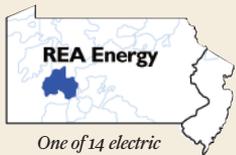


REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Gary Grindle
President and CEO

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Indiana Operations Manager
- Chad Carrick**
Business Development Manager
- Shane Cribbs**
Network & Systems Manager
- Dave Daugherty**
Safety Supervisor
- Chris Masterson**
Reliability Supervisor
- Patrick McAndrew**
Manager of Engineering
- 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

A cooperative day in YOUR life



by **Stacy Patterson, CCC**
Communications
Coordinator

SO HOW DID you spend your day? Chances are cooperatives were a big part of it from dawn until bedtime. Take a moment to read this quick overview of how co-ops might be impacting you every day.

Your morning orange juice might have come from Florida's Natural, a producer-owned cooperative based in — you guessed it — Florida, but distributed throughout the U.S. If your morning coffee came from Equal Exchange (www.equalexchange.coop), you get bonus points because they source their coffee from farmer-owned co-ops in developing countries, and they are a worker-owned co-op. If you like milk in your coffee or cereal, check this out: more than 86 percent of all fluid milk flows through a co-op!

The wheat in your muffin or toast was most likely processed through a farmer-owned grain elevator in the Midwest. If you had cranberries in that muffin, they likely came from Ocean Spray, or maybe you used Land O'Lakes Butter or Welch's Concord Grape Jam — all producer-owned co-ops that make the products we love on our toast.

After that big co-op breakfast, it is time to start the day. Working parents might drop off their young children at one of the over 1,000 preschool co-ops that operate throughout the U.S.

Perhaps this is the day to make some improvements to your home. Ace Hardware, True Value and Do It Best are all examples of purchasing co-ops. These are small businesses that come

together to form a co-op so they can compete with big box retailers that are not owned by people in the local community.

You might need to stop by the credit union for a loan or pick up some cash for that home project from one of the 25,000 ATMs in their network. More than 100 million people in the U.S. are members of a credit union, and yep, you guessed it, credit unions are co-ops.

On your way home, you may stop at one of the 300 community-owned cooperative grocery stores in the country. Many of the meat products and vegetables are also sourced from co-ops. If you are in a hurry, maybe you swing by KFC, Taco Bell or Pizza Hut to pick up dinner. The franchise owners of these fast food restaurants are all members of a purchasing co-op, just like the hardware stores above. So are the owners of Dunkin Donuts and many other franchises.

After dinner, perhaps you are watching TV from one of the more than 1,000 small cable companies that serve rural America that have come together to form a co-op that helps keep costs as low as possible. Or maybe you are surfing the internet through services provided by your local telecommunications co-op.

Travel plans? If you are on a business trip or vacation and staying in a Best Western — that is also a purchasing co-op!

And when it's time for "lights out," you can flip that switch knowing you're receiving safe, reliable electricity from your local electric cooperative, your friends at REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. From morning until night, you can have a very cooperative day. 

Communicating cooperative news

At REA Energy, our top priority is delivering reliable, efficient electricity to our members at the best price possible. Another priority is keeping members up to date on what is going on at your cooperative by communicating through various types of media.

Picture this; it is a cold, stormy night. Freezing rain is falling steadily throughout the area, gathering on branches and power lines. While your lights may have blinked a few times, power has remained on. Then somewhere down the road, a branch gives way and falls onto the electric line, causing the power to go out. After reporting your outage, you are curious when power may be restored and how much the cooperative is affected with outages.

To keep our members up to date in the event of extended outages and to provide general information about the cooperative, REA Energy has many options to choose from to deliver news. These include:

- ▶ **Radio** — REA sends outage information to local radio stations when there are large power outages, as well as when emergency work is needed on short notice. If you live in the Indiana area, tune into: WDAD-AM 1450, WCCS-AM 1160, WQMU-FM 92.5 or WLCY-FM 106.3. Members closer to Punxsutawney can get news on WPXZ-FM 104.1, WECZ-AM 1540 or WKQLFM 103.3. In the Cambria County area, listen to WFGI-FM 95.5, WKYE-FM 96.5 and WJHT-FM 92.1.

- ▶ **Newspaper** — The cooperative submits press releases to newspapers in the area for outage restoration news, planned outages and general information about the cooperative. This information is sent to: *The Indiana Gazette*, *Tribune Review*, *Punxsutawney Spirit*, *Tribune-Democrat* and the *Altoona Mirror*.

