

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative



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## Working Together to Avoid Grid Disaster

**BY MATT BOSHAW**  
CEO & General Manager

In the articles I write, I make every attempt to educate and inform you regarding matters that impact your cooperative and what steps we are taking to address them. I often refer to our statewide and national associations in these articles and discuss that while we are a self-governing organization, we often leverage the efforts of those organizations in order to maximize our effectiveness.

I am also in favor of not recreating the wheel. With that in mind, Steve Brame, the President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Cooperative (Allegheny), wrote an article that reinforced our position regarding the effect of EPA mandates on grid reliability. I appreciate Mr. Brame’s willingness to allow me to reprint this article for Central Electric Cooperative’s (CEC’s) members as I believe it describes our concerns very well. More importantly, it illustrates the

coordinated efforts of cooperatives on a state and national level to address those concerns. Below is the text originally printed in late 2023:



*The article below was written by Steve Brame - President & CEO of PREA/Allegheny*

They say timing is everything. If that’s the case, recent environmental proposals have decidedly missed their mark. At a time when we are being asked to electrify much of our economy, from transportation to home heating, new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposals are targeting the very resources we need to make this energy transition: our nation’s power plants. It’s not just bad timing. It’s a potential disaster.

We only need to be reminded of what happened last December during Winter Storm Elliott to understand the dire state of grid reliability. Nine states experienced rolling blackouts as the

*Continued on page 2*



demand for electricity exceeded available supply. Nearly a quarter of the electric generation fleet in our region went offline.

Earlier this year, the EPA proposed sweeping new regulations to reduce emissions at new and existing power plants. Reducing emissions is a worthy goal, but the regulations rely on developing, yet-unproven technologies. While carbon capture and clean hydrogen show some promise, they are not ready or commercially available to the scale needed for power sector adoption. The proposed rules also contain timelines that are unrealistic and unachievable.

If implemented, these regulations would require unworkable standards at coal and natural gas-fired power plants. They will lead to premature plant closures — operators will shut facilities down instead of making expensive improvements — while also making it harder to permit, site, and build critical new facilities. The result would only add greater reliability challenges to an already-stressed electric grid.

Grid instability situations like we experienced last December will become more frequent if these new rules are put into place. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the disorderly retirement of existing generating assets across the country, and the insufficient replacement of that power capacity, is directly impacting reliability and increasing the risk of blackouts.

The EPA’s proposal is the wrong plan at a critical time for our nation’s energy future. It is unrealistic, unachievable, and will reduce key generating resources just as Americans are increasing their reliance on electricity.

Cooperatives want to be a part of the solution. That’s why we have been working together to address these concerns. Your local electric cooperative and others in the state, along with the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the statewide association that represents your cooperative, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative,

Inc., the power provider for your cooperative, have joined with our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to make our concerns known to the EPA.

In letters, we’ve let the agency know these regulations could undermine the ability of electric cooperatives to provide affordable, reliable power to the communities and consumers we serve.

Working together. That’s been the formula for success for electric cooperative organizations for more than 80 years. It comes from a history of having to find solutions that work for the betterment of all.

That’s why we’re asking the EPA to work with NERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, regional transmission operators, and others in the electric industry, including electric cooperatives, to create standards that meet emissions-reduction goals without endangering the reliability of the grid. Working together, we can find solutions for the betterment of all.

**CEC contractor, Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., will begin pole inspections in April for circuits originating from the Karns City and Coaltown substations. This project will last throughout the year.**

**CEC members and others with CEC’s electric poles on their property may see these inspections being conducted. CEC appreciates your patience and cooperation during these improvements.**

## 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*



**GOOD NEIGHBOR SCHOLARSHIP**

**Available to members enrolled in a college or trade school.**

**APPLY BY MARCH 15**

 **Central Electric Cooperative**

**For More Information :**  
800-521-0570  
[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)

\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Are You Interested in a CEC Director's Seat?

As a member, you have a voice in who serves on CEC's eight-member Board of Directors. Every year, members elect two directors for a four-year term. Director seats are divided among the counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Butler and Clarion counties are invited to run for these two seats. To be eligible for nomination, you must be a CEC member in good standing, have a permanent residence in that county and meet other qualifications required by CEC's bylaws.

