



BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
ELECTION
SPECIAL
EDITION

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

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 electricity.** Voting can be done online, by mail, or in person in our lobby beginning on August 9. Turn to the inside pages to learn more about this year's election.

2023
ANNUAL MEETING
LIVE

NORTHEASTERN REMC

**SAVE THE DATE
& SAVE THE LINK**

Saturday, September 9 @ 10:00 a.m.
Columbia City High School

NREMC.COM/LIVE

Join our livestream at 10:00 for
this year's annual business meeting.

Meet this year's candidates

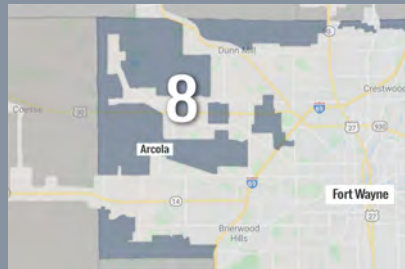
District 1

Eel River Township in **Allen County** and a small portion of **Noble County**



District 8

Lake, Washington, and Aboite Townships in **Allen County**



District 9

Perry Township in **Allen County**



ROB HIGGINS ⚡ DISTRICT 1

INCUMBENT

Rob Higgins has served Northeastern REMC members as the co-op's District 1 director for nine years. He has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold Certifications. Rob is currently the Board chair.

After serving four years as a fire support specialist in the United States Army, Higgins began building a career in the communications and electric utility industries. With over 25 years of experience, Higgins holds the credentials of registered

telecommunications project manager and outside plant designer and is currently the project manager for Spectrum Engineering Corporation, an EnTrust Solutions Group company.

Higgins' primary responsibilities include supporting his design team, tracking projects, and interacting with customers. Higgins is also responsible for his team's budget and revenue forecasting.

And earlier this year, Higgins became an entrepreneur by starting his own fiber splicing business, Foxtrot Splicing. When not at work, Higgins enjoys spending time outdoors with his family including his

daughter, Adrien, and their dog, Meeko. When asked why Higgins would like to serve for another term NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I'm looking forward to serving the people of this cooperative for another three years. I've enjoyed the relationships I've built and the great employees at NREMC."



How were these candidates selected?

After a candidate submits their name, a nominating committee made up of NREMC members vets each candidate through an application and interview process.



JOSEPH HILGER ⚡ DISTRICT 8

Joseph Hilger is the owner-manager of the Hilger Family Farm in Fort Wayne and has been a teacher with the local Catholic diocese schools since 2007.

Hilger has a bachelor's degree in education from Western Governors University and an associate degree in agriculture from Vincennes University.

His community involvement includes being a former member of the Arcola Lions Club, Indiana Vegetable Growers Association Board, and Bishop Dwenger School Board. In addition, he is a current member of Queen of Angel's parish council and the INDOT ProPEL US 30 initiative study board.

Hilger is also a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Hilger has been an NREMC member for 50 years and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1993 to 2008; he served as treasurer and secretary for three years each. He earned his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate.

In his free time, Hilger spends time with his large family and enjoys staying physically active by running, biking, and camping.

When asked why Hilger would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he

said, "Because I have served on NREMC's Board of Directors previously for 15 years, I feel that I can bring experience to the board room and would like to give back to Northeastern. I have the REMC education and experience, plus personal experience running a farm and retail business. My son is now taking over our family business, and I will have the time that it takes to be a Board member."



What does the board do?

The board oversees the co-op's operations and works to represent the best interests of fellow members.



ERIK LINNEMEIER ⚡ DISTRICT 8

INCUMBENT

Erik Linnemeier has served as District 8's director for six years and has obtained his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification during his time on the Board.

Linnemeier has spent over five decades as a member of Northeastern REMC. Upon graduation, Linnemeier joined the 122nd Indiana Air National Guard. After an honorable discharge from the Air Guard and the United States Air Force, Linnemeier began his career in tool and die while earning his BSBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. This led him to positions with

industrial engineering at L H Carbide, Micropulse Inc., Hirata, and ultimately to his present position and 19-year tenure as vice president of Advanced Machine and Tool, a global production and engineering company specializing in conceptualizing, designing, building, and commissioning industrial automated robotic systems and equipment with specialization in electric traction motors used to power many increasingly prevalent electric propulsion systems.

Linnemeier is a former school board member of Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School and formerly held the position of Lake Township trustee, managing the government affairs of the Township and

its residents. Linnemeier is a past Arcola Volunteer Fire Department member and Allen County 4-H Fair Horse and Pony member.

Linnemeier and his wife have three children, all raised in Northeastern's District 8. When asked why Linnemeier would like to serve for another term on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "Reliable, affordable energy is not only important for all of us, it is expected. I hope to serve again to ensure decisions at our co-op remain in line with this core mission."



