

Save the Date: In-Person Annual Meeting June 11

*Steuben County REMC's*

# INDIANA

## CONNECTION



**POWERING YOUR PAST,  
CONNECTING OUR FUTURE**

# MAY



## 05 annual report

### 03 FROM THE EDITOR

**05 ANNUAL REPORT**  
Steuben County REMC's in-person Annual Meeting is June 11.

**06 CEO REPORT**  
Powering your past, connecting our future.



## 14 food

### 10 ENERGY

Load control: The benefits of avoiding electricity's 'rush hour.'

### 12 INSIGHTS

**14 FOOD**  
Raise a glass with these mighty mocktails.

**14A DIRECTORS**  
See who's running for the board.



## 20 feature

### 16 INDIANA EATS

Happy food trails: On the road to food-loving bliss.

**18 COUNTY OF THE MONTH**  
Spotlighting Cass County.

**19 SAFETY**  
Avoid downed power lines.

**20 FEATURE**  
Boundless Courage: Amelia Earhart inspired Purdue coeds to reach for the stars.



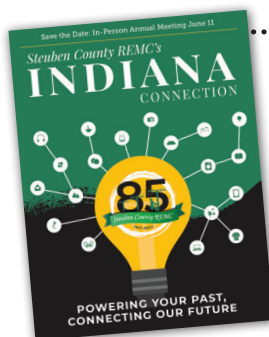
## 26 profile

### 24 WABASH VALLEY NEWS

**25 CO-OP NEWS**  
Broadband update.

**26 PROFILE**  
Randy Kleaving is leaving things better than he found them.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
*Indiana Connection*



## On the cover

Save the Date: Steuben County REMC's In-Person Annual Meeting is June 11 at the ARC Center on Trine University's Campus.

**SAVE THE DATE**

# JUNE 11

Steuben County REMC's  
**In-Person Annual Meeting at  
the ARC Center on Trine University's Campus**

## Powering your past, connecting our future

*Enjoy live music by  
The Earthtones and a free  
meal catered by  
Bon Appétit*

*Meal includes pulled pork,  
macaroni and cheese, coleslaw,  
roasted potatoes, hot dogs,  
cookies, ice cream sandwiches*



LIVE MUSIC BY  
THE EARTHTONES

### TIMELINE

#### MAY 9

Voting will be available online, on SmartHub and through mail-in ballot. Learn how to vote on page 7.

#### JUNE 9

Voting closes. All ballots must be received.

#### JUNE 11

In-person Annual Meeting at the ARC Center on Trine University's campus.

**Steuben County REMC**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,  
Monday – Friday

#### Contact Us

##### PHONE

260-665-3563

Call our office 24/7/365  
to report an outage.

##### STREET ADDRESS

1212 S. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703

##### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 359, Angola, IN 46703

##### EMAIL

CEO@remcsteuben.com  
remcsteuben@remcsteuben.com

#### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Please call 811 at least two days  
before you dig.

#### Management Team

KEVIN KEISER, CEO

DUSTIN EVERETTS,  
Operation/Engineering

JOSHUA DURBIN, Member Services

STEVE SMITH, Finance

DAVE SHORT, Broadband Operations

#### How to Understand Your Bill

Facilities charge.....	\$19/month
First 250 kWh.....	9.9 cents per kWh
Next 750 kWh.....	9.1 cents per kWh
All over 1,000 kWh.....	8.3 cents per kWh
Wholesale power tracker...+\$	0.015030 per kWh
Dusk to Dawn Light.....	\$10.30/month
Indiana Sales Tax.....	7%

**2022 Annual Meeting**  
JUNE 11

#### Board of Directors

GARY SHOUGH, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
(District 1, Millgrove and Greenfield townships)

SCOTT CHARTERS

(District 2, Jamestown Township)

BILL SNYDER

(District 6, Scott and Clear Lake townships)

MIKE KURTZ

(District 4, Jackson Township)

CARTER SNIDER

(District 5, Pleasant Township)

NEASA KALME

(District 3, Fremont and Clear Lake townships)

WAYNE GINGERICH, *President*

(District 7, Salem Township)

LARRY JACK, *Vice President*

(District 8, Steuben, Smithfield and Grant townships)

MARC NELSON

(District 9, Otsego, Richland and Franklin townships)

#### Disconnection Charges

**DISCONNECT DATES ARE  
2.5 WEEKS AFTER DUE DATE**

Reconnection Charge: \$50

(7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.)

