

LIGHTPOST

Published for members of
Northeastern Rural Electric
Membership Corporation

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

NREMC.com

Mark your calendars!

Power Hour

A casual get together for Northeastern REMC members
Wednesday, April 25 • Thursday, April 26
7 - 8 pm



*Details coming soon about
two meeting locations!*

- Meet your directors
- Hear updates from your CEO, Eric Jung
- Come and learn about our cost-saving programs
- Enjoy great dessert buffets
- Watch Facebook & nremc.com for info.

350 years of combined service to REMC celebrated!

Over 350 years of combined service to Northeastern REMC is celebrated with this one photo! These employees all achieved a milestone employment anniversary during 2017. Regardless of their position within the cooperative, each has dedicated their career to providing quality service to our members. And for that, we are all grateful.

Pictured left to right, seated: Karmen Hoefelmeyer (15 years), Rick Stephens (20 years), Doug Ferrell (30 years), Diane Johnson (35 years). Standing: Chad Jones (20 years), Scott Snyder (25 years), Doug Sauers (30 years), Rod Zorger (30 years), Brad Brown (20 years), Steve Elkins (30 years), Mike DeFreeuw (30 years), Bruce Coyle (40 years).



Using a space heater? Read this!

A fire department in Oregon is warning everyone about the dangers of plugging a space heater into a power strip.

Umatilla County Fire District #1 shared a picture on their Facebook that shows a melted power strip. According to fire officials, "These units are not designed to handle the high current flow needed for a space heater and can overheat or even catch fire due to the added energy flow."

Hundreds of people have commented on the post, and some have even shared their own horror stories about space heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFP), heating equipment, such as space heaters, were involved in an estimated 56,000 reported U.S. home fires between 2009 and 2013. That means they accounted for 16 percent of the total number

of house fires. More than 1,450 people were injured and 470 people died in those fires.

"Nearly half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February," the NFP says. "Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five home heating fires."



Photo courtesy of Umatilla County Fire District

into a wall outlet, and you shouldn't plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.

It's important to note that there is a difference between surge protectors and power strips. Power strips without surge protectors are only for low voltage, temporary use.

If you are not using your free Co-op Connection Discount Card, you're wasting your money! Just ask your neighbor.

Have you had a prescription filled during the past year? Shocked at the price of your medication? Did you think of showing the pharmacist your Co-op Connections Discount Card? Or have you used it at the chiropractor or medical lab?

Well, several of your neighbors sure did!

By using the card you can save 10% - 85% on prescriptions, eye care, dental work, chiropractic visits, lab tests, imaging scans, hearing aids... all at local providers. Plus there are hundreds of other area retailers, restaurants and service providers offering discounts to cardholders.

For a complete list of local and national discounts, visit nremc.com. If you need a new card for yourself, your spouse or children, contact Mike DeFreeuw - m_defreeuw@nremc.com, or call him at 625-3700, x 416.

REMC offering high school juniors free opportunity to experience Washington

Northeastern REMC will be awarding students the opportunity of a lifetime when they pick two 11th graders to visit the nation's capital as part of the 2018 Indiana Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 7-14

Students selected will join students from 47 states for this all expense paid, week-long experience. Participants will visit the Flight 93 and Pentagon 9/11 Memorials, Gettysburg Battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institution, National Mall memorials, National Museum of the Marine Corps and experience a night cruise on the Potomac River.

The Indiana Youth Tour students will also participate in a youth rally and spend a day on Capitol Hill, where they will meet with Indiana's congressional delegation and see first-hand how government operates.

The application deadline is quickly approaching. Students must



reside in Northeastern's service area. For more details about the tour and an application, visit Northeastern REMC's website - nremc.com, or contact Michael DeFreeuw at 625-3700, x 416 or m_defreeuw@nremc.com. Deadline to apply for consideration is February 28.



College scholarships now being offered by NREMC

Northeastern REMC is very excited to announce a new scholarship program to financially assist students of REMC members.

Under the guidelines, two students will be selected from applicants to receive a \$1000 scholarship to attend college, full-time, during the 2018-19 school year. To apply, the student must complete and return the

application and meet all qualifications listed. Application forms and more information can be found on our website, nremc.com, and in our office in Columbia City.

