

# LIVE WIRES



280 East Wood Road  
P.O. Box 129  
Rensselaer, IN 47978

## PHONE NUMBERS AND HOURS

### To contact your REMC

Business telephone: 866-4601

Long distance please use:

1-888-866-REMC (7362)

Emergency phone number: 866-5911

Anytime day or night to report  
an outage or emergency.

E-mail address: [jasperremc@jasperremc.com](mailto:jasperremc@jasperremc.com)

Web site: [www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com)

Office hours:

**8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday**

## WATTS INSIDE

- Recycle your electronics on April 24
- Bylaw requirements for REMC directors
- Get ready for the 2010 Census!

## HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

There is a hidden account number within these four pages of *Live Wire*. Be sure to look them over. Maybe you'll spot **your** account number. If you do, just call our office before the last working day in April to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.

## Which substation feeds your meter?

Look for the "Location" box on your bill. If your "Location" starts with:

- A** — Asphaltum Substation
- C** — Carpenter Substation
- D** — Kersey Substation
- F** — Fair Oaks Substation
- M** — Moody Substation
- P** — Parr Substation
- R** — Rensselaer Substation
- S** — Sutton Substation
- W** — Wheatfield Substation

# CO-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

## FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

# Climate change debate continues

Last year was definitely one for the history books. Barack Obama became our country's first African American president. General Motors declared bankruptcy and the Cash for Clunkers program was rolled out to assist the slumping automobile industry. The Centers for Disease Control issued a public health emergency over the H1N1 outbreak. President Obama deployed an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan. The House of Representatives and the Senate both passed health care reform bills of their own design.

We endured a struggling economy throughout 2009 as unemployment hit a record 10 percent. In the Midwest, cooler-than-normal temperatures led to a reduced need for electricity. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives debated and passed a wide sweeping reform and new direction for the country with climate change legislation (also known as the Waxman-Markey Bill or the American Clean Energy Security Act). Although the Senate debated this legislation, it was not able to pass anything before last December's climate conference in Copenhagen.

While the Senate and House struggled over the climate change legislation, the Environmental Protection Agency found carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions were a detriment to the safety and well being of the American people. The U.S. Supreme Court had previously ruled the EPA could regulate carbon through the Clean Air Act.

Electric cooperatives throughout the country have banded together behind a grass roots campaign to make climate legislation affordable. Last year's proposals were not fair — particularly to consumers in the Midwest since 96 percent of the electricity produced here is from coal. The proposed methodology to allocate emissions gave allowances to plants with zero emissions — such as nuclear and hydro plants — but only gave about 60 percent of the allowances needed in the Midwest.

This is unfair to Midwesterners since plants here would need to purchase allowances on the open market from those that had no emissions in the beginning. In addition, the allowances were to be traded on the open market through Wall Street. Therefore, those not even involved in producing electricity are able to buy and sell carbon allowances that we need. We believe this could drive up the price of electricity unfairly.



**Bryan Washburn**  
CEO/General Manager

The climate change debate will undoubtedly continue as our country struggles to develop a comprehensive energy policy. Predicting the outcome of this legislation is difficult but we hope our elected officials pass legislation that takes into account the needs of the American people. No one argues that we should promote a policy that encourages independence from foreign energy sources but legislation that does not promote the use of domestic resources makes no sense. Although we are

not yet able to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from our coal on a commercial basis, we are asking for the time to develop those technologies before we start taxing the emissions we currently have.

As many of you are aware by driving the I-65 corridors, renewables are becoming a more viable solution. Many of us in Northern Indiana are aware of the wind resources being developed right here. But these resources are not the sole solution. In July and August, when the need for energy is at its highest, this resource is usually at its lowest. As turbines become more efficient, they may become more viable but for now this solution is not absolute.

We need time to build nuclear plants, develop more wind generation, find additional sources such as methane digesters, and develop landfill generation. Other solutions involve tidal generators and solar energy sources. We also need to build transmission lines to the parts of the country where we may better utilize those promising renewable energy sources.

Current legislation could raise electric bills anywhere from about \$175 to \$3,100 per year. Interestingly, the Congressional Budget Office claims the \$175 figure, taking into account savings from energy efficiency gains. Without the energy efficiency gains, the figure would be around \$890 per year. As our elected officials continue to develop future energy policy, your cooperatives will be right there trying to help form and shape the coming legislation, taking into account our members' pocketbooks. I do not think it is a matter of "if" we have climate change legislation but "when."

I vow to continue to keep our members aware of issues that will affect their monthly bills. In addition to keeping you abreast of the issues, we will continue keeping the lights on for all Jasper County REMC members.

