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OFFICE HOURS

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

STREET ADDRESS

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Peru, IN 46970

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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

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THE *good* KIND OF AUDIT

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we would like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Miami-Cass REMC offers free home energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help you determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas, and keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a good kind of audit.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE AUDIT

The audit is comprised of three parts: evaluation, energy testing, and recommendations.

First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows, and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In the testing phase, the advisor will evaluate the seal of your home by conducting a blower door test to identify the source of any air leaks or drafts. The advisor will also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

THE POWER TO SAVE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption, and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money.

One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and, more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

Additionally, making improvements and upgrades based on the evaluation can increase your property value — all the more reason to schedule an audit for your home.

Free energy audits are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you'll take advantage of this valuable service.



ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO



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Chester bids a fond farewell as she retires from the cooperative

As my tenure of over 35 years at Miami-Cass REMC came to a close in January, I reflected on many things and would like to share a few words to all of you. I started working at the REMC on Halloween in 1988. My daughter, Brandy, was eight at the time. The following year, I thought I was going to be terminated when on our company kayaking trip, Brandy hit the former CEO, Jim Yates, in the head with a paddle and broke his expensive sunglasses. He let that one go and allowed me to remain employed, thankfully!

I have worked through many changes in the organization from a single meter reader to a now fully automated meter reading system. If we had a software program implemented, I knew how to run it.

Thank you all my former co-workers for all the memories shared. I want to thank Brandon (Williams) and the line crew for trusting me during outages and for all the storms we worked through to get our wonderful members back online with power. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work, learn,

grow, and serve this co-op in various capacities — all while taking great pride in the work performed.

I feel blessed for the years I have grown to know each of my co-workers, our board members and our members, along with their families. I am looking forward to spending more time with my daughter and two grandchildren. She is no longer the eight-year-old girl she was when I started. She is now a beautiful 43-year-old mother of two with four college degrees. In addition to spending time with them, I also look forward to traveling!

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support offered to me over the years. I have genuinely enjoyed my employment tenure and will miss seeing you all and the witty humor shared. Adventure is on the horizon.



PREPARING FOR WINTER STORMS



WHEN WINTER STORMS STRIKE, POWER OUTAGES CAN HAPPEN. PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS BEFORE THEY HIT.

Keep a storm preparedness kit fully stocked. This should include bottled water, non-perishable food, emergency blankets, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, battery-operated or hand-crank radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

If the lights go out, keep warm air in and cool air out by not opening doors to unused rooms. Do not open doors to the outdoors unless necessary.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible, and eat perishable food first. Stock up on ice so you can keep things in coolers to keep them from going bad. If the refrigerator reaches 40 degrees Fahrenheit, foods can become unsafe to eat.

CAMP KILOWATT

APPLY FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

CAMP KILOWATT

JUNE
5-8

Camp Kilowatt is a fun, powerful, and unique camp experience designed for students entering seventh grade in 2024.

Activities include horseback riding, zip lining, archery, swimming, and learning about electrical safety.

APPLY: Apply by March 1 at CampKilowatt.org.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE
16-23

Miami-Cass REMC is sponsoring a week-long, all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C., for students entering their senior year of high school. The trip includes visits to historic monuments and museums, meetings on Capitol Hill with Indiana's congressional delegation, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

APPLY: Apply by March 1 at IndianaYouthTour.org.

HAYS PUTS A WRAP ON HER CAREER AT THE CO-OP

That's a wrap for me, Michelle, or Margie to some. While I've only worked at Miami Cass REMC for about nine years, I've made a lifetime of friendships with coworkers and members.

My co-op journey began as I sat in my car at a truck stop, praying for a sign that would allow me to move on from my former job — one I loved, but one that required long, irregular hours and was taking a toll on me.

The Lord told me to cross the highway and ask if the REMC was hiring. Turns out, they were. I applied and was selected. An answered prayer.

While I knew nothing about a co-op, I've always been good with people and like to think I have a caring heart. I've been able to share good times, and sadly, some difficult times with our members. I've held hands with those grieving for a variety of reasons,

hugged them and prayed with them, and tried to be as comforting as I could be, believing that was why God put me at the co-op as a member service representative.

The members have been so good to me as well, with some bringing me gifts, baked goods, produce from their gardens, etc. ... and so many kind words of support over the years.

While I always hoped to be a blessing to others, turns out others were also a blessing to me. Thank you for all the well wishes as I move into the next phase of my life. I'm anxious to see what God has planned for me.



DECEMBER Board Meeting

1. Seven board members attended. Attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA monthly report.
3. Todd Smith presented the IEC monthly report.
4. Fetty presented the monthly legal report.
5. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
6. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
7. Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
8. November monthly operating, member services, human resources, and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
9. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.

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Scan the QR code below or call 833-639-8522.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP


Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days. Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier. — Energy.gov

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