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.



TOM WURST ⚡ DISTRICT 8

Tom Wurst has worked at Pyrotek Inc., a global engineering company located in Columbia City, for 18 years and serves in many roles; this includes customer service manager for Pyrotek USA Foundry and Aluminum Divisions, inside sales manager for the US foundry division, subject matter expert temperature measurement, and sales engineer for the foundry division. In addition, Wurst has held similar roles at other local manufacturers over the past 35 years.

Wurst earned his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Purdue University Fort Wayne while also working full-time.

His community involvement included being the past director of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Children's Festival for a decade. He has also served as a board member for his neighborhood association, volunteered time as an Aboite girls softball coach, and taught Sunday school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Wurst also volunteers as part of the Woodside Middle School and Homestead Show Choir parent stage crew.

Together, he and his wife, Amy, have three daughters, one son, and a granddaughter. They enjoy cooking, vacationing, reading, and an occasional round of golf.

When asked why he would like to serve on

NREMC's Board of Directors, Wurst said, "The main reasons to serve on the Board of Directors are to give back to my community and to serve the co-op members. The community has been a very good place to raise a family, and I want to do my part to make sure that this area thrives."



Do I only vote in my district?

Members cast a vote in each district race. Director candidates are elected at large to ensure that all areas within our service territory are represented.



QUENTIN BROWN ⚡ DISTRICT 9

Quentin Brown is project manager for power/natural Gas Utilities at Middough Inc., an engineering, procurement, and construction management company with eight offices in seven states, including Merrillville, Indiana. Before this position, Brown spent more than 25 years with Northern Indiana Public Service Company in various field positions and multiple management roles in contractor services and operations, safety, and compliance.

Brown has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Saint Francis in addition to his bachelor's

degree in applied management from Trine University, where he was an honors graduate.

Married for 26 years, he and his wife have three children, two boys and one girl. They've raised their children in Allen County, where they've resided for 18 years. Brown's family also includes four busy dogs that love to be included in everything the family does. As a family, the Browns enjoy roasting hot dogs and marshmallows around the campfire together and having movie nights. They can also be found attending car and motorcycle shows or events.

When asked why Brown would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I would like to serve as a director for NREMC to share my knowledge and experience over the last 25+ years working in the natural gas/electric industry."



How will the results be shared?

Board of Directors election results will be posted on nremc.com and on our Facebook page Monday, September 11.



MICHAEL EVANS ⚡ DISTRICT 9

Michael Evans has spent 25 years in information technology, working in various industries. He spent the first part of his career working in the automotive industry, and more recently, he's worked in the aerospace and defense industries. He started his career as a computer programmer, advancing to systems analyst, project manager, and IT manager.

Evans earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. While in college, he worked as a disc jockey on WMTU radio. Michigan Tech is where Michael developed a love of hockey and snow,

including building snow statues for Michigan Tech's annual Winter Carnival.

Michael's volunteerism includes his son's Boy Scout troop, Junior Achievement, and the Boys and Girls Club in Fort Wayne. Through his employer, he has also volunteered at Shepherd's House and the Great American Cleanup. He also regularly attends Promise Ministries church. Evans is happily married to Kimberly, his wife of 22 years, and they have three children.

In his free time, Michael likes to spend time outdoors, hiking and camping. He and his family can often be found at the TinCap baseball games in the summer and enjoy Komets hockey in the winter.

When asked why Evans would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I have a strong sense of community and service to the community. I look at being a Board member as a service to the community."

? What districts are up for election next year?

The 2024 election will include districts 2, 3, and 4.

To find your district and learn more about running for a position on the Board of Directors in the future, go to nremc.com/candidates.



JEREMY MCCLISH ⚡ DISTRICT 9

INCUMBENT

Jeremy McClish resides in Northwest Allen County and has served as District 9's director for three years. During that time, he earned his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification.

McClish is passionate about serving his community and has recently been named CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne. He previously served as Habitat's COO and began working at the nonprofit in 2017 when he moved back to Fort Wayne.

Before entering the nonprofit space, McClish

gained experience in several industries. He worked in franchising for an international brand in Denver, he and his wife helped manage a working guest ranch in the Rocky Mountains, and he also helped launch a health care startup south of Chicago. Throughout his career, McClish has worked closely with several CEOs and board directors. He has vast experience both in creating and executing strategic plans, as well as managing budgets of similar size to NREMC's.

McClish attends Pathway Community Church with his wife, Molly, and their three kids, where he has served in the children's ministry, marriage ministry, and various discipleship

groups. You can also catch him volunteering at various activities and school events for his kids.

