

News from Your Co-op

January 2022



Hello, 2022! A look back and a look ahead

As we start a new year in 2022, we want to take this time to reflect on the accomplishments our co-op achieved over the past year and look ahead at what is still to come.

UDWI had a productive 2021, despite the challenges of operating through the pandemic. Our crews were able to replace nearly 800 utility poles in 2021, which is crucial to improving system reliability. Pole replacement was one of the primary points of focus for our crews. We were also able to replace 15 miles of line in our service area.

In addition, Hoosier Heritage Management and contracted vegetation management teams cleared nearly 70 miles of right-of-way, sprayed herbicide and chemical vegetation management over 50 miles, and mowed another 22 miles. This work improves our system's reliability and safety while reducing our line losses.

In 2022, the co-op plans to continue its focus on improving system reliability as well as working with Hoosier Energy to reduce your power supply costs. These goals would not be possible without the dedication of our UDWI and HHM staff, and the contractor groups who serve our cooperative. We are truly grateful for the countless hours of hard work our crews have spent improving service for our members.

If you have visited our website lately, you might have noticed we got a new look! Our website was due for an upgrade and we contracted with Indiana Electric Cooperatives to make it happen. We also refreshed our logo in an effort to modernize the brand and better align with the co-op's goals and objectives. You will still see the old logo on work trucks and company equipment as we slowly make the transition.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, maintenance, and internal initiatives, UDWI continues to stay committed to giving back to its communities and members. This past year, over \$56,000 was donated through UDWI's Community Fund to nearly 40 non-profit organizations across our 11 counties. Several of our employees also participated in safety demonstrations to teach community members about power line safety. We hope for the opportunity to participate in more community events as we navigate the pandemic, and we are always looking for ways to engage with our members. If you have a community event you would like to see UDWI attend, please reach out to our office with more information.

We are very proud of what we've accomplished and are excited about what we can accomplish in the future. The UDWI REMC Board of Directors and our employees want to thank our members for allowing us to serve them in 2021. We look forward to serving you in 2022 and wish you a healthy and prosperous new year.

Did you know?





Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/udwiremc



Follow us on Twitter
www.twitter.com/udwiremc

OFFICE INFORMATION



The UDWI REMC Office Lobby is CLOSED until further notice. This measure will help protect both our members and employees. The Drive-Thru Window remains OPEN for daily business. Visit our website and Facebook page for regular updates.



Annual Meeting of Members
April 19, 2022
UDWI REMC Headquarters main garage
Doors open 5 p.m. / meeting begins 6 p.m.

Qualifications for UDWI REMC Board of Directors

To be eligible to become a director of the REMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of the cooperative;
2. Must be a bona fide resident in the district which he/she is to represent;
3. Must not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the REMC, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative;
4. Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the REMC.

Three candidates will be elected at the 2022 annual meeting. **Districts 3 and 6 are up for election.** Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

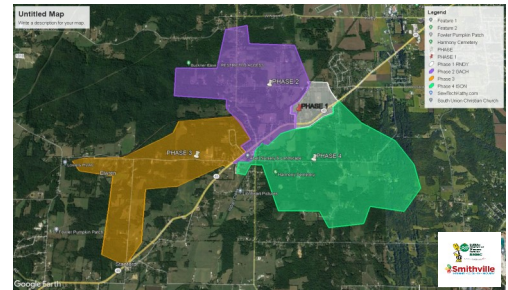
Interested candidates must contact the UDWI office to receive a candidate packet.

Completed packets must be turned in on or before **Wednesday, January 19, 2022.**

Smithville & UDWI REMC Partnership Update

Smithville completed the construction portion of Phase 3 in December and began scheduling orders while preparing for Phase 4 construction which is set to begin in January 2022. See the project plan timeline below!

- Stanford Phase 1 & 2 – Construction completed, connecting new customer to fiber connections in this area.
- Construction on Phase 3 – Construction completed, scheduling new customer to fiber connections in this area.
- Construction on Phase 4 – Everything is ready for construction to start in January 2022.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT — Stacy

How long have you worked at UDWI REMC? 10 months

Current position: Member Service Representative

What is your favorite part of working at the co-op? Coworkers & members, everyone is very welcoming

Memorable moment at work: Meeting Rupert Boneham (Survivor contestant) virtually in a conference

What are your hobbies? Fishing & kayaking in the summer, dabble in DIY projects at home

What are your pet peeves? Loud chewers

Favorite Food & Drink: Sushi and Pepsi or water



Erin's Purpose for a Purpose

In September, the Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC's Community Fund, Inc. donated to Erin's Purpose for its youth center construction.

Founded in 2020, Erin's Purpose is a faith-based organization that works to empower youth in the Greene County community. After losing her daughter Erin to suicide, Terri Neighbors launched the non-profit in Erin's honor to help save the lives of those who are living, or help them find a purpose for their lives.

"Life is so awesome and we are meant to have an abundant life," Neighbors said. "I just want everyone that I come into contact with to know and to feel this and to believe it."

The grant received by Erin's Purpose will be used to assist with the remodel of its youth center. The center, located in Bloomfield, is a space that offers support groups, meals, and counseling and service opportunities. A weekly community group, Overflow, is offered on Tuesday nights where a meal is shared before breaking into groups for bible studies.

The grant was given by UDWI's non-profit grant program created by the cooperative that provides members with an avenue to make a difference in their communities. The program allows members to round up their energy bills to the next whole dollar to create the funds. Then, the community fund board of trustees awards the amount collected to local organizations.



UDWI REMC Office Administrator Lydia Campbell (left) presenting the "big check" to Erin's Purpose founder Terri Neighbors (right).



December 2021 Community Fund Grant Recipients

The following organizations were awarded grants from the UDWI REMC Community Fund.

Thank you to those members who contributed to this worthwhile program!

- ◇ Autism Rocks and Rolls Corporation
- ◇ Bloomfield Alpha Theta Chapter of Tri Kappa
- ◇ Bloomfield Downtown Revitalization, Inc.
- ◇ Bloomfield Unified Track
- ◇ Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (Greene County)
- ◇ Greene County Hospital Foundation, Inc.
- ◇ Pregnancy Choices
- ◇ Servants at Work (SAWs)
- ◇ Wagler Education and Training Center
- ◇ Worthington Lions Club

Applications are currently being accepted for the March 2022 quarterly meeting.



Meter testing continues

UDWI REMC meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory and will do so over the next few years.

Each employee will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard. Be sure to identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement office.

"Like" us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

