

P.O. Box 427  
Bloomfield, IN 47424-0427  
812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362  
[www.udwiremc.com](http://www.udwiremc.com)

## OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and  
major holidays

## STAFF

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Brian L. Sparks

**Manager of Office and  
Administrative Services:**  
Laura Johnson

**Manager of Marketing and  
Customer Relations:**  
Jill Gilmore

**Manager of Operations and Engineering:**  
Shane Smith

**Manager of Energy Services:**  
Darla Truelove

**Superintendent:**  
Bob Wilson

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 ..... Jack Knust  
District 2 ..... President James S. Weimer  
District 3 ..... Vice President James A. Jackson  
District 4 ..... David L. Stone  
District 5 ..... Secretary Roger Shake  
District 6 ..... Ronald E. Thompson  
District 7 ..... Treasurer Bill Watkins  
District 8 ..... Jack Benham

## SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report service interruptions, call:  
812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362  
(day or night)

**Please have your location number  
ready when reporting outages.**

Routine questions answered during regular  
business hours.

## OUR MISSION...

*"To provide our members with electricity and quality, efficient services, while maintaining a financially healthy and rate competitive position in the industry through teamwork, mutual respect and an on-going commitment to our members."*

## CEO'S COMMENTS

# New rates begin this month

In response to member concerns, UDWI REMC is restructuring its rates to ease the impact of high electric prices during the summer and winter months.

No doubt, the new seasonal rates we introduced last year — designed to help protect all of us from larger, across-the-board increases in the near future — were too much of a change too soon. As much as the new rates were carefully designed to match our actual costs of providing electricity to you, Mother Nature turned on us this summer with some of the hottest days in recent history.

Effective April 1, we will revise our rates to shave off the highest of the rates during the summer and winter — when your total bills are the highest — and increase the rates during spring and fall, when the impact of the rates is much less.

These new rates will effectively shave off the cost per kilowatt of power during the summer months — the period when cooperative members were most affected by the combination of new rates and record-high temperatures last year — and increase the rate during the spring and fall when demand and total bills are much lower. Rates during the winter months will be reduced also. The new rates generally will not change the total electric bill over a year for a typical member, but will spread the higher cost of summer power over the other months.

Essentially, we are lessening the difference in our rates from season to season. The revised rates generally will not change your total cost of electricity during the year if you keep your use patterns the same. However, it will help spread some of the high cost during the summer and winter to the other months of the year, when your total bill is usually much lower and easier to pay.

We believe this change is the best way to balance two of our foremost concerns — how to avoid a hardship for our members at a tough time in our economy, and how to ensure we have a clear view of the risks we face in the near future if we do not start curtailing our use of electricity during peak, high-cost seasons.

Why not just go back to flat rates, like some



**Brian Sparks**  
UDWI REMC CEO

of you would like us to do? We believe doing so would be fooling ourselves about the cost of electricity in the years to come.

The simple fact is that what is driving up costs across the board is the growing demand for electricity during peak periods — summer and winter. This is the most expensive power for us to buy or generate. The more we use, the sooner we will have to invest in new power plants or new supplies. The cost of that new power will be much higher than the costs we have today.

Members who are aware of the real costs of power at different times of the year will be able to make better decisions about when and how to use electricity and better manage total electricity costs over the whole year. Every day, consumers make informed decisions about necessities based on price — managing our electric use is no different.

Over the years, electricity is one of the rare products that has been slow to change its price to match costs. As a result, the change to seasonal rates has been a difficult one for many of our members. However, with a future of rising costs for power, we still believe it is imperative that we “stay the course” with seasonal rates. At the same time, we understand that members are concerned about the impacts of our rate change during high-use months.

Seasonal rates ensure that members who are working to conserve see a financial benefit and are not subsidizing members who are using electricity during peak periods as if the cost were the same year-round.

**The new rates per kilowatt-hour will be:**

- Summer (June, July, August) — 12 cents (down from 13.6 cents)
- Winter (December, January, February) — 11 cents (down from 11.6 cents)
- Spring (March, April, May) and Fall (September, October, November) — 8.77 cents (up from 7.34 cents)

For more information about our revised seasonal rate structure, please visit our website or call our office directly at 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362.

We hope this revision will help to ease the impact you are feeling during peak use periods while encouraging members to make energy choices that will benefit us all in the future.

# 2011 UDWI REMC Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 9

Bloomfield High School  
Glover Gymnasium

## Meeting agenda

### Before the meeting starts

11 a.m.