When asked why McClish would like to serve NREMC's Board of Directors for another term, he said, "My passion for service and business experience make this role as District 9's director a very exciting fit. It would be a joy to continue using my skills, experiences, and passions to serve the cooperative."

? 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 electricity.



DR. STEVEN SALKELD ⚡ DISTRICT 9

Dr. Steven Salkeld has practiced dentistry in Fort Wayne and Noblesville, Indiana, and Phoenix, Arizona, and is now at Bertsch Family Dentistry (formerly Salkeld Family Dental), centrally located in Perry Township.

Dr. Salkeld attended Northrop High School and then pursued his bachelor's degree at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, along with a doctorate from Indiana University School of Dentistry. He also graduated from the Misch International Implant Institute and, in 2005, received his fellowship in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

Dr. Salkeld is a member of the American Dental Association, Indiana Dental Association, and Isaac Knapp District Dental Society (IKDDS). He served as an alternate delegate to the IDA House of Delegates and also served on the Board of Directors of IKDDS.

He is married to his wife, Erin, and they have two sons, Connor and Carson.

Dr. Salkeld is active outdoors and enjoys motorcycles, hockey, and time with his family. He is also a USA Hockey official in his spare time, refereeing local and regional hockey games.

When asked why Dr. Salkeld would like to

serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I can apply my 32 years of experience owning and operating a dental office directly to the Board. As a dentist, I have acted as CEO, human resources, payroll and office manager, leader, and trainer and have developed numerous standard operating procedures. Specifically, the leadership skills I have acquired in the Indiana Dental Association and IKDDS can directly apply to the NREMC Board of Directors."



Watch for your ballot and voting instructions in the mail. You can vote online, by mail, or in person.



MERRITT WEBB ⚡ DISTRICT 9

Merritt Webb is a licensed professional engineer. Webb grew up in a small town in

Indiana and always had a curiosity about how things worked. This led him to study mechanical engineering at Purdue. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, Webb worked at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company as a mechanical analyst on several satellite programs. While at Lockheed, Webb went to Stanford University and earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Webb missed Indiana and returned to work at L3Harris in multiple roles centered around technology management and

the development of weather satellite instruments for 29 years. Among these is the ABI instrument that provides the images we see on the evening weather segments.

Webb is now a product team lead at Raytheon. Throughout his engineering career, Webb has worked with suppliers and customers. He understands that cooperation, collaboration, and cost are keys to achieving success.

Webb has been an NREMC customer for 30 years. Webb and his wife, Ann, have raised a son and stepson. Ann paints in their free time, and Webb enjoys metal working, as well as golf, sports, and photography.

When asked why Webb would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors, he said, "I would like to use my experience in solving problems and working with technology to help our cooperative. I have been very fortunate and want to give back. I want to help the company and the members of the cooperative. My understanding of people and technology will help us move forward, and I welcome the opportunity to serve."



When does online voting end?

Online voting ends on Thursday, September 7 at noon.



RANDY WEDDLE ⚡ DISTRICT 9

Randy Weddle is the chief operations officer for Kids Read Now, a nonprofit company

providing a literacy program for children. He previously served as the vice president of client services for Fetch! Pet Care, working to develop and implement a scalable call center for all the franchisees. Before this, he was the chief operating officer at One Call Now until 2015.

Weddle has obtained a dual bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting and a master's degree in business administration, both from Urbana University in Ohio. He also received an associate degree in programming from

Northwestern Business College in Lima, Ohio.

New to the Fort Wayne community, Weddle previously served as a member of the Troy Chamber of Commerce and Vandalia Rotary Club. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he chaired an annual church festival for 10 years where, along with countless volunteers, they raised more than one million dollars.

Weddle and his wife, Jackie, enjoy spending their free time playing pickle ball, disc golf, hiking, biking, and kayaking.

When asked why Weddle would like to serve on NREMC's Board of Directors,

he said, "One of my goals is to make a positive difference in everything I do. Continuous learning, personal growth, and helping others do the same is a passion. I have over 35 years of experience in management, training, strategic planning, and operations. Serving on the NREMC Board is a great way to utilize my business knowledge and experiences and pay it forward by helping our community."



How can I watch the annual meeting?

Tune in on September 9 at 10:00 a.m. at nremc.com/live.

To learn more about each candidate go to nremc.com/election or scan the code to the right.





Upcoming Member Appreciation Nights

Friday, August 18

Columbia City @ Churubusco
Football game at 7 p.m.

Friday, September 29

Homestead @ Carroll
Football game at 7 p.m.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook to learn more about these special events!

Whitley County 4-H Fair Brat Stand

Thanks for everyone who stopped by our tent at the Arcola National Truck and Tractor Pull! We hope you had a great time! Don't forget to stop by and see us at the brat stand at the Whitley County 4-H Fair.

