annual meeting on Saturday, September 11 begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 10:50 a.m. prior to the beginning of the business meeting. Results will be announced at the close of the business meeting.

# 2020

# 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. In addition, you can view past issues and past reports on our website.

		2020	2019	
<b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS</b> for the year ended December 31	<b>Operating Revenues</b>		\$107,401,039	\$106,178,057
	<b>Operating Expenses</b>	Purchased Power	\$83,875,734	\$82,752,482
		Other Operations	8,034,459	8,392,481
		Maintenance	3,031,048	2,750,598
		Depreciation	5,621,832	5,329,914
		Taxes	1,930,637	1,476,097
		Other Interest and Deductions	44,956	125,425
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		\$102,538,666	\$100,826,997
	<b>Interest on Noncurrent Liabilities</b>		\$2,150,343	\$2,066,948
	<b>Operating Margins</b>		\$2,712,030	\$3,284,112
<b>Non-Operating Margins</b>	G & T and Other Capital Credits	\$231,403	\$224,795	
	Interest Income	42,119	40,145	
	Miscellaneous	101,807	115,734	
<b>Total Non-Operating Margins</b>		\$375,329	\$380,674	
<b>Net Margins</b>		\$3,087,359	\$3,664,786	
<b>CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET</b> December 31	<b>Assets</b>		2020	2019
	<b>Utility Plant</b>	Electric Plant (at cost)	\$153,637,579	\$146,923,495
		Construction Work in Progress	1,361,607	995,068
		Accumulated Depreciation	(69,900,080)	(65,897,362)
	<b>Net Utility Plant</b>		\$85,099,106	\$82,021,201
	<b>Total Other Assets and Investments</b>		\$14,588,038	\$14,958,584
	<b>Current Assets</b>	Cash and Temporary Investments	\$2,023,754	\$658,829
		Restricted Cash	0	0
		Accounts Receivable	9,101,950	9,008,993
		Accrued Utility Revenues	2,061,999	1,536,276
Materials and Supplies		1,451,375	1,125,080	
Current and Accrued Assets		659,367	334,443	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		\$15,298,445	\$12,663,621	
<b>Deferred Charges</b>		\$4,347,255	\$5,070,478	
<b>Total Assets</b>		\$119,332,844	\$114,713,884	
<b>Equities and Liabilities</b>		2020	2019	
<b>Equities</b>	Memberships	\$411,765	\$402,945	
	Patronage Capital	43,263,471	42,382,728	
	Other Equities	14,978,622	14,378,488	
<b>Total Equities</b>		\$58,653,858	\$57,164,161	
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>		\$43,669,924	\$40,671,013	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	Current Maturities of Noncurrent Liabilities	\$1,976,595	\$1,815,022	
	Notes Payable	0	1,450,000	
	Accounts Payable	7,921,941	7,758,594	
	Current and Accrued Liabilities	6,850,943	5,598,021	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		\$16,749,479	\$16,621,637	
<b>Total Deferred Credits</b>		\$259,583	\$257,073	
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>		\$119,332,844	\$114,713,884	

## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

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



# SPOTLIGHT

QUICK INFO FOR MEMBERS

## Our office will be closed on Sept. 6

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day. However, please remember you can always manage your account online, report power outages, and more at [nremc.com](http://nremc.com).

## Tree Trimming

If a recent thunderstorm has you worried about tree branches getting too close to the power lines near your home, contact us. It's crucial to allow Northeastern REMC to trim or even cut down trees near power lines. Attempting to trim a tree in contact with a power line puts you in danger of electrocution. Tree trimming and clearing help maintain safe, uninterrupted service to you and your neighbors.

## Member Appreciation Event Coming Soon!

Watch for more information coming soon regarding a fun fall family event for our member appreciation night! We've been planning something BIG, and we can't wait to share more with you as details are finalized.

facebook



Be sure to follow us on Facebook to be the first to get updates on power outages and to stay up to date on all things co-op-related!

[facebook.com/nremc](https://facebook.com/nremc)

## Contact Us

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

888-413-6111

[nremc.com](http://nremc.com)

Call 811 before you dig

# How to Avoid Utility Scams

Millions of Americans are targeted by scammers every day through phone calls, emails, text messages, online, or in person.

We want you to be aware of two trending tactics that many scammers use.

### Trending Tactic #1: Claiming you overpaid

A scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account.

Don't fall for this. If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, we will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle.

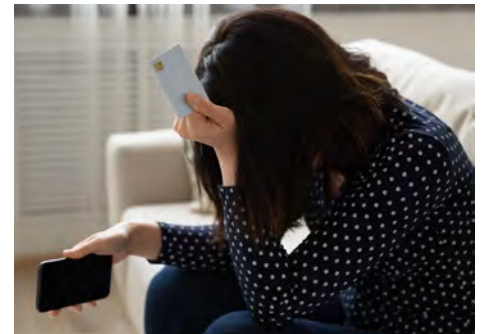
### Trending Tactic #2: Suspicious texts

Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). We all know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones.

