

**CONTACT US**

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**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**

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*

# Volunteer

## AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT



With the holiday season upon us and the new year just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for

our community. I think most will agree this has been a year like no other—certainly in my lifetime. And while we've seen our share of challenges, I am heartened by the ways in which we have all pulled together to make our community stronger.

Miami Cass REMC recently helped organize a food drive, for Helping Hands of Miami County. While these efforts are focused around the holidays, for Miami Cass REMC, our concern for community is a year-round endeavor.

Because we are a co-op, volunteerism and giving back are a part of who we are. Several of our co-op employees; coach youth sports, volunteer for school boosters, and serve at your local churches!

Miami County REMC offers employees flexibility in their schedules to accommodate these volunteer opportunities. We look at co-op volunteerism as an investment in our community by enabling our employees to donate their time and expertise to help groups that are doing so much for our community.

Volunteering may provide additional dimension and purpose to your life. In the process, you will be a role model for your family because your commitment will offer a powerful lesson to your children. It will show them first-hand how one person can make a big difference and strengthen the community in which they live.

At the end of the day, the gift of volunteerism is a gift that will continue giving all year long. So, this holiday season, consider starting a new tradition — give the gift of time.

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO



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[www.facebook.com/mcremc](http://www.facebook.com/mcremc)



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





## Can you lend a helping hand?

### REMC TO HOST CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRIVE FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Miami-Cass REMC will conduct a Christmas charity drive to benefit Helping Hands of Miami County. Consider donating to help others this holiday season.

Items will be accepted at the REMC office at 3086 W. 100 N. in Peru through Dec. 14. The following is a list of items the co-op will be accepting.

- Cake mixes
- Pudding
- Gelatin
- Peanut butter
- Jelly

- Dry beans
- Canned meat
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Pork and beans
- Mustard
- Soup (any kind)
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue

Any cash donations are also very welcome as the organization helps clients with rent, utilities and medicines.

Thank you in advance for assistance in helping those less fortunate.

Find out more information about the organization on page 8.

## Board meets in October

1. Counted five board members attending. Two board members and Miami-Cass REMC attorney Jeremy Fetty 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.
5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
7. September monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Monday, Nov. 23, at 8 a.m. in the Miami-Cass REMC boardroom.

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Miami-Cass REMC office will be closed at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 24 and all day on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

from all of us at  
Miami-Cass REMC and  
Broadway Broadband

Michael Barron

Caden Bixler

Bruce Brumblough

Kim Burton

Tony Caldwell

Brandon Carden

Karen Chester

Kolbie Cox

Jeremy Fetty

Mike Fross

Shelly Glassburn

Lora Goodman

Mark Hahn

Derek Haynes

Michelle Hays

Zac Hostetler

Jack Kellems

Wyatt Kingery

Parker Long

Scott Marschand

Matt Mavrick

Shadd McCochlin

Brendan McGehee

Greg Million

Devin Minneman

Richard Morton

Keith Nies

Mark Page

Michael Pigg

Scott Richardson

Gary Rowe

Jim Savage

Rob Schwartz

Cindy Scott

Todd Smith

Jeremy Stapleton

Alex Tompkins

Liz Vance

Brandon Williams

Teresa Williams

Don Willson

Joe Wyant

Stephanie Ziems

May you have a joyous  
and safe holidays!

## DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF *safety*

Follow some common sense tips to keep your Christmas tree fresh and electrical lights safe.

**Make sure your tree is fresh.** Needles should not drop or come off easily.

**Cut a few inches off the bottom of the trunk and immediately place the tree in water,** even if you do not yet intend to decorate it.

Make sure the tree is **watered daily** throughout the holiday.

**Decorate the tree with LED lights** that do not get hot and use less electricity for the same amount of light.

**Carefully inspect each light and the cord.** Cracked and loose bulbs and frayed or bare wires can shock or start a fire.

**Follow the manufacturer instructions** on how many strands can be connected together. It differs based on the type of light.





## HELPING HANDS PROVIDES MORE THAN JUST ASSISTANCE

Miami County Helping Hands, Inc., located in Peru, is a trusted not-for-profit assistance center that provides assistance to approximately 300 families per month. Since its inception in 2002, the center's overall mission is to help as many people as it can. Miami County residents whose household income level is at or below 185% of the federal poverty rate are eligible for this assistance.

Helping Hands is staffed by approximately 75 volunteers. It's open three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to families in need from 9-11:45 a.m.

In addition to the food pantry, which provides clients with a two-week supplemental supply of food, Helping Hands provides financial assistance with utilities, rent, medicines and gas vouchers. Clients can receive up to \$75 of this financial assistance during the first 6 months of the year and \$75

during the last six months of the year.

During 2019, the agency provided approximately \$32,000 in food assistance and another \$90,000 in financial assistance. Throughout the year, local businesses, like Miami-Cass REMC, help provide this assistance through food drives (see story on page 6). The agency has also been the recipient of funds from Operation Round Up.

Donations of pantry items as well as cash donations are welcome. Cash donations can be used by Helping Hands for financial assistance to clients or to purchase food from the food bank in Lafayette. Other local businesses like Kroger, Aldi, and Save-A-Lot also donate food.

In addition to food drives, Helping Hands has a Walk-A-Mile fundraiser every April. Over the years, it has raised between \$22,000 and \$35,000 each year. Local FFA and 4-H students

also raise approximately \$15,000 each year during harvest time.

Ken Magers, treasurer and chief financial officer for Helping Hands, shared a story of a woman who came in for help. Everything seemed to be going in the wrong direction for her. She shared with volunteers that she was close to committing suicide. She received kind words from them, was given assistance and, ultimately, given hope.

Please consider helping others this holiday season. Miami-Cass REMC is accepting items at the REMC office for this agency through Dec. 14. Because the office is currently closed to the public, please call ahead to let us know you are bringing items. You can also contact the agency through their website at <http://ahelpinghandnow.org/>. Thank you in advance for assisting in helping those less fortunate.

# How do I determine my capital credit allocation?

In accordance with our bylaws, we must annually notify each Miami-Cass member if he/she was assigned a portion of margins realized in the previous year (2019). Capital credits are the assignment of margins, and we are required to have a permanent record of any credits assigned to you. Each year in the Indiana Connection magazine, we explain how your assignment (if any) is calculated.

Miami-Cass REMC's board of directors annually determines if capital credits will be refunded to members on record for the years being retired. Your board approved the retirement of older capital credits, which were paid in 2019.

Miami-Cass REMC is a not-for-profit corporation within the state of Indiana. All of our operating expenses are paid from two sources — the membership fee paid when you applied for service and the payment from the monthly electric bill.

Capital credits occur when these payments exceed our operating costs. The majority of our operating expenses are power purchases, interest payments, taxes, and the cost of building and maintaining our distribution lines to each of our members' meters. These margins are returned to you (our owners) as a capital credit.

Unretired capital credits are invested in building and upgrading our lines. Your credits are used for vehicles, to maintain and build the lines, and materials (poles, lines, meters, etc.). These are necessary expenses to ensure we provide members with

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In 2019, Miami-Cass REMC had margins of \$266,147 to allocate to our members. This amount is approximately 1.7 percent of total electric sales.

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a cost-effective, reliable, and safe source of power.

In 2019, Miami-Cass REMC had margins of \$266,147 to allocate to our members. This amount is approximately 1.7 percent of total electric sales.

You can determine your 2019 capital credit allocation by totaling your electric energy purchases for 2019. Electric purchases do not include taxes, late fees, or other miscellaneous charges. To determine the credit, multiply your electric purchases by .0169842683.

If you do not have your electric purchases for 2019, you can contact us during regular business hours (phone 765-473-6668 or email [mcremc@mcremc.coop](mailto:mcremc@mcremc.coop)). Your electric purchases are also available on our SmartHub app.

## INDIANA CONNECTION



### Cooperative CALENDAR of STUDENT ART



### ART CONTEST



You could **win \$200**  
ENTER YOUR BEST ARTWORK  
Fill the pages of the 2022 calendar!

#### ELIGIBILITY

Indiana public, private or home-schooled students in Kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2020-21 school year are eligible to enter the contest.

#### DETAILS AND DEADLINE

A complete set of rules and required entry forms are available at [indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest](http://indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest). Artwork must be received by March 19, 2021.

Questions? Contact Indiana Connection, 317.487.2220 or [info@indianaconnection.org](mailto:info@indianaconnection.org).

