

ENERGYLINES

News from Hoosier Energy for members and employees. | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016 | Vol. 39, No. 1

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Take a look back at Hoosier Energy's successes in meeting challenges faced. | **PAGE 6**

A CONVERSATION WITH HERB

Hoosier Energy Board
Director for 18 years.

SEE STORY, PAGE 11



Co-op leaders meet to tackle tough issues

Roundtable provides board members opportunity to learn from peers

Cooperative leaders serving as board members face challenges that stretch across all aspects of their business. To identify and discuss business solutions, co-op board members recently attended the Cooperative Board Chair Roundtable.

Sessions included topics ranging from value-based authentic leadership to decision making processes for servant leaders.

Kicking off the roundtable, attendees listened to remarks by

Hoosier Energy President and CEO Steve Smith as he discussed the role of a board chairman.

“The role of the board chairman provides a very special opportunity to learn from others and to make those around you better,” said Smith.

Collaborating to solve issues is how cooperative leaders make a positive impact for their co-op and members. Events such as this provide an opportunity to identify issues and develop solutions that exemplify the cooperative difference.

The event was presented by Mid America Cooperative Education and hosted at Hoosier Energy headquarters in Bloomington, Ind.



HE photo

I-69 partners buy majority of former headquarters site

Hoosier Energy has sold several of its facilities located at the power supplier's former headquarters site on State Road 37 north of Bloomington. The \$2 million sale to I-69 Partners included the training, warehouse and garage buildings and surrounding areas. No re-zoning was required to complete the transaction.

Hoosier Energy retains the microwave tower and five acres around the tower as well as its former 34,000-square-foot administrative building, which was not part of the sales agreement.

ONLINEEXTRA

EnergyLines online

Access to digital files of current and back issues of EnergyLines are available online. The back issue library dates to 2007 and all files are saved as portable document format (PDF).



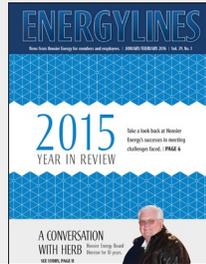
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EnergyLines is published monthly by Hoosier Energy's Communication Department for members, employees and retirees of Hoosier Energy.

ON THE COVER

EnergyLines takes a look back at the successes of 2015 in its annual year in review. This five-page feature shows how the G&T met challenges faced.



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BACK ISSUES

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Rating agencies affirm Hoosier Energy's 'A' rating

In separate annual credit reviews, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) updated their credit opinions for Hoosier Energy, reaffirming the company's solid credit ratings.

Moody's affirmed Hoosier Energy's A2 rating with a stable outlook on senior secured debt obligations. S&P affirmed its A rating with stable outlook for the power supplier.

"We are very pleased with the positive tone of both credit agencies' reports and their recognition of our efforts to focus on maintaining a competitive wholesale rate position while achieving sound financial metrics," said Donna Snyder, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Both ratings services cited Hoosier Energy's G&T cooperative business model, anchored by long-term wholesale power contracts as a key factor in their decisions. The rating agencies also cited rate-setting flexibility, solid financial metrics, a financially-healthy member profile and low-business-risk profile as key factors for their ratings rationale.

Investment-grade credit ratings with major financial agencies help secure competitively-priced capital for power production resources, transmission system improvements, environmental requirements and other projects to further Hoosier Energy's mission of providing a reliable, competitively-priced power supply. 



David Toll
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Harrison County REMC



Steve Fortwendel
Southern Indiana
Power



Greg Dilger
Dubois REC



Mike Chapman
UDWI REMC

GRADUATES FROM THE FIRST CLASS OF COOPERATIVE ACCELERATED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Developing future co-op leaders is the driving force behind the newly formed Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development (CALD) program. The following graduates were part of the graduating class of 2015 not shown in the previous issue of *EnergyLines*.

The program brings together academia and industry with an emphasis on the cooperative business model. Member managers select employees to attend the classes at Hoosier Energy's headquarters in Bloomington. Faculty from the I.U. Kelley School of Business teach the coursework, which includes formal learning along with an emphasis on action-learning projects that add value for the co-ops. 

I-69 Section 4 opens to public

Hoosier Energy and members help with interstate development



Greene County Daily World

INTERSTATE EXPANSION: Governor Pence and Brandye Hendrickson of INDOT shake hands while Becky Skillman, of Radius Indiana, applauds the efforts to finish I-69 Section 4.