## CO-OP NOTES

### Scholarship deadline is near

The Nesius Memorial Scholarship is an opportunity for area high school seniors graduating in 2010. One \$500 academic scholarship will be awarded to a successful candidate from KVHS, RCHS and one from all other high schools in Jasper County REMC's service territory. Candidates must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Jasper County REMC member. **Deadline to return applications for the Nesius Memorial Scholarship is April 9.**

An application form is available at [www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com).

### Relay for Life event announced

Join the Kilowatts to Kill Cancer Team for our first Relay for Life event this year.

#### Pork Chop Lunch

When: Sunday, April 25

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Jasper County REMC Warehouse, 280 E. Wood Road, Rensselaer

Ticket: \$7

Meal includes grilled pork chop, parsley potatoes, green beans, salad, bread/butter, dessert, coffee or drink.

Carry outs will be available and additional pork chops will be available for \$3.

Visit our Web site, [www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com), and read next month's issue of *Electric Consumer* for the date of our Relay for Life Motorcycle Ride. Hidden account 5707-001



**Visit us at the  
Earth Day booth!  
April 24  
Brookside Park  
Rensselaer  
9 a.m.-1 p.m. (CT)**



## Recycle your electronics April 24

Keep our landfills clean and our environment green! Bring your old TVs and electronics for recycling on April 24. There are two locations where the recycling will take place:

- Jasper County Highway Department - DeMotte Annex - behind the Fase Center of State Road 10, DeMotte. Bring your items between 8 a.m. and noon CT.

- Rensselaer Street Department, 820 E. Walnut St., Rensselaer. Bring your items between 8 a.m. and noon.

You are limited to three monitors/TVs per vehicle. Please do NOT bring appliances. You can recycle your electronics all year long at the Rensselaer Street Department, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. CT, and on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. CT.

### How do electronics get recycled?

After we fill the semi trailer(s) with all of the TVs and electronics you've brought to the event, the vendor chosen by the Solid Waste District deconstructs the units to be recycled into new products. Ninety-nine percent of electronics material is recycled by our vendor. Electronics

contain: aluminum, numerous plastics, copper, gold and toxins (mercury, lead, cadmium and more). This is good for the economy (reuses metals to keep costs down on products), good for the environment (keeps contaminants out of the water and landfills) and you'll get a good feeling inside about doing the right thing (recycling your old electronics).

Thank you in advance for participating in this green effort.



The Operation Round Up trustees issued \$11,312 to various groups through the Operation Round Up program. The recipients included Sorrowful Mother Church, West Central High School After Prom, KIRPC Headstart, Jasper County Sheriff's Department, Christian Haven, Kankakee Valley High School Winter Guard, Jasper County Youth Center, Playscape, Rensselaer Central High School After Prom, West Central Student Council, Tri-County After Prom, and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Richie. Your spare change of roughly \$6 per year has helped these, and so many more, organizations and families in your community.

**Census Day is April 1! Be sure to send in your Census form.**



[www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com)

# Bylaw requirements for REMC director positions

Jasper County REMC is governed by a nine-member board of directors elected by and from the membership. If you're interested in becoming a director, then you'll want to continue reading.

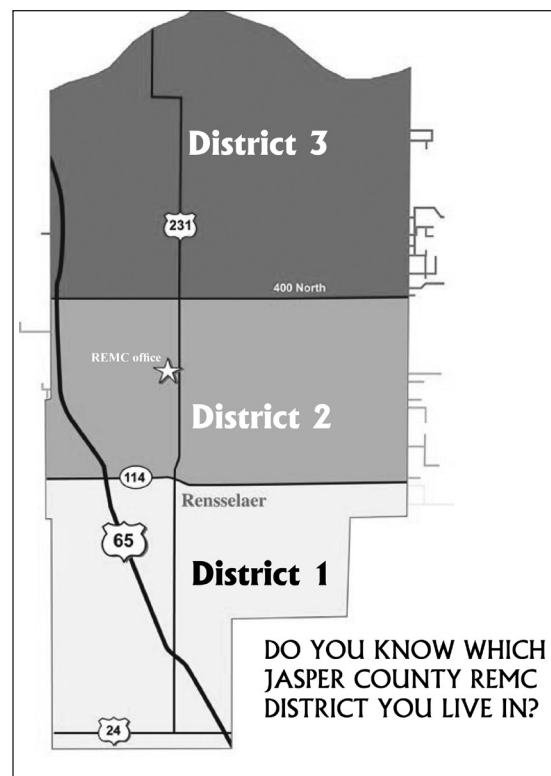
The following is taken from Article 3, Section 4, of Jasper County REMC's bylaws and deals with director nominations.

