

# Powerlines

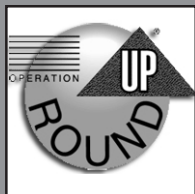
Parke County REMC  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August 2008

119 West High Street, Rockville, IN 47872 PH: (765) 569-3133 or (800) 537-3913 Hours: M-F 7:30-4:30



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## REMC mourns loss of employee

Parke County REMC is deeply saddened to report the loss of our dear friend and fellow employee Ron Hale.

Ronald S. Hale, 57, of Rockville, formerly of Avon, died at 10:08 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2008, in his residence. He was the assistant general manager of Parke County REMC in Rockville. He was born on July 9, 1950, in Paxton, Ill., to Sidney Hale and Dorothy Barnard Hale. His wife of 33 years, Patricia Steele Hale, whom he married June 21, 1975, survives him.

Other survivors include his mother, Dorothy Hale of Sullivan, IN; two daughters, Melissa (Jathan) Newton of Visalia, CA, Amanda Hale of Avon, IN; one sister, Beverly Wagner of Paoli, IN; three grandchildren, Paige, Clay and Drew Newton.



**Ron Hale,**  
1950 - 2008

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at the close of the day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee.  
God wanted me now; He set me free!*

## Cool facts about air conditioner efficiency

- Nearly two-thirds of American homeowners use air conditioners to beat summer's heat.
- Air conditioning alone uses about 5 percent of all of the electricity generated in the U.S.
- Nationally, we average about two tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually for every home with an air conditioner.
- Air conditioners remove heat and moisture from air in your home by blowing it across a coil filled with a liquid called a refrigerant.
- Make sure your room air conditioner is properly sealed in the window opening to prevent unwanted air infiltration.
- The most efficient room air conditioners earn ENERGY STAR certification.
- Central air conditioners are rated by SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) numbers — the higher the number, the more efficiently the air conditioner operates.
- Have your central air conditioner cleaned and checked by a technician every year to ensure that it's operating efficiently.
- Clean or replace the filter according to the manufacturer's recommendations, and make sure the outside unit is free of dust and debris.
- Our Energy Advisor has other great ideas about keeping cool and keeping your energy bills low.

## REMC Awards More Than \$15,000 in Operation Round Up Grants

Parke County REMC recently awarded \$15,370 to local organizations through its Operation Round Up® fund. Operation Round Up is a voluntary participation program that is funded by Parke County REMC members who allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar. The added amount is placed in a trust fund and administered by an independent board of directors. The board of directors is made up of community leaders who serve on a voluntary basis.

The following grants were awarded on June 10 at the Operation Round Up meeting:

An individual received an grant of \$2,500 for a medical expense.

Marshall Vol. Fire Dept. received \$3,000 to update fire equipment.

Mecca (A.R.A.B.S.) received \$5,000 to aid in replacing the roof and guttering on the old Mecca School Building which is used as a Community Building.

YMCA of Clay Co. Inc received \$2,500. to provide youth in need with financial assistance to participate in youth sports and summer day camp programs.

Waveland Elementary received \$2,370 to aid in the implementation of the Success for All program for grades 4-6 which helps better performance on ISTEP+.

Parke County REMC's Operation Round Up program has awarded \$376,926.08 in grants since the program's inception. These funds are awarded to individuals in crisis situations, civic groups and community organizations. Additional information and applications for grants are available at Parke County REMC's web site: [www.pcremc.com](http://www.pcremc.com). The next Operation Round Up meeting will be Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. The deadline to submit an application for the final round of grants in 2008 is September 2.

**Applications must be submitted by 12:00 noon on the deadline date in order to be eligible for consideration.**

## Students Have Fun Learning About Electricity and Safety

A record 118 students, including those sponsored by Parke County REMC, were able to combine learning and fun while attending the 2008 Touchstone Energy Camp.

The camp, held June 4-7 at YMCA Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, provided the sixth graders a chance to learn about important topics such as electricity and electrical safety, while enjoying traditional camp activities including horseback riding, archery, swimming, and campfires.

Parke County REMC, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, sent 10 students to the sixth edition of the annual camp program. Several employees from the state's electric cooperatives also participated as camp chaperones. Local participants are pictured and listed below.

A highlight of the camp was a "live line" demonstration that showed the danger lurking in live power lines. Campers learned what to do if they ever encounter a power line in a car accident or other situation. Campers also climbed a pole and put on safety equipment used

by linemen while working around electricity.

"The students developed an appreciation for the work of co-op employees," explained Bob McCullough general manager of Parke County REMC. "Not only did they get to ride in a bucket truck, they had to perform difficult tasks like removing a cotter pin from a coupling while wearing safety gloves, or using a lineman's 'hot stick' to grasp an eyehook. Co-op employees perform tasks like these every day, in all kinds of weather and conditions."

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 660 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities.



*Pictured above are the Touchstone Energy Camp participants. From left to right, front row: Kyle Hornbeck, New Market Elementary School; Jordan Donahue, New Market Elementary School; Renee Carpenter, Turkey Run Jr. High School; Dorryen Kiger, Rockville Elementary School; Megan Baxter, Rockville Elementary School; Karlie Branson, Rockville Elementary School. Back row: Jessica Rude, North Putnam Middle School; Jessica Shelton, New Market Elementary School; Cody White, Turkey Run Jr. High; Destiny Cook, Rockville Elementary School, Keith Fischer, Parke County REMC and Carolyn Kilby, Parke County REMC.*

# 2008 Parke County REMC Rebate Programs

## Water Heaters

To qualify for the bill credit of \$70 (replacing existing electric water heater) or \$125 (new construction or replacing gas water heater), you must be a member of Parke County REMC, and meet the following requirements:

- Install an Energy Efficient electric water heater
- Provide proof of purchase of Energy Efficient electric water heater
- Must be willing to allow Parke County REMC to install a load management switch on the water heater.
- A full time residency or business
- New home or business construction
- Replacing non electric water heater

Parke County REMC will no longer provide free maintenance of the water heater and will begin charging a trip fee of \$75 which took effect on April 1, 2002. Service will only be on the normal work-day of Monday thru Friday during the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM. "No Holiday or after work hour calls". However, REMC will provide the parts listed below at no cost to the member.