ODON, IN

Officials from Hoosier Energy and member cooperatives were among the 500-

plus people gathered Dec. 9 for the official opening of Section 4 of I-69. The 27-mile section of new interstate highway extends southwest through Monroe and Greene counties from Bloomington to the US Highway 231 interchange. It serves the three-county Westgate Technology Park and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane and completes interstate access between Evansville and Bloomington. NSA Crane

is the third largest U.S. DOD naval base in the U.S. and employs more than 4,000 scientists, engineers and technicians.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who has championed the addition of new and expanded roadways as a means to securing jobs for the state, kicked off the celebration. He later drove the lead vehicle and motorcade through the red, white and blue ribbon, officially opening the finished section to traffic between the US Highway 231 interchange to Bloomington.

Hoosier Energy Economic Development Coordinator Chuck Martindale says the

completion of the 27-mile stretch provides safer travel and opens the door for increased commerce along the I-69 corridor.

“Over the past 11 years we’ve been supporting the I-69 project and the positive results it will have for our members,” Martindale says. Hoosier Energy and its member systems have assisted in engineering studies to inventory the availability of infrastructure within a mile radius of those new interchanges served partially or totally by members in applicable counties. He says there is a wide variance in currently available water, sewer, natural gas and fiber services – all necessary components for commercial and industrial growth.

“We are hopeful that local officials will be more active in the extension of these infrastructure assets,” he adds. Martindale also hopes to see local officials and electric co-op leaders take a proactive approach in land-use planning around these new interchanges, to ensure they attract the appropriate types of businesses and private investment to these areas.

Utilities District of Western Indiana (UDWI) serves the three new interchanges along the 27-mile interstate route. Brian Sparks, Chief Executive Officer of the co-op, says the project opens the door for potential growth.

“I think the interstate at Westgate will be a huge boon,” he says. Sparks is a member of the Westgate Development Authority, the Greene County Redevelopment Commission and the Board of Directors of the Greene County Economic Development Corp. Together, they encouraged the development of the interstate because it was crucial to retaining the 64,000-acre Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane Division, located about 25 miles from Bloomington in the counties of Greene, Martin and Lawrence.

Sparks says potential businesses are showing interest in the interchanges and are currently recording traffic counts. [E](#)



History of the developing interstate

The northern section of I-69 in Indiana is the original section from Indianapolis to the Canadian border in Port Huron, Mich. It was started in 1957 and finished in the 1970s.

In 1995, a feasibility study suggested that linking Indianapolis to Houston would have long-term economic benefits, giving birth to the idea of a super highway.

In 1997, Indiana officials awarded seven engineering contracts to complete the route between Bloomington and Evansville. Nov. 19, 2012 marked the opening of the first 67 miles from Evansville to Crane. Section 4 from Crane to Bloomington opened Dec. 9. Section 5, a 21-mile stretch from Bloomington to Martinsville is currently under construction. A funding source for Section 6, to extend the roadway to Indianapolis has yet to be identified.

Several states have developed sections with the intent of creating the thoroughfare to the Southwest. The roadway currently exists as seven disjointed parts. **EI**

Safe by choice

Safety improvements continue at Merom Station

When Hoosier Energy rolled out its “Safe by Choice” safety initiative to all employees in all locations in November, it was due in large part to the success of a pilot program at the Merom Generating Station.

With safety performance at Hoosier Energy the best in company history, the power supplier’s new safety initiative is taking the company’s safety culture to a whole new level.

The journey from “good” to “great” began at Merom on Dec. 4, 2014. Since then, Merom has experienced many successes as the initiative progresses.

Highlights include the following:

Improved Communications – The Safety Awareness team utilized digital communication boards to raise awareness of safety activities throughout the plant and spearheaded Merom’s first-ever Safety Week. The Practices, Rules and Procedures Team established employee request stations, making it easy for any employee to submit a request to have a program, rule or procedure looked at or created.

“These things may seem small,” said team leader Kirt Monk, an instrument and controls technician, “but the increased focus and communication make a difference.”

Improved Processes – Employee feedback led to a much-improved safety work order system that was recognized by the NRECA as an industry best practice. The Work Safe Team is now working on developing job safety and job hazard analyses, job briefings and risk reduction forms.

