

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the Parke County REMC Bylaws, you are hereby notified that three directors will be elected at this year's membership meeting. This year's candidates for director are: District 3 – Mike Hale and Lisa Leonard; District 6 – Mike Carpenter; and District 7 – Bill Fordice.

Board President - Kevin Cox

CEO - Chadd Jenkins

District 3

Candidate for District 3 (nominated by the Nominating Committee): Mike Hale was raised near the town of Marshall, IN. He attended Turkey Run Schools and Purdue University, where he studied Mechanical Engineering Technology. He later returned to earn a master's degree in Economics.

In his professional life, Mike served in the U.S. Army from 2000-2022, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mike served in leadership and staff roles in armored cavalry and aviation units with multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He and his family were stationed in Colorado, New York, Alabama, Kansas, and Korea. He finished his career teaching tactics at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

After his military service, Mike returned to Parke County to join the family farming operation. He currently resides in Howard Township with his wife, Jennifer, and children. Mike also works as a pilot in Mattoon, IL, with a helicopter air ambulance company, Air Evac Lifeteam.

District 3

Candidate for District 3 (nominated by the Nominating Committee): Lisa Michael Leonard of northeast Parke County is married to Jerry Leonard. They have one daughter, Michaela (Dustin) Rader, and are proud grandparents of Emmylou and Ellyrae Rader. Lisa's parents were the late George and Louise Michael.

A lifelong resident of Parke County, Lisa graduated from Rockville High School. She attended Indiana State University, majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in Library Science, and later earned a master's degree in Education from Depauw University.

Lisa worked 32 years as a Librarian/Media Specialist at Turkey Run Schools, Clay County Community Schools, and North Putnam School Corporation before finishing her career as a 5th-grade teacher at Roachdale Elementary School. After retiring, she worked part-time for nine years as Mr. Richard Kremer's personal assistant at Futurex Industries and now helps Shirley Kremer with clerical duties. In her free time, Lisa enjoys horseback trail riding, gardening, and helping on the family farm.

District 6

Candidate for District 6 (nominated by the Nominating Committee): Michael (Mike) Carpenter resides in northwest Clay County with his wife, Ruth. He has served as Parke County REMC Director for District 6 since 2023 and also represents Parke County REMC on the Indiana Electric Cooperative (IEC) Board. Mike has received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.

Mike retired from Eli Lilly's Indianapolis campus after 21 years as an Operations Leader in the manufacturing of bio-synthetic human insulin. He also retired from Great Dane after a combined 21 years, finishing his career as an onboarding leader and a corporate on-the-job training auditor.

Mike enjoys spending time with his children, Ashley (Kyle) Sirratt and Heather (Mathew) Smith, and his grandchildren, Rory and Mia Smith, as well as playing golf. He is an active member of Higher Ground Christian Center, serving on the Board of Directors for the church and the church's food pantry.

District 7

Candidate for District 7 (nominated by the Nominating Committee): Bill Fordice is a grain farmer from Russellville, Indiana, who combines hands-on agricultural experience with business insights from his Purdue University degree in Agricultural Economics. Deeply rooted in the community, Bill has been married to his wife, Kassie, for 13 years, and they have an energetic 7-year-old son, Blake. His care for his family and community drives his passion to protect the rural way of life for future generations.

As a candidate for the Parke County REMC Board of Directors, Bill looks forward to representing District 7. He is eager to use his financial and agricultural backgrounds to ensure the members receive stable, reliable, and affordable power. Bill is fully committed to giving back, listening to members, and supporting long-term community growth.

THE POWER OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP!