



www.fcremc.coop

**CONTACT US**

574-223-3156  
800-286-2265  
Fax: 574-223-4353

**OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,  
Monday – Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**

1448 W. State Road 14  
Rochester, IN 46975

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 230, Rochester, IN 46975

**HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

Check circuit breakers or fuses first.

If possible, check to see if your neighbors' power is also out.

Call 800-286-2265 (after hours) and report the outage.

Give the name the service is listed under. If possible, give map location and account number from bill.

Give us your phone number in case we need to all you back. State the problem, such as loss of power, partial power, dimming or flickering lights.

Please be patient. Our crews will restore service as quickly as possible.

**CUSTOMER CONTACTS**

Joe Koch, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Greg Bitterling, *Member Services Manager/Energy Advisor*  
Rick Banush, *Line Superintendent*

**CUSTOMER CONTACTS**

Ronald Jana  
1362 S, 600 W, Kewanna  
Dennis Burton  
2289 W. Olson Road, Rochester  
Angela Miller  
1580 S, 800 E, Akron  
Virgil Biddinger  
5249 E, 400 N, Rochester  
Leander Hoover  
5827 S, 500 E, Star City  
John Haschel  
3975 N. U.S. 35, Winamac  
Eric Walsh  
1610 E, 700 S, Macy

# It's time for the annual meeting!



Fulton County REMC will conduct its 80th annual meeting at Rochester High School on June 25. I encourage you all to attend and vote in the director election. While we will not be serving

food again this year, we will have some great activities for the children and some vendors for the adults.

This past year, the board of directors and staff members participated in a strategic planning session and since then, we have been working on that strategic plan. While providing affordable, reliable electricity is our core mission, our strategic plan focuses on growth, youth, economic development, and quality of life in the communities we serve.

Growth is our cooperative's most challenging focus point. All of other focus points are affected by our growth – either directly or indirectly. If our cooperative grows in number of members, fixed costs (think cost of service charge) can be shared by more members, allowing us to keep the individual cost stable. Currently, Fulton County REMC has seen a loss of residential services for the last several years, and we are seeking ways to reverse that trend.

Economic development is not only attracting new businesses to our area, but it also includes working with local business and entrepreneurs to provide opportunities for growth and expansion. Outside businesses have expressed interest in relocating to our area, including a lot on Blacketor Drive, which is served by Fulton County REMC.

With sub-4 percent unemployment in our area, workforce development plays an important role in providing current and



future businesses with a pool of employees who have the skills needed to be productive. Having programs in place to teach the needed skills would not only benefit the individuals, but it would be a plus for our economic development efforts. The low unemployment rate should put upward pressure on wages, which would be a boost for many families. Fulton County REMC is working with FEDCO, Fulton County Chamber, and a group of young leaders to develop a program or programs that will help retain and attract a new generation for our workforce.

This is a huge challenge faced by many rural communities throughout our nation, but to be successful businesses, schools, local government, and communities must work together one step at a time.

Fulton County REMC plans to continue its involvement in the communities we serve. Whether we're replacing rotten poles at baseball fields, rewiring fairground buildings, or hosting Easter Egg hunts for kids, we have been a part of our community for over 80 years. Come join us at Rochester High School on June 25 as we celebrate.

**JOE KOCH**  
CEO

## Fulton County REMC's annual report is on pages 5–8 and 18A–D.



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# 2018 candidates

## for the Fulton County REMC board of directors

### LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DIRECTOR CANDIDATES BEFORE YOU VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

#### District 1

**VIRGIL BIDDINGER** currently represents district 1.



He and his wife, Phyllis, have two sons, Todd and Eric (wife Sarah), and a daughter, Rita (deceased). They also have a granddaughter, Cora.

For the past 42 years, Biddinger has been farming the family farm in Newcastle Township. He was also a Syngenta seed dealer for 30 years. Biddinger has been owner and operator of T & T Outdoor Power and Rental, until the business was closed and sold this spring.

He is a graduate of Rochester High School and Purdue University's agriculture winter course. Biddinger served six years in the U.S. Army Reserves Artillery and MP Hospital Guards. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Biddinger attends Bethlehem Baptist Church where he is head trustee. He previously served as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent. He is currently the president of the Rochester Lions Club and is on the Indiana Racing Lions. He is serving his third term on the Newcastle Township advisory board. He has been on the board of directors for Fulton County REMC since 1994.

