

# REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Gary Grindle  
President & CEO

**REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.**  
75 Airport Road • P.O. Box 70  
Indiana, PA 15701-0070  
724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667

**Ebensburg District Office**

127 Municipal Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
814-472-8570

Website: [www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com)  
Email: [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com)

**Staff**

**Barry Baker**

Indiana Operations Manager

**Chad Carrick**

Chief Operating Officer

**Shane Cribbs**

Network & Systems Manager

**Dave Daugherty**

Safety Supervisor

**Jeff Dishong**

Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

**Chris Masterson**

Reliability Supervisor

**Patrick McAndrew**

Manager of Engineering

**Brendan Short**

Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor

**Renee Spalla**

Supervisor of Consumer Services

**Chris Weller**

Load Management Supervisor

**Outages & Emergencies**

1-800-332-7273

724-463-7273

**Office Hours**

Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ebensburg Office:

7 - 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Stacy Patterson, CCC

Local Pages Editor

## Guest Column



## President and CEO announcement

By Herman Blakley, Board Chairman

WITH the upcoming retirement of current President and CEO Gary Grindle, the board of directors is pleased to announce Chad Carrick as his successor. This change in leadership will occur on Sept. 7.

Gary began his employment at the cooperative in 1973, and has held several strategic positions, providing leadership in purchasing, facilities management, engineering and operations, accounting, and diversified services, such as the cooperative's subsidiary, REA Energy Services. He has extensive experience with the cooperative business model, and has distinguished himself as a knowledgeable and influential leader within the cooperative community.

In recent years, he has served as the co-general manager at REA and was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the cooperative, while carrying out executive responsibilities. In the co-manager role, he demonstrated an exceptional ability to identify and develop people and teams.

In 2014, upon recommendation from a consultant from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the board agreed to change to one manager to lead the cooperative and made Gary Grindle the president and CEO. He has implemented many changes that have helped the cooperative through a transition period during the last few years, helping it to become a top-notch cooperative.

In October 2015, after Gary's official retirement announcement, your board of directors chose Chad Carrick as the

next president and CEO. Chad joined REA Energy in 2001 and has held several strategic positions, providing leadership in member services, IT, finance, accounting, and diversified services. He has extensive experience with the cooperative business model and other utilities. He is currently serving as the cooperative's chief operating officer until Gary's retirement on Sept. 6, 2016, and will assume the president and CEO position thereafter.

Chad holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Saint Vincent College and a master's degree in business administration from Point Park University. He has also completed the following National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) programs: Introduction to Distribution Engineering and the Cooperative Financial Professional Certification.

Chad and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of two children, Madison and Andrew.

As Chad starts his new journey, we also want to bid a fond farewell to Gary as he begins a well-deserved retirement. We hope he enjoys the opportunity to spend more time with his wife, Lynn, their three children and two grandchildren.

We anticipate a smooth transition as Chad joins the directors of REA Energy in continuing our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. Plan to attend our 79th annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016, at the Kovalchick Convention Complex to meet Chad. ☀

# 2016 area meetings

By Stacy Patterson, CCC,  
Communications Coordinator

REA ENERGY held its yearly area meetings in March. This year, the cooperative held two meetings for members residing in board Districts 3 and 4.

Over 270 members attended the area meetings, held on March 29 and 30.

The meeting for members from District 3 was held at Brush Valley Fire Hall in Brush Valley, while members from District 4 attended their meeting at the Holy Name Church Hall, Ebensburg.

Board Chairman Herman Blakley welcomed members to the meetings, and introduced the board members and president and CEO.

Following the board address, President and CEO Gary Grindle, Chief Operating Officer Chad Carrick, and HVAC and Energy Sales Supervisor Scott Meckley gave a joint presentation updating members on the financial state of the cooperative, operations, new technology, REA Energy Services, and Touchstone Energy.

Gary highlighted the cooperative's financial status, upcoming system improvements and right-of-way work scheduled to be completed in each district's respective area.

He also highlighted the reliability of the cooperative and how the overall outage time per member has decreased drastically since 2012, when the cooperative began to use a new mapping system. The system can take members' outage information and predict where the cause of the outage may be, narrowing the area that linemen will need to patrol if the cause is unknown.