*"It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, the committee on nominations consisting of not less than three (3) nor more than eleven (11) members with at least one (1) member from each of the (3) districts from which a director shall be elected at the next meeting of the members. With the exception of a retiring director, no officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee.*

*"The president of the board of directors and the general manager shall provide the committee on nominations with procedural instructions and any other information that the committee requires for its duties. The committee on nominations shall contact the members whose names are to be placed in nomination and obtain their consent for such action. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two (2) qualified members for each directorate position pending election at the next annual meeting of the members. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for the directorate positions. Any thirty (30) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The secretary shall mail to each member at least ten (10) days before the*

*meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected, the nominees designated by the committee on nominations and separately the nominations made by petition, if any. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as provided in these bylaws, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations.*

*"Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors."*



## Updating memberships of deceased

If the membership at your address is held in the name of a deceased person, please call our office to find out how to update the account. It is imperative at this time that we have accurate updated records. Here are some reasons why:

### Bills going to deceased members

As an example: Grandpa and Grandma have passed away. You are living in their house and Grandpa's name is still on the account. You need to get the account put into your name.

The FTC requires we only talk to the person whose name is on the account. We will be glad to guide you through the simple process to update the account information.

### Capital credit agent's appointment forms

In the event capital credits are returned, we need to know to whom to send Grandpa's check. His heirs must sign the form and have each signature notarized. The form will indicate one of the heirs as the "agent." The agent will receive Grandpa's capital credits and be responsible for the distribution of the money. We would be glad to mail you the forms.

### Annual meeting ballots

This updated information on our deceased members also has a lot to do with our annual meeting. We don't want to send voting ballots to people who can't use them.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience, but updating our records is an integral part of our cooperative business practices.

## 'Follow' us on Twitter!

Jasper County REMC has started connecting with our members by "tweeting" on Twitter.

follow us on  
twitter



Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as "tweets." Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as "followers." Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter Web site, Short Message Service (SMS) or external applications. While the service itself is free, accessing it through SMS may incur phone service provider fees.

### How will the REMC use Twitter?

Jasper County REMC intends to tweet weekly messages with legislative updates, co-op events, student opportunities, energy efficiency tips or electrical safety information. This communication tool will also be used, along with its Web site, to update members on severe storm outages.

### How can I 'follow' the REMC on Twitter?

Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and click "Sign up now" to start your free access to Twitter. Once you are signed up, you can "follow" Jasper County REMC to receive any information we've posted.

If you don't want to sign up, you can just type in "Jasper County REMC" in the Search box to see our most recent tweets. Click on Willie Wiredhand's head (the co-op's mascot) to see all of our tweets and our profile.

### Update your account info

As our annual meeting approaches, please make sure your account information is correct. **If YOU intend to vote at the annual meeting, YOUR name needs to be on the account.** In the past, there have been rare instances where one spouse has come to the annual meeting to vote, only to find his/her name is not on the account. Call us if you need both spouses' names on the account or if the name on the account needs updating. We want to ensure your eligibility to vote by making sure the names on your membership are current.

It is also important to let us know if your phone number changes. We need accurate information to contact you regarding your service.

### Use caution in workzones

Jasper County REMC urges you to drive with extra caution when you see construction or co-op vehicles. Obey flaggers and be alert to all signs. Help our construction and line workers get home safely EVERY NIGHT. For more information, go to [www.workzone-safety.org](http://www.workzone-safety.org).



## REMC member benefits

Besides low cost, reliable, electric service you can enjoy these benefits:

### Operation Round Up

- ◆ Thank you to our members who let us “round up” their bills to help the community.
- ◆ Round Up funds are **not granted to pay utility bills.**
- ◆ **Grant periods are March, June, September, and December.**

### REMC Payment Options

- ◆ On-line payment through [www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com).
- ◆ Drive-up window and lobby open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Night deposit box open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- ◆ Drop off to DeMotte State Bank and branches. No late or partial payments accepted at DSB.
- ◆ Credit or debit card accepted.
- ◆ Credit card auto draft available.
- ◆ Invisible Check drafted from your checking or savings account.
- ◆ Budget billing that starts in July after 12 months of electric use.

### Free Energy Audit

- ◆ Call us to set up a free energy evaluation of your home.
- ◆ It's never too late, or too early, to have us perform an energy audit. Call us before you build, add on, or remodel.