Improved Programs and Training – In the last year, employee recommendations led to an updated trenching and excavation program and new training for auxiliary operators on the



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SAVING LIVES: Generation System Analyst Trent Kile demonstrates the remote racking device, which provides a safer alternative for circuit breaker and racking-related tasks. Utilizing modern remote racking technology greatly reduces the risk of arc flash hazards, protecting the operator from injury or even death.

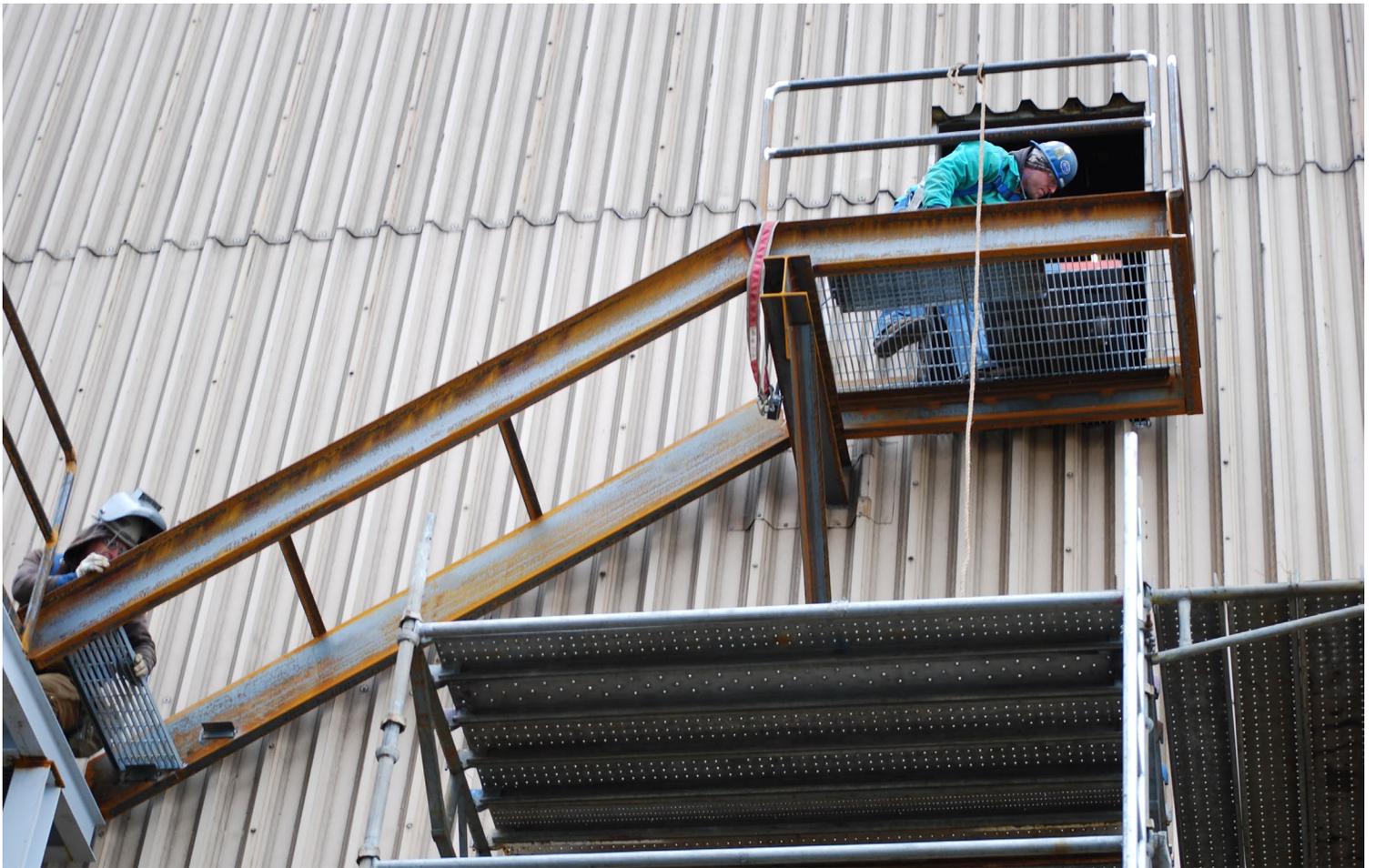
lethal dangers of arc flashes.

