

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



Photo by Kate Stover of Valencia

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Forward Together

BY **MATTHEW BOSHAW**
CEO & General Manager

I have a favorite quote that is attributed to Walt Disney — “Around here, however, we don’t look backward for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things because we’re curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” In this business, perhaps it is less about curiosity and more about new technologies and constantly changing conditions and expectations, but the sentiment is the same.

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is one of about 900 electric cooperatives across almost every state. There are even 12 other Central Electrics across the country — we even get the occasional outage call from Oregon. It has been said that when you meet one cooperative, you have met one cooperative. That is our way of saying that as locally governed private corporations, we are all unique and autonomous. With that said, we were all formed under the guidelines of the seven cooperative principles:

- **Voluntary and Open Membership** – Anyone in our service territory can receive electric service.
- **Democratic Member Control** –

A board of directors made up of members and elected by the membership governs the cooperative.

- **Member Economic Participation** – Our members own the cooperative through their patronage of the cooperative.
- **Autonomy and Independence** – CEC is a private, not-for-profit, provider of electricity and is not a subsidiary of any other company or organization.
- **Education, Training, and Information** – We provide value added services designed to educate the membership and communities we serve.
- **Cooperation among Cooperatives** – We collaborate with all 900 cooperatives through national and state associations to leverage the best practices of everyone.
- **Concern for Community** – Whether safety, economic development, or community outreach, our efforts go far beyond simply providing electric service.

This July marks the 86th year since CEC was founded and while we don’t look backward for very long, we don’t forget the efforts of those who brought us here. For over 86 years your cooperative

Continued on page 2

leaders and employees have navigated remarkable obstacles including the final years of the Great Depression, World War II, multiple recessions, the Vietnam War, and the dawn of the computer age, just to name a few.

The world today has its own challenges, but with the perspective of the challenges that we have already overcome, they seem less daunting. We further benefit from our cooperative business model in meeting these challenges as we are able to draw on the collaborative efforts of our employees, board, and the network of cooperatives across the country to move forward together. The decisions we make today are undoubtedly different than those that would have been made years ago as the circumstances differ so dramatically. Yet, the solid foundation of our past provides us with confidence that even missteps can be overcome by moving forward together with the guidance of founding principles.

Today's challenges are not more difficult or important than those of the past, they are simply different. The constant that has allowed CEC to survive and thrive for 86 years has been the cooperative business model and the continued dedication of our members and employees. Together we ensure that the essential service we provide continues to meet the needs of our members and the communities we serve.

We have seen many changes in 86 years and it seems that recently the pace of change has accelerated. We have many new faces at your cooperative, bringing new enthusiasm and ideas for our future. A specific change that I would like to highlight is the format of our Annual Business Meeting. The last three years have seen a scaled down event that limited member participation to ballots, surveys, and watching a recorded version of the proceedings. Our board felt this would be a good year to alter the format of our traditional event and split the program into two separate events. This year, in August, we will be welcoming members to participate in our in-person Annual Business Meeting to hold our election and conduct the business of your cooperative. In 2024, we will welcome members to a member appreciation

event separate from our business meeting. This will provide the opportunity for members to interact with the board and employees while learning about the cooperative and having some fun and fellowship.

Please check out our website, our newsletter, or give us a call for details about these events. I hope you will join us at the newly formatted Annual Business Meeting and move forward together with us into the next 86 years.



Vote for the top five photos in our photo contest at www.central.coop. Online voting closes July 28.
Members without internet can vote through the September issue of this newsletter.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Matthew P. Boshaw | <i>CEO & General Manager</i> |
| Chester Conti | <i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i> |
| Lisa A. Hoover | <i>Director of Member Services</i> |
| Christopher W. Kossman | <i>Director of Information Technology</i> |
| Fred E. Terwilliger | <i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i> |

2023 Director Candidates



Forest County: John Campbell, Incumbent Nominee, Tionesta

Dr. John Campbell, PE has been a CEC member since 1995 and was appointed to CEC's Board of Directors in 2021. In Aug. 2022, he earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. Since then, Dr. Campbell has obtained his Board Leadership Certificate and achieved Director Gold Status.

Dr. Campbell is a registered Professional Engineer and enjoyed a career as an electrical engineer before returning to school for dentistry. As an electrical engineer, Dr. Campbell worked for GTE Sylvania and Mobay/Bayer. As a dentist, he had a family practice in Fryburg for almost 30 years. While practicing dentistry, Dr. Campbell continued working as an electrical engineer at the consulting level. He is currently retired from both professions.

Dr. Campbell and his wife, Beverly, reside in Tionesta Township where they maintain their tree farm and orchard and raise English Labrador Retrievers.



