

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

“WATTS” INSIDE

- 3 **Last Call: Christmas Lights Contest**
- 3 **Youth Tour Applications Are Open!**
- 4 **Holiday Travel Safety**
- 4 **Employee Spotlight**
- 5 **A Day in the Life of a CEC Lineman, Final Part**
- 6 **Christmas Lights**
- 6 **Photo Contest Winners**
- 6 **2024 Line Clearing**
- 7 **Holiday Coloring Contest**
- 8 **Fresh Cranberry Salad Recipe**

The Spirit of Giving

BY NIKKI STALEY

Communication Supervisor

I know you are used to seeing Matt Boshaw, CEO/General Manager in the byline directly above, but this month I am writing for our members as a guest columnist. My name is Nikki Staley, I am the Communications Supervisor at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC). While I have just shy of a year on the job, I am no stranger to the local community. I had the pleasure of growing up in Sligo – I did move away for some time in order to begin my career – and now I am providing my son with the same childhood experience I had.

This time of year, I cannot help but think about seeing my son’s face beaming with joy on Christmas morning, but I also think of the holiday season as a way to soak up the spirit of giving. To some, I know that means finding the most thoughtful gifts for your loved ones. For me, the holiday season also brings a unique opportunity to give back to those less fortunate, volunteer with local organizations, and spend time with individuals you may not see throughout the entirety of the year. With

that, I know just how fortunate I am to work for an organization that takes this sentiment to heart. In fact, one of the seven cooperative principles is concern for community. Not only does CEC show its concern for the community during the holiday season, but consistently does so every day. In the words below, I will share some of the ways CEC fulfills its commitment to the cooperative principle.

Local Economic Support

Living in a rural area, I am always surprised to see the range of worthy organizations in our community. At any given time, CEC fulfills donation requests for improving education for our youth, improving access to healthcare and keeping equipment up to date, expanding community events, and much more.

Donations of Physical Items

Similarly, CEC will provide local organizations with door prizes, Chinese auction contributions, and raffle items to enhance their events and fundraising efforts.

Youth Programs

At CEC, it is understood that our youth are our future, which is why programs have been developed to

Continued on page 2

support this demographic of our membership. Each year, CEC provides scholarships to members or members' children to further their education through our Good Neighbor Scholarship. CEC is also proud to send local high school juniors to Washington, D.C. for a week of learning through the Youth Tour program.

CEC Energy Assistance

Arguably, the most important programs CEC has in place for its members is its energy assistance programs. Family Fund is available to families or individuals in need who have



their permanent residence on CEC lines. Funds for this program come from unclaimed capital credits and donations from other members from the Round Up Program – a program members opt into, and their bills are rounded up to the next dollar. CEC also has the Hardship Grant in place. The goal is to help members suffering a hardship that makes it difficult to keep up with bills.



Other resources are available beyond what

CEC has in place, such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and PA 2-1-1.

This is just a summary of the contributions CEC makes to its community this season and throughout the year. As it is that time of year, I must wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season. I hope you relish in the spirit of giving, your holidays are filled with loved ones, children with expressions of pure joy, the opportunity to give back, and a look ahead to a positive 2024.

It was my pleasure to serve as a guest columnist and I hope I have another opportunity next year.

CEC Holiday Closures

Dec. 22 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 for Christmas Day
(normal business hours resume Dec. 26)

Dec. 29 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 for New Years Day
(normal business hours resume Jan. 2)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We wish you a safe and warm season with friends and family.

Central Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Matthew P. Boshaw

CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti

Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO

Lisa A. Hoover

Director of Member Services

Christopher W. Kossman

Director of Information Technology

Fred E. Terwilliger

Assistant General Manager/COO



Last Call for the CEC Christmas Lights Contest!

Deck your home and win the CEC Christmas Lights Contest! **First place (the Griswold Award) will receive a \$500 bill credit and a \$500 donation to a charity of the member’s choice! Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit and third a \$100 bill credit!**

cial CEC members. To enter, complete the registration form on CEC’s website and attach a photo or video of the display before Dec. 8. Voting is open to all and will take place on CEC’s website from Dec. 11 to Dec. 20. The winners will be announced on CEC’s website on Dec. 21 .

Visit www.central.coop for contest details!

The contest is open to both residential and commer-

Youth Tour Applications Are Open!



HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: join students from across the country for a **FREE** week-long trip to Washington, D.C.! Youth Tour applications are now open and we are looking for students to participate in this leadership-focused, once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses paid trip. CEC will sponsor students to participate in Youth Tour from June 16-21, 2024. This fun, educational (and free) trip will provide students with leadership and resume-building skills and activities. To apply, visit www.central.coop/youth-tour. Applications are due Feb. 2.

Explore!