Reconnection Charge: \$200 (after 4 p.m.)

Deposit: \$200

Returned check fee: \$25

#### Your Co-op Advantages

Annual Meeting  
Budget Billing  
Co-op Solar Program  
Dusk to Dawn light  
Indiana Connection Magazine  
New Service Electrical Consults  
Operation Round Up  
Patronage Refund  
Residential/ Commercial Energy Evaluation  
Residential/ Commercial Rebates  
Safety Demos  
SmartHub  
Vegetation Management  
Water Heater Rebates  
Youth Programs

### CEO REPORT

# *Powering your past, connecting our future*



For the past two years, our world — and more specifically northeast Indiana — has been turned upside down due to

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this period, people hunkered down and stayed at home for the most part, as life as we knew it changed. The way we worked, shopped, educated our children, and even visited our friends and family were radically altered to include virtual realities as opposed to face-to-face interactions. In some respects, it seemed as if the world stopped or at least considerably slowed down to a point where it was easy to feel like time and opportunity were lost.

However, I would contend that 2020 and 2021, while difficult, were not totally lost, particularly as they pertain to your cooperative. We were able to use this slow down to recommit ourselves to our past and rejuvenate our efforts to providing electric service to you, our members, in a manner to improve your quality of life.

In addition to our office being

open and staffed every day, your cooperative added two new substations to our system this past year to help service new loads and increase both capacity and reliability to the northwest and southern portions of our service territory.

Our continuity of service last year remained well above the national norm, despite some power supply issues and spring storms. In fact, our overall outage numbers were about half of what we experienced 2020 giving us an availability rating of 99.92%.

Some of this is certainly related to the severity of the storms, but it also has a lot to do with our maintenance programs and the dedication and diligence our employees exhibit in outage restoration. They are truly second to none.

Looking at the statistics, you can see how busy and productive 2021 was for your cooperative, with a 6.7% increase in sales and 116 new services added, which in turn helped to reduce our average retail price per kWh to 11.12 cents. Operating margins were also strong, finishing the year with about \$550,000 prior to adding patronage

from Wabash Valley Power and federal funding we received through the Cares Act as part of the Paycheck Protection Program.

Last year, my report spent a great deal of time talking about broadband internet service and how we were planning to take the lead in bringing fast, reliable internet to northeast Indiana. Since then, we have been working extremely hard on many of the necessary, behind the scenes steps to make this a reality. For starters, we acquired nearly 200 miles of dark fiber from the Steuben County Community Foundation in January 2021. This network will be utilized as a bridge to our fiber to the home network (FTTH) we are building to our members.

In addition, we upgraded our billing software and Geographical Information System (GIS) data in order to complete the engineering design phase. We have also acquired IP addresses and Internet service connections needed to bring this new service to life.

Currently, we are working on our make-ready assessments in Phases I and II, which include the western



## Steuben County REMC news

portion of our service territory and the lakes region north of Angola. Along the way, we are making the necessary improvements to poles and facilities needed to handle the added load from the new fiber cable. Following closely behind this process is the actual installation of the primary fiber cable and the lighting up of both the dark fiber network and the new fiber-to-the-home additions.

In July, we will begin installing the service drops and hooking up members to one of three options — 100 Mbps, 500 Mbps and 1 GB packages priced at \$64.95, \$79.95 and \$99.95 per month respectively.

