

Strong year

2020 ANNUAL MEETING REMARKS



Each year, as Miami-Cass REMC's CEO, I have the privilege of addressing you, our members, at our Member Appreciation

Day/Annual Meeting. Here are a few highlights from my address during our virtual meeting on Sept. 15.

It felt very strange addressing everyone sitting in a chair in our boardroom instead of standing at a podium with bright lights in my face. I was joined by six of your seven elected board members: Board President Jim Savage, Board Vice President Todd Smith, Board Secretary Cindy Scott, Mark Hahn, Tony Caldwell, and Scott Marschand. Also in attendance were Director of Member Services Kim Burton, REMC employees Mike Barron and Liz Vance, meeting secretary Shelly Glassburn and board attorney Jeremy Fetty.

As mentioned in the September Indiana Connection magazine, we had an uncontested board of directors election this year. As such, Tony Caldwell and Todd Smith were each re-elected to serve as a director in his district for at least three more years.

I'm not going to talk much about the craziness going on right now. I'm sure many of you out there, like me, are getting worn out by all of it. During all of this we were slowed down for a while, like the rest of world, but we did not shut down completely. Thankfully, as of today, we have not had any employee or director who has contracted COVID-19. However, some have had friends and family who have had it. It saddens me to say this, but

I think we will be dealing with this pandemic for a while longer.

STATE OF THE REMC

It's strange that, in the midst of all of the craziness, we seem to have one of our busiest years since 2008. For the past 12 years, we had been growing close to 30 meters per year. However, this year we are already at the 50-meter mark. This can be attributed, in part, to the low interest rates we are seeing. On top of the growth, we have been busy with upgrades to the system, rebuilding lines and refurbishing a substation.

We remain strong financially and do not foresee any rate changes for 2021, making this our sixth year without a rate increase. In the last rate study conducted, it was projected our current rates would last six to seven years. At the end of 2021 we will evaluate to see if another study is needed for 2022. Be assured that we always work hard to keep our rates as low as possible.

ACQUISITION OF BROADWAY BROADBAND

In late January Miami-Cass REMC purchased Broadway Broadband. We made this acquisition for a couple reasons. First to give our underserved members a chance to receive fast, reliable internet. Second was to increase our communications between our electric grid and meters. We looked at several ways to accomplish this, and the purchase of an existing company made the most sense.

An already established company, with experienced employees

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dennis "Jim" Savage, *President*
Todd Smith, *Vice President*
Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Tony Caldwell
Mark B. Hahn
Scott Marschand
Donald E. Willson

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

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OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Miami-Cass REMC office will be closed on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and on Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving.

co-op news

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and infrastructure, gave us the opportunity to control the means by which we get these services to our members. Broadway Broadband had 1,100 customers when we purchased it. We are now up to 1,300 customers, most of which are served wirelessly.

Our priority is to install fiber to all areas where it is fiscally responsible. In the areas where it is not, we will provide a high-speed wireless option. We will be hooking up customers in stages as we build the fiber ring out.

Initially, progress has been slow. This is new for us and we want to ensure the right approach is taken to the project. The COVID-19 virus has also slowed down our ability to get material. As we are getting our feet wet, our construction is getting faster and our employees are gaining more experience.

We will be contacting homes that are in the areas where we are working as we build the ring out. We are starting in the areas with the highest concentration of people, as this will allow for increased revenue to help fund the project. If you have any

questions, call the office at 765-473-6668.

I want to thank all of the Miami-Cass REMC and Broadway Broadband employees for their dedication to our companies. I would also like to thank our board of directors for its guidance throughout the year. It is truly a team effort that makes these companies run smoothly and efficiently. Stay safe, and I hope to be able see everyone in person next year.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO



The Miami-Cass REMC board of directors and employees conducted a virtual annual meeting on Sept. 15 in the REMC boardroom.

ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZE WINNERS!

