

Please join us!

Power Hour



Wednesday, April 25
Joseph Decuis Farm
6755 E. 900 St. • Columbia City, In **7 pm**

Thursday, April 26
Autumn Ridge Golf Club
11420 Auburn Rd. • Fort Wayne **7 pm**

A casual get-together for members of Northeastern REMC

- Your CEO, Eric Jung, explains exciting changes to our annual meeting and director elections
- Find out about our 2018 projects
- Be the first to hear about our new NEST WIFI thermostat programs
- Meet your Board of Directors
- Enjoy awesome dessert buffets prepared by local chefs

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED •
Contact Jeanne Hasty
625-3700 ext., 403
j_hasty@nremc.com
by Friday, April 20.

Addison Agen to perform private concert for NREMC

We are very excited to announce that the Season 13 runner-up of "The Voice," Fort Wayne's own Addison Agen, has agreed to perform a private, free concert for NREMC members during our 2018 Member Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting on September 8.

Adam Levine, Maroon 5 frontman and longtime coach on NBC's "The Voice," described Addison as "one of the most special gifts that I've ever had the pleasure of working with." And he has worked with the best in the recording business.

Addison says Levine, her coach on "The Voice," was a good match for her because he was much more concerned with the substance of performances than trappings like make-up and hairstyling.

"That's when I knew, 'This is my dude,'" she says. "He doesn't care what I look like. Only what the music is saying."

Addison wants to create music for everyone, not just for a specific demographic.



Mark your calendars now to see Addison Agen September 8

Want to serve on our Board of Directors?

The board of directors for Northeastern REMC serves a vital role. The nine member board is the legal policy making body that governs the cooperative, decides on the long range goals, monitors its financial condition and reviews the co-op's activities. The position of director holds a tremendous amount of responsibility to successfully operate your business.

Members considering running for the board of directors should review the many responsibilities required of the position. See Section 3.3 of NREMC's Bylaws at nremc.com for specific qualifications and conflicts of interest.

Directors shall be at least eighteen years of age and shall have earned a high school diploma or GED.

Directors are expected to attend all monthly and special board meetings including the board meeting following the annual meeting. They are also expected to attend committee meetings and the Northeastern REMC annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year. Other meetings directors attend include one and two-day educational seminars.

Directors are expected to complete their NRECA Credentialed Director's Certificate during their first three-year term.

Directors receive a per diem and mileage reimbursement for attending cooperative meetings. They receive transportation, lodging and meal expenses when traveling on corporate business. Directors

may spend over 30 days each year representing Northeastern REMC.

A director is expected to read and be familiar with information and financial reports from the cooperative, or other state and national associations.

A director is elected from each district but is responsible for decisions affecting the entire membership. Directors should work in cooperation with the whole board.

A director must also have the self-confidence and communication skills to express their opinion or disagreement with other directors.

Northeastern's directors are our members. They pay monthly electric bills like other Northeastern members. They do not receive discounted power and their bills are not subsidized. They are just as interested as any

other members in the most economical operation of the cooperative possible.

The directors of Northeastern REMC are elected because they are business-minded and highly respected. Director elections are open to all members, regardless of race, sex or creed.

Districts 2, 3, and 4 will be up for election this year at the annual meeting on September 8.

Additional details are mailed or emailed to all members.



Over 50 trucks looking to be touched April 28



What child wouldn't love to see a police hostage vehicle and bomb robot up close? Or see what the inside of an ambulance looks like? Or even see how a cement truck works?

The 8th Annual Touch-a-Truck event, sponsored by Ivy Tech's Early Childhood Education students, will be held on their Coliseum Boulevard campus Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. – noon. Children of all ages are invited to come out and literally "touch a truck." This year over 50 different trucks, including trolleys, semi's, a tow truck, "Smart" vehicles...and even a Northeastern REMC bucket truck, will be on display.

Touch-a-Truck began as a way for the Childhood Education students to celebrate April – the Month of the Young Child. Last year over 2500 children enjoyed the experience. This family fun event is free and takes place rain or shine.

Rick Stephens, Bruce Coyle, newest NREMC retirees

Rick Stephens began his career at Northeastern REMC on August 18, 1997, as the cooperative's newest Consumer Service Tech. And on Friday, March 2, 2018, he began his new job –being a full time retiree.

So what does retired life look like to someone known to his fellow employees as being so outgoing and active? Rick reflects on the many paths he has crossed and the plans for an exciting future.

What did you do during your first week as a retiree?

I started looking for some property and new tractors to buy. Spring will be here and I want to be ready for it. I've started going to the gym and also doing 5 and 10 mile hikes to get myself fit to go backpacking this summer. Plus I'm spending a lot of time with my grandkids.