We encourage interested members to pre-register now to avoid potential construction costs should we need to circle back once our crews have left an area. Online pre-registrations can take place at our website, [www.remcsteuben.com](http://www.remcsteuben.com), or through your SmartHub application. We intend to complete Phase I and move directly in to Phase II later this year. Deployment

into Phase III, which included the eastern portion of our service territory will begin in 2023 and finally reach our members in the southern portion of our territory in 2024.

The past two years have certainly been difficult, but I would like to leave you with a thought from Dr. Robert Schuller that keeps things in perspective, "Tough times never last, but tough people do." I believe our members have demonstrated this virtue throughout our history. Back in the 1930s, the people of northeast Indiana created Steuben County REMC to bring electricity and an easier way of life to our region. Along the way, we have faced countless challenges from economic down turns, wars, and even pandemics. Out of all those trials, our members have persevered by working collectively though Steuben County REMC. With your continued help and strength, we plan to keep you connected and successful in to the future.

**KEVIN KEISER**  
CEO



## BALLOTS MAILED MAY 9

THREE  
VOTING  
OPTIONS  
THIS  
YEAR

# Voting INSTRUCTIONS

## VOTE BY MAIL

- Mark your selection by completely filling in the box.
- Detach ballot and place in the enclosed return envelope. Mail to Survey & Ballot Systems, 7653 Anagram Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.
- Do NOT include bill payment in the return envelope.
- Ballots must be received by June 9, 2022.
- Please allow sufficient time for delivery.

## VOTE ONLINE

- To access the login page of the official 2022 SCREMC Election, please type [directvote.net/SCREMC](http://directvote.net/SCREMC) into the address bar located at the top of your internet browser screen.
- Above and to the left is your Member Number and your Election Passcode. Use both of these numbers to log in.
- Once registered, follow the online voting instructions.
- Online voting begins on May 9, 2022 and ends at 12:59 p.m. ET, June 9, 2022.
- Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online.

## VOTE ON SMARTHUB

- **App:** Open your SmartHub app, login and click the Vote Now button.
- **Online:** Login to your SmartHub online account and click the Vote Now button.
- Online voting begins on May 9, 2022 and ends at 12:59 p.m. ET, June 9, 2022.
- Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online.

If you have any problems voting online, please email [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net) or call 952-974-2339.

