

Watts New

Teaming up to power down at REMC's 74th Annual Meeting



From left to right: Jeff Hale, Deb Winter and Jeff Yergin at energy efficiency information booth at the annual meeting.

'Team Up to Power Down' was one main focus of Henry County REMC's Annual Meeting held Apr. 26 at Bundy Auditorium. Board President Don Cross gave members insight on EPA's plans, industry issues and efforts to keep power costs down. General Manager Steve Wolfrom discussed cost trends in the industry and explained where energy dollars go. He also discussed REMC's Energy Management Program and the importance of member participation.

During the meeting, REMC members elected incumbent Directors Gerald Shelton, district 3; Ron Thompson, district 6; and Don Sloan, district 9. Larry Brayton was newly elected as director to represent district 11. Brayton was nominated at the district 11 meeting held Mar. 14. Brayton replaces Sheldon Dynes on the REMC board.

Brayton is a Henry County native who lives with his wife Jacqueline in the New Castle area. He serves on the Mt. Summit Christian Church board and is a member of the Wilbur Wright Birthplace, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Rose City Road Riders.

Wolfrom recognized REMC Data Processor Thomas Ratcliff for 30 years of service and Board Vice President Sheldon Dynes for 20 years of service.

Also recognized that evening were four high school seniors who are recipients of the 2011 Henry County REMC

Scholarship. Students were Casie Conley, Knightstown High; Bridgette Yanos, Tri-High; Conor McIlrath, Shenandoah High; and Andrew Neuman, New Castle Chrysler High.

All members who attended received a \$5 billing credit and free energy efficiency kits. Many valuable prizes were given away to members who attended, and singer and songwriter Paul White performed April shower songs to close the evening.



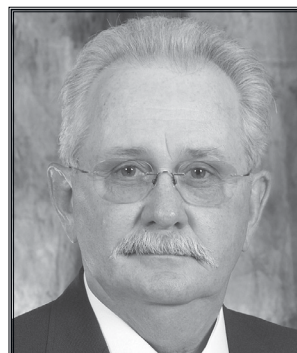
REMC Elected Directors



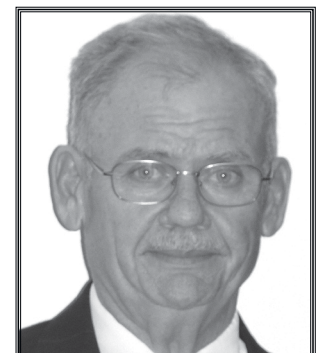
Gerald Shelton
Director, District 3



Ronald Thompson
Director, District 6



Don Sloan
Director, District 9



Larry Brayton
Director, District 11

Member Service

Ph: (765) 529-1212 • Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website

www.HenryCountyREMC.com

Coming Soon...

A FREE membership card that will save you 10-60% off prescriptions. REMC members can also find great savings at participating local retailers.

Watch next months bill for your FREE savings card and visit the REMC web site for business discounts. Simply click on the *Co-op Connections Card* link.



Pick up some cold cash...

when we pick up your old fridge or freezer.

It doesn't make financial sense to keep an old fridge or freezer in your garage or basement - not when it uses up to four times the energy of newer models. And throwing it away isn't a good long-term plan for the environment. Why not let us recycle it?

We'll haul it away free of charge, you'll get a **\$30 rebate**, and you can **save up to \$150 a year** in energy costs. Talk about a good return on investment.

Call **877.395.5535** or visit **HenryCountyREMC.com** for pickup.



Electricity Comes to the Rural Community

The year was 1936 and news of Hitler forcing a march into the Rhineland filled the newspaper headlines. Local businesses advertised dairy equipment for the successful farmer and Eversharp shears for the thrifty housewife. This was the year that your rural electric membership cooperative or REMC came into existence.

The REMC was created by the rural community, for the rural community to bring electric service into those territories which could not or would not be served by public utilities. Thanks to a bill passed by Congress in 1935, known as the Rural Electrification Act, the Henry County rural community was able to receive a loan administered by the Department of Agriculture so they could form a cooperative to distribute electricity in the rural area.

In early 1937, an Article of Incorporation was issued by the State to Henry County REMC to furnish service to the Henry area and portions of Delaware, Randolph, Wayne, Fayette, Rush, Hancock and Madison Counties. An organizational meeting was held that spring at the local courthouse where directors were elected and instructed to implement the process of getting members electric service.

To date, REMC remains owned and operated by the members of the cooperative. It serves the interest of its members rather than generating profits for stockholders.

This year marks Henry County REMC's 75th year of business. We are excited to celebrate the cooperative difference by reminiscing past achievements.

Members: Do you possess any photos from the good 'ol days displaying first light, early REMC members and electric appliances, REMC headquarters, vehicles or equipment? If so, please send them our way. We would love to share them with the membership.

