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POWER OUTAGES

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

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SAVE ENERGY WHEN WORKING FROM HOME



Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ones.

1. **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.
2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.
3. **Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment.** If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most

energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in — and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!
5. **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Miami-Cass REMC if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO

MIAMI-CASS REMC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

KERRI GAUMER

KERRI GAUMER,

human resource assistant for Miami-Cass REMC, started with the cooperative in March 2021. She works part time and assists Lora Goodman, director of human resources, with various assignments and tasks.

Prior to joining the REMC, she was a stay-at-home mom and helped her mother with her local wedding and party decorating business. Gaumer enjoys the diversity of her job, indicating that each day brings something new. And while she enjoys the range of her position, she said it can also be the most challenging part of the job.



Gaumer was born in Spain and spent some of her childhood in Guam. Her parents were both in the Navy, and she moved to Peru, Indiana, in the fourth grade when they retired.

She began participating in the Peru Amateur Circus when she was in fifth grade and continued to participate throughout high school as a trapeze artist. While in high school, she met a couple who invited her to travel with them, both domestically and internationally, performing as a trapeze artist. She spent the first two years after graduating as a circus professional.

After returning to Peru, she married her husband, Zach, in 2012. The couple have two boys, ages 9 and 4. In her spare time, she enjoys

spending time with her family, and she still devotes part of her spring and summer to the circus. She has spent the last 11 years as a trapeze trainer and was able to share her experience with her oldest son this past summer when he performed for his first time.

Gaumer's bucket list items include sky diving and spending time traveling the world. She also indicated that someday she would like to spend more time traveling the world.

Gaumer shared that what she appreciates most about working at the REMC is the people with whom she works.

We at Miami-Cass REMC are proud to have her as part of the co-op family. She is an asset to our team and we are thankful to have her.



UTILITY POLES AREN'T BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign! Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and flyers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

Their jobs are dangerous enough ... help us keep them safe!

Saying goodbye

KIM BURTON RETIRES FROM THE COOPERATIVE



KIM BURTON

On Feb. 17, I will officially retire after 16 1/2 years of serving you, our members.

When I started at Miami-Cass REMC, I was hired as its energy advisor. I enjoyed helping you save money by being more energy efficient and making your home more comfortable. I then transitioned to director of member services. I will always be grateful for working at the REMC.

The best part of my career was being your energy advisor. I was able to come into your home and help you by making suggestions on how to make your home more comfortable while also reducing your electric bill. The Touchstone Energy Home program is a favorite of mine, and it has helped several members enjoy a nice home that was affordable to heat and cool, along with being energy efficient. I enjoyed meeting and serving our members more than any other part of the job.

I've had the privilege to meet with other electric cooperatives' energy advisors and communicators, both here in Indiana and nationally, to learn what they are doing in serving their members. This interaction has been unbelievably valuable in helping me serve you.

Another part of my job that was personally fulfilling was being involved in our youth programs. The 4-H Electric program (sponsoring and judging), Indiana Youth Tour (a trip to Washington, D.C.), Camp Kilowatt, and doing safety demonstrations for fourth graders are programs I will miss.

Many improvements have been made at the REMC during my time here, like hourly-use data and prepaid metering. As well, broadband metering is now bringing high speed internet to your homes.

I will miss visiting with our members, but hope to attend some of the annual meetings to visit with you. I know the commitment to the members will continue to be a top priority at Miami-Cass REMC. I am lucky to be able to retire with my health, and I look forward to seeing you as a retiree. The folks who are assuming my responsibilities share the same commitment to our members and community that I do. Therefore, I know you will be in good hands.

Lastly, I want to thank our members, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (our power provider), Indiana Electric Cooperatives (our statewide service organization) and my co-workers for making my time at Miami-Cass REMC a very enjoyable experience. I will deeply miss working with all of you.

Board meets in DECEMBER

1. Counted six board members in attendance. Attorney Jeremy Fetty attended via teleconference.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA report.
3. Fetty presented the legal report.
4. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
7. November monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights-of-way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs.
- Restore power more quickly.
- Keep crews and members of our community safe.
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs.

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you, our members!

APPLY FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

CAMP KILOWATT

JUNE
8-11

A fun, powerful and unique camp experience designed for students entering seventh grade in 2022. Horseback riding, canoeing, zip lining, trying out archery, swimming, learning about electrical safety and bucket truck rides.

APPLY: Apply by Feb. 23 at CampKilowatt.org.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

JUNE
16-23

Miami-Cass REMC wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C. Monuments, museums, legislators, friends, history. *Must be a high school junior to apply.*

APPLY: Apply by Feb. 23 at IndianaYouthTour.org.



COOPERATIVE CALENDAR OF STUDENT ART CONTEST



Pull out those paints, crayons and colored pencils, and enter your artwork in the Cooperative Calendar of Student Art contest by March 18. Indiana public,

private or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2021-22 school year are eligible to enter the contest.

Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, originality, creativity, how well the assigned month is depicted, and suitability for a wall calendar. Artwork can be landscapes, portraits, still lifes, etc., as long as the monthly theme is somehow portrayed.

APPLY: A complete set of rules and required entry forms are available at IndianaConnection.org/For-Youth/Art-Contest.