

Addison Agen's style a proven crowd pleaser

We suggest you mark your calendar on September 8 because you won't want to miss our Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting! Fort Wayne's Addison Agen, the runner-up on Season 13 of "The Voice," promises

a concert that will be enjoyed by everyone in the family.

Shifting from large acts and focusing on local artists is one of the many changes that members will notice during our Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting beginning this year.

"We have so many excellent local performers – Addison is a great example of that. We are very excited she was available on our date. I went to see her during one of her sold-out shows at The Embassy and was amazed at the maturity in her voice, despite her young age. I would compare her sound to a young Nora Jones," said Eric Jung, Northeastern's President and CEO.

The overall sound of the concert should be very different this year as well. "We are aware that the volume of some past acts may have turned off some of our members from attending in the past. We are addressing that this year. With a single performer, backed by a smaller band, the volume should be much more bearable for everyone. It also allows her to interact with the crowd. I think everyone will be pleased," added Jung.



Agen received standing ovations and rave reviews from all the judges on NBC's "The Voice," and her personal coach, Adam Levine, described her as "one of the most special gifts that I've ever had the pleasure of working with." And Levine has worked with the best of the best in the recording business.

So mark your calendars now and enjoy a fun evening with Addison Agen. We look forward to seeing you there! All the details will be mailed to members in early August.

Annual meeting changes coming

As our Member Appreciation Night and Annual meeting approaches, we want to make you aware of changes that we have been working on the past few months to enable more of you to become involved in the director voting process and to streamline the registration process for those joining us September 8.

We realize that giving up an entire evening is hard for many, especially those with young families. So this year we are introducing mail-in and online director voting prior to our meeting to engage those of you unable to attend.

Here are the main points we want you to be aware of regarding these two options:

Continued Page 4

Kennedy Babbitt retiring from board after 36 years

Marjorie Kennedy Babbitt, a Northeastern REMC board member representing members in District 3 since 1982, has announced she will not be seeking re-election during Northeastern REMC's annual meeting on September 8.



Kennedy Babbitt earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and served as Board Chair, Vice

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer various times during her 36 years on our board.

Thank you, Marjorie, for all your years of dedication and service to the members of our cooperative. We wish you much joy and happiness in growing your business in the years to come.

This board position, along with those representing Districts 2 and 4, will be filled during the board of director elections taking place as part of the cooperative's Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting. NREMC's open voting policy allows all members to vote for candidates vying for any director position.

New opportunity to save money and energy with Nest thermostat program

Thermostats are available for purchase on our website at discounted prices. Plus if you agree to participate in our Rush Hour Rewards peak load management program, you'll receive up to \$70 in rebates.

For more details, to purchase thermostats, and to sign up for our program, visit nremc.com.



Proudly sponsoring Honor Flight NE IN



This photo honors the veterans participating in Honor Flight #27 to Washington, D.C. in April 2018. For more information on the Honor Flight program, upcoming trip schedules, veteran applications and guidelines, or to donate to fund the trip for a needy veteran, please visit www.hfnei.org.

10,000 electric meters to be upgraded soon

The first phase of upgrading residential electric meters will begin in mid-August and continue through October. Approximately 10,000 meters will be changed out during this period.

This routinely scheduled change-out will be conducted by crews contracted through Northeastern REMC. Each contractor will be carrying identification identifying themselves as a contract employee and all will be traveling in REMC logoed vehicles. Our contractors will

knock on doors first to make residents aware they are present on the property.

There will be 10,000 more meters changed in 2019. The last time meters were upgraded in this manner was 2007 through 2009.

If you have any questions about this routine maintenance change-out or anyone present on your property, please do not hesitate to call Northeastern at 625-3700.

REMC Business Advisor competes in Boston Marathon

Congratulations to Northeastern REMC's Business Services Advisor John Enrietto for his impressive placing in the 2018 Boston Marathon's Handcycle Division race. Enrietto finished 14th in a field of 50 participants. This year's race was exceptionally challenging for competitors due to temperatures in the 30's, pouring rain and winds of up to 40 mph.

Enrietto competes in the handcycle division of races in which participants use push-rim wheelchairs and handcycles. He has been in a wheelchair since he was 21 years old, a result of a car accident. But he did not let that slow him down. He has been participating in rides and races across the country since 2001. This is the first time he has competed in the Boston Marathon. Among his many achievements, he has placed first in marathons in Detroit, Cleveland and Athens, Georgia.



During the winter, Enrietto practices on riding equipment in his home. As soon as the weather breaks, he can often be seen in his handcycle taking on terrain throughout all of Southeast Whitley County.



Every 9 Minutes

a utility line is hit because someone didn't call 811.

The chances of hitting a buried utility are less than 1% if you call 811 a few days before digging.



Thank you for joining us

Thank you to the approximately 250 members who reserved spots for our two Power Hour/Member Forum meetings last month. We were very grateful that you chose to spend your evening with us, learning about changes to our September 8 annual meeting, our new thermostat program, and the free services offered by our energy advisor.

