



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1165 OLD FOREST ROAD  
P.O. BOX 517  
CORYDON, IN 47112

[www.harrisonremc.com](http://www.harrisonremc.com)

## PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local ..... 812-738-4115  
Local ..... 812-951-2323  
Fax ..... 812-738-2378  
Submit Meter Readings .... 812-951-2023  
E-mail: . customerquestion@harrisonremc.com  
Web Site ..... [www.harrisonremc.com](http://www.harrisonremc.com)

## SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

**To report service interruptions, call:**  
812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323 day or night.  
During regular business hours these phone numbers will connect members to personnel at the Corydon office. After hours, they will connect members to the REMC answering service. Members should restrict calls to the answering service to electrical outages or emergencies.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Daniel Boone, Laconia, President  
Ron Meriwether, Georgetown, Vice President  
James Smith, Corydon, Secretary/Treasurer  
Ronald Albin, Corydon  
Pat Book, Palmyra  
Larry Breeden, Mauckport  
Darin Duncan, Elizabeth  
Brian Koetter, Borden  
David Walther, Lanesville

## SERVICES WE OFFER

- Long distance phone service
- Dial-up Internet service
- Personal medical alert system
- Security lights
- Rebate program
- Metered propane
- Surge protection
- New home seminars
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Discount theme park tickets

**Harrison REMC members who were unable to attend the annual meeting on April 1 may stop by the office in Corydon to pick up their two free CFL bulbs. This gift was given to support the Our Energy, Our Future campaign to promote energy efficiency and climate change. The bulbs are available during business hours and while the supply lasts. The REMC is unable to mail the bulbs.**



# CO-opNews Information from your electric cooperative

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Our energy, our future

Pressure is mounting in Congress to do something about climate change. And while political debates in Washington, D.C., may seem far away, the outcome will have a direct impact on our cooperative – and on you, the cooperative member and other electric consumers.

Climate change is but one aspect of a looming energy crisis created by increasing demand and decreasing capacity to meet that demand. Experts now say some areas of the country will be short of power within one or two years.

And yet our elected representatives are not spending much time on the energy supply issue. These forces, the desire by government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly and the growing demand for power by consumers, are about to collide.

Some people say we can meet demand through efficiency and renewable energy. The reality is we need all the efficiency and renewable energy we can get, but that will not be enough.

To avert an energy crisis, the federal government must exercise true leadership, the same leadership that got Americans to the moon in the 1960s. Without that leadership – without a sound, responsible plan – government risks not only the reliability of our electric system, but literally the ability of many Americans to be able to afford to pay their electric bills.



**David C. Lett**  
Assistant Manager

We, as electric co-op members and constituents, must call on elected officials to provide this leadership. That's why I want to encourage you to contact your elected officials.

Now.

You don't need to be an energy expert to ask questions. Asking questions helps find the answers to solve the problem of balancing climate change goals with keeping your lights on and your electric bills affordable.

Right now, members of Congress as well as state elected officials are hearing from lots of different inter-

est groups who have ideas about how to address climate change. No one is talking to consumers, however. We need a plan people can live with today while we deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow.

To make things easy, we have a Web site that will send an email for you. Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) and plug in your address. There you'll be able to ask a series of questions to your representatives in Washington. We're kicking this effort off with a basic but critical question: What are they doing to make sure we'll have the power we need in the future?

Far too often questions don't get asked by policy makers until plans go wrong. We believe it makes sense to know the answers before the laws are passed. You can help your elected officials and yourself by having this conversation. The electric bill you save will be your own.

## 70th Harrison REMC annual meeting

The 70th annual meeting of Harrison REMC was held April 1, at Corydon Central High School.

During the registration period members viewed videos detailing ways to be more energy efficient. The videos also contained testimonials from REMC members sharing experiences of life before electricity. Children ages three through 10 enjoyed a comedy/magic show presented by Don Miller. Harrison County Hospital provided health screenings during the registration including blood pressure and body fat analysis. Lanesville Boy Scout Pack #4025 and Corydon Girl Scout Troop #874 served popcorn and soft drinks to members.

The business portion of the meeting included the manager's report which addressed the predicted rising cost of energy as well as ways to become more energy efficient. During the director election, David Walther, Darin Duncan, Jim Smith and Ron Albin were re-elected to represent districts four, five, six and seven.