Physical Improvements: Identification of physical improvements to prevent injuries and reduce hazards led to installation of additional platforms and walkways.

One improvement, a remote racking device for inserting or removing rows of circuit breakers, helps keep auxiliary operators out of harm’s way if an arc flash happens. Arc flashes occur when an electric current leaves its intended path and travels through the air from one conductor to another, or to ground. If a human >>

“There is nothing more important that Hoosier Energy offers than the benefit of employees going home safely. The signs you see driving into Merom, say it all: ‘Your family’s reward tomorrow is you working safely today.’ It doesn’t get any better than that.”

Steve Smith, Hoosier Energy President and CEO



HE photo

SAFER WALKWAYS: A new walkway between buildings prevents workers from hoisting up work-related materials.

is near the arc flash, serious injury and death can occur.

With the new remote device, the operator can perform his task at a much safer distance away from the energized bank of breakers in the switchgear room. “With manual racking, the operator suited up to protect himself in what was called “the dead man’s suit,” said Kyle Foli, Safety and Training Programs Team Leader, Generation, at Merom. The gallows humor reflects too many incidents in the industry, he said. “The danger of arc flash is always there, but with this device

we have a much better chance of preventing injuries and saving lives.”

On the one-year anniversary of Merom’s safety initiative, President and CEO Steve Smith paused to reflect. “There is nothing more important that Hoosier Energy offers than the benefit of employees going home safely,” Smith said. “The signs you see driving into Merom, say it all: ‘Your family’s reward tomorrow is you working safely today.’ It doesn’t get any better than that.” **E**

2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

With 2015 in the record books, *EnergyLines* takes a look back at Hoosier Energy's successes in meeting the challenges faced by electric cooperatives.

COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

More than 300 people from Hoosier Energy and its member systems attended formal dedication ceremonies for the G&T's new Operations Center and Headquarters.

Both facilities provide increased work efficiencies, greater collaboration opportunities and room for growth. The new headquarters received LEED gold certification, a tribute to Hoosier Energy's commitment to sustainability. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of an energy-efficient facility. >>



HE photo

DEDICATED PURPOSE: Hoosier Energy CEO Steve Smith, (center, left) and Board Chairman Darin Duncan, (center, right) along with the Hoosier Energy Board of Directors cut a ceremonial ribbon for both facilities last April outside the new headquarters.

2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

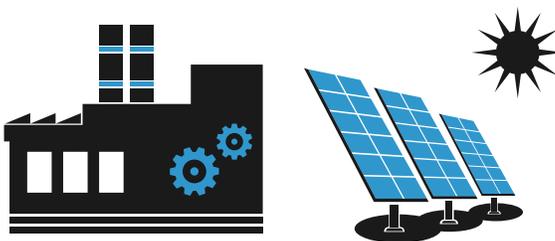
REGULATORY CHALLENGES

Hoosier Energy continued to voice concerns that the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan rule will disproportionately affect rural communities without regard to stranded costs or emission reductions already achieved. Hoosier Energy also supported the territory preservation law in Indiana and will continue to work proactively to protect an assured, reliable and competitively-priced power supply.

ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRATEGY

In 2015, Hoosier Energy added more solar, wind and landfill gas projects to complement coal and natural gas resources as part of an "all-of-the-above" power supply strategy. Working together, these resources provide the best balance for electric service reliability, affordability and environmental stewardship.

Three of 10 solar sites were completed as part of a 10-megawatt solar program. Seven more are planned for 2016 and 2017. Two landfill gas projects are underway, funded through low-cost Clean Renewable Energy Bonds. Construction began on the 16-megawatt Orchard Hills landfill plant near Rockford, Ill., with power production scheduled to begin in June 2016. The 4-megawatt Cabin Creek project in Whitewater Valley REMC service territory is on track to begin operations in 2017.



Hoosier Energy also worked proactively with members on consumer-owned generation to develop consistent guidelines for interconnections, compensation and related issues.

The Ratts Generating Station operated for the last time on March 10, 2015. The plant's highly dedicated, close-knit workforce performed superbly over the plant's lifespan, operating the state's first electric cooperative generating station efficiently and safely for more than four decades.

