

# IT'S A MATTER OF *principles (part 2)*

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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**POWER OUTAGES**

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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*Director of Finance and Accounting*



For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Miami-Cass REMC employees when I

say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible community. We are fortunate to live in the same community where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall that last month, my column touched on the first three cooperative principles, so this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

**AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**

The fourth principal, autonomy and independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

**COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts — and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

**CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

This holiday we will be participating in the "Kiwaniis Coats for Kids Campaign." Please drop off any new or gently used coats at our office now until Dec. 13!

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Miami-Cass REMC, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO



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## MIAMI-CASS REMC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# MEET ALEXANDRIA TOMPKINS

### ALEXANDRIA TOMPKINS,

accounting specialist for Miami-Cass REMC, started her career with the cooperative in 2018. In

her role, she is responsible for entering accounts payable, miscellaneous receivables, and bank reconciliations; helping with inventory; and filing.

She reports to Stephanie Ziems, director of accounting and finance. She loves working with numbers and enjoys the family atmosphere of working at the co-op. A typical day for her would be entering invoices and receipts.

Tompkins was born and raised in Peru and is a 2006 graduate of Maconaquah High School. After high school, she worked as a pharmacy technician and then at Chrysler.

While working full time and



raising a little one, Tompkins went back to school and graduated with a degree in accounting from Indiana Wesleyan University. For a year just prior to joining the REMC, she worked for a doctor as a medical records clerk.

Tompkins has been married to her high school sweetheart, Austin, for 12 years. The couple has an 8-year-old daughter and a child on the way. She is very family-oriented so Tompkins enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys working with children and teaches pre-kindergarten at Abundant Life in Peru where the family attends church. Tompkins said that if she hadn't gone into accounting, she would have enjoyed being an elementary school teacher.

She said people who meet her may be surprised to learn she began riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes at the age of five. When Tompkins

was growing up, she loved jellyfish and other sea creatures and wanted to be a marine biologist. Items on her bucket list include visiting Ireland and Switzerland. She and her mom had been doing some planning for a trip when COVID-19 hit.

Throughout her career, she has found that you should never stop educating yourself. There is a lot out there to learn about, explains Tompkins. Her advice to a new hire with the REMC would be to not be too hard on yourself. There is a lot to learn, and the co-op world is a lot different than others.

If she could switch jobs with someone else at the co-op, it would be with one of the customer service representatives. Tompkins sometimes misses member/customer interaction and building relationships with them.

We at Miami-Cass REMC are proud to have Tompkins as part of the co-op family. She is an asset to the team, and we are fortunate to have her.

## HOLIDAY CLOSING

In honor of the Thanksgiving holiday, Miami-Cass REMC will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26.



# Coats for Kids

## MIAMI-CASS REMC UNTIL DEC. 13

Help children stay warm this winter by donating a coat for the Coats for Kids program.

Miami-Cass REMC will be collecting new and gently used coats for area children at its office until Dec. 13.

Your generosity will keep a child warm!

## Board meets in **SEPTEMBER**

1. Counted four board members present with one attending via teleconference. Attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA report.
3. Fetty presented the legal report.
4. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
7. August monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.



## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

**From our table to yours,  
Happy Thanksgiving!**



# ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

## UNLOADING THE CIRCUIT

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OVERLOADED CIRCUITS CAUSE FIRES AND DEATH. MAKE SURE YOUR HOME'S ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IS UP TO SNUFF.

### HOW TO PREVENT AN ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD:

- With your home circuit map, **move plug-in appliances to a circuit that is less used.**
- **Plug major appliances, like refrigerators, directly into a wall outlet.**
- **Do not turn on too many things at once.** For example, turn off the TV while you vacuum (you can't hear it anyway).
- **Replace incandescent or halogen lightbulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs** to reduce lighting loads.
- Power strips only add additional outlets; **they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.**
- **Have a qualified electrician inspect your home.** A heavy reliance on extension cords could indicate that you have too few outlets.