Other business included a review of the Harrison REMC financial report by Joe Boesing,

CPA with Monroe Shine and Company, Inc. A video titled Climate Change and Electricity Costs, portrayed the environmental and industry outlook for 2008. Gift certificates were awarded to 10 Harrison REMC members in attendance that are age 90 and above. Paul Beckort, CEO, announced his upcoming retirement after 36 years at the REMC. An award was presented to Beckort by Board President Dan Boone commemorating his dedication to the co-op and the community.

The meeting concluded with a door prize drawing. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the co-op, Harrison REMC donated 40 bill credits in the amount of \$70 each as some of the door prizes. Kyle McPhillips, son of Joe and Leslie McPhillips, New Middletown, helped REMC's Bob Geswein draw names from the tumbler. As members left the meeting they received three compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Adam Zurschmiede of Laconia won a \$50 electric bill credit in a drawing held for members over age 70, unable to attend the meeting, who submitted their registrations by mail.

# 2008 annual meeting scenes



A member of the election committee collects ballots during the board of director election.



The Lanseville Boy Scout Troop #4025 manned the lower concession stand. Corydon Girl Scout Troop #875 handled concessions upstairs.



The Don Miller Magic Show entertained the younger members at the annual meeting.



REMC employees Trish Wade and Jon Wernert stayed busy handing out registration gifts at the end of the meeting. Each REMC member received three compact fluorescent bulbs.



REMC members began arriving early to registration for the annual meeting.

## Winners of annual meeting door prizes

\$25 Wal-Mart gift card .....	Daniel Haskell	\$70 bill credit .....	Jason Pfeiffer
Donated by United Utility Supply		\$70 bill credit .....	Peter Schickel
\$70 bill credit .....	Wanda Hitner	\$70 bill credit .....	Norma Lincoln
\$70 bill credit .....	Adam Uhl	\$25 Cracker Barrel gift card .....	Patrick Oster
\$70 bill credit .....	Rashidal Islam	Donated by Electricom Power	
Spices — donated by Brownstown Electric ..	Robert Oster	\$70 bill credit .....	Norma Blank
\$70 bill credit .....	Dale Lopp	\$70 bill credit .....	James Coulter
\$70 bill credit .....	John Heitkemper	\$70 bill credit .....	Linda Jones
\$70 bill credit .....	Eldon Bickel	\$25 Cracker Barrel Gift Card .....	Schmelz Farms
\$50 bill credit .....	Louis Smith	Donated by Electricom Power	
Donated by Townsend Tree Service		\$70 bill credit .....	Randy Emily
\$70 bill credit .....	Walter West	\$70 bill credit .....	Philip Leamer
\$70 bill credit .....	Michael Clark	\$50 bill credit .....	Marisa Brooks
\$70 bill credit .....	Mark Knight	Donated by Townsend Tree Service	
\$50 Outback Steak House gift card .....	Alan Bell	\$70 bill credit .....	WS Weis
Donated by ATS		\$70 bill credit .....	George McCoy
\$70 bill credit .....	Donald Missi	\$25 Cracker Barrel gift card .....	Wm King
\$70 bill credit .....	Jackson Reeder	Donated by Electricom Power	
\$70 bill credit .....	Myrna Garland	\$70 bill credit .....	Jerrell Wiseman
\$100 bill credit .....	Ishmael Campbell	\$70 bill credit .....	Barney Basham
Donated by J. E. Reedy, Inc.		\$25 O'Charley's gift card .....	Paul Greer
\$70 bill credit .....	Steven Harbeson	Donated by Electricom Power	
\$70 bill credit .....	Anthony Becht	\$70 bill credit .....	Darla Herthel
\$70 bill credit .....	UnionChapel Christian Church	\$25 O'Charley's gift card .....	Allen Smith
Slow Cooker .....	Bethany UMC	Donated by Electricom Power	
Donated by Tru-Chek		\$70 bill credit .....	Town of Laconia
\$70 bill credit .....	Pennie Yates	\$25 O'Charley's gift card .....	Danny Helton
\$70 bill credit .....	Dorothy Reilly	Donated by Electricom Power	
\$70 bill credit .....	Phillip Kiesler	\$70 bill credit .....	Charles Crews
\$25 WalMart card .....	Ruth Wernsman	\$25 O'Charley's gift card .....	Robert Stem
Donated by United Utility Supply		Donated by Electricom Power	
\$70 bill credit .....	Charles Hughes	\$70 bill credit .....	Stanley Coffman
\$70 bill credit .....	Richard Ragains		
\$70 bill credit .....	Mark Weber	<b>Children's Program Prizes</b>	
\$25 Cracker Barrel gift card .....	Everett Albin	Two tickets to Six Flags KY Kingdom .....	Davey Kingsley
Donated by Electricom Power		Two tickets to Holiday World .....	Austin Haggard
\$70 bill credit .....	PM Andriot	Two tickets to Louisville Zoo .....	Lydia Cole
\$70 bill credit .....	Frances Stange	Two tickets to Newport Aquarium .....	Savannah Wiseman
\$70 bill credit .....	Ernest Johnson	Two tickets to Dinosaur World .....	Anna Cole
\$50 bill credit .....	Norman Menges	Each child who attended the program received a Willie	
Donated by Monroe Shine		Wiredhand T-shirt.	