Students will explore Washington, D.C.’s many museums, monuments, and memorials. They’ll experience sights honoring important figures and explore memorials dedicated to American conflicts in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

From solemn experiences, such as the Pentagon Memorial and the Holocaust Museum, to educational opportunities like the Smithsonian Museums and the Air & Space Museum, to fun events, such as a dinner cruise on the Potomac and live theater at the Kennedy Center — Youth Tour students enjoy a variety of activities.



Learn!

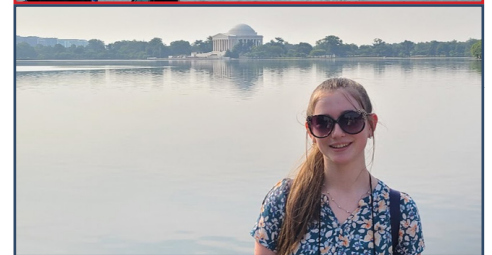
Students will get to immerse themselves in our nation’s history and discover their place in our democracy. They’ll get to learn about their peers’ life experiences from other states while representing Pennsylvania.

Youth Tour students have the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill for a guided tour of the Capitol Building and a meeting with their elected representative where they can ask questions, discuss issues affecting their community, and learn about the work done on Capitol Hill. They’ll also learn about co-ops, our nation, and the impact they have on their community and country!



Connect!

Students will experience the excitement of Youth Tour alongside 1,800 other students from all over the country! On Youth Tour, students make new friendships with peers from across the nation. Students will join a network of thousands of Youth Tour alumni who include figures like senators and CEOs. Youth Tour opens students up to incredible networking connections, valuable experiences, and exclusive scholarships, as well as an amazing, week-long trip they’ll never forget!





Holiday Travel Safety

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

The last few articles I have written have focused on the suggested topic of fire prevention and fire safety. While they are very important aspects to consider in day-to-day life, the nearing of the holiday season brings even more chaos and excitement! Let's talk about a potentially overlooked risk factor surrounding the holidays – travel!

Nearly 63.9 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during the holiday travel period. More than 52.4 million Americans (82 percent of all holiday travelers) intend to travel by automobile. Let's talk about some road safety tips for Christmas and New Year's.

First, make sure your car is well-equipped for travel. Check the tire tread, battery, antifreeze, windows and brakes. Also, check that you have a jack and lug wrench and that your spare tire is properly inflated.

Additionally, allowing extra time in your schedule is crucial. This is one of the busiest times to travel and patience and flexibility is needed. Avoiding driving during late night hours is also a great idea. There are increased incidences of impaired driving during this time, especially on weekends.

It's always a good idea to keep a safety kit in your vehicle. The kit should include a flashlight with extra batteries, jumper cables, a first aid kit, water, non-perishable food items, matches, blankets, and flares or other warning devices. You should also include an ice

scraper, a small shovel and a bag of sand or kitty litter in case you get stuck in the snow.

Driving while drowsy can be as dangerous as driving after drinking alcohol. Schedule your trip to avoid driving during normal sleep hours. Plan for at least a 15-minute rest stop every two hours. It is suggested to limit driving to 350 miles per day or no more than eight hours on the road to avoid drowsy driving.

Even if the weather and roads look okay in your neighborhood, that may not be the case 200 miles away at grandma's house. You will also want to check your favorite weather app or local news channel to find out the weather conditions of the interstates and roads you will be traveling on. Most importantly, ensure you and all passengers in the vehicle are wearing seatbelts!

On behalf of all of us at CEC, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Data found in this article was sourced from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.



Role: Human Resources Generalist

Employee Since: August 2004

www.central.coop

Employee Spotlight: Cindy Cullen-Rapp



What is one thing on your bucket list? I want to go to the Grand Canyon.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? I like to garden. I am a Penn State Master Gardener.



What is your favorite family tradition? We still have family dinners when our kids come home.



Do you have any pets? I have a black cat named Baby Kitty.



What is something you've always wanted to learn or try? I want to learn to play the piano.



A Day in the Life of a CEC Lineman, Final Part

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist

(Continued from last month's newsletter.)

The crews must now clean up and pack up once they complete their tasks. All of their safety equipment, fall protection and tools are put back on the truck and securely stored. Any old wire, fuses, insulators, etc. must be picked up and taken back to CEC's headquarters. The old equipment will be recycled, if possible, or disposed of properly.

While the linemen were packing up, they were also communicating with each other on the radios to let the other crews know they were finished with their portion of work. Once each crew was finished, two linemen went further up the lines to prepare for the final step of turning the power back on.

To restore power, they had to put the fuses back in place. To do this, a lineman uses a special, extendable fiberglass stick called a hot stick. Using a hot stick to put fuses back in place is a very meticulous job and requires a great amount of practice to become efficient.

Once the power is on, the crew calls into the office and let the dispatcher know the electricity is restored, or as they say, the lines are "hot" again. From there, a few employees in the engineering department will update

different internal systems about the job completion.

The linemen then have a checklist of tasks to complete once they return to the office for the day. They make a list of all the equipment and items they took off the truck that needs to be restocked from the warehouse, fill the truck fuel tanks, clean the trucks, and take all the extra items they didn't need to the warehouse.

Our GIS/Engineering Analyst will later update the maps to show the new equipment and lines put in. Our maps are updated every day with any changes to ensure the field personnel have the most up-to-date view of our service territory.

There are a few takeaways I learned through this experience that I want to share. First, it takes an exponential amount of communication to successfully and safely work on the lines as a lineman. Throughout the entire process, they constantly check in with each other and talk through the plan. Even during work, whoever is in the bucket will communicate to someone on the ground to grab them a tool or supplies. They also yell "headache" before dropping something from the bucket so the crew below know to watch for and stay clear of falling objects.

Additionally, there are many precautions they must keep in mind. Batteries must be stored separately from the power tools, different vests are needed depending on the speed limit of the road they're working next to, different gloves are worn for different types of work, and countless other precautions must be kept in mind.

Thank you for following along on this three-part story with me. The full day I spent with our crews is just a sample of everything our crews do for our members, but I hope it will help you, the members, understand what a day in the life of a CEC lineman may look like.



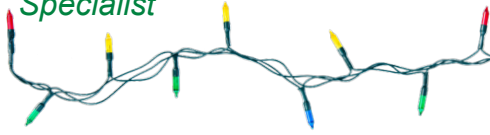
A lineman putting the fuse back in place with a hot stick. Close up below.





Christmas Lights

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist



Now falling, a calm quiet night and Christmas lights, the few things I do enjoy about winter. Whether it is driving around or sitting comfortably in your home with the lights on a tree, there is just something about it that never gets tiring. Until... you see your electric usage go up from having all the lights plugged in. There are a few ways to enjoy the lights and keep your usage lower still.

The amount of time the lights are actually turned on can make a big difference in your monthly usage. Using an automatic timer lets you keep the lights on a schedule so when you want to see them they are on, but also have them turn off the times no one will be around.

Smart plugs are also another way to save energy, you can have more control even when you may not be home. This option is incredibly easy and convenient by an app on your phone or the sound of your voice, if you have a smart home device.

Another energy efficient choice is the type of lights you choose, let's face it, there are a TON of options. White lights, colored lights, automated or color changing. How do you choose? Well, like anything, it depends on your preference, but choosing some lights may be better for your electric bill than others. Choosing LED lights is always a good choice as the usage is lower than the old incandescent lights. Possibly upgrading to LED is a good first step in saving energy. Choosing lights that are more spaced out on the string is also smart. The less lights on the string, the less energy they will use.

So remember, you can enjoy the holiday season and still keep your energy usage low.

2023 Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 Photo Contest. After 4,190 online and paper (via the September newsletter) votes, our winners have been selected. Congratulations to the following winners!



First Place: Pot of Gold, Cindy Baron of Sarver



Second Place: Morning's Milkweed, Kathy Palla of Chicora



Third Place: Phoebe's Prize Catch, Carol Kruth of Saxonburg

2024 CEC Line Clearing

CEC will begin tree trimming in January to reduce outages and service interruptions caused by trees. Contracted line clearing crews will work on circuits originating from the Fredricksburg, Prospect and Coaltown substations.

Spraying will also take place on circuits originating from the Saxonburg, Rockland, Mineral and Wolf's Corners substations. These projects will last throughout 2023.

www.central.coop

CEC will utilize Hazlett Tree Service, Davey Tree Service and O'Connell Electric. CEC members may encounter contracted crews. All contractors carry company issued identification.

CEC respects property owners' rights and will complete the work as quickly and professionally as possible. If you have any questions, please contact CEC at 800-521-0570.

Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter the CEC Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline to submit your coloring is Jan. 12, 2024. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5-12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. **Mail entries to:** Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.



Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ CEC Account #: _____

Member's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

From the Kitchen of:
Joanne McVay

RECIPE: **FRESH CRANBERRY SALAD**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (3 oz.) red flavored gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water 1 to 2 tsp. orange zest (optional)
- 3/4 cup cold water 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 cup cranberries, washed and sorted
- 1 large apple, cored
- 1 whole orange, seeded
- 2 tablespoons sugar

INSTRUCTIONS:

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add cold water and refrigerate mixture in a large bowl. Mince or grind cranberries, apple and orange. Combine fruit mixture with rind, nuts and sugar. Fold the mixture into the gelatin and pour into a serving pan or bundt mold. Chill until firm.

To unmold gelatin from the bundt mold (if using): Dip the mold in warm, not hot, water to depth of contents. Loosen edge of salad with a knife. Place a plate on top of the mold and, holding tightly, turn over both the plate and mold. Shake the mold gently and lift out carefully. Repeat the process if needed.



**ON THE GO AND
IN CONTROL.**

MANAGE

your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative

Your Board of Directors



From left (back row): Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Vice President, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; and Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049
Member Services: 800-521-0570; Outages: 800-282-8610
www.central.coop

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Moore

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