# Steuben County REMC news

## Your board of directors

### DISTRICT 1:

Gary Shough

### DISTRICT 2:

Scott Charters

### DISTRICT 3:

Up for election  
• Bill Snyder, incumbent

### DISTRICT 4:

Mike Kurtz

### DISTRICT 5:

Carter Snider

### DISTRICT 6:

Up for election  
• Neasa Kalme, incumbent

### DISTRICT 7:

Up for election  
• Wayne Gingerich, incumbent

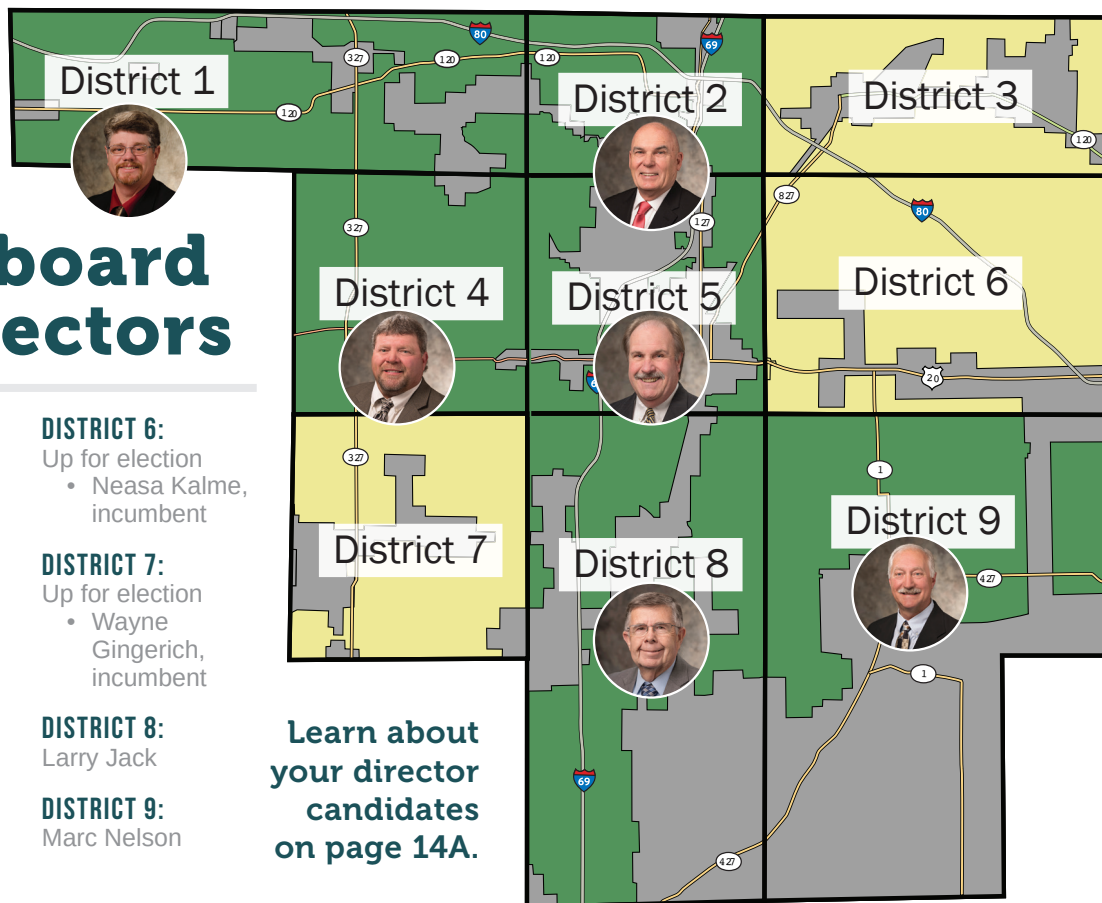
### DISTRICT 8:

Larry Jack

### DISTRICT 9:

Marc Nelson

Learn about your director candidates on page 14A.



## 2021 OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

## Small change changes lives

Operation Round Up is a program that allows Steuben County REMC members to automatically round up their monthly bills to the next dollar. The maximum a member would donate is \$11.88/year, but an average donation is \$6. The change is pooled together into a fund that is overseen by a group of members and two Steuben County REMC employees with a passion for our local community.

The Operation Round Up program has donated over \$600,000 to more than 520 projects in our local community in the 16 years since this program was started. The organizations that have been granted funds are non-for-profit that help with economic development or improve the quality of life of our membership.

Local non-for-profit organizations can apply for funds. To see more information go to [www.remcsteuben.com/ORU](http://www.remcsteuben.com/ORU). If you would like to opt-in to the program, call our office at 260-665-3563.

We would like to thank the Operation Round Up volunteer board — Gus Reed (president), Deb Delancey (vice president), Lori Kain and Craig Ralston — for their time and commitment to bettering our community.



## MORE THAN \$30,000 DONATED IN 2021

### Grantee

American Red Cross for home fire relief in Steuben County

Big Brothers Big Sisters for youth mentoring program in Steuben County

Community Harvest Food Bank of NE Indiana for Steuben County Farm Wagon Mobile Pantry program

Fremont Youth and Community Outreach Center for voucher program and assistance to families in need

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry for "Meat" the Need

Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana for JA elementary programming in 2020-2021

Lake Missionary Food Pantry

McMillen Health for preventative health education for Steuben County youth

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church for Luke 3:11 Coat Bank

Salem Center Volunteer Fire Department for AmbuMan Advanced ALS Manikin

The Vine Early Learning Center for outdoor learning environment

# MEET YOUR *director candidates*

Exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op by voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. Districts 3, 6 and 7 are up for election.