# Discount Theme Park Tickets

Holiday World - Kings Island - Louisville Zoo - Newport Aquarium - Kentucky Kingdom - Dinosaur World

HOLIDAY WORLD	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$34.00</b>	\$39.95
Child Under 54" Tall	<b>\$29.00</b>	\$29.95
Senior (Age 60+)	<b>\$29.00</b>	\$29.95
Adult (2-day admission)	<b>\$54.00</b>	\$59.95
Child (2-day admission)	<b>\$48.00</b>	\$49.95

(These ticket prices are for anyone 3 years of age and older.)

SIX FLAGS KENTUCKY KINGDOM	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$21.00</b>	\$39.99
Child (under 48")	<b>\$21.00</b>	\$24.99
Anyone over 48" must purchase an adult ticket		
Children 3 and under are FREE		

KINGS ISLAND	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$20.00</b>	\$45.99
Child (age 3 and up, under 48")	<b>\$20.00</b>	\$29.99
Senior age 62 +	<b>\$20.00</b>	\$29.99
Children 3 and under are FREE		

NEWPORT AQUARIUM	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$17.50</b>	\$18.95
Child (Ages 3-12)	<b>\$10.50</b>	\$12.00
Children 2 and under are FREE		

LOUISVILLE ZOO	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$10.00</b>	\$11.95
Child (Ages 3-11)	<b>\$7.00</b>	\$8.50
Senior (Age 60+)	<b>\$9.00</b>	\$9.95

DINOSAUR WORLD	REMC PRICE	GATE PRICE
Adult	<b>\$8.75</b>	\$9.75
Child (Ages 3-12)	<b>\$6.75</b>	\$7.75
Senior (Age 60+)	<b>\$7.75</b>	\$8.95

Stop by the office on Old Forest Road, Corydon, to purchase your tickets today, or call 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323 for more information.

## REMC chartered bus trips

With gas prices on the rise, sit back, relax and leave the driving to us. Join Harrison REMC on these unique chartered bus trips.

### Irish Acres/The Glitz, May 14

Spend a few hours browsing 32,000 square feet of antiques housed in a Depression era schoolhouse in Nonesuch, Ky. The antiques are diverse, with items from four continents and prices to match any pocketbook. Two sisters, daughters of the couple who opened Irish Acres 22 years ago, are your hostesses. Jane rules the antiques and sister Emilie creates gourmet three-course luncheons in the lower level restaurant, The Glitz, whose decor is a feast for your senses as well as your appetite! Resembling a 1940s Hollywood movie set with smoky mirrors, gauzy drapery and hundreds of twinkling lights, it is hard to imagine it was once the school's cafeteria. We'll stop at Rebecca Ruth Candy Store to bring some sweets home.

Cost: \$45, includes luncheon. Leaving Corydon at 8 a.m., back at 5 p.m.

### Metamora, Aug. 15

Step back in time with a leisurely 25 minute cruise on the Ben Franklin III, a horse-drawn canal boat in scenic Metamora, Ind. Pass the Duck Creek Aqueduct, a covered bridge that carries the canal 16 feet over Duck Creek. It is believed to be the only structure of its kind in the nation. Flags in front of a building signal it is open for business. Private residences are interspersed throughout the town shops. Our visit will also include viewing the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and the Grist Mill.

Cost: \$32, includes boat ride. Leaving Corydon at 8 a.m., back at 7 p.m.

### Covered Bridge Festival, Mansfield, Oct. 15

Join us for a beautiful fall drive to the Covered Bridge Festival. See red or white covered bridges with burr arches or king truss construction. Parke County claims more covered bridges than any county on the world. And what would a festival be without plenty of booths to shop! Wear your walking shoes and bring a shopping bag. You'll be on your own to wander the grounds, try the food vendors' tempting wares, and decide whether to shop till you drop. Then enjoy a nap on our drive home.

Cost: \$25. Leaving Corydon at 7:30 a.m., back at 7:30 p.m.

### Opry Mills Mall, Dec. 3

It's our annual trip to Nashville, Tenn.'s largest mall. Make your list and check it twice, because this trip is really nice! No parking hassles, nap going and coming, and plenty of good places to eat. What are you waiting for? This trip fills up fast. We're even going to stop and let you buy breakfast on the way down.

Cost: \$30. Leaving Corydon at 7 a.m. back at 9 p.m.

### REMC bus trip policies

A minimum of 30 preregistered people are required to take each trip. Payment for all trips is due 14 days in advance of trip date. No refunds will be made.

Passenger pick up will be at Lincoln Hills Christian Church in Corydon and at the McDonalds off the Georgetown Exit on I-64.

Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 for more information and for seat reservation.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Weather affects electric bills

To give you an accurate picture of how the temperature relates to our comfort level, the National Weather Service uses "degree days" to define the margin between the actual temperature and a baseline of 65, which would be considered comfortable with no heating or cooling devices needed. Heating degree days are a measure of the severity and duration of cold weather; the colder the weather over a given period the higher the cumulative heating degree-day value and consequently the larger the amount of energy needed to heat your home. March's number was 581 compared to 405 for the same time last year. That is an increase of 6 percent.

### State implements sales tax increase

Indiana sales tax increased to 7 percent effective April 1. This one percent increase is intended to help offset new limits on property taxes in Indiana.

### Local Relay For Life events

Floyd County Relay — June 6 and 7  
Harrison County Relay — June 13 and 14

### Touchstone Energy Home Seminars at Harrison REMC

Are you ready to buy or build a home? Attend one of these FREE seminars. Each event includes two nights (Wednesday and Thursday) from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Learn how to build tight and build right! A schedule of upcoming meetings is listed below.

May 7 and 8 — June 4 and 5  
Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 for more information or to register for a seminar.

### Drought + heat = dead trees

Effects from last year's weather are beginning to show this spring. As we look forward to the warmer weather no one can forget the extreme heat and lack of rain we had last year during August and September. In August the average temperature was over 97 degrees for the entire month. Rain totals were also off. For the month of August we had 1.61 inches of rain; the normal is 3.7 inches. September was not much better, 1.95 inches compared to the normal of 3.9 inches.

This coupled with the spring freeze we had last April damaged many trees and reduced their resistance to the drought. Looking around the evidence is everywhere. Tree branches are scattered everywhere and many trees are tilted, unable to support themselves.

Tree branches or limbs on power lines have been the culprit of some outages we have had this year.

Harrison REMC would like to take a proactive role in preventing this as much as possible. We ask our members to call if they notice dead trees or branches that could possibly come into contact with either electrical lines or poles. You can reach our office at 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323.

## REMC RATE SCHEDULE

### Residential and Farm Service Rate

EXAMPLE FOR 1,800 KWHS

Facility charge .....	\$15.00
First 750 kwhs @ .08415/kwh .....	63.11
Next 750 kwhs @ .06820/kwh .....	51.15
Over 1500 kwhs @ \$.05906/kwh ...	17.72
Power cost tracker 0.001562 per kwh ...	2.81
SUB-TOTAL .....	\$149.79
Indiana sales tax (7%) .....	10.35
<b>TOTAL BILL .....</b>	<b>\$160.14</b>

## SECURITY LIGHT RATES

175-watt mercury vapor	\$8/month
400-watt mercury vapor	\$15/month
175-watt M.V. decorative	\$20/month
400-watt M.V. decorative	\$25/month

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

- **On-line bill payment** — REMC members can now access their accounts and pay monthly bills via the Internet. Log onto the REMC Web site, [www.harrisonremc.com](http://www.harrisonremc.com), and click "Access My Account."