- ▶ **Facebook** — With the popularity of social media growing exponentially over the last several years, REA Energy developed a company page on Facebook to provide members with news about the cooperative, up-to-the-minute outage restoration news and other general cooperative news. With the growing use of smartphones, members can quickly get information from sites such as Facebook, where information heard on the radio or read in the newspaper may not be the most current. Visit www.facebook.com, search for REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. and “Like” the page.

- ▶ **Twitter** — Another popular site for social media is Twitter. REA Energy developed a page to provide followers with a quick way to get a message. The cooperative uses this site to give updates on outage numbers and provide links to pages that have information that may be of interest to members. To

become a “Follower,” go to www.twitter.com and search for @REAEnergy.

- ▶ **Website** — Members can visit www.reaenergy.com to get updates on outage restoration, learn more about the cooperative, get information on the various products and services offered, and keep abreast of news and information. From the website, members can access the great local and national savings deals available through the Co-op Connections Card program. ⚡



YOUTH TOUR: In June, a group of nearly 1,700 high school students descended upon Washington, D.C., to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. This tour, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), gives students who are entering their senior year of high school the opportunity to see the sights of Washington, D.C., and to learn about our nation’s government and the role of rural electric cooperatives.

In 2015, REA Energy was represented by seven excellent students from throughout our service territory. The students are very active in school and civic activities, and all knew a great deal about electric cooperatives.

REA Energy’s 2015 student representatives included, from left in the photo at right: Thaddeus Lallemand, Rachel Johns, Lindsay Herring, Carly Mumau, Katrina Bush, Taylor Lecce and Jonah Nichols.



Protect our linemen

While we have printed this article in the past, it bears repeating — attaching signs or other objects to utility poles without the electric utility’s consent is against the law and can be dangerous for our linemen.

Signs and other illegal attachments to power poles make the poles extremely hazardous — and sometimes impossible — for lineworkers to climb and make repairs. It only takes a nail partially driven into a pole to cause serious injury to a lineworker. Nail holes also allow moisture to enter wooden poles, causing premature decay and the expense of early replacement.

Attachments to poles also pose a safety hazard for drivers as they impair visibility.

In addition to signs, the cooperative has also seen deer stands, bird feeders, basketball rims and other illegal attachments. It is often costly to send a lineman to remove pole attachments.

REA Energy asks the public to please refrain from placing signs or other structures on power poles.

Step into the lineman’s shoes!

REA Energy line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Signs, posters, basketball rims, birdhouses or deer stands attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution. Please be respectful of co-op equipment and property. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by REA Energy line personnel. ⚡



DANGEROUS FOR LINEMEN: Nails and staples holding signs on utility poles create hazards for service personnel.

Important annual meeting information

The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held at the Kovalchick Convention Complex located at 711 Pratt Drive, Indiana, Pa., on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and entertainment begins at 5 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Please keep this annual meeting information in mind on September:

- NO voting for directors will be held at the meeting. Only members residing in Districts 1 and 2 will receive election information for their district.
- Attendance gifts and door prizes for members will be given at the meeting; an admittance card will be mailed, which the member listed must present at the door.
- Parking will be available in the lot behind the complex and in the lot to the left of the complex. REA employees will be present in each lot, a van will also be available for transportation to the building from the parking lots. The Kovalchick Complex is handicap accessible. If you are disabled and require special attention, please see a cooperative employee upon your arrival to the meeting.
- ****MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE ARENA THROUGH THE FLOOR LEVEL. SEATING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE ARENA FLOOR THIS YEAR.****

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting

Sept. 24, 2015, Kovalchick Convention

Complex, 711 Pratt Drive, Indiana, Pa.

Preliminary Agenda

- 5-6 p.m. *Entertainment - Tina Marie*
- 6:30 p.m. • *Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum*
- *Reading of Notices*
- *Action on 2014 Minutes*
- *Election Results*
- *Chairman's Report*
- *President & CEO Report*
- *Unfinished Business*
- *New Business*
- *Questions & Answers*
- *Adjournment*
- *Awarding of Prizes*

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Whole-House Surge Protector for a LOW price with an Electric Service Upgrade or

Standby Generator Installation

For details, visit our website at: www.reaenergy.com

Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

or call 724-349-4800 or 1-800-211-5667

****REA Energy Services uses names you can trust.****



HICPA007896

**REA Energy
will be closed
on Monday,
Sept. 7, 2015,
in observance
of Labor Day.**

**Right-of-way
management and
facility construction
news**

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

- ▶ Contractor crews from Townsend will be trimming the rights-of-way off of Shadowood and Uniontown substations in the Indiana District; and Birtle and Summerhill substations in the Ebensburg District, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

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

Contractors will be performing 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. All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

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