### DISTRICT 3: FREMONT AND CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIPS

#### Bill Snyder

- **Occupation:**  
Retired  
Indiana  
conservation  
officer
- **Military  
service:** U.S. Navy
- **REMC member since:** 1994
- **Community involvement:**  
American Legion, NWTF,  
Fairview Missionary Church
- **Family:** Wife, two children  
and four grandchildren
- **Why are you running for  
office:** "I am running for a  
second term because I have  
grown a fond respect for what  
REMC co-op does for its  
members and the community.  
With the introduction of  
broadband in my first term,  
I want to continue in the  
development and completion  
of this project."



### DISTRICT 6: SCOTT AND YORK TOWNSHIPS

#### Neasa Kalme

- **Occupation:**  
Agriculture  
teacher, MSD  
of Steuben  
County
- **REMC member since:** 2014
- **Community involvement:**  
Angola United Methodist  
Church, IAAE (Indiana  
Association of Agricultural  
Educators) — District III  
director, NAAE (National  
Association of Agricultural  
Educators), Steuben County  
Farm Bureau — secretary/  
treasurer, Angola Professional  
Business Women – secretary,  
National FFA Alumni, Angola  
FFA Alumni
- **Special recognition:** Hornet  
High Five Teacher, District  
III Outstanding Agriculture  
Teacher
- **Why are you running for  
office:** "I have a desire to  
serve the people of the county  
and learn new things related  
to rural electric service."



### DISTRICT 7: SALEM TOWNSHIP

#### Wayne Gingerich

- **Occupation:**  
Grain farm  
and former  
dairy farmer
- **REMC  
member since:** 1976
- **Community involvement:** Ag  
advisory board
- **Family:** Wife, three children  
and 11 grandchildren
- **Special recognition:** Mighty  
Oak Award from Prairie  
Heights Community Schools
- **Why are you running for  
office:** "To use the knowledge  
and experience I've gained  
over the years for the benefit  
of all the members of Steuben  
County REMC."