Venango County: Althea Smith, Incumbent Nominee, Venus

Mrs. Smith has been a CEC member since 1979 and was elected to the board in 1995. She currently serves as Secretary and Treasurer of the CEC board and as CEC's Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Director in Harrisburg. She is certified with Director Gold Credentials from the NRECA.

Mrs. Smith is retired from Venus Telephone Corporation, where she completed 17 years of service.

She and her husband, Eugene Smith Jr., live near Venus. They have two daughters, two grandsons, and three granddaughters.

Did you know
that CEC has a
LinkedIn?

Members — follow CEC on LinkedIn
for company updates, electrical
industry news, program information,
job postings and more!

Find us at:
[linkedin.com/company/centralelectriccooperative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/centralelectriccooperative)

CO-OP NEWS



2023 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the Good Neighbor Scholarship! CEC awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to 10 members (or members' children) to further their education.



86th Annual Business Meeting

AC Valley High School
Thursday, August 10
6:00 p.m.

2023 Annual Business Meeting

CEC is happy to announce that we are inviting members to attend the Annual Meeting in person once again!

When you hear it's a peak day, reduce electric use to keep demand and prices low.

- ✓ Raise your thermostat a few degrees to help conserve energy.
- ✓ Do laundry and run the dishwasher in the morning or late evening.
- ✓ Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics.

Beat the Peak This Summer!

Our unique Peak Alert program encourages all members to reduce electric consumption during peak demand periods, which helps us all save.



Student Selected for Youth Tour

A local high school junior was selected to attend the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.



Staying Safe in the Sun

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

Many of us look forward to the summer months. The sunny weather inspires vacation plans, outdoor activities, festivals and trips to the pool or beach. With so many activities, it's easy to overlook things. One of the most important things to remember when you're outside in the summer is protecting yourself from ultraviolet (UV) rays.

As we enjoy the beautiful weather, we need to keep in mind the effects of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. We need sunshine.

It helps with our body's production of Vitamin D and has even been tied to helping symptoms of depression in some people. However, overexposure to the sun can lead to a variety of health risks.

There are two main types of UV light, UVA and UVB. UVB is what gives you a sunburn and is responsible for some types of skin cancers. UVA rays can make the skin leathery and wrinkly in appearance and can contribute to certain skin cancers. An easy way to remember the difference is "A" is for aging and "B" is for burning. Both types are harmful to you in different ways.

UV light can be harmful to the skin as many of us know. However, it can also be very bad for our eyes. Eye structures, such as the cornea, retina, and lens are damaged from UV radiation, so protecting your eyes is also vital.

Join us for the 2023 Annual Business Meeting!

CEC's 86th Annual Business Meeting will take place at Allegheny-Clarion Valley High School on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be available. The meeting will include election results, remarks from CEC's CEO, a question-and-answer session, door prizes, and educational information.

Additionally, members in attendance will be entered to win door prizes! Door prizes include fifty-dollar and one-hundred dollar bill credits.

To help us prepare, we are encouraging members who plan to attend to RSVP by Aug. 7. RSVPs can be made on our website or by calling 800-521-0570. CEC is excited to host an in-person event once again and we hope to see

you at the new Annual Business Meeting on Aug. 10!

If you have any questions you'd like addressed at the Annual Business Meeting, please submit them with the ticket below or on our website before Aug. 9.

Submit a Question for the Annual Meeting

Name: _____

CEC Account Number: _____

Email: _____

Question: _____

If you need more space, please submit through www.central.coop or include additional sheets.



Role: Senior System Engineer

Employee Since: September 2004

Employee Spotlight:

Bill Fesenmyer



What do you enjoy most about working at CEC? No two days have been alike in my last 18 years here.



Why did you choose a career in engineering? I enjoy physics and math.



What is something you can't live without? Oxygen.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? I have two bee hives and I enjoy riding my motorcycle.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? Sailing.



What is your least favorite food? Lettuce.



Estimated Times of Restoration

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist

We work hard to keep the power on for you and your family every day. To do this, we maintain over 3,000 miles of line and 62,000 poles for 25,000 members across seven counties. Yet, strong storms can wreak havoc on our system by bringing down branches and trees, breaking poles and causing damage.

When your power goes out, we know how important an estimated time of restoration (ETR) is for planning your day. While CEC is able to meet most ETRs, many factors can prolong restoration processes. Because most ETRs are sent before crews arrive, we may not know the extent of the damage when ETRs initially go out. For example, if crews arrive and there's a broken pole, it will take much longer to restore power than if a fuse blew. In that case, we know a typical broken pole takes about three hours to fix, so we adjust your ETR by three hours. But, there are a variety of ways a broken pole could be atypical – causing even more of a delay. We do our best to keep ETRs updated, but we can only estimate work processes.