MAINTAINING A COMPETITIVE POSITION

In 2015, Hoosier Energy returned \$6.2 million in patronage capital credits and \$2.9 million in special bill credits to member systems, bringing total retirements and credits to nearly \$83 million since 2000. Wholesale rates continued to remain competitive, with Hoosier Energy avoiding a projected increase in base rates for the fifth consecutive year.

Two major credit rating services affirmed Hoosier Energy's credit rating and financial outlook, citing the sound G&T cooperative business model.

The G&T also achieved significant savings and efficiency gains through inventory reductions, contract savings and improved compliance and project management processes.

2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPROVEMENTS AT MEROM

Heat rate improvements at the Merom Generating Station resulted in nearly \$1 million in annual fuel cost savings, increasing the station's competitive advantage. Heat rate is a measurement of efficiency, or how much fuel must be expended in order to generate 1 kWh of electricity. Heat rate improvements decrease production costs, enabling the generating units to operate more efficiently.

Other improvements at Merom included completion of a new industrial wastewater treatment plant capable of treating up to 1,050 gallons per minute with twice the solids-removal capacity of the previous system.



HE photo

WASHING WATER: A new water treatment facility at Merom treats more water and removes twice the solids as the previous system.

ASSURING RELIABILITY

Power delivery reliability, as measured by outage duration, improved 28 percent over the previous year, based on a 7-year average. In 2015, the G&T completed more than \$13 million in power supply capital projects to support economic growth and assure reliability.

Auditors from the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) affirmed Hoosier Energy's reliable operations after an exhaustive review of the G&T's reliability practices that yielded no violations.

Continued vulnerability assessments, participation in national drills and peer reviews keep Hoosier Energy's reliability and cyber compliance programs in a continual state of readiness. >>



HE photo

ON "HIGH ALERT:" Mike Mugler, Information Technology Manager for Clark County REMC; Justin Swarens, Manager of System Control Services for Hoosier Energy and Richie Field, Hoosier Energy IT Infrastructure and Security Coordinator monitor the grid for threats during a GridEx III exercise.

2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

FOCUSING ON SAFETY

Hoosier Energy rolled out a “Safe by Choice” initiative companywide to ensure continuous improvement and further safety as a core value.

Overall safety performance was the best in the company’s history, with accident rates nearly 40 percent below national averages. Power delivery crews reached nearly one year without a lost-time incident and the Merom Generating Station completed its first year with no lost-time accidents. The Ratts Generating Station continued a trend of no lost-time accidents for the ninth year with the remaining workforce.

The Lawrence and Worthington Generating Stations achieved certification in the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as a “STAR”

site through the Indiana Department of Labor. Indiana VPP sites are leaders in workplace safety and health and recognized for proactively protecting Hoosier workers.

Fifteen apprentices from Hoosier Energy and member distribution cooperatives graduated from the Hoosier Energy Apprenticeship Training and Safety (HEATS) program, the 36th HEATS class in this industry-leading program. Member system graduates from the linemen program included Clark County REMC, RushShelby Energy, South Central Indiana REMC and Whitewater Valley REMC. The total number of graduates since the program began now stands at 595.

More than 350 member employees were trained in skill improvement.

VALUE-ADDED MEMBER SERVICES

Hoosier Energy continued to enhance and improve upon a wide range of member services.

A total of 17 employees representing 14 member cooperatives graduated from the first class of the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development Program.

The Team Up Demand Side Management programs contributed to an estimated 40,500 megawatt-hours of energy saved annually. Programs include heating and cooling rebates, distribution of CFL and LED light bulbs, attic insulation and duct sealing incentives as well as rebates for commercial and industrial energy efficiency improvements.

Hoosier Energy assisted members in locating 60 new or expanded businesses with more than 1,300 jobs, over \$330 million in investment and nearly 32 megawatts of demand.

Demand side management programs

Hoosier Energy offers member cooperatives the option to implement the following Demand Side Management programs: Commercial & Industrial Prescriptive Rebate Program, Residential HVAC Program, Energy Management Program, Residential Lighting Program, Water Heating Program and the Touchstone Energy Home Program.



2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

The joint economic development program of Hoosier Energy and its member distribution cooperatives once again was named one of the top 10 utility programs in the nation by *Site Selection* magazine.