In the past, Biddinger was on the Fulton County Fair board for 13 years, serving as co-chairman for two years. He was also a member and past president of the Fulton County Pork Producers and was a charter member and past president of the Talma Lions Club, which disbanded after 35 years. He served on the FSA County committee for 10 years.

**JACOB "HANK" RIFFLE** is a candidate for district 1.

He and his wife, Christine, have two children — Kyle and Brittany.

The Riffles operate a 1,500-acre grain farm on the east side of Fulton County, growing corn and soybeans. They custom farm an additional 1,600 acres of corn and soybeans each year. They have one full-time employee — their son who returned to the farm after graduating from Purdue University.

Riffle is a graduate of Rochester High School and attends Olive Bethel Church of God.

In his spare time, he enjoys mowing the grass at their building sites and taking the pontoon boat to the lake on the weekends.

#### District 3

**DENNIS BURTON** currently represents district 3 and is the vice president of Fulton County REMC.

He and his wife, Linda, have two children — Scott (wife Jenna) and Kevin (wife Kimberly). They are blessed with five grandchildren — Makinley, Harrison, Ellison, Liam and Wyatt.

The Burtons have an agricultural partnership with their sons. Their farm is located in Rochester Township, and they have a grain operation northwest of Rochester where they grow corn, soybeans and hay. They also spread chicken litter and do custom services for corn, soybeans and forages for other farmers.

Burton is a graduate of Rochester Community High School and Purdue University's agriculture short course.

Burton attends Whippoorwill Community Church where he is a deacon and youth Sunday school co-teacher with his wife. In the past, he has served as a trustee for the church.



Burton currently is a council member of the Fulton County 4-H Council and Fulton County Farm Bureau Insurance. He is also an executive committee member and board member for Wabash Valley Power Association. In the past, he was president and vice president of the Fulton County 4-H Council and was a member of Fulton County Pork Producers and the Indiana State Park board.

Burton has earned his Credentialed Director Certificate, which increased his governance knowledge and essential skills needed for the power industry, and the Board Leadership Certification, which provided a greater depth of knowledge on industry. Burton has achieved Director Gold Status.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and grandchildren.

**SANDY OWENS** is a candidate for district 3.



She and her husband, Gary, have two children, Arik (wife Erin) and Jason (wife Melinda). They are blessed to have four wonderful grandchildren.

Owens is a partner in Smith Family Farms, a large grain and specialty corporation farm in Rochester, Fulton County, and surrounding areas. She is employed at New Holland Rochester as an accountant for three of locations as well as human resources manager.

Owens graduated from Rochester High School and Davis, Jr. College of Business where she received her associate degree in business management.

She attends Whippoorwill Community Church where she is the treasurer and event coordinator. She is also on the Fulton County Extension board, Fulton County 4-H Council and Fulton County Extension Homemakers.

In the past, she was Fulton County's assessor and a director on the Indiana County Assessor Association Board. She also was Fulton County Extension Homemakers'

president of both the local club and Extension Council.

As county assessor, she chaired a committee to get a geographic information system (GIS) implemented in Fulton County.

Owens has lived in Fulton County most of her life and enjoys being active in her community. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, crafting and spending time with her grandkids.

## District 5

**ERIC WALSH** has served on the Fulton County REMC board of directors since 2012.



He and his wife, Tai, are the proud parents of two daughters, Rose (age 2) and Eleanor (age 5 months). The Walsh family resides on a small farm outside of Fulton and are active members of All Saints Parish in Logansport. Eric is a 2002 graduate of Caston High School and a 2006 graduate of Goshen College, where he majored in accounting and was a member of the men's basketball team.

Walsh is a certified public accountant and partner at H.J. Umbaugh and Associates. Umbaugh is one of the largest independent financial advisory firms for governmental units in the Midwest. Walsh's work with Umbaugh focuses on financial reporting, budgeting and utility rates throughout Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. His work experience with utilities throughout the Midwest has been beneficial when evaluating similar issues faced by our REMC, including evaluating rates and preparing budgets.

Walsh is also a Credentialed Cooperative Director, which requires completion of five courses focusing on cooperative director skills, and has obtained his Board Leadership Certificate, which requires completion of 10 advanced cooperative education courses.

Walsh has completed professional courses sponsored by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Indiana CPA Society, the American Water Works Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Indiana CPA Society and the American Water Works Association. He has served as an expert witness before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and has led local public hearings on utility

ratemaking and bond financing. In 2017, Walsh served as an expert witness before the IURC on behalf of electric utilities fighting against a proposed rate increase from Indiana Michigan Power. Walsh has also presented at seminars sponsored by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns and the Indiana Rural Water Association.

