

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."

**Happy Memorial Day from
all of us at UDWI REMC!
Our office will be closed on
Monday, May 30.**

CEO'S COMMENTS

Moving into the future with an adjusted seasonal rate

It is probably fair to say this past year has been hard on everyone.

That is why I would like to start this column with an apology. We certainly underestimated just how big a change going to a seasonal rate would be for some of you – not just in dollars, but in something you never really had to think about and suddenly put front and center in your lives. As much as we tried to communicate this change in advance, we realize that until that first bill was sent out, most people did not understand the change.

The weather last year did not help either, with summer and winter bringing among the most extreme temperatures on record. Looking back, I certainly wish we could have found some way to prepare our members for this worst-case scenario.

The big difference between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that you have a place to call and talk to people about your concerns. We do hear you. We do listen. Still, we know the seasonal rate means we all have to adjust our electricity use when prices are higher – which takes some time to get used to.

Last April, we asked our members to give us a year to evaluate the results of the new seasonal rate structure. With that year behind us now, we realize the need to smooth out the difference – flattening the curves, if you will, between seasons to ease the impact on you, the consumers.

You are probably asking, "What does all this mean to me, the ratepayer?" It means you will pay less in the summer and winter seasons. In other words, you will be charged 12 cents per kilowatt-hour in the summer instead of 13.6 cents and 11 cents in the winter instead of 11.6. Then, to make up the shortfall, you will pay more in the spring and fall when use is normally lower. You will be charged 8.769 cents per kilowatt-hour instead of 7.4 cents.

This past year, we asked ourselves, more than once, whether this whole change to seasonal rates was really needed. TRUST ME, if we had one of those "Easy" buttons, we would have gladly reached for it, simply retreated to a flat rate, and pretended that was the place to be. Unfortunately, when I look at the future of rising energy costs and supply over the next few years, there is no "Easy" button.

When we look across our country and listen to the debates, I hear the discussion changing



Brian Sparks
UDWI REMC CEO

from "How do we get out of this recession?" to "How do we stop kidding ourselves about the hard decisions we have to make, so we don't burden our children with insurmountable debt?" Politics aside, the point is we are all starting to look forward and realize the decisions we make today will affect our lives tomorrow.

This realization brought us to the decision we made a year ago, to implement a seasonal rate structure. We could have stayed on a much higher flat rate, pretending nothing

was changing with regard to the costs of power. Instead, we chose to engage you in a solution.

Here are four truths we cannot escape:

1. Power costs change radically at different times of the year. It simply costs more for power during peak periods. Oddly enough, we accept changes in price based on supply and demand in other commodities. We only have to look at gasoline prices to see that effect. Yet, electricity is one of the last remaining products to change to this type of system.

2. Most of the growth in electricity use is coming during peak periods – summer and winter. If these spikes in use continue, it will push us sooner into needing to build or buy new sources of energy. Just look at the new plant at Edwardsport – \$2.5 billion and counting.

3. Every kilowatt of new power we need will cost more – perhaps a lot more – than the power we have available today. Just consider the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the cost of fuels, and the mandates to use wind and solar at much higher prices. You can imagine the sticker shock that is ahead for Hoosiers who have enjoyed the low cost of coal for many years.

4. Members who continue to use power during peak periods as if it costs the same as the rest of the year are creating costs for other members who are working hard to conserve or be more energy efficient. A cooperative is, by its nature, cooperative. However, it is unfair to ask members to subsidize other members when there is a better way of trying to hold the costs down for everyone involved.

Seasonal rates are here to stay as we move into the future. You will also be seeing time-of-use rates, so you can control your own costs even more. Please watch for announcements in *Electric Consumer*, or go to our website (www.udwiremc.com). We can all work together to keep costs down for everyone.

March round of UDWI REMC Community Grants awarded

- Friends of the Monroe County Public Library
- Owen County Amateur Radio Association
- Clay County Veterans Group – Vietnam War Memorial
- Greene County Relay for Life
- Bloomfield Junior/Senior High School – Navy Junior ROTC
- Greene County Mini 4-H
- Linton Police Department's Reserve Unit
- Switz City Grant/Fairplay Township Fire Territory
- Monroe County 4-H Goat Club
- Richland Township Fire and Rescue, Inc.
- Jasonville Police Department
- Linton-Stockton School Corporation – Special Education Classroom
- Salvation Army Greene County Service Extension
- Owen County Learning Network, Inc.
- Shakamak High School Guidance Department
- Junior Civitan Club – Linton



2010 UDWI Scholarship recipients pose for a photo during the recognition program.

Seniors, your REMC supports education!

To obtain an application for the UDWI scholarship program, visit the UDWI REMC office or download an application online at www.udwiremc.com. The deadline to apply is June 15.

Celebrate Electrical Safety Month by making homes hazard free

Electric energy use is typically on the rise during warmer weather. As part of its “Teach Learn Care” TLC campaign, Safe Electricity, along with UDWI REMC, suggests “there is no time like the present” to conduct an electrical home inspection. During National Electrical Safety Month in May, the program encourages everyone to make sure their homes are safe from electrical hazards to prevent deaths, injuries and property damage.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), faulty home electrical wiring is responsible for 40,000 fires a year and results in the loss of 350 lives, thousands of injuries from electrical shocks and burns and more than \$2 billion in personal property damage. It's estimated more than 50 million homes and buildings have outdated or inadequate electrical wiring.

