

LIVE WIRE



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

Website: www.jasperremc.com

Office hours:

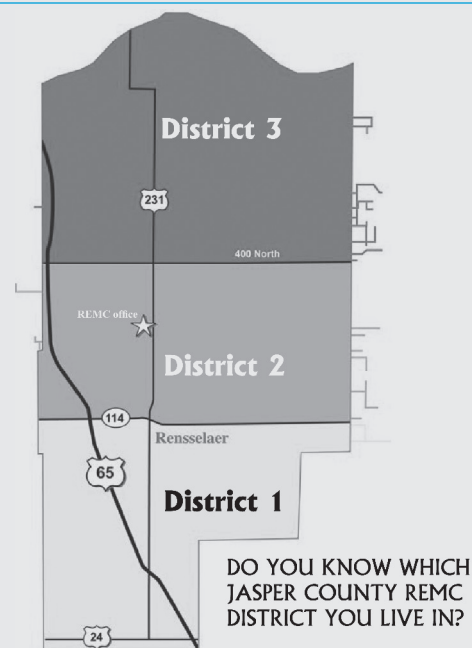
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

WATTS INSIDE

- Meet the director candidates
- Student opportunity winners announced
- REMC receives gold 'footprint'

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 June to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.



CO-OP News

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Benefits of co-op membership

I've composed several columns about the benefits of cooperative membership since becoming CEO of your REMC. One of the benefits I feel will gain more importance in the coming years is the benefit of having someone in the energy business looking out for your best interests.

Energy costs are going to continue to rise. You can combat this rising cost by finding ways to reduce your use. The move toward energy efficiency marks a new era for power companies due to the supply shortages we expect in the future.

You, as our members, will be hearing a lot about energy efficiency. The electric industry is embracing it as a way to hold off building additional power plants – although the need is still there. If we can lower the number of plants needed, we lower our cost to the member, and limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere. I won't try to argue the effect it will have on the environment. But, I will say any time we put less man-made material into our environment, the better off we will be.

Another benefit of your cooperative membership is our memberships in key national organizations. One of those national affiliations is the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative network. The network gives you access to many different energy-saving ideas.

Touchstone Energy has an interesting website devoted to energy savings. Visit **TogetherWeSave.com** and learn how little things can make a difference in your energy budget. This site has many different tips, all devoted to finding ways you can reduce your costs, while using the energy you purchase to its fullest potential.

For instance, by clicking on one portion of the site, you can take a virtual tour of a home and can investigate various ways to become more energy efficient. While you do this, the energy savings are tabulated so you can make more informed decisions about where you can achieve the greatest amount of savings for your energy dollar. In many cases, these savings can come at minimal cost to you. You can spend a little but save alot.



Bryan Washburn
CEO/General Manager

I was intrigued by the amount of money that could be saved by turning your electric water heater temperature down from 130 F to 120 F. The effect on your budget was approximately \$73 per year. The expected savings by adding 10 CFLs (compact fluorescent lightbulbs) per year was \$57. That amount of savings more than pays for the lightbulbs in one year. In addition to the savings calculator and other tools on the site, there are many different videos and testimonials for you to view.

The videos and testimonials are all devoted to one thing, saving you money. There are tips on how to caulk and where to look for leaks. There are numbers that can be applied to each activity you may take on. You can also read what real people have done and their experience both doing the project and their savings at the end of the project. Visit our website at www.jasperremc.com as well for a simple-to-use energy calculator. The user-friendly application enables you to see the cost-saving effects of applying a little energy efficiency elbow grease to your home.

Discovering ways to help you save your energy dollars is what Jasper County REMC is all about. In the coming months and years, using our dollars as wisely as we can will become more important to all of us. I believe the future will provide opportunities for each of us – be it in the form of different rate structures that advocate using off-peak power to allowing for some members to change their billing cycles to better meet their personal needs. All of this may seem a little unusual for a power company to be discussing. However, we at Jasper County REMC are not a typical power company.

If you need additional information, contact Stephanie Johnson at our office to discuss your use and how you may better use your energy dollars.

I close my column by extending an invitation for you to find out more about the services we at Jasper County REMC have available for you. Until then, remember that here at Jasper County REMC we will be working hard to keep the lights on for you.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Meet the director candidates

District 1



Martin Park

Martin Park and his wife, Linda, reside in rural Rensselaer and have two daughters, Lindsey and Lesley. Park is a member of the St. Augustine Catholic Church where he is a greeter, lector and chairman of the welcoming committee.

Park is also active in the Knights of Columbus Council 1881 where he has held several positions including grand knight, treasurer and trustee. He is board president for the K of C Club, Inc.