The forecasting department completed the biennial residential end-use customer survey, a tool that aids in accurately predicting future member needs, as well as provide member systems with an increased knowledge of their end-consumers. This group also completed a Power Requirements Study forecast for each member system and Hoosier Energy. A residential commercial and industrial retail bill comparison report was issued to provide member systems with increased knowledge and understanding of other utility rates throughout the region. MV-Web training was provided to member systems and their large industrial consumers to increase their understanding of load levels at various times, as well as to assist in troubleshooting possible load issues.

Other services included support for member system's communication efforts including more than 60 customizable articles, graphics, photos or videos for use in local communication programs or events. The communications team also provides Touchstone Energy regional partner support along with a coordinated media buy.

Video assistance helped Johnson County REMC earn an Award of Distinction for their annual meeting video. The Hoosier Energy video team won two Spotlight on Excellence awards from NRECA for videos featuring the Indiana Youth Tour and Crane Business Park.

Indiana Youth Tour video



Crane Business park video



Hoosier Energy videos can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/MyHoosierEnergy.

Looking ahead

These accomplishments and so many others reflect Hoosier Energy's commitment to continually support the needs of its members. As 2016 unfolds, EnergyLines looks forward to showing the value of co-op membership by bringing news on Hoosier Energy and its 18-member systems as they provide consumers with assured, reliable, safe and environmentally acceptable power – now and for years to come. **EL**

Out of the Board Room

HERB HAGGARD

Spirited, financially sound but charity-minded, respectful but delightfully irreverent, driven, competitive and yet, somehow whimsical – eight adjectives of hundreds that could describe this complex businessman, known among cooperatives as long-time board director, Herb Haggard. He has worked 64 years, served 37 years on the Johnson County REMC Board and 18 years as a Hoosier Energy Board Director.

Having just turned 73, Haggard talks like a man looking forward to a 25-year career. If ambition and enthusiasm are the keys to longevity, it's a possibility.

A DAY AT THE OFFICE

Fresh snow on the ground on this mid-January day doesn't hinder Haggard's mission. He starts the morning as he does every Wednesday, picking up dozens of fresh donuts. He delivers them to employees on Victory Drive, just off I-465 on the east side of Indy. It's there, in an eight-building complex, that Haggard is known as CEO and President of Haggard & Stocking Associates. He affection-



HE photos

STANDING STRONG: Herb Haggard, President and CEO of Haggard & Stocking Associates, oversees a robust, award-winning business headquartered in Indianapolis.

ately calls the staff of 100 or so “family” and jests that his treats are often blamed for weight gain called “Haggard pounds.”

The maze leading to his office is full of interesting distractions. Rounding one corner, an impressive bronze eagle hovers, while to the left, an estimated 3-foot-long ship is displayed.

Enter then the CEO's quarters, heaping with personality. While Haggard has amassed a large number of family photos, they keep company with some strangely unique memorabilia.

“Check out my giant dinosaur egg,” Haggard says, pointing to his

“If you have money you can give it to charity. If you don’t have money, you can give of your time. However, I won’t donate to large organizations with highly paid employees. Everything I donate goes right to the service to help the people. I want it to get to the people who need it.”

HERB HAGGARD

conference room table. Sitting there among old swords and other collectibles is a fossilized, 60- to 80-million-year-old egg found in South China. “I like to have the unusual,” he proclaims. It’s part of his private interests turned public persona. In truth, it’s a bit of savvy marketing. “Business acquaintances may not remember my name, but they remember I’m the guy with the unique office.”

Haggard – the business professional – then fully emerges. He starts with the history of his still-growing company. Founded in 1972, it has grown exponentially and is recognized as a prominent full-line industrial distributor, with an aerospace division, vending programs, industrial supplies and safety products from more than 1,200 suppliers.