- Doors open for registration

11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

- Lunch in cafeteria (as long as meals last)
- Health Fair in gymnasium

### Meeting begins at 1 p.m. and includes:

- "Early Bird" prize drawing
- Invocation
- NJROTC Color Guard — Presentation of flags
- Pledge of Allegiance
- National Anthem
- Welcome — CEO Brian L. Sparks
- Introductions
- Call to order by President James Weimer
- Action on minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting
- Reports
- Election of three directors
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Prizes awarded
- Adjournment

Come join us for  
**YOUR annual meeting!**

## Prize Drawings!!

**Grand prize — \$1,500**  
**First prize — \$1,000**  
**and two \$500 prizes!**

**\$10 bill credit to all attendees!**

**PLUS ... You have a say in your cooperative. Vote for YOUR board of directors!**



photo courtesy of GE

**A GE Hybrid Water Heater will be given away to one lucky attendee! (\$1,500 value)**

## 2011 board of directors candidates



Jack Knust

**District 1 Director Jack Knust** is a farmer born in Clay County and has been a resident of Cory for 35 years. He and his wife, Winnie, have one son, two daughters, and nine grandchildren.

Knust holds a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation and has served on the cooperative's board of

directors since 2001.

He describes himself as "honest, dependable, and caring" and considers his greatest personal accomplishment to be raising his children and getting to know his grandchildren.

Professionally, he has been a long-standing member of Clay County Farm Bureau, Inc. and served as the organization's president.

Knust was drawn to the UDWI board of directors because he realized how important electricity is to all of our lifestyles and wanted to be a part of serving on the board.

He considers the greatest strength of the REMC to be member ownership. He is proud of the reliability the co-op offers to its membership.

Looking ahead to the future, Knust plans to continue serving on the board. He considers one of his most important tasks as a director to be working to strengthen the cooperative so that it can continue its service to members.



James Weimer

**District 2 Director James Weimer** is a life-long resident of Solsberry.

A social studies teacher prior to his retirement, Weimer taught at Bloomfield Elementary and High School, University Junior High School, and Tri-North Middle School in Bloomington. He and his wife, Janet, have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Weimer has attained the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership designations and has served on the UDWI board of directors for 21 years, 18 of those as president of the board. His first experience with UDWI came while attending annual meetings with his parents and observing the keen interest and appreciation they, and others, had for the manner in which safe, reliable energy was made available as affordably as possible. These values are still most important to him.

As in the beginning of our cooperative, he believes the asset of greatest value to UDWI members is the employees. He is proud of the board's commitment to continual training and the constant dedication to safety by UDWI employees.

Weimer looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve as a UDWI director, seeking to honestly and effectively serve the best interests of all members for today and for the future. He is most appreciative of the members' sincere interest in their cooperative and for their support.



David Stone

**District 4 Director David Stone** has lived in Bloomfield for 60 years. He and his wife, Joy, have two daughters, Kamey and Lindsey. Stone is a project manager at NSW Crane.

He holds a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation and has served on the UDWI board of directors since December 1999.

Stone describes himself as reserved, busy, and happy. Raised in a farming family, he appreciates the hard work that goes into raising a family. He remembers that whether it was outside working or around the dinner table, his family always made time for each other or to help someone else.

When asked about his personal accomplishments Stone shared that he hopes he has played a positive role in other's lives.

Growing up on a farm, he says the cooperative has always been a part of his life. Stone remarked, "Like most, all I knew was I could turn on the switch and, magically, there would be lights. My dad served as a director before me, and I had the opportunity to experience some of what it took to make that bulb glow."

Stone sees UDWI's employees as one of the greatest strengths of the REMC because they understand how important their work is to so many people.

He feels we will see many changes in the years to come, and adds preparations must be made now to ensure reliability and service for the future.



## GeoSpring™ hybrid water heater

Now you can reduce your water heater expenses up to 62% and save \$320 every year.\*

That means the GeoSpring typically pays for itself in less than 3 years† and over a 10-year period the savings could add up to \$3,200 for the average household.

All without giving up a single drop of hot water!

\*Based on DOE test procedure and comparison of a 50-gallon standard electric tank water heater using 4879 kWh every year vs. the GeoSpring hybrid water heater using 1856 kWh every year.

†Based on estimated consumer product cost of a GeoSpring hybrid water heater vs. a standard 50-gallon electric water heater, \$300 federal tax credit available on GeoSpring through 12/31/2011 and \$320 difference in annual operating costs.



imagination at work



**Save BIG on water heating costs!**  
**Purchase a GE Hybrid Water Heater**  
**at UDWI REMC for only**  
**\$999 including sales tax.**



## 2011 Youth Tour students selected

Each year, your REMC sends local students to join other young people from across the state and nation to tour our capital city as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

We would like to extend a “thank you” to all of our local students who applied for our Youth Tour. We appreciate your efforts and enjoyed learning about some of your accomplishments and interests.