What about hobbies to keep you busy?

I have a lot of those. I am tapping maple trees to make syrup, I'm restoring a 1940's Massey Harris tractor, I'm planning a trip to the Sierra Mountains to go trout fishing and a hiking trip to

the Appalachian Trail. I'll also be adding to my bee yard, increasing my total to about 100 hives. Plus I grow and dry herbs to sell at local markets. I'll have plenty to keep me busy.

What are you looking forward to the most now that you don't have to come in to work every day?

Waking up and doing whatever I want to do – every day!

Looking back, what is the one thing you wish someone would have told you on your first day of work at the REMC?

Nothing really. There really weren't any surprises when I started here. Northeastern has always been a great company to work for and the employees have really been great co-workers.

Everyone at Northeastern REMC wishes you many years of enjoyment now that you have time to do all the things you love so much. We will miss your stories, all your fresh veggies, and your laughter. Thank you for all the years you dedicated to serving the members of our co-op. Congratulations Rick!

"Looking back over the past 40 years and to when I first started working here...would I do it all over again? Absolutely yes. Without a doubt."

Gratitude, fond memories, lessons learned...those are the things that Bruce Coyle reminisced about as he talked about his April 9 retirement day. On that day, Bruce will be hanging up his hard hat for the last time as a Northeastern REMC journeyman lineman.

What is the biggest change you saw over the past 40 years?

Technology in general, especially computers and cell phones. I didn't even know how to turn on a computer and they wanted me to start working with a tablet every day. I had to learn quickly. And cell phones with cameras really made communicating between our crews so much easier.

What is one thing you wish someone had told you about when you hired in here?

There were enough 'elderly statesmen' working here to guide me and keep me on track when I began working here. They did not hesitate to tell me what I needed to know. So there were no real surprises when I started. It wasn't always easy listening to their advice, but I have always been grateful for them.

What is your first full week of retirement going to look like?

I look forward to getting up every day, having coffee with my wife Lynn, and solving all the world problems with her. We'll be going to the Y a lot so we can get our exercise and walking in. I'm really looking forward to spending more time and creating more memories with her.

What are you looking forward



to doing in the months and years ahead?

Traveling and to getting more involved with the people and organizations that are important to me. I will stay involved with the Whitley County Haunted Jail – something I helped establish back in 1993 as a fundraiser for the high school choir. Halloween is my favorite holiday.

What advice would you give any new hire at Northeastern REMC?

Be grateful for what you have been given. The company doesn't owe you anything. But it will be a blessing to you. That is the advice I was given and is the advice I want to pass on to anyone joining this outstanding company. And above all else, providing exceptional service to our members must always be your priority.

What will you miss the most?

The dedicated people I have had the pleasure to work with, the pride of being associated with this organization, and the important work we all do for our members.

We cannot thank you enough, Bruce, for your dedication and years of outstanding service. You have been a mentor and friend to many and we wish you many more years of joy and haunting!



Careful planting prevents outages

Trees and power lines often coexist without problems. However, you should always take precautions when planting a tree.

Not only do dangers lurk for the person planting the tree, nearby power lines and trees can be harmed as well. Trees growing too close to electrical lines are the primary cause of momentary short circuits and flickering lights. During storms, tree limbs that are too close to power lines can knock the lines out completely, creating outages and a greater threat to your safety.

"We highly encourage our members to call 811 at least five days before they start planting to have all buried utilities located and marked," said Adam Lock, Northeastern REMC's Safety, Training and Loss Prevention Coordinator. "Never assume utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig."

Once you know where to plant to avoid underground utilities, look up and check for overhead power lines. If you are planting a small tree that will grow no larger than 25 feet tall, planting it 25 feet away from power lines is a safe distance. If the tree is 25-40 feet tall, plant it 40 feet away from power lines. The bigger the tree, the farther away it should be. So, a tree expected to grow more than 40 feet high should be planted 60 feet away from utility lines.

Keeping trees away from utility lines not only keeps you safe, it keeps them safe as well. Trees planted too close to underground lines can suffer root damage. Trees planted too close to overhead lines need regular pruning, damaging the tree and its appearance. In some cases trees may need to be removed completely.

Northeastern also advises not to plant too close to the big green transformers typically located in yards near property lines. In case of emergency crews must have easy access to the cabinet. The REMC is not responsible for any damages to landscaping incurred while accessing the transformer.

Northeastern works hard to provide you reliable electric service. You can help by following these few simple guidelines when managing the trees on your property.

Addison Agen - continued from page 1

"I never want it to be specific to one generation," she says. "That's not how I grew up. Music wasn't classified by age. I want all ages to connect with my music."

