

**CONTACT US**

Office: 765-473-6668 / 800-844-6668

**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**

Donald E. Willson, *President*  
Dennis "Jim" Savage, *Vice President*  
Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Tony Caldwell  
Mark B. Hahn  
Scott Marschand  
Todd Smith

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

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY *Tip***

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

# We want to hear from you



We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies

spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Miami-Cass REMC, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you send an email or simply stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Miami-Cass REMC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice that throughout the year, we create opportunities for you and other community members to attend co-op gatherings and events

in order to hear from you. One of these events is our annual meeting. We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix is impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues that we will be navigating in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

Miami-Cass REMC works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. Please contact our director of member services with your ideas and other items of interest to you. He can be reached at our office, by phone or by email at [kimb@mcremc.coop](mailto:kimb@mcremc.coop)

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO

# Tree trimming and the ash trees

Miami-Cass REMC invests over \$125,000 each year on tree trimming and removal. This investment pays tremendous dividends during severe weather by reducing the number of outages that our consumer-members experience. Tree maintenance is one of the many ways your co-op makes our service to you more reliable.

Many of our members have reported dead ash trees near our power lines. Unfortunately, we are not able to get to all of these dead ash trees. Luckily, these trees are a hardwood species and it takes a long time for them to decay and become a risk to our power lines. Eventually, they will become an issue, but we do have a tree removal plan in place to prevent these ash trees from becoming an issue.

Each year, we contract with a tree

maintenance company to trim and remove trees that are problematic to our ability to deliver electricity to your homes. The tree trimmers are in the area of two of our substations each year. For 2020, the tree trimmers will be working in the central part of our territory (Grissom and Peru subs) which serves our members.

If you would like to remove an ash tree or any other tree before we get to your area, just call our office and we will drop the line for free. Please give us a notification a few days in advance unless it is an emergency situation.

You can reach us at the office by calling 765-473-6668 for more information. We appreciate your patience as we get these trees removed.



## Board meets in November

1. Counted six board members present with one attending via teleconference. Miami-Cass REMC attorney Liane Steffes also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
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. October monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the Miami-Cass REMC boardroom.

## CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The 2020 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art is now available! Pick up a copy today at the Miami-Cass REMC office while supplies last. The calendar contains artwork from students in grades K-12 from all around the state.

If you have a budding Picasso in your midsts, encourage him/her to enter the 2021 calendar contest. Details on page 12.

## BUSINESS PROFILE

# A passion to protect

Overhead view of the Koch Fertilizer facility in Walton.



Koch Fertilizer, LLC, sits on 35 acres just outside of Walton. It is part of the Koch Ag and Energy Solutions, a subsidiary of the multi-national business Koch Industries. The facility is just one of 17 ammonia terminals, located in seven different states, operated by the company. The facility was constructed in 1972 and has the capacity to store up to 22 million gallons of ammonia in its two storage tanks.

The facility employs four full-time employees and is a storage and distribution hub that sells ammonia product which is distributed via tanker trucks to co-ops and independent

retailers located in north central Indiana, and parts of Michigan, Ohio and Illinois. Most of the ammonia is sold as fertilizer, which eventually ends up being injected into the ground as a vital nitrogen source in helping farmers produce the desired yield of corn.

The ammonia is piped into the hub via an underline pipeline that starts in New Orleans and runs up the Midwest branching west to Nebraska and east to Indiana. Much of the ammonia supplied to New Orleans is produced internationally, with Venezuela being a large producer.

Koch Fertilizer has a “Passion to Protect” vision. It operates every day to create valuable products using fewer resources. The company operates under the philosophy of 10,000% compliance. That’s 100% of its employees compliant 100% of the time. So, during much of the year, Koch Fertilizer employees are preparing and maintaining the facility for the distribution that takes place for the most part just three times a year.

Miami-Cass County REMC is proud to serve local businesses that, in turn, serve other local businesses.



# APPLY FOR *youth programs*

## PAGE DAY

JAN.  
22

**Spend a day in the Indiana Senate with students from REMCs around the state.** See

the Senate in action, observe policy debates, assist legislators during session, and tour the governor's office and Statehouse.

**REQUIREMENTS:** You must be available on Jan. 22 and have reliable transportation to and from the Indiana Statehouse that day. The program is open to high school students. Please confirm with school administrators, but Page Day is considered an excused absence in most instances.

**APPLY:** Apply by Jan. 10 at [GOIEC.org/2020pageday](http://GOIEC.org/2020pageday).



## TOUCHSTONE ENERGY CAMP

JUNE  
3-6

**A fun, powerful and unique camp experience designed for students entering seventh grade in 2020.**

Horseback riding, canoeing, zip lining, trying out archery, swimming, learning about electrical safety and bucket truck rides. Apply at [TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org](http://TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org).

## INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

JUNE  
18-25

**Miami-Cass REMC wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Monuments, museums, legislators, friends, trip of a lifetime, history. Must be a high school junior to apply. Apply at [IndianaYouthTour.org](http://IndianaYouthTour.org).**

*Deadline to apply for both Touchstone Energy Camp and Indiana Youth Tour is March 2. For more information, call Kim Burton at 765-473-6668 or email [kimb@mcremc.coop](mailto:kimb@mcremc.coop).*