

# News & Views

Johnson County REMC  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our mission: To provide reliable, competitively priced utility services to our customers and the community.

November/December 2017



# We are thankful

At Thanksgiving each year, we are reminded of the many people and things we are thankful for. As a local business, Johnson County REMC is thankful to provide our great members with electricity and to participate in the thriving community we serve. Sometimes during the holiday season, our employees are called to work diligently restoring power, which often times requires working in adverse weather conditions. No matter what the weather may bring, our mission is to always provide affordable, reliable and safe electricity. We also aim to improve the quality of life in the community we serve. It's a mission we take seriously.

We are thankful to be an integral part of the Johnson County area. Our employees live nearby, participate in the local economy, and are an important part of the community. The beauty of an electric cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the Board of Directors and govern our Cooperative. We are your neighbors, your friends, and your family.

Our REMC serves as a vibrant force in the local economy—partly because we are local. That means Johnson County REMC is invested in the future of its community. In the last year, we dedicated a one-megawatt

solar array just north of the town of Trafalgar and added a second unit at the Tracy Road Substation to handle the increasing electrical load. We also awarded two \$2,000 college scholarships to local high school senior students and sent two high school juniors to Washington D.C. with the Indiana Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour. We participate and sponsor various local events and initiatives, including sponsorship of the Johnson County 4H and Agricultural Fair Queen Contest and participation in the livestock auction. We are truly thankful for the recent opportunity to send a crew in mutual assistance to help impacted electric cooperatives restore electricity in areas affected by hurricane Irma. This is part of our principled belief in concern for the community and cooperation among cooperatives.

We care about the members we serve. From awarding scholarships to university-bound students, providing electrical safety demonstrations to schools and organizations, to reaching out to members with information that will help them save money with energy efficiency information and rebates, we care about and are thankful for all the people we serve. Without you, there would be no Johnson County REMC.

# Advanced Metering Infrastructure

For the last eight decades, Johnson County REMC has continually provided reliable, competitively priced electricity service to our customers and the community.

In the mid-1930s, nine out of ten rural homes did not have the luxury of electricity service. Residential electricity is depended on greatly today, and people no longer consider it to be a luxury item. To meet our members' present electrical needs, we provide consistent electricity distribution service by utilizing the most advanced technologies available.

While it's true that mechanical style meters which tracked kilowatt Hours (kWh) with spinning discs and dials worked well, Automated Meter Reading (AMR) introduced automation into our metering system. These automated meters allowed metering technicians to gather readings via hand-held devices while driving near your home. Today, our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) offers even more beneficial automation, such as improved outage monitoring and remote meter reconnection. Our AMI is a significant development in Johnson County REMC's ongoing goal to distribute the electricity that you and your family rely on.

In 2014, Johnson County REMC launched a pilot study of 1,100 AMI meters to examine their capabilities and integrate the functionality of AMI software with our billing and outage management systems. During the systems acceptance test, we validated the AMI functionality data and began replacing existing AMR meters with AMI meters. The AMI meters collect data on an hourly basis and communicate with our office via a secure and private fiber optic network. Some benefits of AMI include hourly readings, faster outage restoration, operational savings and detailed information to help you manage your electricity use.

AMI reduces our operation services cost by lowering the number of our vehicles on the road, thus saving fuel and time. It conveniently detects and pinpoints electricity theft and

provides specific data to assist us in working with individual members to help them lower electricity consumption. In addition, AMI benefits members by offering valuable tools and capabilities such as the option to view your electricity use in near real time through our SmartHub App, or online at [jcremc.smarthub.coop](http://jcremc.smarthub.coop). This technology also makes it possible to provide interested members with convenient Prepaid Billing service and cost saving Residential Time-of-Use rate options.

All digital meters have a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screen that shows your electricity usage. These meters include a test function which causes the LCD screen to flash from electricity consumption data to a test screen every few seconds. And please remember that AMI meters immediately detect disconnection. If work is needed at your home which requires the meter to be removed, you may avoid extra fees as well as the risk of equipment damage and personal injury by scheduling an appointment with qualified REMC technicians. There is no fee for this meter removal service when performed Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

For more information about the benefits of SmartHub visit: [jcremc.com/smart-hub-faq](http://jcremc.com/smart-hub-faq)



# Practice holiday electrical safety this season

by Chris Thompson, Regulatory Compliance Safety and Training Coordinator

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is reminding those at home and in the workplace to keep electrical safety in mind when decorating for the holiday season:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- Outdoors, use lights and other electrical decorations certified for outdoor use.
- Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires, as well as loose connections may cause electrical shock or start a fire.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not mount or support light strings that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together.
- Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords – they can overheat and start a fire. Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become energized with electricity from faulty lights.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations. Even small light decorations can produce a fatal shock if they are misused.
- Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.



## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for Johnson County Rural Electric Membership Corporation has been appointed for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The committee members are listed below by district, and are as follows:

**District 2** (Seth Brown) – James Garvin, 843 North Shore Blvd, Franklin, IN 46131, 812-343-6022; Clay Fulkerson, 6567 E 250 S, Franklin, IN 46131, 317-979-1623.

**District 3** – (Steve Shaul) - Gary Dorman, 4960 W 100 N, Bargersville, IN 46106, 317-709-8833; Kevin Thompson, 4630 W SR 44, Morgantown, IN 46160, 317-716-7124.

**District 7** – (Herbert Haggard) - Andy Woodward, 8326 Haggard Court, Martinsville, IN 46151, 317-691-4217; James Whitaker, 7785 Big Bend Road, Martinsville, IN 46151, 317-695-9395.

## 2018 student art calendars are here

Stop by the office to pick up your free copy. Each month of the calendar, as well as the cover, highlight the delightful artwork of kindergarten through 12th grade students from across the state of Indiana.

## Tip of the Month

Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled. Source: [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

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**Call before you dig 811**  
or (800) 382-5544

**Need rates information?**  
Visit our website or call  
for details.

## SmartHub

Johnson County REMC offers the SmartHub feature to help you manage your electric account 24/7 online using your personal computer or mobile device. SmartHub gives you the ability to instantly make payments, view information about your current bill, view your payment history and examine your electricity usage. This includes online access via our website [jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com) and mobile access via Apps for both Android and iPhone devices.

SmartHub provides full access to your current bill, billing history, payment history and monthly electricity usage. You can also pay your bill online and set up and maintain your payment methods, such as recurring payments where your monthly bill amount is paid from your bank account on the due date. All you need to do when using recurring payments, is simply note the billing amount for your records.

This critical billing information is encrypted for every transaction and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. The valuable information you see in the App and on the website is shown to you in "real-time". However, if you do keep your App or the website version open for an extended period, we recommend refreshing the page by selecting a new option to ensure the information is still current.

The SmartHub website can always be accessed and you will receive an email and/or text notification when your bill is ready. This billing notification will have a link to the SmartHub site. When you click on the link, you'll be prompted for your login information. If using a SmartHub mobile application, you can access your account information and pay your bill by opening the SmartHub App. This is all part of our commitment to make viewing your account information and paying your bill more convenient.

For more information visit [jcremc.com/smart-hub-faq](http://jcremc.com/smart-hub-faq)

Johnson County REMC publishes News & Views as a service to our members. Back issues may be viewed on our website or obtained from our office.

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