Gary also gave a timeline of different advances in technology the cooperative has made in the last several years

to better serve members. Some of these include: automatic meters, more sophisticated equipment for the load management program, new geographic information systems mapping system, updated work force management and outage management.

Finally, he mentioned REA Energy has many forms of communication with our members. Members can visit our website ([www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com)) for information about the cooperative. From the website, there is a link to Facebook and Twitter, where we will post regular updates on current events at REA Energy, including storm and outage status.

Chad discussed the implementation of a new enterprise software system for the cooperative taking place over the next several months. He highlighted options that may be available to members, including:

- ▶ Schedule One-Time Future Payment (Credit Card & E-Check)
- ▶ Account Ledger Option
- ▶ Printable Account Summary
- ▶ Create Outage Tickets
- ▶ View Outage Maps

Scott spotlighted our successful REA Energy Services programs and products, which include our newest products, Honeywell and Kohler generators, Maytag HVAC systems, and Fujitsu ductless air conditioning and heat pumps.

Members attending the meeting took



THE ADVANTAGE OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP: REA Energy President and CEO Gary Grindle, left, greets members at the District 4 area meeting.

advantage of the opportunity to look at displays of the products that our for-profit subsidiary, REA Energy Services, Inc. offers. This subsidiary was formed in 1999 to help offset cooperative costs, as well as give the members an opportunity to purchase quality products at excellent prices.

The board would like to invite all members to join us at our 79th annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016, at the Kovalchick Convention Complex. While only members in Districts 3 and 4 are scheduled to vote by mail-in ballot this year, all members are invited to attend the annual meeting. Results of the election will be announced at the meeting. We hope to see you there! ☀

**REA Energy offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2016, in observance of Independence Day. Power outages can be reported by calling 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273.**

# New look to your bill coming soon

AS SHOWN in May's Penn Lines, within the next couple of months, your monthly electric bill will look a little different. Even though your bill format is changing some, your rates have stayed the same. The kilowatt-hour rates for all classes of customers are still the same as they have been since April 1991. The breakdown of the bill shows the cost at the net amount, but you still will receive the same discount for early payment. *\*Please note this is a draft and there may be other small enhancements.\**

- All account numbers will now have a three-digit number at the end (example: 1-23456-20-001). Members with multiple accounts will now have one primary account number with sequential three-digit numbers at the end (example: 1-23456-20-001, 1-23456-20-002).
- Your account summary shows the charges for the current month, along with previous charges and payments. Sales taxes and outside yard light charges are also shown, if applicable. Your bill is shown based on the net amount, but by paying early, you can take advantage of the discount rate shown at the bottom of the bill. In this section, it will show the amount for Operation Round-Up if you are signed up to have it automatically deducted.
- The envelope your monthly bill is sent in will look a little different. It will now show both the company name and address, and your mailing address through windows in the envelope. There is also a check box to indicate any changes in contact information.
- If you choose to pay your bill by credit card, there will now be a space available at the bottom of your bill stub to include your credit card number, expiration dates and CCV number found on the back of your credit card. We accept MasterCard, VISA and Discover.
- Your bill will now include the address where your service is located, in addition to your mailing address. If either address is different than what we have printed on the bill, there is an area on the back of the bill to make changes. You can also make changes to your contact phone number(s) and add an email address if you choose. NOTE: For any name or company name changes, you must contact the cooperative.
- Your bill will include a graph of electric use. This section features a table that compares the number of billing period days, daily use (in kilowatt-hours), and average kilowatt-hours/day for the current billing month, last billing month, and the same billing month last year. The energy bar graph in this section displays up to 12 months of electricity use history.
- In addition to being able to pay by cash, check, money order and ACH draft, members will now have the option to pay by auto credit card draft, e-check and online.
- The payment portion of your bill will still include the same information as the previous bill format with your meter and account numbers, discount, net and penalty rates all included. There is now a line for you to include a donation to Operation Round-Up if you choose.

**REA energy** Cooperative Inc.  
A Tidewater Energy Cooperative

PO BOX 70 • INDIANA PA 15701-0070  
Office: 724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667  
Hours: 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM • Monday - Friday  
Website: www.reaenergy.com  
Featuring REA Energy Service™. See back of bill.