- **E-check** — This free service allows members to make a manual payment via electronic check. Visit the Web site [www.harrisonremc.com](http://www.harrisonremc.com) any time and click "Pay by E-check."

- **Internet service** — REMC offers Internet service for as little as \$12.95 per month. Call 800-470-7362 to sign up.

- **Long distance phone service** — REMC offers long distance service for only 5.9 cents per minute (4.9 cents per minute for customers who choose the e-bill option) with no monthly fees. This low rate applies to all calls made to the lower 48 states, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Discount rates to international locations are also available. Call 800-470-7362 for more information.

- **Personal medical alert system** — Your REMC offers easy to use, medical alert systems to help seniors or disabled family members remain safe and secure in their own home. The medical alert system provides a fast way to summon help in an emergency, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for only \$35 per month for members and \$40 per month for nonmembers with a onetime \$50 set up fee.

- **Automatic payment plan** — Save time and postage by having your electric bill automatically drafted from your designated bank account without additional charges.

- **Budget billing** — REMC can help take the ups and downs out of your billing amount each month by averaging one month's bill based on the previous 12 months of electric use.

# You have one good chance to lower your heating bill

by Bob Geswein

Sometimes a decision you make today is one you must live with for years to come. This summer, you may have to replace a failing air conditioner due to age or inefficiency. Whatever you decide, you will live with the result for several years.

Homes heated with propane or oil and having central air conditioners paid some dramatically higher heating bills this winter from what they had ever experienced in prior years. I know this to be true as a sizable number of those people called me at Harrison REMC this past spring asking, "What can I do to reduce my heating cost." These folks also experienced higher heating costs than homeowners who used heat pump technology.

If you, along with those folks, want some relief from high heating costs and are looking at a failed or old air conditioning unit but your gas/oil furnace is still in too good a condition to replace, the answer is simple. Replace your air conditioning unit with a heat pump. The heat pump sits outside in the same spot and is connected in the same manner as your old air conditioning unit and will cool your house equally as well or more likely, better than the old air conditioning unit.

But here is where the similarities with heat pumps and air conditioners end. Heat pumps can produce heat for your home in winter as well as cool it in the summer months. Heat pumps consume only the amount of electricity necessary to extract free heat from the air outside and transfer it into the air inside your home. This cost is considerably less than homeowners who heat only with gas or oil. To give you an idea of how much less, most homeowners using a pro-

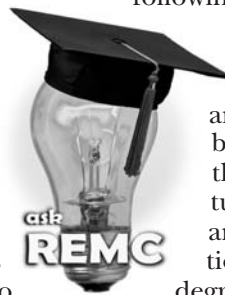
pane furnace as part of their dual fuel systems, have been able to fill their propane tanks in the summer when propane prices have historically been the lowest and get all the way through the cold winter months on that one fill up. The following summer, they are able again to top off their tank when propane prices have fallen from their winter time highs.

Dual fuel HVAC systems, as these are called, are simple designs that combine two technologies and utilize each of their strengths. When outside temperatures are above 25 degrees, heat pumps are at their highest efficiency of operation. When temperatures are around 0 degrees outside, fossil fuel furnaces operate at their peak efficiency. This is due to the fact the units are sized to handle those temperatures.

In our southern Indiana winters, most dual fuel homeowners find their home heating comfort provided by the heat pump 60 percent or more of the winter. The remaining 40 percent or less, is provided by their gas or oil furnaces.

Ask your heating and cooling dealer about dual fuel heating and cooling systems before you just automatically replace your air conditioner. You will not suffer any loss of cooling comfort during the summer months or heating comfort for the winter months. And you will see your cost of heating your home go down next winter from what you would experience with a gas or oil furnace only. Or contact me at Harrison REMC and I can explain this system in more detail as it would work for your home. Investing in a dual fuel HVAC system may make you eligible for a heat pump rebate of \$200. Call 738-4115 or 951-2323.

*Bob Geswein is the energy efficiency specialist at Harrison REMC.*



Harrison REMC employees collected household supplies and cleaning products to donate to Harrison County Community Services in March. Pictured above are customer service representatives Kim Stewart, Debbie Koenig, Priscilla Whitman, Dee Zollman, Janet Draper and Karen Albin.