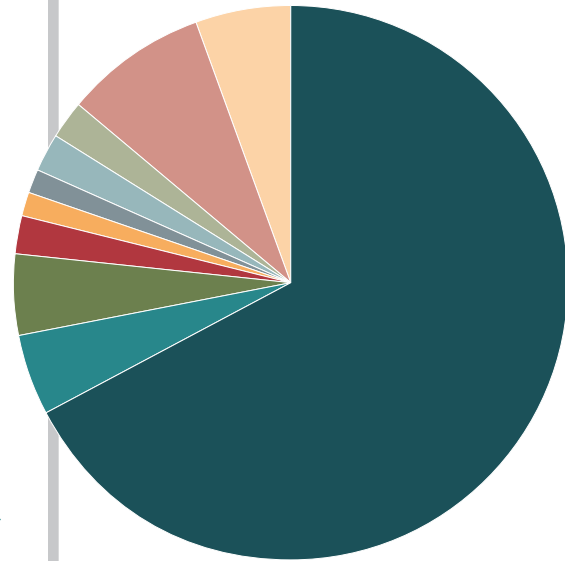


# Financial statements

## Statement of revenue and expenses

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Operating Revenues	\$23,006,091	\$21,493,572
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Cost of purchased power	\$15,580,113	\$14,401,689
Operating expenses	1,063,057	951,038
Maintenance expenses	1,105,845	913,116
Customer and sales expenses	652,721	569,615
Administrative and general expenses	1,874,069	1,644,798
Depreciation expense	1,244,917	1,217,574
Tax expense	463,027	424,457
Interest expense	520,415	456,480
Total expenses	\$22,504,164	\$20,578,767
Operating margins	\$501,927	\$914,805
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGINS</b>		
Interest on investments	22,671	25,693
Other non-operating margins	519,645	4,676
G&T and other patronage capital	479,815	762,167
Gain on disposition of general plant	22,351	12,500
Subsidiary income	(309)	2,818
Total margins	1,546,100	1,722,659
Members' patronage capital beginning of year	\$17,021,346	\$16,165,727
Current margins	1,546,100	1,722,659
Capital credits retired	(100,947)	(864,312)
Capital credit escheat	(134,510)	(177,868)
Transfer from other equities	134,406	175,140
Members' patronage capital end of year	\$18,466,395	\$17,021,346

## Where your dollar goes...



- Power Cost \$0.67
- Operating \$0.046
- Maintenance \$0.048
- Taxes \$0.020
- Customer Service \$0.015
- Sales \$0.013
- Interest \$0.023
- Operating Margins \$0.022
- Administration and General \$0.082
- Depreciation \$0.054



**2021**  
BY THE NUMBERS

**9,691**  
total number  
of members

**11.12** cents  
average cost  
per kWh

**11.06**  
meters  
per mile





# Steuben County REMC news

## Balance sheet

### ASSETS

	DEC. 31, 2021	DEC. 31, 2020
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>		
Electric plant in service	\$36,580,890	\$34,843,316
Broadband plant in service	\$3,169,830	
Construction work in progress	501,677	342,980
Total	\$40,252,397	\$35,186,296
Less accumulated provision for depreciation	15,699,044	14,743,850
Net utility plant	\$24,553,353	\$20,442,446
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS</b>		
Investments in associated organizations	\$8,010,866	\$7,666,247
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,533,399	\$4,642,870
Accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$35,574 in 2021 and \$58,828 in 2020)	1,528,140	1,509,557
Accrued revenue	823,334	840,876
Materials and supplies	415,095	436,216
Other current assets	202,933	192,638
Total current assets	\$4,502,901	\$7,622,157
<b>DEFERRED CHARGES</b>	164,649	246,973
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$37,231,769</b>	<b>\$35,977,823</b>

### EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

	DEC. 31, 2021	DEC. 31, 2020
<b>EQUITIES</b>		
Memberships	\$218,060	\$216,740
Patronage capital	18,466,395	17,021,346
Other equities	1,925,937	1,861,419
Total equities	\$20,610,392	\$19,099,505
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
CFC mortgage notes	\$13,611,078	\$14,093,332
Post-retirement benefit obligation	411,295	385,267
Total noncurrent liabilities	\$14,022,373	\$14,478,599
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable		
Purchased power	1,304,562	1,247,550
Other	177,583	226,507
Customer deposits	274,970	147,402
Accrued taxes	255,653	213,581
Other current and accrued liabilities	586,236	564,679
Total current liabilities	\$2,599,004	\$2,399,719
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$37,231,769</b>	<b>\$35,977,823</b>

## Summary of long-term debt

<b>CFC MORTGAGE NOTES:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
2.65% - 2.90%	\$139,176	\$246,954
3.30% - 3.85%	4,412,087	4,355,655
3.95% - 4.95%	6,840,759	6,552,460
5.00% - 5.95%	2,219,056	2,294,127
6.00% - 6.95%		126,937
<b>TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>\$13,611,078</b>	<b>\$13,576,132</b>

Visit our website,  
[www.remcsteuben.com](http://www.remcsteuben.com),  
 for the 2021 Annual  
 Meeting Minutes.