Electrical hazards have a tendency to remain hidden until it's too late to avoid disaster. Don't let the small cost of prevention stand in the way of protecting your family and your property. There are many things you can inspect on your own to ensure electrical safety in your home.

- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can shock or be a fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so that the inner wiring components are not exposed. If you have young children, make sure safety covers are used on unused outlets and outlets are not overloaded

with too many appliance plugs. Consider installing tamper-resistant receptacles which have a built-in shutter system which prevents hairpins and other small objects from being inserted into the outlet.

- Check home appliance cords as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors or any other objects.

- Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only. They are not intended for use as permanent household wiring. Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. If you are using extension cords, make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock hazards or mouth burn injuries. Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use. Use an extension cord specifically for outdoors – they are heavier and less likely to be damaged.

- Check your electrical panel to make sure that the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit that they are protecting. If you do not know what the correct rating is, have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. If you are replacing a fuse, make sure that you replace it with the same size as the one that you are removing.

- Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements.

Make sure not to replace bulbs with those that have higher wattage than recommended. Additionally, the bulb should be screwed in securely to prevent overheating.

- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair or replace it.

- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is a problem. GFCIs should be installed in all “wet” areas of the home such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements. GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. It's estimated more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 home-related electrocutions occurring each year could be prevented if GFCIs were installed.

- Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits, smoke detectors, in all bedrooms and in hallways, and within 15 feet of bedrooms. Install at least one smoke detector on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be installed within 15 feet of each bedroom. As always, check with your local electrical inspector if you have questions or concerns.

- Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Co-op Connections Card

List of business discounts

A Summerhouse Inn — Bloomington

\$49 per night weekdays and \$59 per night weekends. 10 percent discount on special event weekends.

Ballyhoo Pizza King — Terre Haute

15 percent off any regular priced menu item. Excludes alcoholic beverages.

Beasley's Towing Inc. — Brazil

20 percent off tows.

Big O Tires — Seymour, Princeton, Scottsburg, Washington, and Bedford

FREE tire rotation and brake inspection. 10 percent off service work (mechanical). \$25 off any set of four Big O brand tires. Free tire rotation/brake inspection good on O.E. wheels and tires only. Not good on Duellby's or 20-inch wheels.

Bloomington Professional Carpet Cleaners

5 percent discount on all carpet cleaning services.

Blue Eyes Photography, LLC — Vincennes

\$25 off any session or order. Call for an appointment.

Bonham's Appliances, Inc. — Linton

10 percent off purchase price of any new GE, Crosley, or Hotpoint major home appliance. Plus FREE delivery in Greene and Sullivan counties.

Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park — Spencer

10 percent off lodging or dining in the restaurant. Not valid on holidays or special events. Not available for meetings or group functions. Not to be combined with any other offers or discounts.

Carla's Catering and Creations — Shoals

A FREE vegetable tray at a booked event. Value \$25.

Century Suites Hotel — Bloomington

20 percent off per night, any day, any suites. Excludes special event dates.

Charlotte's Unique Boutique — Linton

10 percent off non-sale, in-stock items. Excludes sale items and some jewelry.

Clariti Advanced Vision Correction — Bloomington

10 percent off iLasik surgery.

Classic Flooring — Greencastle

10 percent off any product, including special orders. Not valid with any other discounts or promotions.

Commercial Service of Bloomington Inc. — Bloomington

10 percent off preventative maintenance program.

Essential Wellness LLC — Bloomington

\$5 off of a table massage. Not valid with other offers and discounts.

Flooring America — Switz City

10 percent off flooring materials. Does not apply to prior purchases or sale prices. Cannot be used with other discounts. Excludes labor and installation.

Fortner Pest Control — Vincennes

7 percent discount on new accounts.

Francis' Jewel Box Inc. — Linton

FREE classic shoe rental with diamond, platinum or gold collection complete tux rental.

Golden Corral — Bedford

\$1 off adult buffet with purchase of a beverage.

Grubb Worm Landscaping LLC — Bedford

20 percent off all plants installed. Minimum of \$1,000 job.

Guardian Computer Systems, Inc. — Terre Haute

20 percent off of labor. Excludes parts.

Honey Creek Animal Hospital — Terre Haute

10 percent discount on all.

Hoosier Family Chiropractic, Inc. — Bloomington

Health certificate. Receive a chiropractic consultation, complete new patient examination, x-rays, report of findings, and recommendations for \$50.

Insurance Services, Inc. — Spencer

FREE gift with request for insurance quote. Must show card in our office and request insurance quote to receive free gift.

Ionic Cut Stone, Inc. — Spencer

5 percent discount on orders up to \$1,000.



J & P Storage — Carlisle

10 percent off first month rental fee.

Linton Cycle Sales

20 percent off all global vision eyewear (riding glasses). 10 percent off all Hot Leathers riding jackets in stock.