If you are interested in running for the board, you must return the below coupon or complete the online form by April 1. You will then receive a qualifications list, nominating petition (that must be signed by 20 CEC members), prospective director questionnaire and authorization form for a criminal background check. You must complete all of these items and return them to CEC's nominating committee by April 15 to be eligible to run for CEC's Board of Directors.

After the cooperative confirms your eligibility, you will attend an orientation meeting and meet with the nominating committee for an interview. The committee then submits a list of the eligible candidates for placement on the ballot.

Nominee names, along with a photo and background information, are presented in the July issue of Power

Lines. Cooperative members will vote by mail or internet prior to the annual meeting, or vote by paper ballot on the day of the meeting, Aug. 8, 2024, prior to the meeting's commencement. Election results will be announced prior to adjournment.

More information about running for the board is available by visiting [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)

Your board of directors has appointed a nominating committee to review prospective candidates interested in running for CEC director. Committee members are:

**Armstrong County**  
**Harvey W. Loose**  
East Brady

**Forest County**  
**Dennis Lamb**  
Tionesta

**Butler County**  
**Joe Gibson**  
Parker

**Venango County**  
**Carl E. Gadsby**  
Grove City

**Angela Bernardo**  
Butler

**Ron Paranick**  
Cranberry

**Clarion County**  
**James M. Reed**  
Fryburg

**Randy Tharan**  
Knox

If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee, please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2024 to: Central Electric Cooperative, Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 329, 716 Route 368, Parker, PA 16049.

Once you submit this ticket, you will be sent a qualifications list and petition requirements for being a director nominee to CEC's Board of Directors.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Congratulations to the 2023 Christmas Lights Contest Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2023 Christmas Lights Contest! With the help of 6,216 votes, the three winners were chosen. First place received a \$500 bill credit and \$500 donation to a charity of their choice. Second place received a \$250 bill credit and third place received a \$100 bill credit! Videos of each display are on our website.

**First Place:**

**Val & Thomas Snyder of Parker**  
Merry & Bright

**Second Place:**

**Deborah & Curtis Boyles of Venus**  
Boyles 2023 Christmas

**Third Place:**

**Jamie & Fred Woods of Parker**  
In the Woods Wonderland



## Wind Chill

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

Our members have the wonderful opportunity of living in an area that experiences all four seasons of the year. As the winter months are upon us, the hazards of driving conditions and accumulation of wintry precipitation may be some of the more frequent concerns we have when leaving the house or working outside. As you prepare to go out into the cold, have you ever considered what all accounts for the cold temperatures of the winter season?

Cold weather poses many hazards, not only for those individuals who are required to be exposed to it during their work, but for anyone who is outside for a period of time. The winter months bring the possibility of additional workplace injuries and illnesses, as well as increased hazards at home. Some direct consequences of being exposed to cold environments include frostbite, trench foot and hypothermia. One factor to consider when working in a cold-weather environment is the effect wind speed has on the temperature of the body.

The presence of wind in an already cold environment can pose a deadly combination. For example, if it is 10 degrees Fahrenheit outside and there are also 20 MPH winds present, the temperature actually feels like -9 degrees Fahrenheit. Because of the danger wind poses in cold weather, the National Weather Service will often

issue wind chill advisories and warnings when a deadly combination of wind and cold air threatens an area.



The following are some tips and tricks to avoid the threats wind chill presents to our bodies. It's best to eliminate or limit work and time spent outside as much as possible when extremely cold temperatures are present. Remember to allow time for acclimatization to cold environments or weather. If the weather is extremely cold for the area or time of year, you will not yet be used to it and are more susceptible to succumbing to a cold-related illness. Layer clothing and keep clothes dry. It is important to remove any wet clothing or boots and put on dry items when working in a cold environment. Take breaks in warm areas or vehicles as needed and prepare for the cold by drinking warm beverages to help warm up your core temperature. Monitor the condition of others around you and if you notice something could be wrong, get them into a warm area and notify others if needed.

Cold weather brings additional hazards for workers who are exposed to colder temperatures. Wind can create a dangerous situation in cold weather climates. Follow the above mentioned best practices when working in cold weather environments to lessen the chance of becoming a victim of frostbite, trench foot, or hypothermia. Stay warm and stay safe this winter season!

*The information in this article has been sourced from the National Weather Service.*



**Role:** Purchaser and Warehouse Supervisor

**Employee Since:** April 2021

## Employee Spotlight: Megan Mong



**What is something you're most proud of?** I am most proud of my two daughters.



**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** I enjoy crafting, wood working, painting and using my Cricut. My family is very active with Keystone's volleyball program. I also spend time with my youngest daughter working with mini horses.



