

**CONTACT US**

Office: 765-473-6668 / 800-844-6668

**WEBSITE**

[www.mcremc.coop](http://www.mcremc.coop)

**EMAIL**

[mcremc@mcremc.coop](mailto:mcremc@mcremc.coop)

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**STREET ADDRESS**

3086 W. 100 N.  
Peru, IN 46970

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 168  
Peru, IN 46970

**POWER OUTAGES**

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Donald E. Willson, *President*  
Dennis "Jim" Savage, *Vice President*  
Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Tony Caldwell  
Mark B. Hahn  
Scott Marschand  
Todd Smith

**STAFF**

Robert Schwartz  
*CEO*  
Brandon Williams  
*Director of Operations*  
Matt Mavrick  
*Director of Information Technology*  
Kim Burton  
*Director of Member Services*  
Stephanie Ziems  
*Director of Finance and Accounting*



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/mcremc](http://www.facebook.com/mcremc)



Follow us on Twitter  
[www.twitter.com/MiamiCassREMC](http://www.twitter.com/MiamiCassREMC)

# Annual meeting change

## 2020 MEETING WILL GO VIRTUAL



In these unique times, your Miami-Cass REMC board of directors had to make a difficult and unprecedented decision. After much discussion, it was decided to make our annual meeting a virtual meeting on Sept. 15. The decision was made with the safety of our members and our employees in mind.

At many of our meetings for the last 81 years, we have had more than 500 members in attendance, usually in a confined space such as a tent or auditorium. With social distancing in place, along with the amount of people allowed in one space, we did not believe we could find a suitable venue for the meeting.

If I would have thrown out the words "virtual meeting" a year ago, some of you would have wondered, "What on Earth is a virtual meeting?" However, today I am sure most of us see or hear the term several times a day on the TV, on the radio and on social media.

The plans for our virtual meeting will be as follows: first, look for an insert in your bill, an email, or a postcard. This will direct you to an issue of our Indiana Connection magazine that you receive every month.

In that issue, we will add several new pages which will include last

year's annual meeting minutes and financials. At that time, we will ask for you to vote to approve the meeting's minutes.

I also wanted to inform you of the status of the board of directors election. There will not be an election this year since the incumbent directors are running unopposed.

The second step of our virtual meeting is that you will need to mail to us your postcard from September's Indiana Connection magazine. Your card will then be used for us to meet our quorum.

The card will also be saved and used to draw for prizes, which will include bill credits and gift cards. We are increasing the number of prizes for this meeting. The drawing will be done live following a short address from both Board President Jim Savage and myself. We have not yet decided what media will be used for the virtual meeting, however we are leaning toward Google Meets or Facebook live. The postcards you receive will provide step-by-step instructions on how to join the meeting.

The employees, directors and I always enjoy seeing you at our annual meeting, but this year it will be slightly different. We hope we can all get together again in person in 2021.

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO

# WATER RECREATION

## safety

POOLS AND LAKES  
AND ELECTRICAL  
SAFETY - OH MY!

### POOL SAFETY:

- Use battery-operated appliances or waterproof covers for electrical appliances so you can avoid the risk of electrical shock.
- If someone in the pool feels electricity, don't dive in. Use a non-metal shepherd's hook to pull him/her out of the water.

### RIVER/LAKE SAFETY:

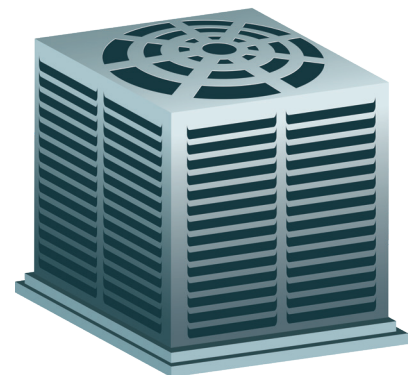
- Avoid swimming or getting in the water near boats plugged into shore power or docks with electrical services.
- Fishing on a dock or boat? Keep a distance of at least 10 feet between your pole or boat and nearby power lines.
- If someone in the water is shocked, turn off the power source and use an insulated device to attempt to remove him/her from the water.

Staying safe while near the water is simple but these tips can be easily forgotten. So, create a checklist for your family and friends to review before jumping in the deep end.