### 2011 Youth Tour recipients

#### Cain Caudell

Bedford North Lawrence High School

#### Candace Faulkner

Lighthouse Christian Academy

#### Brooke Stefancik

Linton-Stockton High School

#### Kyle Smith

Bloomfield Junior-Senior High School

## Be aware of the dangers of lightning strikes this season

In the United States, lightning kills an average of 66 people per year and injures another 300, according to the National Weather Service. In an effort to decrease the numbers in these statistics, UDWI REMC and Safe Electricity offer the following tips to stay safe during lightning storms:

- If you're close enough to the storm to hear thunder, you're most likely close enough to be struck by lightning. Seek shelter immediately.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, picnic or rain shelters, or in open-frame vehicles.
- Don't plug or unplug anything electrical during the storm.
- Don't use corded telephones — phone use is the number one cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S.
- Avoid contact with water, pipes, washers, or dryers.
- If you can't find shelter in a building or in a closed-frame vehicle, keep your feet together and sit on the ground away from water, high ground, or open spaces.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You can not be harmed by touching the victim after he or she has been struck.

Visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) for more information on electrical safety.

**Happy Easter from all of us at UDWI REMC!**

**Our office will be closed April 22 for Good Friday.**

## CO-OP NOTES

### Rate schedule

Schedule "R" – residential service

**Seasonal Rate Schedule (as of April 1)**

**Facilities charge.....\$32 per month**

**Summer (June, July, Aug.).....\$0.12 per kwh**

**Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.).....\$0.11 per kwh**

**Shoulder (March, April, May, Sept., Oct., Nov.)**

**.....\$0.0877 per kwh**

The above rates are subject to a Purchased Power Cost Adjustment Tracking Factor, in accordance with the order of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, approved Dec. 17, 1976, in Cause No. 34614, and fuel adjustment clause.

### Budget billing

Our BUDGET BILLING PLAN allows you to budget your payments over the course of the year to improve your financial planning. With our BUDGET BILLING PLAN, you know each month exactly how much your electric bill is going to be.

The monthly billing amount is determined by averaging the kilowatt-hours used for the previous 12 months, and the payment is figured using the current rates. The member agrees to pay the budgeted amount each month for 11 months. However, actual use is recorded on each month's billing statement to allow the member to track his or her use throughout the year. In the 12th month, the member either pays the difference in what was actually used, or receives a refund if there is an overpayment.

The BUDGET BILLING PLAN is offered to members who have had electric service with the co-op for at least one year.

Applications for BUDGET BILLING are available throughout the year; however, members can only join the program from April 1 through Sept. 15. June is the first billing month of the program, with May being the 12th, or settlement, month.

For more information about UDWI's BUDGET BILLING PLAN call 384-4446 or 800-489-7362.

### Payment options:



We accept Mastercard, Visa, Discover, and American Express credit and debit cards for payment.

**Pay your electric bill online with just the click of the mouse.** 1. Go to [www.udwiremc.com](http://www.udwiremc.com) 2. Click a) Log in or b) create a new account \*\*Be sure to provide a valid e-mail address 3. Go to the Pay Your Bill option. (The amount of your bill will be displayed). 4. You will be asked to provide your credit card information — **including expiration date.** 5. Click on the Submit button. 6. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address you provided) once your payment is processed.

If you are interested in paying your electric bill online, please call 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362 to verify your password before logging on.

## Scholarship applications available April 22

Beginning April 22, UDWI Director Scholarship applications will be available to high school seniors.

Candidates interested in applying for a \$500 scholarship from UDWI REMC must meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant and/or parents or guardians must be an active member of UDWI REMC.

2. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior, scheduled to be enrolled at an accredited college or university.

3. An application must be submitted to the REMC, along with a high school grade transcript.

Applications must be received in the UDWI office by June 15. For more details or for an application, please call UDWI at 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362, or e-mail us at [remc@udwiremc.com](mailto:remc@udwiremc.com).

Good luck, seniors! We are pleased to be able to contribute to the accomplishment of your future goals and wish you the very best as you work toward achieving them.



## UDWI blood drive date set

The date for the UDWI REMC blood drive has been set for Thursday, June 16.

Please mark that date on your calendar and come out to join us in giving the gift of life! The drive will be held in the UDWI REMC parking lot from 1:30-4:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Safe Electricity

**Your friends at  
UDWI REMC want you  
to play it safe!**

**Always stay away from  
downed power lines!**

*Be a part of making a difference!*

**Support your UDWI REMC  
Community Fund**

## WORK ANNIVERSARIES



**Mike Chapman**  
April 6  
2 years



**Megan Toon**  
April 28  
3 years

*Thank  
You*

Have you received outstanding service from an employee at UDWI REMC? If so, let us know. Your comment could determine our next *Employee of the Month*. Send a note to: UDWI REMC, c/o CEO Brian L. Sparks, P.O. Box 427, Bloomfield, IN 47424 or via e-mail at [remc@udwiremc.com](mailto:remc@udwiremc.com).