**What is your favorite family tradition?** Our week long family vacation to the Outer Banks.



**What do you enjoy most about working at CEC?** One aspect of working at CEC I enjoy is being involved with the Safety City program, which allows me to go to various elementary schools and share electrical safety.



**What is one thing on your bucket list?** To take my family to see crystal clear blue water and white sand.





## The Power of Preparation

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist

**W**ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

With severe weather often times leading to outages, I want to remind members about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place.
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At CEC we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

More safety tips about outages (and other topics) are available on our website at:

<https://central.coop/electrical-safety-tips>



# Energy Savings 101

by *Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist*

Every month I talk about how to save energy and money, but I've never taken the time to discuss what that may mean and why it's important for you, as well as why it is important. Energy efficiency means using less energy to get the same job done. Seems pretty simple so far. But another term we should know is energy conservation, which means reducing the overall energy consumption. With energy conservation, we are changing our daily behaviors to reduce our usage, and energy efficiency we are finding items or tools that use less energy to get the same results.

When we are more energy efficient, we are cutting energy bills and even reducing pollution in the process. Over the last year, I've written articles that could help you be both energy efficient and energy conservative.

The changes you can make are simple, like switching to LED light bulbs. (Have you seen our light bulb usage display?) Turning off lights when they aren't in use also lowers usage. Ensuring your home is insulated and

sealing small cracks or openings helps keep the heating or cooling costs down.

Did you know that a refrigerator that is 30 years old can use four times the amount of electricity than one that has an energy efficiency label, such as an Energy Star rated product? (Check out our refrigerator rebate!) Installing a programmable or smart thermostat is also an easy way to save energy and have more control.

Now back to the good part or the part I think you'll find most enjoyable — how this helps you. Being aware and proactive of energy efficiency and conservation helps you by keeping your usage down, which keeps your monthly bill down. Keep reading my articles and I'll keep sharing ways to help you.



## Good Neighbor Scholarship Applications Are Open!

One of the best investments a community can make is in education. Each spring, CEC awards scholarships to graduating seniors or adults going back to school who live at a residence receiving electricity from the co-op. CEC will award 10 scholarships of \$2,500 in 2024.

Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution, complete the application on our website, and submit a 500-word essay. The funds used for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits and does not impact members rates in any way.



### \$25,000 GIVEN YEARLY

We award approximately \$25,000 in scholarships each year to students within our service territory.



### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE & TECH/ VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Our scholarships are open to students going to college, students going to a tech/vocational school and adults returning to school.



### APPLY NOW!

Applications are open now on our website. The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2024**.

VISIT [CENTRAL.COOP/GOOD-NEIGHBOR-SCHOLARSHIP](http://CENTRAL.COOP/GOOD-NEIGHBOR-SCHOLARSHIP) TO APPLY!

# WINTER SAFETY WORD SEARCH

February 2024



Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

A P I R P A J G F W D C Q T W  
U L B S G W N N P T S A T A T  
R L A Y P J I U Q P Q N G E O  
C T W R Y J D X A R X D B L Z  
J F T P M K G C I B T L T C F  
X B K Y Z S E M B Q G E B D B  
G B W B Z H K T Z H J H R M X  
C V X J E B X S X B Q C K V A  
V I M A B O K A T C S I K F E  
X Y T Q Y K J S F N Q V T J W  
L E V J A N V U W C B A P A W  
R T R E L E C T R O N I C S O  
W Z B K R Y X S B V A Q O U E  
S D R O C N O I S N E T X E P  
I F J R W K J B Q P U B D T Z

Never overload electrical outlets with too many **electronics**.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide **alarms** every month.

Never leave a **candle** burning in an empty room.

Keep flammable items at least three feet away from a **space heater**.

**Extension cords** should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.



From the Kitchen of:  
**Jane Casey**

RECIPE: **MAGIC COOKIE BARS**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/3 cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped nuts

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 13x9 inch pan with no-stick cooking spray. Combine graham cracker crumbs and melted butter in a small bowl. Press into the bottom of the prepared pan. Pour the sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb mixture. Layer evenly with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down firmly with fork. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned. Loosen from the pan while still warm and let cool on a wire rack. Cut into bars or diamonds.



**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.central.coop)**

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