**BRIAN TOWNSEND** is a candidate for district 5.

He has four children — Cody Roe, Dillan Townsend, Jonathan Townsend and Miranda Townsend. He is also the proud grandpa of two grandchildren.



Townsend is the fire chief for the Fulton-Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department and has been a volunteer firefighter since early 1990s. For 13 years, he was a driver for Dean Foods until it closed the Rochester plant. Currently, he drives for Alexander Distributing hauling Dean's milk and is also a part-time driver for Wilson's Tow and Transport.

Townsend enjoys raising chocolate labs and German shepherds. He also takes time to grow fresh sweet corn, green beans, potatoes and pumpkins on an acre of a truck patch garden for his dad's produce stand.

Townsend is a graduate of Rochester High School, class of 1987.

In his spare time, Townsend likes target shooting, working outside, gardening and playing with his dogs.

## District 7

**JOHN HASCHEL** is the interim director for district 7.

He and his wife, Elaine, live near Beardstown and have two children, Hunter and Sierra.



Haschel works for AK Industries in Plymouth and has made the drive for almost 23 years. He is the general manager/international director for its hydro-action division. The company produces aerobic septic tanks, which are basically a personal treatment plant (an individual version of the town's waste treatment facility). When the treated effluent exits the system, it is safe to water lawns or discharge directly into a body of water. It's clean and has no smell with very minimal

maintenance. The company describes itself as "green from the ground up."

Haschel attends Winamac First United Methodist Church and is an ordained minister for weddings.

He previously served as president of the Winamac YMCA Board.

Haschel is a graduate of Eastern Pulaski Community Schools and Purdue North Central/Ball State University.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and enjoys many outdoor activities like hiking, camping, mountain climbing, rock climbing, hunting, kayaking and martial arts.

Haschel has been an interim director for Fulton County REMC for several months and enjoys being on the board. He said he feels like he has already learned a lot. His father use to be the superintendent of Winamac's electric department until he passed away. Haschel said being on the board and learning about utilities makes him feel more connected to his father.

After some major health issues took him by surprise, Haschel now feels like it is his time to give back and help others. He said he feels very blessed to overcome his health problems. He wants to be known as an unselfish, giving, funny and positive person. Life is too precious!

**BENJAMIN DESABATINE** is a candidate for district 7.

He and his wife, Sandi, have three young children — Walker, Harper and Johnie.



He works for DeSabatine Brothers Excavating, located outside Winamac. The company has provided services for Pulaski County and surrounding counties for 45 years. Services include field tile, septic systems, grade work and demolition.

DeSabatine is a graduate of Winamac Community High School, class of 2000, and IUPUI. He served in the Army's National Guard from 2001–2009 and is an Iraq War veteran.

He and his family attend the Winamac First United Methodist Church.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

# FULTON COUNTY REMC'S

# Annual Meeting

JUNE 25, 2018 • ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 6–7 p.m.** Registration  
Free elephant ears, cotton candy,  
snow cones and bottled water  
Silly Safaris
- 6:15 p.m.** Kids' bounce house and open gym
- 7 p.m.** Business meeting
- 

All registered members will receive a \$25 bill credit. Prize drawings will follow the meeting. Members must be present to win.

**1 \$200 bill credit • 4 \$100 bill credits • 6 \$75 bill credits • 8 \$50 bill credits • 20 \$25 bill credits**

Enjoy free elephant ears, cotton candy, snow cones and bottled water!

**JUST FOR KIDS:** Silly Safaris will have a free show from 6–7 p.m. An open gym and bounce house will be available for kids before and during the meeting beginning at 6:15 p.m. A parent/guardian must sign a child in and out of gym. Plus, we'll give away three kids' prizes — Razor PowerRider 360 electric tricycle with helmet, Rollplay 12 Volt Up-Rider with helmet and a hover board with helmet.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

# Voting procedures reviewed

Vote for directors at the annual meeting from 6–7 p.m. on June 25

You will receive a ballot to vote for directors when you register. You will vote at that time. The voting must be done in this area in order to be considered valid.

In accordance with the REMC bylaws, a member who is receiving electric service

and is a member before the annual meeting is entitled to a vote.

A member is defined as a natural person, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership, federal agency, state or political subdivision or agency thereof,

or body politic which purchases electric power and energy from the REMC.

Only members having the electric service in their names will be entitled to vote.

Members having more than one meter in service will have only one vote.

