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OFFICE HOURS

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis "Jim" Savage, President

Todd Smith, Vice President

Cindy Scott, Secretary-Treasurer

Tony Caldwell

Mark B. Hahn

Scott Marschand

Donald E. Willson

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



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A co-op culture for ALL



Over the years, you've heard me expound on why and how Miami-Cass REMC is different - because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from

other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Miami-Cass REMC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

EOUAL ACCESS FOR ALL

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Your electric cooperative was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in Miami-Cass REMC's director elections every March, and we invite all members to participate in co-op meetings to weigh in on discussions that set co-op policies and priorities.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the coop. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

INCLUSION

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Miami-Cass REMC was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you — the members we proudly serve — is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all!

ROB SCHWARTZ

CEO

co-op news



SAVE THE DATE!

MIAMI-CASS REMC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 17

Stay tuned for more details in Indiana Connection, on our website and on our social media sites!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (ENERGY.GOV)



Board meets in

- Counted seven board members attending via teleconference. Attorney J. Michael Deweese also attended via teleconference.
- 2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
- 3. IEC board report was given by Todd Smith
- 4. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
- Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
- 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 Thursday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

All of us at Miami-Cass REMC wish you a happy Valentine's Day! If you get some mylar balloons for the special day, make sure to dispose of them properly and not release them outdoors. Releasing them outdoors

could cause them to become entangled in power lines causing a possible outage.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MEET STEPHANIE ZIEMS

In the first of a series highlighting our outstanding employees, we would like to introduce Stephanie Ziems, director of finance and accounting at Miami-Cass REMC.

Ziems joined the co-op in November 2014 and is responsible for managing the financial activities of the REMC and its subsidiary company. These activities include maintaining accounting records, financial planning, budget preparation, forecasting, banking, lending, insurance, and tax preparation.

Ziems has always loved math and at a young age wanted to be a teacher. When she graduated from high school, Ziems worked full time while attending Purdue University pursuing an education degree with the intent to become a high school math teacher. She later transferred to Indiana University. There Ziems changed her major and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business majoring in accounting. If she wasn't doing what she's doing now she'd want to get a culinary degree and become a chef.

Ziems and her husband, Kurt, have been married over 22 years. Together the couple have two children -ason (17) and a daughter (14). She also has two stepsons and five granddaughters.

She enjoys gardening and doing crafts

in her spare time. Ziems also likes to spend time with family and attend her children's sporting events. She volunteers in the community, has been on several non-profit boards and likes assisting churches in improving their financial processes and records. Currently, Ziems is treasurer for Birthright of Kokomo, a charitable organization that helps women with unplanned pregnancies by offering counseling, support services and resources, as well as maternity and baby items.

Prior to working at the REMC, she worked as an accountant for an accounting firm in Kokomo. Ziems enjoyed consulting with companies in many different industries. Her favorite tasks were developing new accounting software programs and training employees to utilize them. She said the most unusual (worst) job she ever had was collecting eggs for a chicken farm when she was younger.

Ziems said that she loves how the REMC takes care of its employees and that the electric cooperative industry offers many educational opportunities to help their employees grow in their roles. She appreciates that Miami-Cass REMC makes a positive impact on its community by supporting many non-profit programs in the area, including schools, sports programs, 4-H, Junior Achievement, United Way and the YMCA to name a few.

The favorite part of Ziems' job has

been working on the Operation Round Up board. Quarterly, the board reviews grant requests from local non-profit entities who request support for their projects and programs. She said it is humbling to see how far the funds, which are generated by REMC members who round up their monthly electric bills, go to help serve the community.

Ziems' most challenging project has been the expansion of the REMC's subsidiary internet company, Broadway Broadband. While the project has brought many challenges, she said it is also the project for which she is the most proud. She looks forward to seeing how the REMC can support the rural community's internet needs in the future.

A lesson Ziems has learned throughout her career is to not get so focused on the details that you don't stop to look at the whole picture.

We at Miami-Cass are proud to have Ziems as part of the REMC family. She is a dedicated employee, and we are fortunate to have her on our team.





Winter storms:



PREPARE FOR PROLONGED OUTAGES, DANGERS

During this time of the year, dangerous conditions could confine families to their homes for days at a time. It is never too early to begin planning and preparing your home for the winter months.

To better prepare you and your family for a power outage, keep a storm

preparedness kit fully stocked. The basic supplies in this kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, emergency blankets, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, battery-operated or hand-crank radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

