

OCTOBER  
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## AMI Program Update

### NEW AUTOMATED METER SYSTEM REPLACES OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY

As we discussed at the 2019 Parke County REMC Annual meeting, the Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade project will continue through 2020.

As of July 2019, we have over 40% of the new AMI meters installed. One question that we frequently get from our members is "why do you need to replace all those meters?"

The easy answer is: The existing system is obsolete and we received notice that parts and support will no longer be available in the near future. In order to keep our service reliable, we must upgrade the older AMR meters.



The new AMI was selected in 2018 and we began testing the new system later that year.

We are pleased with the capabilities of the new system and the progress of installation.

A Parke County REMC employee will be coming to your residence, business, or farm to change our meter. They will be able to answer your questions concerning the new system. Please visit the Parke County REMC website, [www.pcremc.com](http://www.pcremc.com) for updates. You can also get more information by following us on Facebook. We are also available at the office to answer any questions you may have regarding the new system.

## Parke County REMC

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Cooperative 

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7:30 am to 4:30 pm

## Seip Retires After 39 Years

It is with mixed emotions that Parke County REMC announces the retirement of Jon Seip after 39 years of service. While we celebrate this new milestone in Jon's life, it's hard to see a valued employee go. Jon served as a lineman for 29 years and as a Special Services Technician for the past 10 years. We would like to thank Jon for his dedicated service and wish him the best retirement!

*Pictured from left to right: Mike Jeffries (Operations Manager), Jon Seip, and Chadd Jenkins (CEO).*



# 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Parke County REMC held the annual meeting of members on Sept. 12 at the Parke County Fairgrounds. Nearly 2,200 meals were served by the Beef House, as 777 Parke County REMC members and their children attended the event.

Each membership received a re-usable tote bag and LED night light as a registration gift. No petitions for election were submitted this year, so REMC incumbent directors Doug Brown of District 1 and Keith Blaydes of District 2 won the election and will serve another 3-year term.

A meal was catered by the Beef House and members had their choice of ribeye steak or grilled tenderloin sandwich along with potato salad, cole slaw, chips, cookies, ice cream and drinks. This year, members of the Riverton Parke High School cheer team volunteered to serve the meal. Their help was very much appreciated!

During the afternoon event, members took the opportunity to visit the commercial building where several informational booths were staffed by REMC personnel and related organizations. Information was available on home energy efficiency, electric safety, high-speed internet and more. Participating organizations and representatives included:

- Wabash Valley Power Alliance (*Kim Flowers and Kelli Snider*)
- Indiana Electric Cooperatives (*Ellie Schuler, Joe Banfield and Ann Mears, along with Randy Kleaving who is our Regional representative for IEC*)
- Rockville Correctional Facility and Department of Corrections (*Susie Martin, Stacey Milner and Julie Stout*)
- Endeavor Communications (*Jay Watkins*)
- Bloomington Home Telephone (*Ronja Branson and Denise Larson*)

In the Rabbit Building, members of all ages enjoyed BINGO. There were over 100 BINGO prizes.



**REMC's Carolyn Kilby presents the grand prize from the annual meeting to Vonda Kay and Ted McGaughey. Vonda's name was drawn for the \$1,200 electric bill credit.**

Outside, children enjoyed several activities from Big Bounce. Two new activities were bucket truck rides and a lineman photo op cutout.

The Adams Township Fire Department had a fire truck and fire-fighting gear on display. Sparky the Fire Dog was also available to meet and pose for photos with the kids. The Indiana Blood Center collected donations and Valley Professionals Community Health Center answered questions at their mobile unit.

The event included a business meeting conducted by board President Keith Blaydes. Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins addressed the members and discussed succession planning, Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI), and tree trimming. Jenkins also recognized several Parke County REMC employees who had retired during the year, and the new employees who have been hired to take their place.

The meeting concluded with the election report and prize drawing. Ezekiel Hill and Logan Savant each won a \$50 VISA card. Dewayne Borden won an instant pot and Vonda Kay McGaughey won the grand prize, a \$1,200 Bill Credit.