### Air Source Heat Pump Rebate

- ◆ Install an air source heat pump and get a \$200 bill credit from the REMC. Credits are not given for replacement heat pump units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

### Geothermal Rebate

- ◆ Install a new geothermal heating and cooling system and get a \$500 cash rebate from the REMC. Rebates are not given for replacement geothermal units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

### Long-distance Phone Service As Low As 4.9¢! — Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call toll free 866-241-0392 to sign up.

### FREE Water Heater Program

- ◆ Free 40- or 50-gallon electric water heater. Discount price on 80-gallon heaters.
- ◆ Free maintenance on member's electric water heater during business hours.
- ◆ Up to \$50 rebate for electrical materials to convert from gas heater to electric.

### Dusk-to-Dawn Pole Lights

- ◆ A dusk-to-dawn pole light can be installed, serviced, and maintained by the REMC.
- ◆ Ask us about the monthly cost of a dusk-to-dawn light.

### WildBlue Satellite High-Speed Internet

- ◆ Back by popular demand!
- ◆ You CAN have high-speed Internet at your rural home or business.
- ◆ Visit [jasperremc.com](http://jasperremc.com) for more details or call our office at 219-866-4601.

### Critical Account Recognition

- ◆ REMC members who depend on electricity for mandatory medical equipment can be placed on our critical account list with a doctor's request.

### Presentations—Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call us to present our safety or energy efficiency demonstration at your next meeting.

# Phegley graduates from co-op leadership program

Jasper County REMC Line Foreman Tim Phegley recently graduated from the Rural Electric Leaders-In-Training Exchange, or RELITE program. This nationally-recognized leadership development program is coordinated by the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and includes participants from electric cooperative systems throughout Indiana.

Phegley joined 22 other participants who focused on leadership skills, team building, facilitation skills, public speaking, interpersonal communications, personal mission, business ethics, diversity, accountability, and community service.



Tim Phegley

This year, Phegley's role will change from that of student to facilitator as he embarks on the second year of the RELITE program. This part of the program design makes certain that, as graduates apply their recently acquired leadership skills, future RELITE training will be continually adjusted to meet the ever-changing needs of the electric industry.

Phegley joins other Jasper County REMC RELITE graduates: Dick Yeoman, Randy Snyder, Allen Toben, Sean Kingman, and Jon Rich.

Congratulations on your achievement, Tim!

## Supplier expands renewable portfolio

Indianapolis-based Wabash Valley Power Association, an electric generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative which provides electricity to Jasper County REMC membership, has added another landfill gas-to-energy (LFGTE) generating plant to its power supply portfolio. Liberty II is located at Waste Management of Indiana's landfill located near Buffalo, Ind., in White County. It is the second such plant at the landfill.

Wabash Valley Power will also break ground on a five-megawatt LFGTE plant in Elkhart County this year. Each plant uses Hoosier-manufactured Caterpillar engine-generators.

“Facilities like Liberty II produce enough

electricity to power 3,500 homes,” reported Keith Thompson, vice president of power production for Wabash Valley Power. “The decomposition of garbage creates landfill gas, which is over 54 percent methane gas. In most landfills, that gas is burned off. However, with today's technology, we're able to transform that into electricity.”

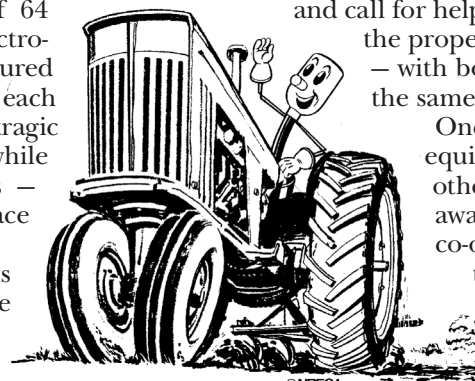
According to Wabash Valley Power CEO Rick Coons, “We pursue renewable generation whenever it makes good economic sense and because it's simply the right thing to do. By adding a Green-certified product to our program, it further demonstrates our commitment to our electric cooperatives, to the environment, and to our industry.”

## Use caution this spring when on the farm

Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in farm electrical accidents each year. Farm workers can avoid tragic accidents by being aware while performing farm activities — especially those that take place near power lines.

Know the measurements of the equipment you operate and remember the 10 foot, 360 degree rule — keep equipment below, to the side and above power lines.

If your equipment comes in contact with power lines, it's almost always best to stay in the cab



and call for help. If you have to leave the cab, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time.

Once you are safely away from the equipment, STAY AWAY! Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric co-op arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral. But, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current

disruption which makes neutral wires anything but harmless.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