## Board meets in APRIL

1. Counted six board members attending via teleconference. Miami-Cass REMC attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
3. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
4. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
5. Financial report given by Schwartz.
6. March monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
7. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miami-Cass REMC boardroom.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save..

Lowering the temperature on your thermostat will help you save energy and money.



# FROM YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

## What is energy efficiency?



KIM BURTON

By Kim Burton

It has been some time since my last article concerning energy efficiency and your home. I plan to write these more often to help you save energy and money.

A question that is posed to me on a regular basis is "What is energy efficiency and what is energy conservation?" My definition is energy efficiency is using less electricity but not giving up any comfort. Energy conservation is saving electricity by giving up some of the luxuries of life.

As an energy advisor, I concentrate on helping our customers implement energy efficiency measures without sacrificing their way of living. Here are some of the

easy ways you can save energy without spending lots of money:

- The easiest change you can implement to lower your bill is to install LED lights. These lights use a fraction of electricity compared to incandescent bulbs while giving you all the options you may require, such as dimming. The life of LED lights is also much longer than the old bulbs. I also recommend purchasing lights with the ENERGY STAR® logo, as they seem to have a longer life.
- Another simple way to save money and energy is to change the temperature on the thermostat when not at home. In the summer, raising the temperature by three degrees

can save you on the amount of electricity you use.

- Ceiling fans are a great way to stay cool during the summer. However, you should turn them off when not in the room to save on your electric bill.

These few tips can help lower the amount of electricity used this summer. Keep in mind, however, the largest use of energy in a home is for heating and cooling.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to email me at [kimb@mcremc.coop](mailto:kimb@mcremc.coop) or you can call me at 765-473-6668.

**Kim Burton** is director of member services and energy advisor at Miami-Cass REMC.

# WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES!

With the acquisition of Broadway Broadband in January, the co-op welcomed several new employees. Through this acquisition, Miami-Cass REMC is excited to begin making high-speed internet available to customers in areas that otherwise would be forgotten.

**MIKE BARRON**, director of marketing for Broadway Broadband powered by Miami-Cass REMC, reports to Kim Burton, director of member services



**MIKE BARRON**

for the co-op. His position includes marketing, sales, billing and helping with new or existing customer needs.

Barron had been with Broadway Broadband for eight years prior to the acquisition. He is from Logansport and has been married for 13 years. Barron and his wife have five children, three of whom

are still at home. He is an avid sports enthusiast who enjoys golfing and watching his younger three play various sports. Barron is also a life group leader and member of Revolution Community Church of Logansport. He is also a member of the Peru and Cass County Chamber of Commerce and the Cass County Roosters.

In addition to his responsibilities with Broadway Broadband, Barron will also be cross training with Burton to help with the co-op's member services responsibilities. He appreciates the REMC's commitment to the community as well as the network and support that is demonstrated in the cooperative business model.

**MARK PAGE**, operations superintendent for Broadway Broadband, reports to Matt Mavrick, director of information technology at the co-op. His duties include overseeing all the day-to-day operations within the fiber optic, wireless, and construction realm; network mapping and engineering which includes maintaining all network equipment; and responding to all outages involved in the broadband spectrum.

Currently, Page has two wireless technicians and six construction team members reporting to him.

Page had been with Broadway Broadband for nine years prior



**MARK PAGE**

to the acquisition. He has been married for nine years and has three children. Page's interests include vintage stereos and working around the house.

He appreciates the family-oriented environment of the co-op and is excited about realizing the dream of spreading high-speed internet to underserved areas of Miami and Cass counties. Page looks forward to the challenges surrounding the planning, engineering and constructing of 150 miles of fiber to these communities.

The staff and board of directors of Miami-Cass REMC are excited to have Barron and Page as part of the team of Broadway Broadband Powered by Miami-Cass.



## Utility poles ARE NOT SIGN POSTS.



If you are having a sale or have something else to post, please do not post it on utility poles.

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs — as well as the signs themselves — pose dangers to electric lineworkers who might have to climb that pole when either restoring power following a storm or performing routine maintenance. It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

Utility poles sure look attractive for folks wanting to easily hang roadside signs. But a lineworker's job is dangerous enough. Linemen work high overhead with live power lines in all kinds of weather to keep our lights on and our homes cool or warm. Don't add to that danger.