## Silly Safaris SHOW STARTS AT 6 P.M.

Silly Safaris is the leading provider of live animal conservation education in Indiana with more than 3,000 shows every year throughout the United States.

A Silly Safaris live animal show is the perfect blend of fact and fun for all ages. Silly Safaris keeps the entire audience involved. You'll see a variety of reptiles, mammals, birds and bugs for an experience everyone will remember.

### ATTENTION!

The wrong times were printed in the April and May issues of *Electric Consumer*. The Silly Safaris show will start at 6 p.m., and the bounce house and open gym will begin at 6:15 p.m.

A special **THANK YOU** to some of our area merchants that either donated toward our prize drawing or will have a booth at our annual meeting.

- Brooch Boutique
- Indiana Trails Winery
- Fulton County Massage
- Country Rhodes Greenhouse
- Harvest Moon



## ANNUAL MEETING

# official notice

Dear member:

This is your official notice of the annual meeting of the Fulton County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, which will be held at the Rochester High School in Rochester, on Monday, June 25, 2018. Registration will be from 6–7 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 7 p.m.

In accordance with article IV, sections 3 and 4 of the bylaws of the corporation, the following members have been nominated as candidates for director. One candidate will be voted upon from each district by the entire membership present.

The candidates will serve a term of three years.

- **District 1:** Virgil Biddinger, Jacob "Hank" Riffle
- **District 3:** Dennis Burton, Sandy Owens
- **District 5:** Eric Walsh, Brian Townsend
- **District 7:** John Haschel, Ben DeSabatine

We have endeavored to make this annual meeting an outstanding event. Please plan to attend.

Very cordially yours,



Leander Hoover, secretary  
Fulton County REMC

## Financial statements

	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2017
<b>INCOME</b>		
Electric operating revenue	\$11,996,378	\$11,635,731
Misc. operating revenue	93,501	88,285
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$12,089,879</b>	<b>\$11,724,016</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Cost of purchased power	\$7,692,032	\$7,301,506
Distribution expense-operation	550,396	469,278
Distribution expense-maintenance	658,832	686,015
Customer accounts expense	357,014	341,571
Customer service/information expense	24,733	29,964
Sales expense	174,745	154,564
Administrative and general expense	740,372	824,334
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; MAINTENANCE EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$10,198,124</b>	<b>\$9,807,232</b>
Depreciation and amortization expense	768,348	793,243
Tax expense-property and gross receipts	277,364	280,775
Interest on long-term debt	356,589	346,932
Interest expense-other	–	–
Other deductions	290	285
<b>TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE</b>	<b>\$11,600,715</b>	<b>\$11,228,467</b>
Total operating margins and patronage capital	\$489,164	\$495,549
Non-operating margins and patronage capital	361,375	390,318
<b>TOTAL MARGINS OR PATRONAGE CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$850,539</b>	<b>\$885,867</b>
	<b>Dec. 31, 2016</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2017</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Value of our utility plant	\$23,937,923	\$24,787,925
Less reserve for depreciation	5,820,481	6,270,903
Net book value of system	\$18,117,442	\$18,517,022
Cash in general funds	366,317	797,825
Special construction fund	100	100
Investments	3,520,592	3,621,773
What is due us on energy bills	1,273,270	1,108,003
Value of our materials and supplies	210,364	207,673
Expenses paid in advance and other deferred debits	386,543	321,348
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$23,874,628</b>	<b>\$24,573,744</b>
	<b>Dec. 31, 2016</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2017</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Our debt to RUS and CFC	\$8,399,073	\$8,533,512
Membership fees and consumers' deposits	323,550	330,080
Taxes and interest we owe	216,480	243,012
Miscellaneous bills	857,776	840,132
Other margins and equities	742,397	959,577
<b>Total current and deferred liabilities</b>	<b>\$10,539,276</b>	<b>\$10,906,313</b>
Capital credits in prior years	12,484,813	12,781,564
Capital credits for year ending	850,539	885,867
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; OTHER CREDITS</b>	<b>\$23,874,628</b>	<b>\$24,573,744</b>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**BY RONALD JANA**

As I write this report in late April, the calendar says it is spring, but it feels like late winter. Welcome to our Indiana weather.

You might remember that last summer was cooler than normal. The cooler weather helped reduce costs.

I am sure we all remember the winter months with the wind and frigid temperatures that started in January and continued through April. These colder temperatures led to calls to the REMC office about high electric bills.