**929.5**  
total miles  
of line

**7.2**  
miles  
added

**116**  
new services

**\$864,000**  
capital  
credit total

**201,473,053**  
annual kWh sales

# Steuben County REMC news

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Office Held	District (Townships)
Wayne Gingerich President	7 (Salem)
Larry Jack Vice President	8 (Steuben, Smithfield and Grant)
Gary Shough Secretary/Treasurer	1 (Greenfield and Millgrove)
Scott Charters	2 (Jamestown)
William "Bill" Snyder	3 (Fremont and Clear Lake)
Mike Kurtz	4 (Jackson)
Carter Snider	5 (Pleasant)
Neasa Kalme	6 (Scott and York)
Marc Nelson	9 (Otsego, Richland and Franklin)

## CONSULTANTS

James A. McEntarfer	Corporate Counsel/ Lawyer
Leonard J. Andorfer & Co., LLP	Certified Public Accountants/ Auditors

## EMPLOYEES

Job Title	Years of Service (As of Dec. 31, 2021)
Rodney Allen Journeyman/Lineman/ Line Foreman	35
Brandi Boggs Member Services Rep; Accounts Payable	1
Ann Charlton Meter Tech	28
Jennifer Duke Billing Supervisor	8
Joshua Durbin Director of Member Services	10
Dustin Everetts Director of Operations/Engineering	1
Christopher Hamilton Journeyman/Lineman	23
Brittney Holden Communication Coordinator	4
Dennis Jack Journeyman/Lineman/Lead Lineman	27
Kevin Keiser CEO	24
Gaven Kolb 1st Year Lineman Apprentice	5
Matt Lortz Journeyman/Lineman/Staking	28
Namon Meyers Journeyman/Lineman	6
Aaron Miller Journeyman/Lineman	9
Greg Miller Journeyman/Lineman	26
Braden Nichols Journeyman/Lineman	10
Steve Parnin Inventory Specialist	37
Jennifer Patterson Member Services Rep; Collections	7
Gary Ritter Journeyman/Lineman	35
Brett Shepherd Mechanic/Maintenance	11
Dave Short Director of Broadband Operations	1
Steven Smith Director of Finance	11
Donald Snyder Tree Crew Foreman	23
Tyler Stuckey Right of Way, Tree Crew	-
Hunter Stultz Right of Way, Tree Crew	2
Greg Sutton Journeyman/Lineman	43
Daylon Ulrich Third Year Lineman Apprentice	5
David VanAken System Engineer	16
Beth Welch Executive Assistant	21
Russell Werling Broadband Provisioner	1
Sarah Zydiak Engineering Assistant/GIS Coordinator	5
Bill Stackhouse Director of Operations	40 (-ret.)
Tammy Wise Member Service Representative, Collections	32 (-ret.)



COMBINED  
YEARS OF  
SERVICE

463

AVERAGE  
YEARS OF  
SERVICE

11.0

Thank you for  
serving Steuben  
County REMC  
members!

## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



**May 4:** Rod Allen, journeyman lineman/line foreman (35th)

**May 4:** Kevin Keiser (24th)

## EFFICIENCY TIP



**Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system.**

If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

## CALENDAR



**Electrical Safety Month:** May

**Mother's Day:** May 9

**PowerShift Deadline:** May 15

**Office Closed for Memorial Day:** May 30

**Operation Round Up Application Deadlines:**  
June 25, Sept. 24, Dec. 24



**SIGN UP TO BE A GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE.**  
**VISIT [ACTION.INDIANAEC.ORG](http://ACTION.INDIANAEC.ORG).**

## BROADBAND UPDATE (5/2022)

### PHASE 1

Orland/West Otter/Salem/Helmer



PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN



MAKE READY CONSTRUCTION



MAINLINE CONSTRUCTION



MAINLINE SPLICING



SERVICE WIRE CONSTRUCTION



AT-HOME INSTALLATION

### PHASE 2

Nevada Mills/Lake James/Crooked Lake Construction starting after Phase 1



PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN



MAKE READY ENGINEERING

### PHASE 3

North-Central-West Angola/Fremont Construction starting after Phase 2



PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN

### PHASE 4

North-Central-West Angola/Fremont Construction starting after Phase 3



PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN