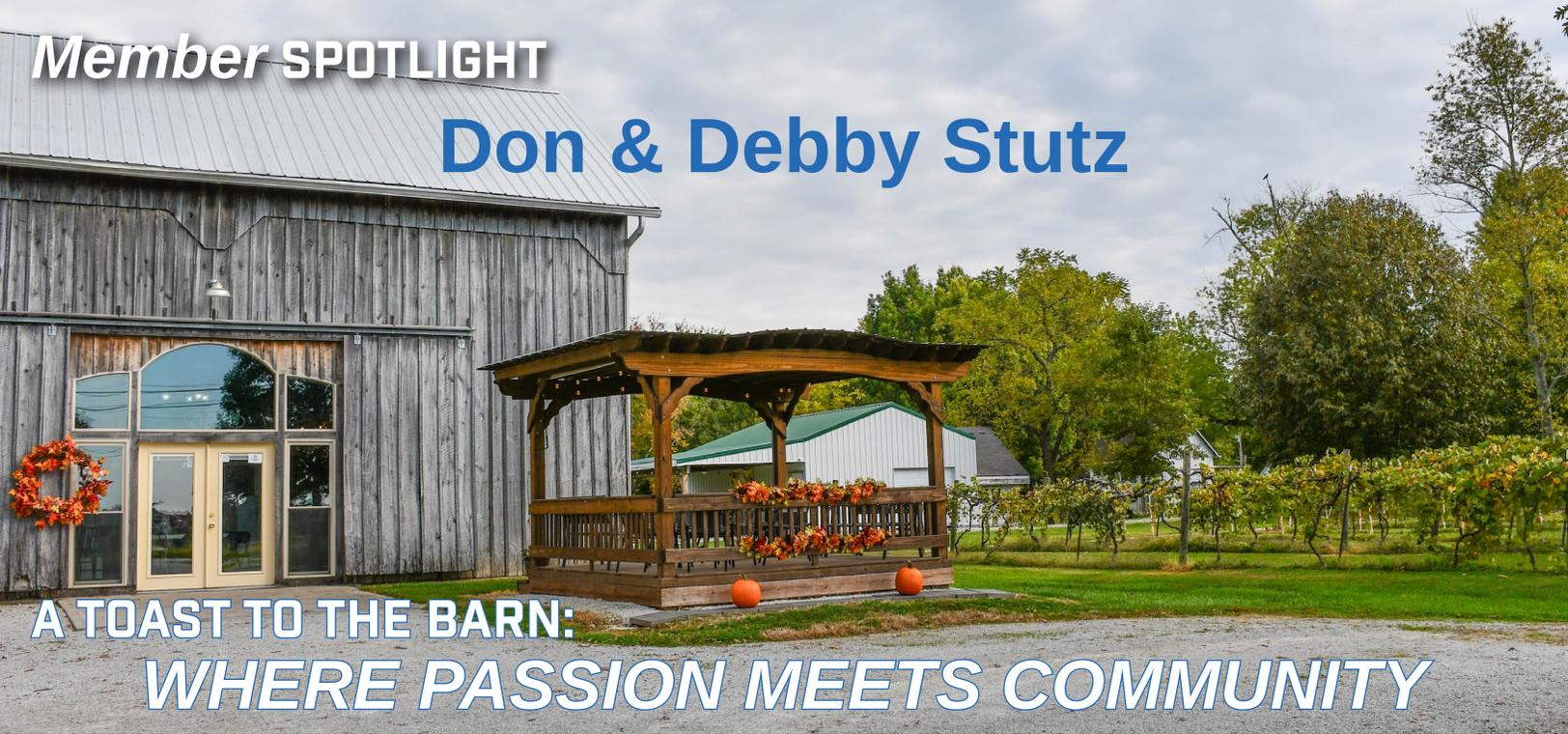


Don & Debby Stutz



A TOAST TO THE BARN: WHERE PASSION MEETS COMMUNITY



For Don and Debby Stutz, life has been a journey rooted in love, family, and community — and, fittingly, in wine. The owners of At the Barn Winery in Logan, Indiana, have been lifelong Southeastern Indiana REMC members. Both grew up with SEI REMC electric service and have remained members throughout their lives together.

This coming May, the couple will celebrate their 50th wedding

anniversary, marking a lifetime built on hard work, shared dreams, and the joy of simple moments. They raised four children, including triplets, and are now proud grandparents to eleven grandchildren.

Before retirement, Debby enjoyed a career in retail banking while Don worked as a chemical operator. Alongside his career, Don carried a lifelong passion for making wine, a hobby he has nurtured for more than 50 years. When the couple retired, they decided to turn that passion into something more.

In 2013, they opened At the Barn Winery, transforming the barn that Don's great-grandfather built in 1870 into a welcoming gathering place for family, friends, and wine lovers from near and far. Don repaired and restored the barn himself, creating a rustic yet peaceful setting where

guests can relax, enjoy a glass of wine, and take in the beautiful views of their property.

Described as a “casual farmers market winery,” At the Barn Winery offers handcrafted wines made in small batches to ensure quality and flavor. Their goal is to create wines that appeal to both the novice wine drinker and the seasoned connoisseur. The Stutzes grow fourteen varieties of grapes on their two-acre vineyard, producing a wide range of flavors, while also importing juice from California for varieties that don't thrive in Indiana's climate.

Visitors are invited to taste and enjoy wines in the Tasting Room, on the patio, or out on the deck, surrounded by the relaxed charm of the countryside. The winery is family-friendly and welcomes leashed pets, making it a comfortable destination

for everyone. “You can't get more farm-to-table than this,” Debby said, as the couple continues to cultivate the land and share its fruits with others.



Debby brings her own creative flair to the business by naming many of their wines — especially the sweet ones. One of her favorites, Horizontal, was inspired by a fun moment among friends during a tasting. When one friend stood up after sampling a glass, another joked, asking if she planned to stay vertical. Her response — “I’m going to be horizontal!” — quickly became the name of a best-selling wine.

Over the years, At the Barn Winery has produced forty-eight different kinds of wine and earned numerous awards in local and national competitions from California to New York. The couple proudly display these awards in Don’s winemaking space, where they serve as a reminder of how far their passion has taken them.

Beyond wine, the Stutzes are deeply connected to their community. They’ve hosted numerous fundraisers, including Bingo for the North Dearborn Community Park, and every summer they invite guests to their Party on the Patio series, featuring live music, good conversation, and great wine. Guests are welcome to bring their own food or order from Logan Supermart across the street, and heaters and porch covers help extend the outdoor season into the cooler months.

Despite their success, Don and Debby keep things simple. Don’s brother helps care for the vines, and friends and family pitch in during busy times. When the winery closes in January through March, the couple turns their



attention to pruning the vineyard and preparing for the new growing season. As Don explained, “When the grapes are lush and green, the vineyard is beautiful. Pruning isn’t our favorite part, but it’s what brings the next season’s growth.”

For Don and Debby, At the Barn Winery is about more than bottles and barrels — it’s about people. “My favorite part is meeting new people and making lasting friendships,” Debby shared. For Don, seeing the barn that has been in his family for generations filled with laughter and life is the most rewarding part of all.

Their story of hard work, creativity, and connection perfectly reflects what makes southeastern Indiana special. Like the wines they pour, it is a blend of dedication, community, and love that only grows richer with time.

SEI REMC encourages members to bring their family and friends to At the Barn Winery to meet Don and Debby and experience the beautiful space they have created. Learn more by visiting www.atthebarnwinery.com.

SEI REMC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Kaylee Benham

As a Member Service Representative, Kaylee is often the first friendly voice members hear when they reach out to SEI REMC. From answering phone calls and scheduling fiber installs to processing payments, creating service orders, and helping with outage calls, Kaylee works hard to make sure members are supported every step of the way. She takes pride in her role, striving each day “to be the light in someone’s day.”

Kaylee loves her job because it gives her the opportunity to connect with others and be part of a cooperative that offers so many benefits to the community.

Outside of work, Kaylee enjoys spending time with her family, shopping, experimenting with new recipes from TikTok, and gardening. She especially loves being outdoors — whether it’s taking ranger rides, soaking up the fresh air, or chasing after her energetic 1½-year-old. While she dreads the arrival of winter, she embraces every moment she can to enjoy the seasons with her loved ones.

Thank you, Kaylee, for your incredible service and dedication.