Old photos can be sent to Lara Sullivan at P.O. Box D, New Castle, IN 47362 or e-mail to lsullivan@henrycountytremc.com. Members may also drop them by the office. Please provide your name and address along with the photos so we can get them returned to the proper owner. Photos will be displayed on the REMC website at HenryCountyREMC.com.



First office of Henry County REMC, 321 W. Broad St., 1937.

Doing a little something means a lot



You can lower your electric bill and at the same time help stabilize electric rates by participating in the free Henry County REMC Energy Management Program (EMP).

Members who have EMP switches installed **receive \$18 per year in bill credits** for each device connected. Here's how it works.

A contractor for REMC installs the free switch. Each switch can connect to one water heater and one heat pump or air conditioner. During peak energy usage, we can activate the switch to turn off the water heater's elements, but you still have a full tank of hot water to use for the few hours the power is disconnected. Air

conditioning units are cycled on and off, which allows the home to remain comfortable. We had more than 400 switches installed last summer and winter and did not have any complaints of warm homes or cold water.

Peak periods occur in late afternoon in summer and early morning and evening in winter.

Our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, can activate the switches when peak usage of energy is forecasted. You see, not all electricity costs the same, even though you pay a flat rate on your bill. So we are working with Hoosier to reduce demand for power at peak times when it is most expensive.

Members who participate get to share in those savings today, while the united effort of our members to reduce peak usage will help delay the day when a new power plant must be built.

Bill credits for water heaters at \$3 per month appear on your bill in December through February and June through August. There is a \$6 per month bill credit for air conditioners and heat pumps which appear in June through August.

Members interested in participating should contact REMC at 765.529.1212 or visit us on the web at Henry-CountyREMC.com.

Did you know?

If every American home replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light or CFL, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year, save about \$600 million in annual energy costs and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to those from about 800,000 cars.

Lighting accounts for 20 percent of a home's electric bill, and making the change will lower your energy bill. Henry County REMC members can save energy and money by participating in our Bulb Exchange Program. This program offers REMC members FREE CFL's in exchange for old incandescent bulbs or other goods. Simply watch your newsletter for details.

This month members can bring in 3 nonperishable food items to REMC along with the CFL coupon to the right and receive 5 CFL's absolutely free. Food items will be donated to area food pantries. Please watch expiration dates.

CFL COUPON

Fill out this coupon and bring it to the REMC along with 3 nonperishable food items and receive 5 CFL's absolutely free.

Acct. #: _____ Name: _____

Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Give us your e-mail and we will send you helpful energy saving tips!

Email: _____

CFL options (limit 5 per coupon):

Incandescent equivalents shown below.

Qty: ___ 60W soft

Qty: ___ 60W bright

Qty: ___ 75W soft

Qty: ___ 75W bright

Qty: ___ 100W soft

Qty: ___ 100W bright

Qty: ___ 65W flood lamp soft

Qty: ___ 65W flood lamp bright

Qty: ___ 15W chandelier lamp

Qty: ___ 40W chandelier lamp

Keep electrical safety at the top of your home improvement checklist

Spring and summer is the home improvement season for many DIY-ers. REMC and Safe Electricity urges you to plan ahead and take safety precautions before starting renovations or construction projects – especially if your work involves electrical equipment.

Prepare for the job by making sure you have the right tools and materials, and check electrical cords to ensure there are no frays or cracked insulation before plugging them in. Take note of potential hazards in the work area, such as overhead power lines, or be sure outdoor outlets have ground fault protection (GFCIs).

A GFCI will cut the power to the circuit should it detect a fault that could shock or more seriously hurt you. Use a portable GFCI if your outlets don't have them.

Be willing to hire a licensed professional for projects that involve electrical wiring or when working close to power lines and other electrical equipment. Some work, like trimming trees near power lines and upgrading outdated electrical systems, are best left to professionals.

Safety tips to keep in mind include:

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work. Never go up on the roof in bad weather. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

- Make sure you have the right tools and equipment for the job. Use only extension cords that are rated for outdoor use when working outside. Keep your work area tidy and don't allow your power cords to tangle.
- Use heavy-duty, three-prong extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove or bend back the third prong on extension cords. It is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of electrocution or shock.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 before you dig to get underground wiring located for free. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines.



Heat pump water heaters provide great value

Heat pump water heaters are the most energy efficient way to heat water, saving 50-65% on the cost of heating water. A standard, electric tank style unit will use 4,879 kWh of electricity per year compared to 1,856 kWh per year for a heat pump model. This is a yearly savings of \$277!

Here's how it works. Imagine a refrigerator working in reverse. While a refrigerator removes heat from an enclosed box and expels that heat to the surrounding air, a heat pump water heater takes the heat from surrounding air and transfers it to the water in an enclosed tank.

Henry County REMC offers members a **\$400 rebate** for investing in this technology. Federal tax credits are also available. Visit REMC's website at HenryCountyREMC.com for rebate information, sign up form and Federal tax credit details. Members can also contact us at 765.529.1212.