

Qualifications outlined to be a REMC director

Members considering running for the Northeastern REMC board of directors should review the many responsibilities required of the position. See Section 3.3 of NREMC's Bylaws for specific qualifications and conflicts of interest:

◆ Directors shall be at least eighteen years of age and shall have earned a high school diploma or GED.

◆ Directors are expected to attend all special and regular board meetings including the board meeting following the annual meeting. They are also expected to attend committee meetings and the Northeastern REMC annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year. Other meetings directors attend include one and two-day educational seminars.

◆ Directors are expected to complete their NRECA Credentialed Director's Certificate during their first three-year term.

◆ Directors receive a per diem and mileage reimbursement for attending cooperative meetings. They receive transportation, lodging and meal expenses when traveling on corporate business. Directors may spend over 30 days each year representing Northeastern REMC.

◆ A director is expected to read and be familiar with

information and financial reports from the cooperative, or other state and national associations.

◆ A director is elected to represent a district, but is responsible for decisions affecting the entire membership. Directors should work in harmony with the whole board.

◆ A director must also have the self-confidence and communication skills to express their opinion or disagreement with other directors.

Northeastern's directors are our members. They pay monthly electric bills like other Northeastern members. They do not receive discounted power and their bills are not subsidized. They are just as

interested as any other members in the most economical operation of the cooperative possible.

The directors of Northeastern REMC are elected because they are business-minded and highly respected. Director elections are open to all members, regardless of race, sex or creed.

Districts 1, 8, and 9 will be up for election this year at the annual meeting on September 10.

Additional details have been mailed to all members in their bill statements and are provided in the Northeastern REMC bylaws on our website at nremc.com.



PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE all covered in director meetings

Northeastern REMC recently provided its members with three opportunities to learn, up close and personal, what is really happening at the REMC and in the electric industry in general.

Three district meetings, hosted by Northeastern's board of directors, provided members with updates on current projects, a brief overview of how REMCs brought electricity to the country 75 years ago, upcoming system

improvements, state and national issues affecting the industry, and services available through the co-op. The meetings also allowed members time for one-on-one questions with board and staff members and provided the opportunity for tours of the building.

This is the 5th year that individual district meetings have taken place in March. They compliment the cooperative's larger annual meeting, which is held in September.

Northeastern REMC
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www.nremc.com

Please call 811 at least 2 full business days prior to digging.



LightPost

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75 Years Later - Providing value, service still priorities

THEN:



NOW:

Recycle those old refrigerators and freezers... and make some cash!

An old refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage could be costing you up to \$150 a year. Let us pick it up, recycle it, and pay you \$35. Rebate information is available at nremc.com or by calling our energy advisor at 625-3700, ext 436.

THEN:



NOW:

It's time to change that light bulb...

Replace all those old light bulbs in your home with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (cfls) and begin saving money immediately. Cfls have a much longer life and cost pennies to use. Details on cfls, rebates, and other energy saving tips, can be found on the energy advisor page at nremc.com.

THEN:



NOW:

You and your dog can enjoy the view from your window

...when you cool your home with central air conditioning provided by your new geothermal system. Northeastern is offering rebates for the installation of geothermal/heat pump heating and cooling systems. Check out nremc.com for rebate information.

PROVIDING DEPENDABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR 75 YEARS!

Two area students selected for Washington DC youth tour

Priya Parikh, a junior at Homestead High School, and Braxton Willis, a junior at Carroll High School, have been selected to represent Northeastern REMC on the 2011 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Indiana's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have hosted the Youth Tour since 1960, providing thousands of young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and learn about the federal government and the cooperative utility industry.

The Indiana delegation will be comprised of approximately 80 students from throughout the state, each selected by a local Touchstone Energy cooperative.



Parikh

Willis

In 2010, approximately 1,400 students from 48 states were in the nation's capital for this week-long conference. The 2011 Youth Tour begins June 9 with an orientation program in Indianapolis and ends June 16.

"Northeastern REMC is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for two of our local students," said Michael DeFreeuw, Northeastern's director of marketing and communications. "It's a great trip and a wonderful chance to

see the sights, make new friends and learn how everyone, even young people, can make a difference in the political process."

Priya is the daughter of Virendra and Harsha Parikh, and Braxton is the son of Roger and Shannon Willis.

It's off to camp - Empty your backpack, pack your suitcase

The day after Northwest Allen County Schools dismisses students for summer vacation, one lucky sixth grader will be heading off to an educational, energy-themed camp, compliments of Northeastern REMC.

Alicia Cunningham, a sixth grade student from Carroll Middle School, has been selected to attend the Touchstone Energy Camp in Brookston, IN beginning June 8. At camp, students learn about electricity, electric safety and efficiency, as well as partake in traditional camp activities.

Over 125 students from across Indiana are typically selected to attend Touchstone Energy Camp. This program is offered annually by electric cooperatives like Northeastern REMC in support of area youth.

Alicia is the daughter of Deb Prater and Aaron Cunningham.