\$500 BILL CREDIT

Warren Hardwick
Ed Kunkle

\$100 BILL CREDIT

Jason See
John Wilson
Judy Rimpler
Jami Warren
Donald Kling
Ronnie Harrell
Elaine Glassburn
Lillian Palmer
Joseph Varelli Jr
Michael Taylor

\$50 VISA CARD

Lori Magnuson
Brad Hermann
Deacon Grange
Connie Miner
Richard Auler
Thomas Glassburn
James Proffitt
Debra Barnes
Allen Parker Shinn
Peggy Anderson

\$25 CASEY'S GIFT CARD

Harold White
Calvin Myers
Marilyn Boswell
Roland Wilburn

Floyd Fishburn
Matthew Cattin
Douglas Myers
Emma Koch
Charles Green
Millie Zody
Nancy Zell
Ronnie Manning
Iris Smith
Melinda Ortel
Carolyn Markley
Lisa Ammerman
Brooke Balsbaugh
Jack Holden
Ed Burns
Mary Jane Jenkins

ANNUAL MEETING *Recap*

Miami-Cass REMC's 81st Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting was held virtually Sept. 15, 2020, at the Miami-Cass REMC headquarters. A total of 372 members submitted their voting cards to the REMC prior to the meeting, which represents nearly 7.58 percent of the total voting membership.

Kim Burton, Miami-Cass REMC director of member services, welcomed everyone; Pastor Cole Westwood gave the invocation; and the national anthem was played.

REMC Board President Jim Savage then called the meeting to order and thanked everyone who was able to join the first-ever virtual annual meeting. He stated that in much the same way that the REMC set out to help drastically improve the lives of those in rural Miami and Cass counties by bringing them electricity, the cooperative is now working to bring high-speed internet to those same rural areas by building a fiber optic network. Savage also stated

that all Miami-Cass REMC and Broadway Broadband employees are dedicated to bringing the best, most-reliable electric and internet service to their members. Lastly, he mentioned that the board had recently accepted and approved the annual audit.

CEO Rob Schwartz then addressed the members (see highlights on page 5-6).

Following the CEO's remarks, Jeremy Fetty, Miami-Cass REMC attorney, announced that the cooperative's board appointments ran uncontested this year and that the following board members were thus duly elected to serve for another three-year term.

Director election results:

- **DISTRICT 1** – Todd Smith
- **DISTRICT 4** – Tony Caldwell

The meeting was concluded with the selection of prize winners of \$500 and \$100 bill credits and \$50 and \$25 gift cards.

Board meets in SEPTEMBER

1. Counted seven board members attending. Miami-Cass REMC attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
3. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
4. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
5. Financial report given by Schwartz.
6. August monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
7. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miami-Cass REMC boardroom.

KEEP COLD AIR OUT THIS WINTER SEASON



Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. *Source: energy.gov*



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
FROM ALL OF US
AT MIAMI-CASS
REMC!**



Can you lend a helping hand?

REMC TO HOST CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRIVE FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATION

Miami-Cass REMC will conduct a Christmas charity drive to benefit Helping Hands of Miami County. Consider donating to help others this holiday season.

Items will be accepted at the REMC office, 3086 W. 100 N. in Peru, through Dec. 14. The following is a list of items the co-op will be accepting.

- Cake mixes
- Pudding
- Gelatin
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Dry beans
- Canned meat
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Pork and beans
- Mustard
- Soup (any kind)
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue

Any cash donations are also very welcome as the organization helps clients with rent, utilities and medicines.

Thank you in advance for assistance in helping those less fortunate.

Tips to avoid home electrical fires

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER BY LEARNING THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND THE DANGERS YOU SHOULD AVOID.



Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician to ensure all electrical work is up to code, especially if it's older than 20 years.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.

They should be tested monthly, and batteries should be replaced each year. Replace alarms every 10 years, or according to manufacturer suggestions on the alarm.

Do not overload outlets. Power strips do not provide more power to a location, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected.

Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to safeguard against arc faults, which could cause a fire.

Keep heat-producing appliances unplugged when not in use.