Park has a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from The Ohio State University. He was also a member of class #9 in the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program.

He has worked in northwest Indiana for DuPont Crop Protection and Pioneer Hi-Bred International for the last 24 years. He is currently an account manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International supporting sales representatives and customers in a four-county area.

Park's hobbies include watching sports, mushroom hunting, fishing and working in the yard.



Dain Hayworth

Dain Hayworth and his wife, Kate, reside in rural Rensselaer and have two grown children, Ashley Hayworth-Hopp and Justin.

Since graduating from Rensselaer Central High School, Hayworth has been an active member of many organizations in Jasper County including eight years with the Jasper County Farm Service Agency Committee; 20 years on Jasper County Fair board and executive board; 10 years as 4-H Horse and Pony leader; as well as superintendent of various 4-H divisions.

Hayworth has been a grain farmer since 1980 and owner of Hayworth Trucking since 1981.

In his spare time, he enjoys team roping, horses, hunting, fishing and traveling.



Steve Woolever

Steve Woolever is the incumbent director candidate for District 3. Woolever and his wife, Gail, live in Wheatfield. They have a grown son and are members of Grace Fellowship Church in DeMotte where he is an elder.

Since graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in agronomy from Purdue University, Woolever has farmed 1,600 acres of corn and beans. He and his son have raised seed corn for AgriGold Hybrids for 19 years. Woolever serves on the DeMotte State Bank board of directors, the Kankakee Valley Ag Advisory Board and is a member of the Prairie Arts Council. He has finished all of the requirements necessary to receive his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from NRECA.

Woolever spends his free time watching sports, golfing and traveling.

More annual meeting information on the next page!

District 2



Donald Miller

Donald Miller is the incumbent director from District 2. Miller and his wife, Caroline, reside in Medaryville. They are the parents of three daughters and grandparents of four. The Millers are members of the St. Henry Catholic Church.

Miller is a grain and livestock farmer. He is a member of American Legion Post 96 in Medaryville and is Jasper County REMC's representative on the Wabash Valley Power Association board of directors. He has finished all of his requirements necessary to receive his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

In his spare time, Miller enjoys watching sports and spending time with his energetic grandchildren.



Gary Wiltfang

Gary Wiltfang and his wife, Jacquie, reside in rural Rensselaer and have two adult children, Brad and Jill.

Wiltfang graduated from Rensselaer Central High School and has completed the Purdue University Ag Alum Short Course. He has spent 34 years running a diverse farming operation which includes cattle, hogs, row crops, hay and custom bailing.

He is a past president of the Jasper County Pork Producers.

When he takes a break from farming, Wiltfang enjoys spending time with his family.



Elmer Vander Molen

Elmer Vander Molen and his wife, Norma, reside in DeMotte and are members of Bethel Christian Reformed Church where he is president of the deacons and serves on its executive committee.

In the 1970s, Vander Molen was a member of the Jasper County Mounted Posse participating in parades, on search and rescue details, and re-enacting the Pony Express route between counties. The Vander Molens have six grown children and 21 grandchildren.

He was a construction superintendent for Hamstra Builders for 41 years and a partner in the business for 30 years before his retirement in 2000.

Vander Molen enjoys antique and classic automobiles, helping his neighbor during planting and harvest seasons, riding horses and watching his grandchildren play sports.



Willie Wirehand © NRECA

Vote for your directors on June 8

A cooperative is an independent, locally owned business enterprise, incorporated under the laws of the state in which it operates. Consumers who receive service are member-owners of the cooperative and share responsibility for its success or failure, along with the benefits they receive. The consumers served own the cooperative, with each member of the cooperative having one vote in the election of directors. Please come to the annual meeting to vote for your directors who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions on behalf of the cooperative.

Jasper County REMC student opportunity winners announced

Congratulations to all of the Jasper County REMC student opportunity winners for this year!

Touchstone Energy Camp

Sam Ahler, Rensselaer Middle School, son of Dr. John and Melissa Ahler.

Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Justin Cook, Rensselaer Central High School, son of Dale and Debb Cook

Trent Houghton, homeschooled, son of Harley and Christine Houghton

Rachel Ellenson, Kankakee Valley High School, daughter of Paul and Dawn Ellenson

Nesius Scholarship winners

Stuart Kilgus, Tri-County High School, son of Dan and Jenna Kilgus

Charles Walker, Rensselaer Central High School, son of Anthony and Angela Walker

Alexander Watts, Kankakee Valley High School, son of Ron and Beth Watts and Marla and Bruce Carey

The scholarship winners will receive their certificates at the annual meeting on June 8. Come and celebrate some of Jasper County's best and brightest!

