

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

> WEBSITE www.mcremc.coop

EMAIL 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



Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ mcremc



Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/ MiamiCassREMC

#### **OFFICE CLOSING**

The Miami-Cass REMC office will be closed in honor of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7.

## **Electricity brings EVERYDAY VALUE**



Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip

the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't

#### ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value! necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Miami-Cass REMC is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

## ROB SCHWARTZ

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Look for more details about our virtual meeting in next month's Indiana Connection magazine!

### 82ND ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

#### 5:30 P.M.

WELCOME INVOCATION NATIONAL ANTHEM CALL TO ORDER CEO COMMENTS Kim Burton, emcee Pastor Cole Westwood Taped Jim Savage, Board President Rob Schwartz, CEO

#### 6:05 P.M.

ELECTION REPORT Jeremy Fetty, REMC Attorney PRIZE DRAWINGS (MUST HAVE REGISTRATION CARD TURNED IN BY SEPT. 15 AT 4 P.M. TO BE ELIGIBLE)

#### PRIZES

Grand Prize Other Prizes Two \$500 bill credits 10 \$100 bill credits 10 \$50 gift cards 20 \$25 Casey's gas cards

#### 6:25 P.M.

ADJOURN

#### HOW DO I JOIN THE VIRTUAL MEETING?

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/zvx-rkdv-cdy Phone Number: 1-347-486-7028 PIN: 435 933 512#

# Board meets in **JUNE**

- 1. Counted seven board members attending. Miami-Cass REMC attorney Alycia Boling also attended via teleconference.
- 2. IEC board report was given by Todd Smith.
- 3. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
- 4. Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
- 5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
- 6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
- May monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
- Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miami-Cass REMC boardroom.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode. — Energy.gov.

# WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES!



BRUCE BRUMBLOUGH

In this issue, we continue our series highlighting employees recently acquired by the cooperative as part of Broadway Broadband Powered by Miami-Cass. We are putting the spotlight on two of these employees as well as a new employee of Miami-Cass REMC.

BRUCE BRUMBLOUGH has been with Broadway Broadband for over a year. He is a broadband and fiber technician. He is responsible for assisting in the development and maintenance of broadband services including assisting in the fiber construction arena. Brumblough also does some tower climbing and troubleshooting for these services.

Prior to joining Broadway Broadband, Brumblough worked for ABC High Definition for six years as a Dish Network installer. Prior to that, he served six years in the United States Army serving as a satellite communication operator and maintainer. Brumblough has been married for 15 years and has one daughter. He is an avid sports fan and



PARKER LONG

enjoys playing video games with his daughter. He has lived in over a dozen locations in the last 19 years.

He appreciates being a part of the cooperative team and said that it is good, honest work. He enjoys the prospect of providing high-speed internet to those who do not have it.

**PARKER LONG** is a fiber and repair technician. He is responsible for the construction of the new fiber loop as well as troubleshooting and repairing the existing system.

Long started with Broadway Broadband in March. He is a 2015 graduate of Caston High School. Prior to joining Broadway Broadband, he worked for Telecom Placement in Zionsville.

He and his girlfriend have a threeyear-old son. He enjoys playing catch with his son, fishing and spending quality time with his family.

Long appreciates having a job closer to home and enjoys the camaraderie of fellow employees. He also said he



BRENDEN MCGEHEE

enjoys being a part of a new company and the adventure it brings.

**BRENDEN MCGEHEE** transitioned to the REMC as part of Broadway Broadband as a wireless and fiber installation technician in January and was then hired by Miami-Cass REMC in May. He is currently a groundsman and will be starting his lineman apprenticeship in three to four months.

McGehee is a graduate of Lewis Cass High School and is engaged. He is a hunting (especially bow hunting) and fishing enthusiast and played football, wrestled and ran track in high school. He has also been a member of the National Guard for the last six years.

McGehee enjoys the relationship with fellow employees, has learned a lot and appreciates that he is always encouraged to do things right.

The staff and board of directors of Miami-Cass REMC are excited to have Brumblough, Long and McGehee as part of the team of Broadway Broadband Powered by Miami-Cass and Miami-Cass REMC.

# Call 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

#### EVERY SIX MINUTES, AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE IS DAMAGED BECAUSE SOMEONE DUG WITHOUT FIRST CALLING 811.

After you call 811, utility companies will mark the approximate locations of their buried infrastructure with flags, spray paint or both. This is a free service. Whether it's electric, gas or water, you don't want to accidentally dig into a buried utility.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, such as installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio, warrants a call to 811.

Indiana requires two full working days' advance notice to the 811 center or online before a digging project to give the utilities enough time to mark the approximate location of their underground utilities on your property. "Working day" means

every day except Saturday, Sunday, and observed holidays. Each line will be marked in the color that corresponds to the appropriate utility.