## Parts and Service provided:

- Element
- Thermostat
- Install a new Load Control Switch

## Not Provided:

- Installation of a water heater
- Replace Anode Rod
- Replace Fill Tube
- Replacement of Drain Valve
- Any type of Plumbing

## Air Source Heat Pumps

Includes Dual Fuel/Hybrid Heat Pumps

Parke County REMC offers a rebate for the installation of a new air source heat pump. The \$500 rebate is one per home or business. Rebates will be paid in the form of five \$100 bill credits after certificate of purchase and installation is provided to Parke County REMC. The air source heat pump has to be a minimum of a 13 SEER rated system.

Parke County REMC reserves the right to inspect the system within 90 days of installation. This rebate applies only to heat pumps installed after June 1, 2008.

## Geothermal Heat Pumps

Parke County REMC offers a rebate for the installation of a Geothermal HVAC system. The \$500 rebate is one per home or business. Rebates will be paid in the form of five \$100 bill credits after certificate of purchase and installation is provided to Parke County REMC. The HVAC system return air ducts must be insulated to a minimum of R-19 if they are located within an unheated portion of the home.

The homeowner is considered the person(s) whose name is on the Parke County REMC electric bill. In cases of a home being constructed by a building contractor who is building a spec home, the rebate can go to the builder. The home must be completed and ready for occupancy. If the home is being built for someone on contract, the rebate will go to the person who is having the home built. Parke County REMC shall give the rebate after paperwork is completed. In a rental home or apartments, the rebates shall go to the landlord/owner. This rebate applies only to geothermal heat pumps installed after June 1, 2008.

## Scholarships Awarded to Local Students



Scholarship winners (left to right) Megan Criss, South Putnam High School; Kelsey Modesitt, Northview High School; Casey Smith, Riverton Parke High School; Rebecca Seahorn, Greencastle High School and Ashley Doyle, North Putnam High School.

Parke County REMC is pleased to announce the recipients of the REMC Long Distance Scholarships. Students from local schools, whose parents are members of Parke County REMC, were eligible to apply for the awards.

The students pictured above were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$500. The scholarship program is funded by the revenue received through the REMC long distance program.



Mark your calendar and

**Drop In**  
to the Annual Meeting

Sept. 11, 2008

4:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of food and fun for the whole family.

Door prizes and registration gifts for the adults.

Games and inflatable bouncers for the kids.

(The REMC office will close at 11:30 a.m. in preparation for the annual meeting.)

## REMC Web Site Wins National Award



Parke County REMC employees Carolyn Kilby and Amy Williams, received an Award of Merit at the 2008 National Marketing and Communications for the REMC Web site.

## We're visiting your neighborhood!

Parke County REMC is implementing a Geographical Information System (GIS) to better serve our members. GIS is a digital mapping system that will give us detailed information about our electrical network. Among other benefits, GIS will help us restore your power more efficiently during outages.

To create our GIS system we must do a field inventory. This calls for physically visiting and recording information about every pole and meter on our network.

We have contracted Davey Resource Group (DRG) of Alpharetta, GA, to do this work. The DRG professionals will be easily recognized by their uniform shirts, which identify them as GPS contractors.

They will be on foot or riding a four-wheeler, sporting bright yellow backpacks with an antenna and carrying a hand-held GPS computer. The work will begin Aug. 18.

If you have any questions, call Parke County REMC at 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913. We are happy to give you more information about this project.

## Nominating Committee Recommends Director Candidates for Annual Meeting



The nominating committee met on June 3 and selected Janean Deplanty District 3, Mark Evans District 7 and Perry Mager District 8 to represent Parke County REMC on the board. All three nominees are incumbents. The members of the nominating committee are (front row) Gene Clodfelter, Jessica Harney Lynk, Cathy Jalowiec, Mary Clodfelter. Back row, Steve Crane, Donald Brattain, Keith Hutcheson and Kenneth Pearson.

## Wholesale Power Cost increasing *Change to be noticed in September*

Parke County REMC's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), announced they will be increasing wholesale energy prices to electric co-ops by nearly 13 percent. This will be reflected through the fuel tracker on Parke County REMC members' bills for energy consumed beginning in August and billed in September. The distribution portion of the bill remains the same as previous billings. For residential members using 1,000 kWh, this means approximately an \$8.00 per month or 8.0% overall increase.

Nearly half of this power cost increase is due to an unplanned outage of the SG Solutions generating facility in April. Two employees from Sterling Boiler, a contractor at the site, were killed when a

flanged opening on a high pressure vessel containing synthetic gas failed. SG Solutions is a national leader in the development of synthetic gas for use in the generation of electricity for homes and businesses. As one of only two Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) facilities in the United States, SG Solutions has received national recognition as a flagship project of the Department of Energy Clean Coal Program. WVPA owns 50 percent of SG Solutions.

Other contributors to the increase include major commodity price increases passed on from AEP and Duke Energy, power providers to WVPA. Natural gas has increased 57 percent over the last five months and coal prices have doubled since the end of 2007.