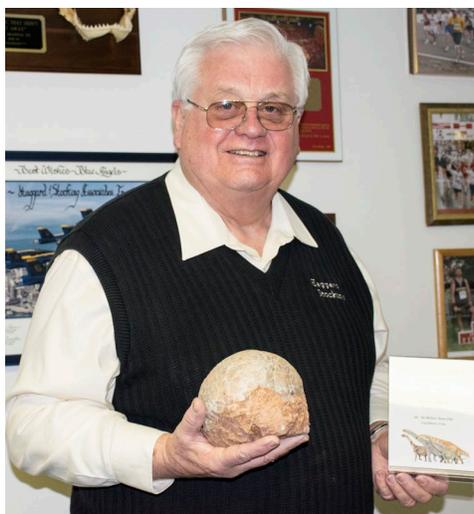
While headquartered in Indianapolis, Haggard & Stocking owns facilities in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. The sales team has clients in 32 states and the combined businesses net \$55 million in annual sales.

Haggard credits no one person with helping him attain success. “Honestly, I’ve had no mentor, nobody. I was raised in a divorced family and had to work from age 9. I believe if you work hard, you can make money. I call it street-wise.”

As for education, this Indianapolis native went to school in a two-room

About the series

This is the sixth in a series featuring Hoosier Energy Board of Directors in an “Out of the Board Room” series in EnergyLines. These personal stories are intended to build stronger relationships among us. A different Director from each of the 18 member systems will appear each month.



school-house in Waverly for six years and graduated from Mooresville High School. He earned an Associate’s Degree from the Industrial School of Technology at Purdue University. The rest of his business skills he gleaned from accountants, attorneys

and years of experience.

To his credit, around 13 years ago, Purdue University honored Haggard with the School of Technology Alumni of the Year award – chosen from a field of national candidates.

In 2013, his company was named winner of the American Eagle Excellence in Industry Award – hence the encased bronze eagle. “It’s kind of like the Oscars in our business,” Haggard says. “I didn’t win the award. It’s the employees that achieved it. I only set a standard.”

Haggard says the acclaim of the company has brought with it opportunities to sell the business. He refuses. “I feel responsible for 100 lives out there. If I would sell, a new owner would hurt some of those people. I won’t allow that to happen.”

To talk with Haggard without talking business is unlikely. “I’m a workaholic. I like the art of the deal,” he says, speaking of his drive and success.

If being politically correct is in the equation, well Haggard might roll the dice on that one. “Either you like me or you don’t like me,” he says, pointing out an inflatable punching bag in the corner, sporting a familiar political face. He laughs, “You have to have some fun.”

His philosophy, however, is old school. He still believes a handshake should be the rule.

“Trust is a big word for me. If you >>

violate my trust, we'll never be friends again."

When it comes to admiration, no one trumps his wife, Marie, for that honor. "I admire her the most because of her faith in God. She's taken a wild child and calmed me down," he says. "It's God first, family second and business third. It used to be God, business, family. My wife taught me otherwise."

And with that faith, comes service. For 14 years, Haggard and his wife, volunteered with a group from the First United Methodist Church to assist in Appalachia, where unemployment numbers historically hover in the 60 percent range and people have become accustomed to living without.

"Some of the elderly people down there are really in need. Once we insulated and put windows in the house for this old gentlemen. In appreciation for the work we performed, he played the fiddle for us." For his efforts, Haggard was named a Kentucky Colonel by the state in 2009. He is fond of the title, but he talked more about the experience.

"It's a personal reward, and we're not supposed to judge how others live. We felt like we made a difference and the mission group, as a result, has become very close," he says.

Haggard's company also contributes to local organizations in need.

"If you have money you can give it to charity. If you don't have money, you can give of your time. However, I won't donate to large organizations with highly paid employees. Everything I donate goes right to the service to help the people. I want it to get to the people who need it."

AN EVENING AT HOME

Saying goodbye to employees for the day, Haggard takes off for home – a rural estate about 20 miles south, just off State Road 37. The commute is long enough to engage his interest in mystery and western audiobooks. He has between 400-500 of the "road companions." All are cataloged, and



HE photo

HOME OFFICE CHARACTER: Train buffs would like Herb Haggard's home office – home to a wall of train memorabilia and other unique collectibles.

he has 119 to go, he says, gifts from family and friends.

Trudging through the new fallen snow, Haggard opens the door to his home and calls for his wife of 53 years. The two are more than happy to share how they came to be a couple.

"I picked her up," he proudly says. As she tells it, she was working the Old Meridian Drive-In and he came in with a bunch of friends, under the guise of seeing the movie. Not likely, since it was "101 Dalmatians." As the story goes, he wouldn't leave until she agreed to go out with him. The rest is history. Together they have three children and six grandchildren. A son and a son-in-law are a part of his seven-member management team.

