You’re more than a customer

Author Anthony J. D’Angelo observed that, “Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”

To a large degree, this reflects Orange County REMC’s philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different “bottom line.” While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1937, Orange County REMC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create Orange County REMC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings, member appreciation days and other events throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We’re always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as our energy management and budget billing programs. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Orange County REMC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community — just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That’s why we support local charitable organizations, volunteer fire departments, community and school groups through our Operation Round Up program. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

MATTHEW C. DEATON
General Manager/CEO
Rate Schedule

How to compute your monthly electric bill:
Use this information to figure your bill for electric use in April, May and June.

Rate Schedule for Standard Service
Standard Service Consumer Charge...... $26
Standard Service Energy Charge.... $0.1124
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker .. $0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax .............. 7%

Example for 1,200 kWh
Standard Service Consumer Charge...... $26
1,200 kWh @ $0.1124 .................. $134.88
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker
1,200 kWh @ $0.0032734 .............. $3.93
Total ................................ $164.81
Indiana sales tax ...................... $11.54
Total bill ................................ $176.34

Rate Schedule for Time-of-Use Service
Time-of-Use Consumer Charge....... $30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak .............. $0.1671
(On-Peak: 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday–Friday, EST)
Energy Charge Off-Peak............... $0.0691
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker . $0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax, 7%

Example for 300 kWh (On-Peak) and 900 kWh (Off-Peak)
Time-of-Use Consumer Charge....... $30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak
300 kWh @ $0.1671 .................. $50.13
Energy Charge Off-Peak
900 kWh@ $0.0691 .................... $62.19
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker
1,200 kWh @ $0.0032734 .............. $3.93
Total ................................ $147.15
Indiana sales tax ...................... $10.30
Total bill ................................ $157.45

Rate Schedule for Security Lighting
Security Lighting: 100 W HPS .......... $9.82
Security Lighting: 40 W LED .......... $9.82

Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards accepted
Pay by phone at 855-865-2229, option 2.
Visit www.myremc.coop for these services:
• Pay online
• Pre-pay your bill
• Sign up for recurring monthly payment

Changes coming to your monthly bill
Your monthly billing statement from Orange County REMC/Orange County Fiber is getting a facelift starting with your September 2019 bill.
Orange County REMC is in the process of transitioning to a new business software. This means your bill will have a new look. We hope you find the new format easier to read with more information.
We will also transition to a new member payment portal. You will still access your account from our website. However, you will be taken to a new interface called SmartHub. There you will find information more readily available and easier to read and understand.
Beginning Aug. 1, if you are currently signed up for our recurring credit card payment program, you will need to log on to SmartHub, create an account and set up your credit card information for this process to continue. Orange County REMC member service representatives are available to help with this process if needed. Just stop by the office. This change is due to PCI DSS (payment card industry data security standard), the standard that helps protect your credit card information.
If you are using the bank draft payment option, nothing will change.
We will continue to update you as we move forward. In the next few months, you will receive a sample bill and “how to read your bill” information. We appreciate your patience and as always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, we’d love to hear from you.

Office closed
April 19

The Orange County REMC office will be closed April 19 in observance of Good Friday. We wish all our members a blessed and happy Easter.

2019 director election timeline
Incumbents whose terms expire in 2019 are: Randy Roberts, district 2; Rodney Hager, district 4; and George Key, district 7.

• Petitions of nominations due by April 23.
• Nominations by the board (absent incumbents seeking re-elections or petitioners) by April 23.
• Full slate of candidates posted and mailed by May 17. All candidate biographies published in the May or June issue of Indiana Connection.
• Election at annual meeting on June 7.
We’ll see you there!

ENTERTAINMENT
BY KIRBY STALEY
The commitment of an electric lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Orange County REMC’s lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM
To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker’s family understands and supports its loved one’s commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and its lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT
In Orange County REMC territory and in communities across the country, electric co-op lineworkers’ mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, working as volunteer fire fighters and serving on local advisory boards.

THANK YOU
Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Orange County REMC’s lineworkers, both on and off the job, please take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. One way you can do this is by visiting our Facebook page and leaving a note of appreciation there.

And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a “thank you” as well.