Selection criteria will be based on scholastic achievement, school involvement, community involvement and recommendations. The student must be a graduating senior, accepted to an

accredited college or university and be a full-time dependent of a current REMC member.

Northeastern REMC is proud to offer this scholarship program. There is no better way to support our community than to encourage our local students in their pursuit of higher education.

Celebrating the season in our community

Northeastern employees really got into the holiday spirit this season. Thousands of colorful LED lights covered a bucket truck in Whitley County's annual Lighted Christmas Parade and our "North Woods" themed tree was a hit in Passages' annual Walk of Trees fundraiser. We are looking forward to giving back to our community and being even more involved in 2018!





Just a reminder...

Due to extreme cold temperatures in January, many of you experienced higher-than-usual electric usage. Also contributing to higher use were shorter daylight hours, holiday lights being on, more people being in the house, cooking, furnaces running longer and humidifiers running full force.

So when comparing this January bill to others, please keep those factors in mind. The biggest factor, however, was the extreme difference in outdoor temperature. The average temperature on January 1, 2017, was 32 degrees. On January 1, 2018, the average temperature was -3 degrees.

If you would like to see how your bill has fluctuated over the past few weeks, or even as far back as last year, check out your usage graphs on the SmartHub page of our website, nremc.com.

Parents - be a superhero to your 6th grader. Send them to camp.

Northeastern REMC is looking for four 6th graders to send to camp this summer. For free.

Up to four area sixth-grade students will be picked by Northeastern REMC to attend Touchstone Energy Camp in Brookston, IN, June 6-9. The 3 ½ day camp is held at Camp Tecumseh, one of the most beautiful and popular YMCA camping facilities in Indiana. Students will have fun learning the basics of electricity and safety, as well as doing favorite traditional camp activities like horseback riding, ziplining, swimming, canoeing, rock wall climbing, archery... and a whole lot more!

The deadline to apply for Touchstone Energy Camp is February 28. Students must live in NREMC's service area to be considered. Details and applications are available on Northeastern's website, nremc.com, or by contacting Mike DeFreeuw at 625-3700, x 416, or m_defreeuw@nremc.com.



Artistic calendars available

We have a limited supply of free 2018 calendars featuring the award-winning artwork of local students in grades K-12. The calendars can be picked up at our office or the public libraries in Columbia City and South Whitley.

Save time. Save money. Save worry.

Are you among the 62 % of our members who are saving time, money and hassles by paying their bill electronically? By signing up for electronic payments, you won't have to write checks, worry about due dates, or ever have to pay a late fee again. Our website, nremc.com, has all the details to make your life a little easier.

Propane offered at guaranteed price for upcoming year

NREMC offers propane at a locked-in, season-long price. And you only get charged for what you use, not for a bulk fill. Sound interesting? Call us today or visit nremc.com for more details.

Our Vision

Service, Satisfaction and Safety - Second to None!

Our Mission

To meet our members' on-going need for reliable energy service at a good value while meritng trust and confidence.

GUESS WHICH HOUSE HAS BETTER INSULATION IN THE ATTIC.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives



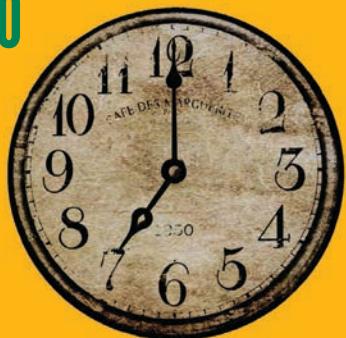
If your roof looks like the one on the left, we need to talk! Call our Energy Advisor, Jeanne Hasty, for information on how you could be staying much warmer for much less this Winter. And while you've got, Jeanne, on the line, consider booking a free in-home energy consultation so she can show you ways to make a big difference on your monthly bill every month of the year! Jeanne Hasty, 244-6111/625-3700, x 403 or j_hasty@nremc.com.



4901 East Park 30 Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORTHEASTERN
REMC

**Meet board, CEO
at upcoming
Power Hour**



PAGE One

**College
scholarships
now available**



PAGE Three

LIGHTPOST

Questions? E-mail memberservices@nremc.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
260-244-6111 (Columbia City) or 260-625-3700 (Fort Wayne).
Line Locating: Please call 811 at least 2 full business days prior to digging.