Haggard resists the idea that he is a typical, rural resident or farmer. While he owns a 130-acre farm just miles away, he adamantly proclaims he doesn't own a dog or a John Deere tractor of any sorts. But those are perhaps the only things he doesn't own.

"My oddities started in the basement, moved to the cabin and now the barn," he says with pride. The "oddities" are a plethora of museum-quality collectibles paired with near-startling, iconic décor. If he sees it and wants it, he buys it. Some collectibles

he buys from friends, some he secures at auctions or flea markets. A lot he buys while touring on vacations.

In his lower-level office is a wall of toy trains and other railroad memorabilia, including two windows from a caboose. Completely unrelated but unique and sitting close by, are two bottles of snake wine from China – complete with visible, whole snakes. Haggard concedes he's not inclined to taste the wine, but likes having them for the shock value.

Then it's out to the barn – aptly named "The Party Barn." Open the door and it looks like Haggard borrowed a line from an ol' Tom T. Hall song and made it his mantra: I love little baby ducks, old pick-up trucks, slow movin' trains and rain ... Sound familiar? For Haggard, however, the list would be more like ships, trains, carved Indians, slot machines and war memorabilia. It doesn't rhyme but the sentiment is the same.

"I love it all," he says.

Hanging from the rafters in the barn are buffalo and bear skins, model planes and a 40-foot rowing scull. He directs a tour around the barn. The north wall is home to military gear, complete with a rocket grenade launcher; a touch of Vegas and a corner of old barbershop collectibles

complete the north side. Numerous lighted bar signs, old flags, a cranberry scoop, sports memorabilia, a carved totem pole, and a life-sized Indian Chief and his mate are highlights scattered throughout. There's even a Terre Cotta Soldier from China and a sarcophagus – an Egyptian coffin.

“I collect it all to have fun,” Haggard says. “I just wait until I see something I want and then I buy it.” That includes two prized vehicles sitting in the center of the party barn. Throwing back the tarps on both, Haggard reveals a 2008 Harley trike and a Polaris Slingshot – an autocycle with a Saturn engine that will run up to 160 mph.

“See, Bob Stroup isn't the only one with toys,” he says in jest about his colleague on the board. While the Slingshot is nearly new, the trike has taken Haggard on adventures in Yellowstone National Park, the Tetons and other scenic rides.

AS EVENING FALLS

Haggard's last stop for the afternoon is the log cabin on the back of the property, better known as Grandpa's Playhouse. It has a western motif, complete with collectibles. Although small, it's a getaway of sorts, complete with a murphy bed and a small kitchen. It's here Haggard sits down in a rocking chair to reflect on the day and talk of other interests.

Flipping houses with his son is one pastime. They buy homes posted in legal notices, sheriff's sales and bank repossessions. He won't buy homes where people have to be evicted, but he will buy fixer-uppers. Only once have they gotten a real surprise, buying a home site unseen.

“We bought this house for \$5,000 and then we went looking for it. We drove up and down the street trying to find the address and couldn't find it. Then we saw this burned out house with a tree growing right up through the middle. I told my son, ‘I think we've found our house.’” He laughs. It was simply a challenge. They salvaged the foundation, built a new house on the lot and still made money.

He also has a penchant for travel.

While he and Marie own property in Florida, in the last 10 years they've expanded their horizons to include Europe, Asia, Rome and Spain to name a few. They've also taken 14 cruises with another scheduled soon.

“I love to travel and I have good health. I've learned you better do it while you can.” 



HE photos

COMFORTS OF HOME: Herb and Marie Haggard have been married for 53 years and have created a retreat in the woods, just south of Indianapolis.

HAVING FUN: Clarence the alligator was a fun find for Herb Haggard. The chef stands ready to take orders in what the Haggard family calls “The Party Barn.”

ENERGYLINES

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Employees discuss improvements, savings

To provide value to our 18 member systems, a cost saving and improvement initiative at Hoosier Energy provides employees a way to identify, submit and track improvements leading to cost reductions. A corporate efficiency initiative video highlights three projects that show how processes were streamlined to be more effective.

Log onto [YouTube.com/MyHoosierEnergy](https://www.youtube.com/MyHoosierEnergy) to watch the video.