Linton Public Library

50 cents off total purchase in one day at Linton Library book sale. Excludes Friends of Library sales.

Main Street Gifts — Linton

10 percent off any one item. Offer not to be combined with other discounts.

Mann Plumbing Solar Energy Systems — Bloomington

\$500 off solar pv, solar hot water or solar air system. \$50 off solar attic fan.

Mark R. Buckley DDS — Jasonville

10 percent off.

McArdle & Co. Builders — Bloomington

10 percent off a construction remodel.

Meineke Car Care Centers — Bloomington

10 percent off on everything. Excludes tires and batteries.

Old Northwest Framery — Vincennes

10 percent off custom framing. 20 percent off in-stock framing materials.

Osmon Chiropractic Center — Bloomington

20 percent discount on products and services — chiropractic and acupuncture.

Photo, Video, and Digital Solutions — Bloomington

10 percent off all digital conversion of prints, slides, negatives, film, or VHS tapes to DVD or CD.

Pro Bass Shop — Linton

5 percent off total purchase of in-stock merchandise.

Professional Installations — Bloomington

Dealer pricing on any auto accessory. Installed or carry out.

Quality Surfaces, Inc. — Spencer

5 percent off all residential countertop purchases. Offer cannot be combined with other promotions.

Quest Chiropractic Center — Bloomington

Free consultation and x-rays (if needed).

Rainbow International Restoration & Cleaning — Spencer

\$25 off on any cleaning service, carpet, house, etc. Or, we will waive deductible on any insurance restoration project. Offer valid at other locations with prior approval.

Ranard's Hauling, Removal & Recycling — Bloomfield

Each co-op cardholder will receive 1 cent more per pound on your aluminum cans price. Receive \$1 off purchase of two rolls of recycling bags.

Redbird Cabin Rental — Linton

10 percent off a three-night stay for co-op cardholders. Excludes holidays and opening days of hunting season.

Rocky's Auto Parts — Bedford

Walk-in discount (on parts only).

Rosemount Motel — Bedford

10 percent off on any room rate.

Rubicon Construction LLC — Bloomington

Free construction consultation.

Scorpion Truck Bed Linings — Cloverdale

6-foot bed, \$300. 8-foot bed, \$350. Color match, \$50. Over the rail, \$25.

Snider Body Shop, Inc. — Vincennes

\$50 off \$500 or greater repair. One per family. One per repair order. Not to be combined with any other offer.

Sole Sensations — Bloomington

10 percent discount on all products including professional orthotic laboratory services by Dr. Ray Stidd. Excludes any items already on sale.

Stephens Creek Cabin — Bloomington

20 percent off of normal rate of \$200 per night.

The Sha'e Lynn — Linton

15 percent off any regular-priced items. Cash and carry only. Excludes special orders and Willow Tree angels.

Tom Steele Photography Inc. — Linton

Half off a family, child, or high school senior session (valued at \$20-\$68.50).

Toy's Auto Parts — Jasonville

Preferred cash customer pricing from 10 to 30 percent off regular pricing.

Valley Cash n Carry — Vincennes

10 percent off. Excludes cigarettes and tobacco products.

Visit www.udwiremc.com
for a complete list of local and
national discounts!



Touchstone Energy®

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 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.

Touchstone Energy campers selected

Six students from area schools have been selected to attend Touchstone Energy Camp at Camp Tecumseh on June 8-11.

Touchstone Energy Camp is a fun, powerful and unique experience designed for sixth grade students from all over Indiana. The camp involves environmental and electrical education, horse-back riding, physical challenges, archery, riflery, canoeing and arts and crafts. Thank you to all students who sent applications in to the office.

Congratulations to the following students who will be joining other campers at Touchstone Energy Camp:

2011 recipients

Thomas Robbins
McCormick's Creek Elementary

Noah Todd
Bloomfield Elementary

Sierra Kirkley
Bloomfield Elementary

Owen Sparks
Linton-Stockton Elementary

Mercedes Wilcox
Bloomfield Elementary

Kendra Gadberry
Bloomfield Elementary

PLEASE NOTE: Change in UDWI Marketing Program for 2011

UDWI REMC recommends the installation of an energy management device on HVAC equipment. However, we no longer require the installation in order to obtain HVAC marketing incentives.

If you installed a heat pump or central air conditioner since Jan. 1, 2011, but did not apply for a UDWI rebate because of the energy management switch requirement, please call our office at 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362.

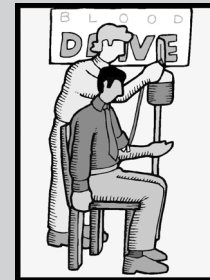


UDWI REMC is a proud sponsor of the Relay for Life. Each year, our employees look forward to taking part in the event and helping to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

The American Cancer Society will hold this year's Relay for Life at White River Valley School on May 15-16.

If you would like to be a part of our team or want to make a donation, just call the REMC office!

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.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES



Jordan Clark
May 15
5 years



Cory Lutz
May 22
5 years



Shane Smith
May 19
14 years



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.