Wednesday, July 19

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Labor Day

Our lobby will be closed on

Monday, Sept. 4.

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

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

888-413-6111

nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig!

2022 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*.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS for the year ended December 31

		2022	2021
Operating Revenues		\$148,122,518	\$125,801,631
Operating Expenses	Purchased Power	\$121,547,957	\$100,596,967
	Other Operations	8,689,215	7,886,039
	Maintenance	3,704,307	2,832,409
	Depreciation	5,983,817	5,330,527
	Taxes	1,474,220	2,213,603
	Other Interest and Deductions	61,572	38,121
Total Operating Expenses		\$141,461,088	\$118,897,666
Interest on Noncurrent Liabilities		\$3,315,943	\$2,953,162
Operating Margins		\$3,345,487	\$3,950,803
Non-Operating Margins	G & T and Other Capital Credits	\$320,473	\$281,535
	Interest Income	146,975	59,227
	Miscellaneous	52,327	55,381
Total Non-Operating Margins		\$519,775	\$396,143
Net Margins		\$3,865,262	\$4,346,946

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET December 31

		2022	2021
Assets			
Utility Plant	Electric Plant (at cost)	\$203,615,223	\$175,294,744
	Construction Work in Progress	6,961,426	8,890,124
	Accumulated Depreciation	(78,936,947)	(74,513,221)
Net Utility Plant		\$131,639,702	\$109,671,647
Total Other Assets and Investments		\$14,512,570	\$14,505,287
Current Assets	Cash and Temporary Investments	\$951,700	\$11,363,637
	Accounts Receivable	9,470,118	9,871,201
	Accrued Utility Revenues	2,691,023	2,162,429
	Materials and Supplies	3,502,114	2,202,618
	Current and Accrued Assets	3,997,077	512,918
Total Current Assets		\$20,612,032	\$26,112,803
Deferred Charges		\$2,979,296	\$3,617,384
Total Assets		\$169,743,600	\$153,907,121
Equities and Liabilities			
Equities	Memberships	\$426,855	\$420,535
	Patronage Capital	47,098,806	45,524,056
	Other Equities	16,142,489	15,407,296
Total Equities		\$63,668,150	\$61,351,887
Long-Term Debt		\$76,544,677	\$73,453,116
Current Liabilities	Current Maturities of Noncurrent Liabilities	\$2,846,254	\$2,630,753
	Notes Payable	3,372,000	0
	Accounts Payable	11,630,120	9,916,927
	Current and Accrued Liabilities	11,278,236	6,321,413
Total Current Liabilities		\$29,126,610	\$18,869,093
Total Deferred Credits		\$404,163	\$233,025
Total Equities and Liabilities		\$169,743,600	\$153,907,121



WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES EACH YEAR

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

2023 ANNUAL MEETING LIVE

NORTHEASTERN REMC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
@ 10:00 A.M.
COLUMBIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Join our livestream at 10:00 for
this year's annual business meeting.

NREMC.COM/LIVE

This year's annual meeting will be held at Columbia City High School just south of Columbia City on state Road 9. Remember that we no longer combine the meeting and a member appreciation event. Instead, family-fun events are held throughout the year across our service area.

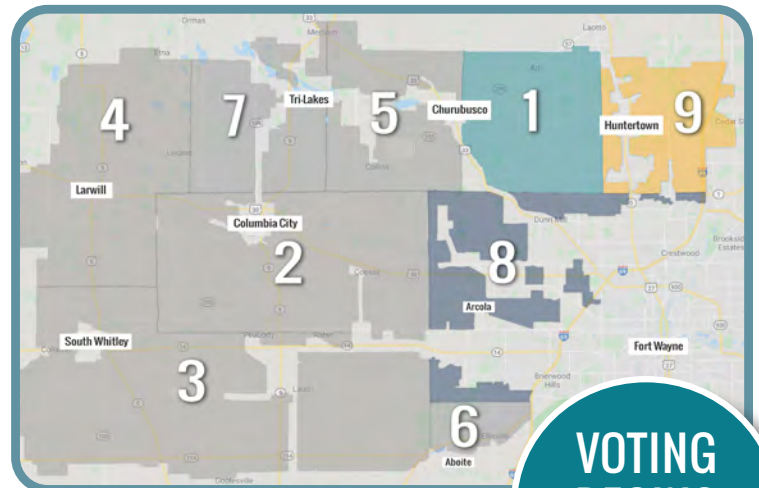


YOUR VOTE MATTERS

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. 9**

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

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

In this issue:



DETAILS INSIDE

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 2023

NORTHEASTERN REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



888-413-6111 nremc.com