When outages do occur, restoration starts by creating a safe, efficient plan. Multiple crews will be dispatched to repair power lines and equipment to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. This typically begins with repairs to larger, main distribution lines that serve many homes and businesses. Then crews work on smaller lines called taps, which deliver power to transformers. Finally, individual service lines that run between transformers and homes are repaired.

How can you help crews when your power is out? One of the best ways to help crews restore your power as quickly as possible is to always report your outage. There are several ways members can do this. You can call our outage line at 800-282-8610, report the outage on SmartHub, or text the word “out” to our dedicated SmartHub number – if already a registered SmartHub user

with a text enrolled mobile number.

Please keep in mind that ETRs are disabled during major storms due to the large number of outages, widespread damage, and dangerous weather conditions. It is very difficult to provide ETRs with such disruptions to our system. Members can check our online outage center and outage map for information during storms and outages.

Our employees are committed to getting your power on and are always on call in the event of outages. We appreciate your patience during outages and hope you know we are truly doing everything we can to restore all members' power as quickly and safely as possible.

Powering Up After an Outage

- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:** Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2. Distribution Substation:** A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or problems down the line.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines:** If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.
- 4. Tap Lines:** If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers outside businesses, schools and homes.
- 5. Individual Homes:** If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.



Beat the Peak

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

know most of us have heard the radio stations announcing Peak Alerts or Beat the Peak, but do we really know what that means? Let me explain it the best I can so we can all do our part to help. If you are anything like me, if you understand the *why*, you are more likely to remember to do your part.

Since you are a member of an electric co-op, this puts you in a position to help keep rates low. The hottest days create the highest demand for electricity, which means if the demand is high, so is the price. And just like you, we get an electric bill every month from our power supplier. Our bill, however, has a peak demand component where we are billed on our highest peak for the month. To keep the cost low, we have to beat the peak every month. Reducing electric use during those peak hours can help all members.

Beat the Peak announcements take place on week-days from June through September between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. CEC will also send out an email notification in the morning when a peak is expected. If you haven't done so already, you can sign up for this email notification on our website under Beat the Peak or by calling into the office.

There are many easy ways you can help to Beat the Peak this summer, with a few of these small adjustments, you can help Beat the Peak and save money.

- Turn your air conditioner up five degrees higher than usual.
- Do laundry earlier in the morning or later in the evening.
- Turn dehumidifiers off during the day.
- Cook dinner on the grill or in a Crock-Pot instead of in the oven.
- Turn off unnecessary electronics and lights that could generate heat.
- Shut blinds and curtains during the day to keep the sun from warming up your home.
- Turn off your pool pump during the day.

**Change Habits to
BEAT THE PEAK**

You can beat the peak (and save money!) by decreasing your power use when energy demand and prices are at their highest. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Laundry for Less:
Full loads mean fewer cycles, and washers and dryers run in the late evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.



Cool Off/Calm Down:
Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.

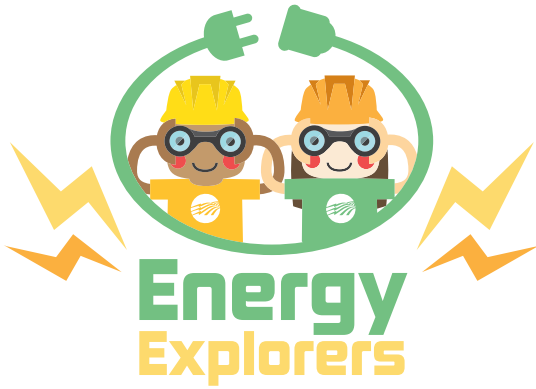
Intramural Competition:
Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



Countertop Convenience:
Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.

Remember to listen for the Beat the Peak alerts this summer to help cut back use during those hours.





HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK WORD SEARCH

Did you know energy from the sun can be used to create electricity? Read the following information about how solar panels work, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Solar panels contain **photovoltaic** cells that convert sunlight into electricity.

Sunlight hits the **solar** panels and generates a direct current.

The direct **current** flows to an inverter, which converts it to an alternating current. (This is the kind of electricity we use in our homes.)

The alternating current flows from the **inverter** to the home's breaker box, where it's used to **power** appliances and electrical devices in your home.

If the solar **panels** generate more **electricity** than the home needs, the unused electricity is sent back to the power lines.

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

From the Kitchen of:
Dorothy Craft

RECIPE: **LAZY MAN CABBAGE ROLLS**



INGREDIENTS:

Small head of cabbage

1 jar of pasta sauce

3 cups rice, cooked

1 lb. hamburger, cooked

Optional: peppers, onions, salt and pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

Shred small head of cabbage then put in a 9x12 baking dish. Add 1/3 of the sauce, then the cooked hamburger, then the peppers, onions, salt and pepper, if desired. Add another layer of sauce, then the cooked rice, and top with the remaining sauce. Bake for one hour at 350 degrees.



**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, Vice President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, President, 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.