While you enjoyed power, others weren't so fortunate

While much of the tri-state area was buried under heavy ice and snow in February and experiencing sometimes lengthy power outages as a result, most homes and businesses in Northeastern's service area experienced very little, if any, interruption in their electric service.

Luckily, we were spared most of the worst weather. But there are a couple other factors that had a major impact on our low outage record. Most of our highly residential areas are now served by underground lines, eliminating exposure to wind, ice and tree damage. A second contributing factor is Northeastern's ongoing tree and vegetation trimming program. Keeping limbs away from power lines eliminates many power outages and blinks.

As much of the really bad weather passed around us, several of our neighboring co-ops weren't so lucky. Northeastern sent six employees to assist at Whitewater Valley REMC in Liberty, IN, in early February. On February 22, two crews were dispatched to Steuben County REMC in Angola and two crews headed to Midwest Energy in Adrian, Michigan, to assist those co-ops in restoring power.

Members alerted to possible scam

Northeastern REMC and Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) are alerting customers of a possible scam involving tree trimming.

Imposters are knocking on doors claiming to represent a utility company. They tell the homeowner that trees on their property need to be trimmed and that the homeowner must pay a fee for the service.

Neither electric company, nor its authorized contractors, will charge a fee for tree maintenance or removal that the company deems necessary for public safety and service reliability. Anyone claiming to represent the electric company or one of its authorized contractors will carry the necessary identification and will be driving clearly marked vehicles.

Customers are encouraged to alert law enforcement or notify their electric company if someone claims that they need to work on trees immediately for a fee.

Tree trimming program continues

Northeastern REMC tree trimming crews will be working throughout the Spring trimming trees near power lines in Eel River, Lake, Jefferson and Smith Townships.



If you have any questions regarding this important program please visit nremc.com under "Programs and Services".



Mark your calendars now!

Northeastern REMC's 75th Annual Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting - Saturday, September 10. More details next issue.

Tips from Energy Advisor - Doug Ferrell



A Leaky Duct System is Losing More Than Air

Did you know that your home's duct system could be losing as much as 20 percent of its air?

A leaky duct system wastes energy, increasing your utility bill. So it makes sense to find and eliminate those leaks. According to TogetherWeSave.com, sealing the air ducts in your home can save you up to \$177 a year.

Saving money is one good reason to seal your ducts. But there are other reasons, too. A leaky duct system makes the rooms in your home stuffy and less comfortable – not cool enough in the summer or warm enough in the winter. And because insulation particles, dust and pollen can enter a leaky system, they may affect your home's indoor air quality.

The first step is to find the biggest air leaks in your home. In the attic, the greatest duct leaks are typically found where the walls meet the attic floor, above drop ceilings and overhangs and behind attic walls. Look for insulation that is dirty or discolored, indicating that air has been moving through it. In the basement, ducts are often located along the top of the basement wall. Duct runs that go through the basement ceiling to the floors above can be sources of leaks.

Electricity and floodwaters create a very dangerous mix

Flooding is a coast to coast threat in the United States this time of year. Flood waters can change landscapes, and inflict great damage when they pour into homes and other buildings, submerging potential hazards.

Flood waters can provide the path to ground for errant electrical current, and wading into a flooded basement can result in tragedy. A 34 year old man from South Portland, Massachusetts, was electrocuted while plugging in a water pump in a flooded basement, following heavy rainstorms. A Detroit man also died of electrocution while standing in a flooded basement using a powered device to open a drain pipe.

Northeastern REMC strongly recommends the addition of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) on circuits where water or dampness may be present. Plus take these precautions to stay safe:

- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you're wet or when you're standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it's raining or the ground is wet.



- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.
- Stay away from downed power lines and warn others to stay away. If the line is energized, so is any water in the area.

These warnings are illustrated by the tragic electrocution death of four pedestrians in Miami, when Hurricane Irene blew down a power line near them and electric current spread through the six inch deep water in which they were wading.

Even if wires have been de-energized, they remain a potential danger as power to the system is restored, or standby generators are improperly used. Improper use of generators sends power back through the electric meter onto the utility system. As it travels back through the transformer, electricity voltage greatly increases, posing a deadly hazard to anyone near the lines, including utility crews working to restore power.

SpotLight

Holiday office hours

Northeastern REMC will be closed Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday, and Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. Emergency and power outage information can be called in to our office 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Utility poles being tested

During the next few months contracted crews will be inspecting Northeastern's utility poles throughout Jefferson Township and in parts of Thorncreek, Etna-Troy and Richland Townships.

WalMart accepting NREMC payments

Members can pay their NREMC bill at any WalMart, anywhere in the country. Cash and debit cards (no credit cards or personal checks) will be accepted at their Customer Service desks. WalMart will add a service charge to the bill.

The prizes go to...

Three REMC members won \$75 electric bill credits by having their name drawn during our recent district meetings. Congratulations to Terry Smith and Norman Gordon of Columbia City, and Alan Schuette of Fort Wayne. Thank you to all who attended these meetings.