**5 MESSAGE**

Account Number	Customer Name	Service Address	Mailing Address
1-23456-20-001	JOHN Q SAMPLE	123 NORTHEAST MAIN STREET	123 NORTHEAST MAIN STREET

Meter Number	Service Period	No Days	Previous Reading	Present Reading	Multi	KWh Usage	Rate	Bill Date	Due Date	Amount Paid
5123456	12/25 - 01/25	31	0	1000	1	1000	200	02/02/16	02/12/16	

Previous Balance \$294.00  
Payment 02/07/16 -\$294.00  
Balance Due \$0.00

Service Charge \$30.00  
kWh Charge @ 1000 \$96.00  
Yard Lights \$13.50  
Sales Tax \$0.00  
Current Amount Due \$131.50  
Round-Up \$0.00  
Discount to 02/07/16 \$125.60  
Net Amount Due by 02/12/16 \$131.50  
After 02/12/16 Pay \$137.40

Total Round-Up Contribution for Year \$0.00

**6**

**7**

**8**

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.  
PO BOX 70  
INDIANA PA 15701-0070

Return Service Requested

I have new contact information. See back.

JOHN Q SAMPLE  
123 MAIN STREET  
INDIANA PA 15701-0070

To pay by Credit Card:  
 Visa  Discover  
 Mastercard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
ccv: \_\_\_\_

Meter Number 5123456  
Account Number 1-23456-20-001  
Discount to 02/07/16 \$125.60  
Net to 02/12/16 \$131.50  
After 02/12/16 \$137.40  
Round Up (Enter Amount) \$  
PAYMENT AMOUNT \$

Please make check payable to "REA" and return with stub.

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.  
PO BOX 70  
INDIANA PA 15701-0070

## Thank you!

We will be keeping you updated with any changes through Penn Lines and our website, www.reaenergy.com. Thank you for your patience and understanding through this new and exciting process. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at 724-349-4800 or 800-211-5667 or email us at reaenergy@reaenergy.com.



## Become a 'co-op voter'

WHEN was the last time you voted?

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility that is responsive to the consumers it serves. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility — to select the best leaders for our communities.

Yet in places all over America, even those served by electric cooperatives, citizens aren't exercising that right.

In the 2012 national elections, voter turnout dropped overall, but the decline in rural counties was 18 percent — twice that of the nation as a whole.

And when voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concerns to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live, and raise families.

Reliable electricity, access to rural broadband and the quality of our healthcare system are just a few issues we all care about. Still, they only become priorities if enough people show elected officials that they are paying attention.

Registering to vote and voting are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.


I'd like you to join me in a new initiative to get every eligible person registered to vote — you, me, our family and friends —and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER.

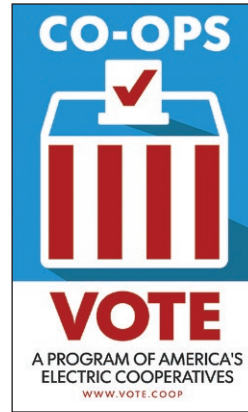
REA Energy Cooperative has joined America's electric cooperatives in launching a campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops into the public discussion. Called "Co-ops Vote," this effort will help boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives across the country to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear every day, especially Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Visit the Co-ops Vote website, WWW.VOTE.COOP, and take the pledge to BECOME

A CO-OP VOTER to support your community and electric cooperative when casting your vote in 2016. The website will give you information on your elected officials and candidates, the voter registration process, election dates and locations, and background about eight key co-op issues we want our elected leaders to understand: rural broadband access, hiring and honoring veterans, low-income energy assistance, cybersecurity, water regulation, rural health care access, affordable and reliable energy, and renewable energy.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. With 42 million members across the nation, electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

If you have any questions, please visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) or contact us directly at 724-349-4800. Hope to see you at the polls! 



### Right-of-way management/facility construction news

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in June:

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights-of-way of the Cherryhill, Tanoma and Senate substation areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.
- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be performing herbicide vegetation management work within the Amsbry, Brown's Crossroads, Cherryhill, Clyde, Curry Run, Laurel, Senate, Shadowood, Smithport, St. Augustine, Tanoma and Washington substation and metering point areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Notification of work will be made using our automated phone system to members in the areas affected.

Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800, or you can view the specifications online at: [www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com). All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

## Your Board of Directors



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Chairman  
District 9



Michael J. Bertolino  
Vice Chairman  
District 3



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