**The business meeting was streamed on Facebook Live. Pictured above, Chadd Jenkins, CEO/General Manager, gives his report.**



**Parke County REMC Director Shane Johnson hands out registration prizes at the event.**



**BINGO is one of the most popular events at the annual meeting. Above, Parke County REMC Director Mark Evans checks a winning card.**



**Bucket truck rides added a whole new level of excitement to the outdoor activities.**



**A young member tackles the inflatable obstacle course and slide from Big Bounce.**



**Several organizations had information booths in the Commercial Building. Above, two Parke County REMC members discuss electrical safety with Adam Younce of Parke County REMC and Joe Banfield of IEC.**



**REMC's D.J. Harkrider gets a nod of approval from a young member who just enjoyed a bucket ride.**



**The REMC's Annual Meeting continues to be well-attended, with hundreds of members coming to enjoy the free meal prepared by The Beef House. This year, members of the Riverton Parke High School cheer team helped serve the food.**



**This young lady was very determined to conquer the football toss.**



**REMC's Jeremy Montgomery was recently honored with C. Tom Taylor Award. He is pictured here with Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins and Marketing/Member Services Rep. Carolyn Kilby.**

While attending the Marketing, Member Services, and Communicators professional fall meeting on September 6th, the Indiana Electric Cooperatives named Jeremy Montgomery the 2019 recipient for the C. Tom Taylor Award. Montgomery serves as the Energy Advisor for Parke County REMC.

The award is presented annually to an Indiana electric cooperative member services employee who has demonstrated excellence in leadership, attitude and commitment to electric cooperative principles. The award is named after the award's first recipient and longtime Boone REMC member services representative, C. Tom Taylor, who lived by the philosophy of "non sibi, sed aliis" – not for self, but for others.

## We Want Your Feedback

Parke County REMC recently met with a group of members to set up a Focus Group to discuss the needs of our membership and gain feedback to help us to continue to improve our services to our members. If you are interested in being a part of this group please send an email to [mshaffer@pcremc.com](mailto:mshaffer@pcremc.com), [ckilby@pcremc.com](mailto:ckilby@pcremc.com) or [cjenkins@pcremc.com](mailto:cjenkins@pcremc.com).

# Understanding "Demand" and Upcoming Rate Increase

BY CHADD JENKINS  
CEO and General Manager

One of the biggest financial challenges of a co-op is structuring our electric rates so that our members pay the least amount possible, while still covering all the business costs of the cooperative.

One way we make sure our rates are both fair to our members, and cover our expenses, is by periodically commissioning an independent company to perform a rate study.

After the rate study in 2017, we reviewed our costs and feel it is necessary to have an increase on our demand, effective January 1, 2020. Please note, this is not an "across the

board" rate increase, but new rate for a very specific type of electric use.

The new rate will go into effect on the January billing for demand, that will be calculated based on December 2019 electric use.

A brief explanation of a "demand charge" is the total amount of electricity being used by an Industrial and Commercial member at any one time. Demand varies from hour to hour, day to day and season to season. This electric use, when expressed in Kilowatts, is called the "demand" on the system. The member is charged for the highest demand recorded over a 15-minute period during the billing cycle. You can see a detailed listing of the new demand rates below.

Rate	Existing Demand Charge	New Demand Charge
2 – Medium Service	\$ 4.75	\$6.00
7 – Irrigation	\$ 4.75	\$5.75
3 – Large Commercial	\$16.90	\$19.00
4 – Large Commercial	\$16.60	\$18.70
5 – Large Off-Peak	\$ 6.85	\$7.35
5 – Large On-Peak	\$12.61	\$15.00

Rate	Existing Facility	New Facility Charge
11 – DG	\$37.00	\$38.00

## Behind the Switch: Parke County REMC Board Meeting Highlights

### The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, June 20th.

Policy 112-1 (Service Watch) was reviewed and approved. Policy 303-1 (Record Retention) was reviewed and approved. Policy 312-2 (Non-Discrimination) was reviewed and approved.

### The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday July 18th.

Policy 114-1 (Confidentiality) was reviewed and approved. Policy 116 (Right to Know) was reviewed and approved. PPS LLC completed 19 service tickets in the past month, with 21 tree removals. Spraying has begun and will continue through August.

### The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Friday August 23rd.

Policy 302A (Company Technology) and Policy 319 (Employee Action and Fire Prevention) were reviewed and approved. The second quarter variance report was reviewed by the board. The proposed rate changes (effective January 1, 2020) were approved

by the board of directors. The rate changes were recommended as a result of the Cost of Service Study.

Subsequent meetings for the Parke County REMC board of directors are scheduled for the following dates:

**Thursday, September 12**

**Thursday, October 10**

**Friday, November 15**

**Thursday, December 19**

### Upcoming Holiday Office Closings

Veterans Day – Nov. 11

Thanksgiving – Nov. 28, 29

Christmas Holiday – Dec. 24, 25

New Year's Day – Jan. 1