

# 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)

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

Office hours:

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

## WATTS INSIDE

- Bylaw requirements for REMC directors
- Program deadlines extended
- Operation Round Up awards funds

## 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 March 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

# A time of transition is upon us

March is a time of transition from winter to spring for most of us in the Midwest. It is a time of year that our attention turns to the college basketball season as we get ready to crown another champion. At Jasper County REMC, it marks the beginning of a new era in many facets of our business. Let me bring you up to speed on industry news relevant for 2011.

Recently, I attended a conference that outlined many changes to our industry. Some of the challenges we face are daunting, to say the least.

We will continue to face the challenge of EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulations. The EPA probably poses the greatest challenge to us because it is still unclear as to whether this agency has the authority to regulate power producers under the Clean Air Act. It is commonly believed the original legislation did not intend to impose any regulation slanted towards the control of carbon, but the EPA is now trying to use this legislation to mandate reduced emissions from coal-fired power plants.

In addition, we are facing RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standards) pressure from many different states. Although I feel alternative energy is becoming a more important and viable solution to our energy needs, the technology does not exist yet for wide spread deployment.

Let's look at a typical wind turbine like those along I-65 just south of Remington. Currently, our co-op owns a portion of two wind farms, one in Iowa and another in Illinois, through our affiliation with Wabash Valley Power, our power supplier. Our experience has shown we only buy power about 40 percent of the time from these two farms. At best, the statistics I have read are that wind turbines are available at a rate of 45 percent of the time, at best. I hardly think you would accept that your lights would be on only 45 percent of the time. In addition, solar generation offers a higher cost and a little better availability. These two resources are available currently, but not at an economical price to our co-op or our membership.

Last, is the problem of transmission lines being large enough to carry the electricity



**Bryan Washburn**  
CEO/General Manager

generated from these sources. An item that has become quite a bit of expense to power companies is transmission line congestion. Just like our roadways, transmission lines have their limitations as to the amount of traffic, or electricity, they can transport at a given time. Let's look out west for example. The wind blows quite a bit in the Dakotas and wind farms would make a lot of sense out there. In Arizona, the sunshine is far more prolific than here in the Midwest, so solar might make sense for its residents.

Unfortunately, there isn't a good way to move the electricity generated from the Dakotas or Arizona to other parts of the country. Just like any other supply and demand scenario, when there are limitations to certain geographic areas by means of insufficient transmission lines, the price to move over those lines goes up. It is easy to say we should just build more lines, but most people don't want a transmission line going through their yard. Although these three items are not inclusive of all the changes our industry faces, these certainly are the three biggest.

Though the future is somewhat skewed by a tremendous amount of uncertainty, I believe that within the next few years we will get things sorted out. All of these changes will have an impact on the price of electricity for the future. I think it is better to prepare you now rather than wait until we have to make drastic changes. Part of the reason we changed our rate structure starting last month is to put a plan in place that promotes energy efficiency. As you look for ways to make those dollars stretch, don't forget to look to us for help.

It has always been our mission to provide the greatest service at the most economical price we can. We are a cooperative and, as such, we are not profit-driven, but we are CUSTOMER oriented. We have energy advisors available for advice as well as marketing programs aimed at helping you to make wise choices with your budget. I will close for now with a deep desire to be a resource for you, the member. Remember we at Jasper County REMC will be here to keep the lights on for you.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Nesius Memorial Scholarships

The Nesius Memorial Scholarship is an opportunity for area high school seniors graduating in 2011. 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 8.**

## 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.

## Electrical safety during and after a flood

During and after a flood, electrical hazards abound. Here are some simple steps you can follow to protect yourself and your family:

- Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water.
- Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.
- If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines which creates danger for anyone near lines.

# 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."*

## Recycle your electronics April 9

Keep our landfills clean and our environment green! Bring your old TVs and electronics for recycling on April 9. There are two locations from which to choose:

- 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.

Thank you in advance for participating in this green effort.



## Energy Assistance Program ends March 15

Participants in the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) are reminded the moratorium on disconnection for nonpayment ends Tuesday, March 15.

Accounts assisted by EAP must be

brought up to date before then or they will be disconnected on Wednesday, March 16. If you have questions about your account, please call our office as soon as possible.

# New billing form implemented

In order to offer you more information about your account, Jasper County REMC has redesigned its bill.

As you'll note on a sample below, there are two new features on the bill — your phone number that we have on file and a bar graph of your last 13 months of kilowatt-hour (kWh) use. The kWh use bar graph should be used as a tool to

help you keep track of your billing history and to budget for future bills.

When you implement energy conservation and efficiency measures in your home, you should see the reflection of your efforts in the bar graph. We look forward to providing additional tools you can use to manage your energy use and your budget.

Please contact us if we need to update the phone number on your account.

## Introducing you to the Co-op Connections Card

As a member of Jasper County REMC, you will soon be able to receive discounts on products and services from participating local and nationwide businesses. Jasper County REMC has joined several other cooperatives across the country in promoting the Co-op Connections Card.



Watch the mail in early April for your Co-op Connections discount card!

In April, you will receive a Co-op Connections Card through the mail. When you show your card at businesses displaying the Co-op Connections decals and window stickers, you will receive their special offer just for being a member of our electric cooperative!

Our website will display the names and special discounts of participating businesses and will be updated as more businesses are added. Many retailers in Lake, Porter, and White counties, as well as in the Lafayette area, already participate in the program. Just look for the window stickers.

This card will also allow you to take advantage of discounts in other areas of the country and with several national retail chains.

Everyone likes to save money, and Jasper County REMC wants to do all it can to make your life a little easier. There is no charge to you for this program — it is completely free. This is just one more way that we can show you that there is real value to being a member of Jasper County REMC!

