

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Photo from Adobe Stock

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The Members, The Members, The Members

BY MATTHEW BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

In real estate it is location, location, location, but for an electric cooperative it is the members, the members, the members. Our mission statement recognizes our members as the reason for all that we do and for the fact that we exist as a cooperative.

As I write this article, we just wrapped up the second multiple-day storm restoration and I am watching the radar to see if we will be impacted by yet another national weather event. I mention this in relation to the topic of our members to point out our efforts on their behalf as a result of these weather events. Central Electric Cooperative’s (CEC’s) line crews, operations personnel, engineering personnel, and additional support staff work rotating shifts, for safety purposes, around the clock during these events. Why? For the members. These same personnel work to continuously improve and maintain our system so these events are less impactful. They work with new and existing

members to ensure they receive the service they need. They seek to integrate new technologies into our system, create programs to implement them and prepare our grid for the future. Why? For the members.

Our member services team works every day to ensure: accurate billing of accounts, efficient response to member concerns, and a courteous, professional first point of contact. Why? For our members. Our communications group actively shares important information on a multitude of platforms, facilitates a host of value-added educational services, and organizes events — including our annual meeting of the members. Why? For the members. As an extra note — watch for information on this year’s annual business meeting and election coming soon.

Our finance and accounting department has created long-range plans based on economic conditions that have allowed us to stabilize rates to be competitive with surrounding investor-owned utilities, increase members’ equity and decrease the number of years of rotation of patronage capital. I would point you to the April Power Lines article

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for more information about our rotation of patronage capital, but I am happy to report that we retired and returned about \$3.1 million in capital credits to our members in April. Why? For our members.

Even behind the scenes in our information technology department, we are working to support all of the functions described so far while protecting our members' data from potential cyber threats. As you can imagine, much has changed in 85 years in the area of computers and our team has managed that change and provided us with both the necessary infrastructure and technology to efficiently navigate our working requirements — all while maintaining the secure environment necessary to protect it from bad actors. Why? You guessed it, for our members.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our governing body and your elected member representatives, our board of directors. This dedicated and engaged group of members participates in regular education opportunities and represents you with state and national associations and with politicians at all levels. They make important decisions regarding the wellbeing of the cooperative, always with the members' best interests in mind. And yes, again for the members.

The best piece of professional advice I have ever received was that my decisions should always be what I believe is best for the company, or in this case the cooperative. That advice has served me well in my 33 years in this business and I can honestly say that every decision I make is what I consider best FOR THE MEMBERS!

It is our members that make it possible for CEC to exist and it is for you that we do all that we do. So, as I started this article answering what are the three most important things to the cooperative, I will end the same way and say the members, the members, the members.

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> |




Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Central Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Outage & Storm Safety Reminders

STAY BACK. STAY SAFE.

Assume ALL downed lines are dangerous and call 911.

Stay in your vehicle if it is in contact with a downed line.

During a power outage, a fridge will keep food safe for four hours.

Visit www.central.coop for more information.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Outage & Storm Safety

Unfortunately, power outages happen. CEC crews work hard to restore power during outages, but members can still be without power for varying amounts of time. The following tips will help keep you and your family safe during a power outage.

Prepare an Outage Kit

Have a kit prepared before an outage. It should include:

- Flashlights and batteries.
- Matches or a lighter.
- First aid kit and prescription medicine.
- Baby supplies and toiletries.
- Food, bottled water and a can opener.
- Battery-powered lights and radio



Keep Your Food Safe

The following tips are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and will help ensure your food is safe during and after a power outage.

- Never taste food to determine its safety.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to maintain a cold temperature.
 - A full refrigerator will keep food cold for four hours and a full freezer will keep for 48 hours.
- Obtain dry ice to keep food cold if a long-term outage is expected.
- Check your freezer's temperature if the power has been out for a while (food should be 40 degrees or below).
- Discard perishable food after four hours without power.

Short-Term Outages

- If your neighbors have electricity, the problem could be inside your home.

Check to see if your main fuses blew or tripped.

- If your neighbors don't have electricity, call your electric supplier. A repair person will be dispatched as quickly as possible.
- Unplug appliances to help eliminate damage from voltage surges.
- Wait a few minutes before turning on appliances when the electricity is restored. This will reduce demand on the power supplier's electrical system.
- If you use a standby generator, be sure it was installed and wired properly. If improperly installed, a generator could cause dangerous conditions for utility employees working to restore power.
- Check the basement periodically for flooding. A portable, gasoline-powered pump can pump out a basement or crawl space when the power is interrupted to an electric sump pump. Never wade into a flooded basement.

Extended Power Outage

- Unplug everything in your home. Turn off breakers or remove fuses. Leave one lighting circuit on so you know when the electricity comes back.
- Winterize your water supply system by disconnecting the electrical supply to the water heater and draining it.
- Winterize your drainage system by pouring antifreeze into the traps in the drains below sinks, toilets, etc.
- Empty all food from freezers and refrigerators, and leave doors open.
- If you use an electric heat pump, special care is needed when turning the unit on after an extended outage. The lubricant in the refrigerant needs time (check with dealer) to warm up.
- Keep curtains closed except on south facing windows in the winter when the sun is shining.

Visit www.central.coop for more electrical safety tips.