Sign up this month for budget billing

If you like the idea of paying exactly the same amount each month for your electricity, then budget billing could be right for you. If you operate on a monthly budget, then knowing what to expect each month could be beneficial.

The program works by looking at a one or two year history of your use at your current location. A budget amount is then figured and that becomes the amount you will pay for electricity each month.

You will still receive a monthly electric bill showing your meter reads and actual use. At the end of the budget period – your June bill payable in July – your account will be settled

up. If you owe any extra money, you will need to pay it and if you paid too much for the year, the overpayment will be returned to you.

All budget accounts are audited periodically to be sure that you will come out fairly close to even in June. Budget amounts can be raised or lowered throughout the year if needed to prevent a large difference at the end of the budget period.

Budget accounts are not allowed to go delinquent. If this should happen, you may be removed from the program. Hidden account 28747-001

For more information about budget billing, contact us at 866-4601.

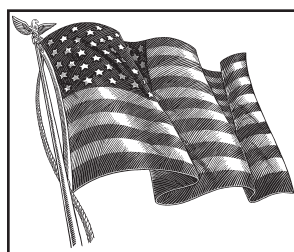
Annual meeting of the membership

**Jasper County Fairgrounds
Tuesday, June 8**

The doors open at 5 p.m. for a free pork chop dinner. The business meeting, with election of three directors, will follow dinner.

Main entertainment will be brass band, New Odyssey. Children will be entertained by the Silly Safari Live Animal Show.

We hope to see you there!



**Jasper County REMC wishes you a
Happy Flag Day on June 14.**

Keep account info current

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.

Updating information for deceased members

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

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 the cooperative returns capital credits we need to know to whom to send the check. Heirs must sign the form and have each signature notarized. We would be glad to mail you the forms.

Annual meeting ballots

The updated information on our deceased members also has a lot to do with our annual meeting. We want to send registration cards to people who will use them.

We apologize for any inconvenience during these processes, but updating our records is an integral part of our cooperative business practices.

4-H Electric workshops

We will be holding 4-H Electric workshops here at Jasper County REMC to help 4-H'ers along with their projects. Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 project participants are encouraged to attend.

Upper-level participants are also welcome to bring any questions they may have regarding the development of their projects. Students who are dropped off should be picked up at 7 p.m. CST. We look forward to seeing you at the workshops.

The workshops will take place on:
Tuesday, June 15, from 6-7 p.m. CST
Tuesday, June 22, from 6-7 p.m. CST



REMC member benefits

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

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.
- ◆ 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.

REMC gets a gold ‘footprint’

The high school marketing students from Rensselaer Central High School had an idea — a “greener” community. They presented their “Go Green” initiative to the Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce, the City of Rensselaer, the Earth Day planning committee, our regional solid waste district and even our Indiana Department of Environmental Management state representative from Indianapolis.

After gaining approval from each of these entities, the students started challenging businesses in Rensselaer to reduce their carbon footprint. In June 2008, Jasper County REMC committed to participating in the Rensselaer Central High School Footprint Program. The program has three goal levels — bronze, silver, and gold. In April, we fulfilled the requirements to earn gold status.

The REMC had already made great progress going green before the students proposed this challenge. We had remodeled our lighting fixtures in the building to be energy efficient and had already installed energy-efficient air-source heat pumps and a geothermal heat pump. Our computers were on energy saver settings and we always turned our lights out when leaving our offices for any length of time. We had been recycling cardboard, white paper, magazines, industrial and light metals, printer cartridges, computer equipment and cell phones for many years.

The students also gave us points for educating our members about green energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency. The county-wide electronics recycling program the REMC developed in 2009 also earned us points toward our gold certification.

Our commitment to the students and their partners required making further changes in our building. These changes included using green office cleaning products; starting a plastic and glass recycling program; using recycled trash bags; using more recycled paper; and creating a battery recycling location for employees.

One of the questions on the list was in regards to composting. We thought long and hard and came up with a “yes” to the question. The REMC supplies wood chips from our tree crew to the Indiana Department of Transportation to compost the dead animals that have to be cleared off the roadways. This partnership was created to just be good neighbors and turned out to be an important part of reaching our goals to reduce our carbon footprint.

Although we take great pride in having renewable energy in our power supply mix that you use at your homes every day, the students didn't have this category on their list of requirements. We'll just call it extra credit!

We hope our members are proud of this accomplishment and that you will consider making your home or business more energy efficient so you can reduce your own carbon footprint.



Students from Rensselaer Central High School congratulate Jasper County REMC Member Services Representative Stephanie Johnson, holding certificate, and Jasper County REMC CEO Bryan Washburn, far right, on the REMC completing its requirements for gold status for the school's Footprint Program.



www.jasperremc.com