Addison played her first piano recital at 2 and braved her first open mic night at 9. She performed regularly with her family's band and was the first artist to appear on stage in her father's Fort Wayne record store.

Recently Addison has had two sold-out shows at the Embassy Theater in Fort Wayne and will be performing around the country over the next several months. Although she is very busy recording, she is looking forward to performing for us in the Coliseum.

So mark your calendars now and come enjoy a fun evening with Addison Agen! Reservation cards for reserved seating will be mailed to all members later this summer.

SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship deadline approaching

Deadline for graduating seniors to apply for our \$1000 college scholarships is April 9. Eligibility requirements and applications can be found on nremc.com.

2018 Visitors Guides available

The new Whitley County Visitors Guide, highlighting all to do and see in the area, is now available in our lobby. Copies are free and available on a limited basis.

Do not report outages on Facebook

Our Facebook page serves many purposes, however, it is not an acceptable way to report an outage or any problem with your electric service. Facebook is not monitored 24/7. To report an outage, we ask that you call our office or use SmartHub on our website.



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 meriting trust
and confidence.**

Thermostat rebate program announced



As part of our ongoing efforts to help you save money and be more energy efficient, Northeastern REMC is partnering with NEST, makers of the Nest Thermostat, to offer cutting edge technology that will help you save energy in your home.

Nest Thermostats learn what temperatures you like so they can keep you comfortable and help you save energy. You don't have to do anything. Your Nest Thermostat will do all the work for you, turning down heating and cooling for short periods of time to help save energy while still keeping you comfortable. Nest will not let it get too hot or too cold and you can change the temperature any time, if need be.

Now Nest and Northeastern REMC are working together to help your Nest Thermostat do even more for you.

If you have central air and/or a heat pump along with dependable WiFi, you will be eligible to join Northeastern's new load management program and save on the purchase of a Nest

Thermostat. You will also be eligible for recurring energy credits through our "Rush Hour Rewards Program" which allows us to control cooling during specific "rush hours."

Energy Rush Hours are like traffic rush hours. Just as traffic clogs up roads when everyone tries to drive to or from work at the same time, Energy Rush Hours occur when everyone in a particular area turns on air conditioning (AC) at once. Imagine what can happen when millions of people turn on their AC during a heat wave. This, in addition to one's usual electric use puts a tremendous strain on the electric grid. And then electric companies have to scramble to provide more electricity than usual to fill the higher demand. The cost for electricity companies to purchase electricity will spike during these peak demand times.

If you buy the Nest through us you will receive incentives and rebates, reducing the price considerably. You can choose between the Nest Learning Thermostat and the Nest Thermostat E, both with features to help you learn about your energy use and save energy as well. If you already own a Nest you will be able to sign up for Rush Hour Rewards and earn the account credits.

Specific details and pricing will be announced soon. Watch for details on our Facebook page, our website - nremc.com, and in emails from us.

Drumroll please! This year's lucky winners are...

Grace McGuire, a junior at Homestead High School, and **Kaitlyn Sagan**, a junior at Carroll High School, have been selected to represent Northeastern REMC on the Indiana Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. The tour provides young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and learn about the federal government and the

cooperative utility industry. This year's Indiana delegation will be comprised of approximately 80 students from throughout the state, each selected by a local Touchstone Energy cooperative. Over 1,500 students from 48 states are typically in the nation's capital for this week-long conference.

Delegates will experience our county's history first-hand with stops at several historical sites and will visit with representatives of Indiana's Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. Students will be

given an opportunity to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship and a return trip to Washington, D.C. as a member of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council.

Grace is the daughter of Bradley and Rachael McGuire. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Michael and Colleen Sagan.

The energy-themed camp is held at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN. At camp they will learn about electricity, electrical safety and conservation, as well as partake in popular camp activities such as swimming, horseback riding, crafts, zip lining, and archery. This program is offered annually by electric cooperatives across the state in support of area youth.

Parents of these outstanding students are Brian and Erin Heck, Toni and Matt Sims, Jonathan and Angela Martin and Rebekah Dorsey.

We wish all these students the TIME OF THEIR LIVES!! Congratulations to all of you!

Sixth graders **Anna Heck** from Summit Middle School, **Makiah Tracy** from Carroll Middle School, **Will Martin** from Saint Vincent de Paul School and **Landon Dorsey** from Woodside Middle School will be packing their bags and heading off to camp this Summer – Touchstone Energy Camp that is!



Grace McGuire



Kaitlyn Sagan

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORTHEASTERN
REMC

Annual meeting
entertainment
announced



PAGE One

New thermostat
REBATE
program



PAGE Five