Always question suspicious texts. We will only send you important updates via text if you've signed up for our specific text alerts.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when a scammer has targeted you:

- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Northeastern REMC, but you're unsure, hang up the phone and call us to verify the situation.



Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting people. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to us so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.

NORTHEASTERN REMC  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# prepaid

PAY WHAT YOU WANT, WHEN YOU WANT.  
NO DEPOSITS • NO LATE FEES • NO MONTHLY BILLS

INTERESTED IN PREPAID BILLING? GIVE US A CALL AT (888) 413-6111.

# Would your teenage driver know what to do if they hit a utility pole?

If you're the parent of a teenager, you know that it's only a matter of time before they start driving. While you're helping your teen driver log the required hours behind the wheel, there are many things you can teach them that they don't learn in drivers training. One of the most important things to teach them is what to do if they hit a utility pole. Review these tips with your teen before they get behind the wheel.

## If a power line falls on their vehicle and there is no fire:

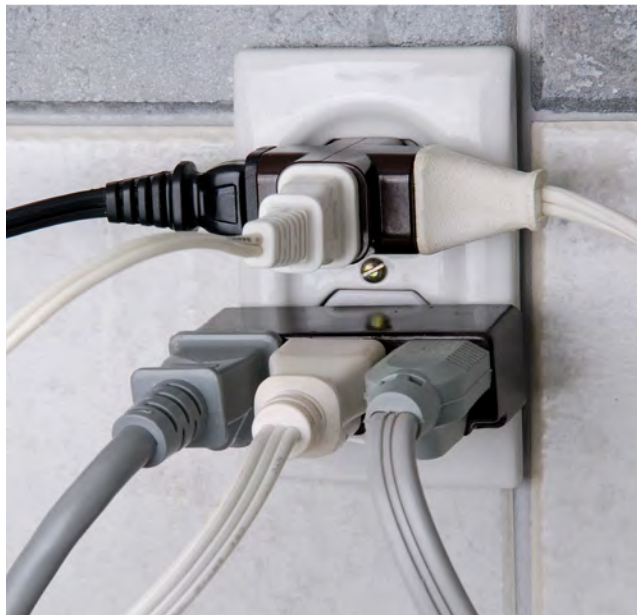
The safest option is to stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. This is because the vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. Everyone is safe inside the vehicle, but if anyone gets out, they could be electrocuted.

## If a power line falls on the vehicle and there is a fire:

Jump out of the vehicle, making sure no body parts or clothing touches the ground and vehicle simultaneously.

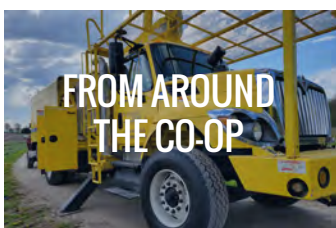
Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 feet away from the vehicle. The ground could be energized. If you run or take large steps, you could conduct electricity from one leg at one voltage to another leg at another voltage. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

It is important that you never help someone else from the car while standing on the ground. As in all power line-related emergencies, call for help immediately by dialing 911.



## SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your home's electrical system. That starts with not overloading electrical outlets.

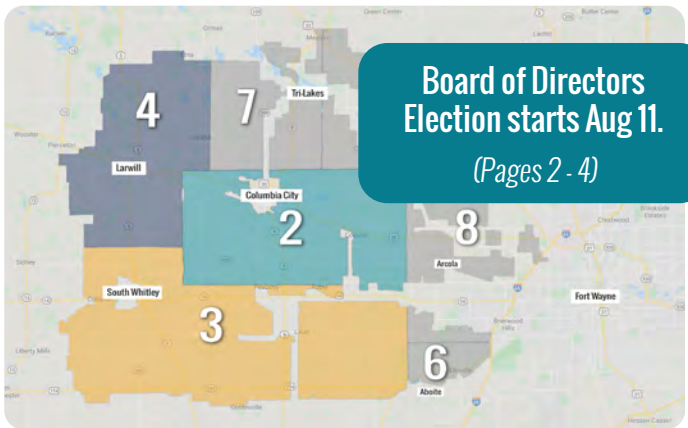


4901 East Park 30 Drive | Columbia City, IN 46725

# In this issue:



Northeastern REMC flips the switch on the largest battery storage project in Indiana.  
*(cover story)*



Board of Directors Election starts Aug 11.  
*(Pages 2 - 4)*



Get to know your 2021 candidates *(Pages 2 - 4)*



Electrical safety starts with you.  
*(Page 7)*

## Plus...

- You're invited to the 2021 Annual Meeting (page 2)
- Would your teen driver know what to do if they hit a utility pole? (page 4)
- Learn how to vote in the board of directors election (page 5)
- How to avoid utility scams (page 6)

**and more!**