As you might guess, these colder temperatures added to the member use, therefore causing higher bills. There are many reasons for bills to rise in the winter. Some of those include electric space heaters

and water tank heaters. These heaters may be inexpensive to buy, but they are very expensive to operate. One electric space heater costs approximately \$130 each billing period if you run it 24/7. So, invest a little more time researching these heaters before you use them again next year.

The colder temperatures last winter also caused a slowdown in line work for our co-op, and we had to scale back our work plan. The work we had scheduled with the county highway department was also less than what we originally planned. Our main goal during tough times like this is to keep the power on and keep outages to a minimum.

With the weather warming up, our line crew is busy completing updates on several line renewals and has started replacing poles that tested defective.

Last but not least, I want to remind you of the Fulton County REMC Annual Meeting that will be held at Rochester High School on Monday, June 25. Mark this date on your calendars! There will be several sweet treats to eat, and Silly Safaris will be there to put on a show starting at 6 p.m. Several booths will be set up to visit before the meeting, and there are several prize drawings for both kids and adults. Make sure to bring your registration card! As a REMC member, you have the right to vote for the director candidate of your choice. You want the person with the know-how to help keep your co-op at peak efficiency and maximum reliability. So, come on out for an evening of fun and fellowship.

**RONALD JANA** is president of Fulton County REMC.

## 2017 annual meeting minutes

Registration for the 2017 annual meeting took place between 6 and 7 p.m. on June 26, and 266 members attended. Voting for directors took place at registration.

The Rochester VFW Post 1342 presented the colors, which was followed by the playing of the national anthem by Julie Oberg and Carrie Craig. Craig then led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Angela Miller gave the invocation.

Ronald Jana, president of the board of directors, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and thanked attending members and other guests. Jana introduced the current directors, student directors, staff and guests.

Joe Koch, CEO, presented Kent Cook a retirement gift and introduced the employees to the members.

Greg Bitterling, member services manager and energy advisor at

Fulton County REMC, introduced the scholarship winners, Youth Tour delegates and the Touchstone Energy camp attendees.

Leander Hoover, board secretary, reported that the notice of the annual meeting was mailed to each member of record on June 9, 2017, and asked for a motion to waive the reading of the notice of annual meeting and proof of giving notice. A motion to waive the reading of the notice of annual meeting and proof of giving notice was made, seconded and carried.

Hoover then reported a copy of the minutes of our annual meeting held June 24, 2016, was included in the annual report in Electric Consumer. A motion was made, seconded and carried to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 27, 2016, annual meeting and to approve them as mailed.

Koch presented his report. He reported on the REMC's financial condition, capital credit retirements, line improvements and community involvement.

There was no new business. When Jana asked for questions, none were asked, but two comments were made.

Student directors Jackson Sawyer, Adrianna Dague and Gary Klinger addressed the members and discussed their experiences as student directors.

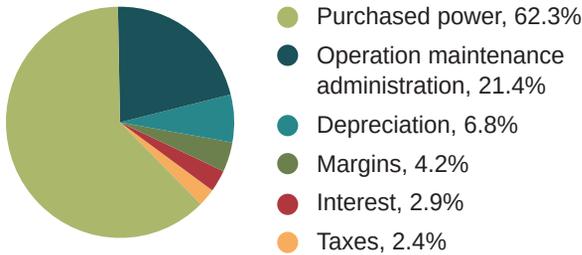
Jennifer Smith, chairman of the balloting committee, reported the election winners:

- District 4: Angela Miller
- District 6: Leander Hoover

Prize drawings were held. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.

# FULTON COUNTY REMC 2017 STATISTICS

## OPERATIONS



## REVENUES



## NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS

1992	5,348
1997	5,679
2002	5,934
2007	6,021
2012	5,958
2017	6,028

## MILES OF LINE

1992	900.6
1997	912.6
2002	920.9
2007	927.2
2012	931.6
2017	935.6

## MWH PURCHASED

1992	72,154
1997	82,078
2002	95,968
2007	106,140
2012	104,462
2017	96,918

## MWH SOLD

1992	65,276
1997	74,965
2002	88,724
2007	98,443
2012	97,202
2017	91,055

## AVERAGE MONTHLY KWH USED PER CONSUMER

1992	1,025
1997	1,103
2002	1,245
2007	1,362
2012	1,360
2017	1,262

## AVERAGE POWER COST PER KWH SOLD

1992	0.048
1997	0.044
2002	0.049
2007	0.061
2012	0.075
2017	0.08

## AVERAGE MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL PER CONSUMER

1992	\$74.97
1997	\$76.64
2002	\$93.29
2007	\$127.34
2012	\$163.42
2017	\$161.24