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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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If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Miami-Cass REMC, I bet you would picture a lineworker. Some of the most visible employees of the

co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of their home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Miami-Cass

REMC, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent our co-op, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking him for his exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep. Also, be sure to check out the profile of Line Superintendent Gary Rowe on page 7.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO

Board meets in **FEBRUARY**

1. Counted seven board members attending via teleconference. Attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Rob Schwartz.
3. IEC board report was given by Todd Smith.
4. Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
7. January monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, March 30, at 6 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 F, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 F.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes. —
energy.gov



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!

Exploring **WHAT THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES MEAN TO YOU**

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES ARE THE
FOUNDATION OF THE
COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND
ARE WHAT MAKE GETTING
ELECTRICITY FROM A
COOPERATIVE SO UNIQUE.

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CELEBRATING MIAMI-CASS REMC'S LINEWORKERS

MEET LINE SUPERINTENDANT GARY ROWE

April 12 is Lineworker Appreciation Day, so it's only fitting that we highlight one of our own lineworkers.

Gary Rowe, line superintendent at Miami-Cass REMC, started his career with the cooperative in 2003. He had wanted to be an electrician growing up; so when a previous boss told him about an opening at Miami-Cass REMC, he applied. He wasn't exactly sure what the job entailed, but he knew it was electrical in nature and wanted to find out more. Rowe was subsequently hired as an apprentice lineman.

He worked as an apprentice for four years while completing the necessary training to become a journeyman lineman. At the end of his training, he was not only promoted to a journeyman lineman but also received an associate degree in applied sciences from Ivy Tech Community College.

As line superintendent, Rowe oversees and works with the line crew and apprentice linemen. He enjoys working outside and the comradery of working with the other linemen. He said there is a satisfaction in doing a job that not many want to do and being a part of something important.

Rowe said finishing his training to become a lineman and helping others complete their lineman training has been his proudest moments on the job. When asked about what success



in his position looks like, he said keeping himself and his crew safe every day.

Throughout his career with the REMC, Rowe said the greatest lessons he learned is to trust in his crew and to be confident in his training. His advice to new apprentice linemen: pay attention to your surroundings and ask questions. Rowe has seen many changes in the last 18 years, but he indicated the biggest changes have been in advancements in organizational and tool technologies used to do the job.

Rowe has also volunteered to help other electric cooperatives when major storms have caused outages. When Hurricane Rita hit the U.S. in 2005, Rowe joined linemen from around the

state to travel to the Louisiana area to help restore power. He and another lineman from Miami-Cass spent two weeks there providing mutual aid. When they returned, two other Miami-Cass REMC linemen took their place.

Rowe grew up in the Walton area and graduated from Lewis Cass High School. He and his wife, Ashley, still live in the area. The couple have been married 18 years and have two sons, ages 12 and 14, and a 10-year-old daughter. In his spare time, Rowe enjoys spending time with his family. In the summer, the family especially enjoys camping and boating.

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

WHY WE CLEAR *rights-of-way*

MAINTAINING RIGHTS-OF-WAY IS A DELICATE BALANCING ACT

To provide safe, reliable electrical service from overhead power lines, electric co-ops start on the ground: **in the right-of-way under and around power lines.**

A **right-of-way** is an agreement with property owners that grants the electric cooperative the right to manage small portions of that property for the purpose of maintaining power lines that bring the electricity to your home, farm and/or business, and those of your neighbors.

Generally, the **most common cause for power outages** and for blinking lights is **trees that make contact with power lines.** Limbs that touch power lines can become energized or even break and fall, bringing the lines down with them.

Right-of-way programs **trim, control and,** if necessary, **remove trees and other vegetation around 10 to 15 feet** on either side of the center line of electric lines.

A good right-of-way maintenance plan by the co-op helps **ensure less damage and shorter outages** when Mother Nature brings strong winds and ice.