Annual Meeting changes - continued from page 1

Mail-in ballots

- Ballots, including candidate bios, and return envelopes will be mailed to all members in early August.
- Returned ballots will be mailed directly to a third-party vendor experienced in the election process.
- This ensures security and total confidentiality of all ballots.
- The company will communicate with the REMC who voted, not how anyone voted.
- Ballots will be accumulated then returned to NREMC prior to September 8 to be included with those cast by mail and at the meeting.

Electronic voting using SmartHub

- Simply log-in to the SmartHub page on our website in early August.
- Ballots cast will be electronically transmitted to our third party vendor.
- Ballots will be added to all others cast.

Another big change that those attending will notice is a bar-coded registration process. It is our hope that this will speed up

the registration lines. Members will have their registration card scanned at the registration tables – no preregistering will be needed. If you forget the card, we can still look up your name and register you. If you have not voted prior to registering, you will receive a ballot to vote during the business meeting like in past years.

If a member attempts to vote more than once, the first ballot cast counts as the vote. A vote cannot be changed. Only one vote per membership will be allowed. Representatives from our third party vendor will be present at the meeting to oversee the process for us and to accumulate and count all ballots. Once ballots are combined and counted they will notify us of the winners and winners will be announced at the end of the evening.

We look forward to seeing you on September 8. These changes, coupled with the entertainment we are having this year, will hopefully create an enjoyable evening for all of you. Mark your calendars now and watch your mail in early August.

SPOTLIGHT

Trimming crews out working

We will have tree crews working in Cleveland and Richland Townships over the next couple months. Keeping the vegetation trimmed back is very important because it helps cut down on the number of outages.

Office closed for July 4

Our office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th. All routine transactions can be done on our website, nremc.com. If an outage were to occur, we do have security personnel available to take calls.

And speaking of outages...

We have mentioned it several times, but there are still members using Facebook to report outages. Facebook is not monitored 24/7 so please do not send messages reporting outages or seeking information. Postings will be made regularly during large outages. Refer to our website for a real-time outage map.

Signs can be dangerous

Garage sales signs, and the nails and staples left behind on our poles pose a risk to our crews. Please do not attach anything to our utility poles. Please also refrain from placing any yard signs on our substation properties, especially those on corners and near high traffic areas.

Bishop, Romano named 2018 REMC scholarship winners

Northeastern REMC is pleased to announce our two college scholarship recipients for 2018. Over 60 applications were received from very impressive graduating seniors from all across our service territory.

Congratulations to seniors Rozlyn Bishop of Whitko High School and James Romano of Canterbury High School. Rozlyn is the daughter of Victor and Jacki Bishop. She plans to study Theater and Business at Butler University. James is the son of Tony and Jennifer Romano. James has been accepted into the International Studies Program at Indiana University.

Rozlyn is currently Whitko's Student Council President and has held other officer positions during her four years of membership. During her junior year, Rozlyn was inducted into the National Honor Society. Rozlyn has been a cheerleader for four years, serving as captain her senior year. She is a four-year member of FCCLA, SADD, Chamber Ensemble Gospel choir, and theater. She is a



four-year Athletic Honor Society member and has been on High Honor Roll her entire time at Whitko. She is also a 10 year 4-H member. In addition, she has volunteered for numerous community and church programs.



James has been named to Canterbury's Headmaster's list all four years and is presently the senior class President/Randall House leader. James was named an AP Scholar his junior year. He is an award-winning member of the speech and debate team and is a member of the school's Key Club, swim team, soccer team, and golf team. He is the youngest member ever elected to the board of directors of the Whitley County Historical Society, has served as a state and national page for Congress, and volunteers for local and state political campaigns. As a 17-year-old, James recently declared his candidacy for a seat on the Whitley County Council.

Congratulations Rozlyn and James... and to everyone in the Class of 2018. Good luck as you enter this next exciting phase in your lives!

Facebook favorites sitting and waiting for babies to hatch

As we have recently reported on our Facebook page, the osprey platform that Northeastern REMC helped erect on a lakeshore in Whitley County last year has been occupied by a beautiful pair of birds, affectionately named Whitley (female) and Noble (male). Much to the surprise of everyone tracking their nesting activity, Whitley has produced three eggs as of April 28. Young osprey usually only produce two eggs. So followers were surprised and happy to see the third egg come along.

Hatching will commence in mid-late May. One egg hatches every three



days, in the sequence in which they were laid.

This photo captures the difference in Whitley and Noble's coloring. Noble's head has the darkest patch, whereas Whitley has scattered dark feathers on top.

The live cam is not operating yet. However, you can watch live 24/7 by going to YouTube and searching for the Timothy Dygert channel. Click on T for Timothy and then click on live video.

Changes to affect 2018 Annual Meeting



PAGE One

College scholarship winners announced



PAGE Five

LIGHTPOST

Questions? E-mail memberservices@nremc.com

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

260-244-6111 (Columbia City) or 260-625-3700 (Fort Wayne).

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