## A dedication to safety

Jasper County REMC is committing to a huge presence this year to educating our communities about electrical safety.

Electrical safety presentation options available to groups and organizations include:

- PowerPoint classroom presentations for grades K-12.
- Table-top hot line demonstration.
- Full-size semi trailer hot line demonstration.
- Pre-K "Trees & Kites" presentation.
- Safety activity books.
- Safety with an engineering message for scouts.
- Safety with an energy conservation message.
- Safety with a renewable energy message.
- DVD on driving safety for teenage drivers

We look forward to any invitation we can get to keep you, your family and your friends safe around electricity.

Date the bill was processed

Payment due upon receipt with grace period until 17th

Amount due by 17th

Return top portion of bill with your payment.

Amount owed with penalty if payment is late.

Remit Payment to:  
JASPER COUNTY REMC  
PO BOX 309  
COVINGTON, IN 47932-0309

Please return this portion with payment  
Make check or money order payable to JASPER COUNTY REMC.  
RETAIN BOTTOM PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

JASPER COUNTY REMC  
280 East Wood Road, P.O. Box 129  
Rensselaer, IN 47978-0129  
(219) 866-4601 or (888) 866-7362  
FAX (219) 866-2199  
www.jasperremc.com

ACCOUNT NUMBER	NAME	METER NUMBER	LOCATION					
SERVICE DESCRIPTION		SERVICE ADDRESS						
FROM	SERVICE TO	CODE	PREVIOUS READING	PRESENT READING	MULTIPLIER	KWH	RATE	AMOUNT

First and last date in current billing period

Varies depending upon meter

Kilowatt hours used during billing period

**NEW! LET US KNOW IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED**

BILLING DATE    PAYMENT DUE BY    AMOUNT DUE    AMOUNT DUE W/P

# OF DAYS    AVERAGE KWH/DAY    USAGE THIS MONTH    USAGE LAST YEAR

Important information from the REMC appears in this box every month.

JASPER COUNTY REMC  
280 East Wood Road, P.O. Box 129  
Rensselaer, IN 47978-0129  
(219) 866-4601 or (888) 866-7362  
FAX (219) 866-2199  
OFFICE HOURS  
8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday  
TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE CALL  
219-866-4601 OR 888-866-7362 ANY TIME

# of days in bill cycle

kWh use this bill cycle

kWh use last year during same bill cycle

**NEW! 13 month history of your kWh use**

Electric Service History

Month	kWh
F10	~6,000
M10	~7,000
A10	~8,000
M10	~9,000
J10	~10,000
A10	~11,000
S10	~11,500
O10	~10,000
N10	~8,000
D10	~7,000
J11	~6,000
F11	~5,000



Little changes add up to big savings!

Find out how at [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com).

## REMC member benefits

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

### REMC/Wabash Valley Power Association Programs

#### Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program

- ◆ \$35 reward.
- ◆ Call 877-395-5535 for pick up date and time.

#### Washing Machine Rebate

- ◆ \$50 bill credit.
- ◆ Must have electric water heater.
- ◆ Washer must be Energy Star® qualified.

#### WVPA Residential Heat Pump Rebates

- ◆ ASHP \$125/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ Geothermal \$150/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ For replacement of electric heat.
- ◆ Call us for the detailed requirements to qualify for this program **BEFORE** ordering your unit.

### REMC Programs

#### 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.

#### 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.**

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

## OPERATION ROUND UP

# Operation Round Up recipients

Once again, your “spare change” has helped many people in our communities. The Jasper County REMC Community Fund trustees have read and considered all of the applications for funding. The money is not used to pay electric bills or support political candidates. This past January, the Round Up trustees allocated just over \$10,000 toward the following endeavors:

**Jasper County Habitat for Humanity** will now have funds to provide tools and safety equipment for volunteers during the building process.

The **Jasper County Youth Center** will now be buying equipment to help with large motor skill development at the center.

**Jasper County Hospital** will be purchasing a wound care training model so the nurses can show patients how to properly care for various kinds of wounds.

**SAFER** will be sending nurses to special “crime scene to courtroom” forensic training.

**Rensselaer Central and Tri-County High School's** after prom committees will have partial funds to help keep students safe after prom.

**Jasper County 4-H Council** will have funds to purchase a much needed wash rack at the goat barn. This will make a much safer and more convenient location for the students who have goats.

**West Central Coordinated School Health** program will have some funds to purchase exercise balls to use as chairs in the classroom as part of a pilot program.

**Rensselaer Middle School** will have some funds to contribute toward the eighth grade Washington, D.C., trip.

**Laila Ann Hamstra** will have funds so she can go to Conductive Learning Center Camp this summer.

**Cole Dunlap** will have additional funds to enclose his outdoor therapeutic tub so he can use it year-round to relieve some of his muscular pain.

One of our REMC members will have partial funds towards renovating her bathroom to have additional safety features and be wheelchair accessible. Hidden account 28895-001

Most of these recipients are still seeking additional funding for their organizations or projects.



These Operation Round Up recipients represent the organizations who recently received funding courtesy of the program. Laila Ann Hamstra, 4-H Council, and our member with the bathroom renovation are not pictured.

## Apply for grants by April 1

Jasper County Community Fund, Inc. invites you to request Operation Round Up® funding for your cause or program during the month of March.

All applications must be submitted by April 1 for review in April by the fund's board of trustees. Remember, if your organization has submitted a previous request and did not receive funding, you must resubmit your request for consideration. The next funding request period will be in June.



Operation Round Up funding comes from REMC members who “round up” their power bills and contribute the extra change to the Community Fund. The money is then shared with causes and organizations that contribute to the well-being of the community.

You can find the applications on our website, [www.jasperremc.com](http://www.jasperremc.com), or call 219-866-4601 to have your individual, education, or organization application mailed to you.