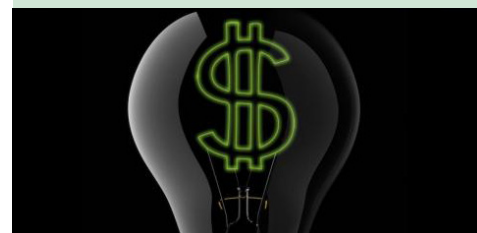


CO-OP NEWS



Help Make a Cooperative Difference: Join ACRE®!

CEC cares about giving members reliable and reasonably priced electricity. While many of the cooperative's decisions are made internally, sometimes decisions affecting our membership are made by legislators in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.



2023 Capital Credit Retirement

CEC's Board of Directors voted to retire \$3.1 million in 2023. This is the largest capital credit distribution in the cooperative's history. Capital credits are one of the most significant benefits of being a co-op member and we hope it serves you well.



Digging Safety

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

Spring and summer months often have folks thinking about tasks and projects they couldn't do when the weather wasn't cooperative.

Whether you are planting trees and doing overdue landscape work, building an addition, or a DIY project for your family, those projects may include excavation work – Think Before You Dig! 1-800-PA1CALL

Underground utility strikes are dangerous and costly events and many incidents that damage electric or gas lines can affect everyone in the area. The following points are some “excavation best practices” to avoid utility strikes:

- Always call 811 to have lines properly marked before digging. 811 notifies utility owners of your plans to dig and allows them to have someone come out and mark any utilities in that area.
- Do not dig with machinery or pointed tools within the “tolerance zone” around marked utilities – typically 18 inches on either side of the outside edge of the underground facility on a horizontal plane. Some states may require a larger tolerance zone. Use “soft digging techniques”, such as hand digging with blunt edged tools or vacuum excavation.
- Stop excavation and call 811 again if unmarked utilities are discovered or utilities are not found where they are marked.
- When working in a facility or on private property that



has a lot of lines installed by a private company, the lines most likely will not be part of the 811 system. Use other methods, such as ground penetrating radar, private locators, as-built drawings, and individuals familiar with the facility to locate potential lines before excavating.

There are many hazards to be considered when excavating, underground utilities being one of the major hazards. Having a proactive approach prior to digging is important to avoid underground utility strikes. There are many other hazards and best practices not mentioned here. This information is only to be used as a resource, please consult with a professional before beginning work.

This information was sourced from PA ONE CALL. Please visit palcall.org for additional information.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.



Before you dig, call 811 or visit palcall.org to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



Employee Spotlight:

Angie Fair



What is your favorite part about working at CEC? There are many great things about working for CEC, but the company culture and the people I work with are the best.



Why did you choose a career in member services? I am a people person and I enjoy helping people, I find it satisfying.



What is something you're most proud of? I have three children and a grandson due at the end of May.



What was your first job? I was a Legislative Liaison for State Representative David R. Wright, 63rd district.



Do you have any pets? Yes, a cat named Midnight.

Role: Member Service Representative
Employee Since: December 2009

Electric Vehicle FAQs

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist



You've likely heard that most automakers are transitioning many of their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. As the electrification of the transportation section expands, we thought it would be helpful to answer some common electric vehicle (EV) questions.

Q: Why is CEC communicating about EVs?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in EVs is growing, and CEC is providing information so our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Does CEC have an off-peak rate for charging?

A: We are working on developing our EV rate and will update members as updates become available.

Q: Does CEC have an EV?

A: We are in the process of purchasing our first EV for research and development purposes. The EV and charging station will help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them — allowing us to answer member questions more thoroughly. The EV will help raise awareness and promote understanding of EV technologies. We also provide educational tools about EVs on our website and intend to bring it to local events so the community has an opportunity to ask questions.

Q: Why is CEC involved in EV infrastructure issues?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure the necessary electric infrastructure is in place to meet future EV charging needs — without jeopardizing the ability to provide reliable power to our members. As your local energy provider, CEC is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the EV future.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into a standard

household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does outside temperature affect the range of EVs?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

A: There are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program. Visit dep.pa.gov to learn about state incentives. Members can also earn a \$50 bill credit by completing an EV Survey on our website.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more CEC members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to purchase an EV or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Call us at 800-521-0570 or visit www.central.coop.

Source: NRECA



GenerLink

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

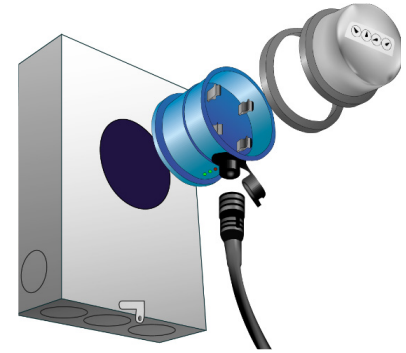
I don't know about you, but I can't wait for warm weather to get here. I just feel like I was not made for cold weather, yet I choose to live in Pennsylvania. So, once the warmer weather comes, I enjoy it as much as possible. However, warm weather often comes with thunderstorms. And as we know, thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Pennsylvania. Thunderstorms are most likely to happen in the spring and summer, especially May through August. Knowing this happens every year, let me help you get prepared and ready.

Did you know that CEC offers a product called a GenerLink™ Transfer Switch? Not sure what that is? No need to worry, I'll explain it to you. The GenerLink™ is a meter socket-mounted transfer switch that provides a safe and convenient way to connect portable generator power to your home in case of an outage. This device is installed behind your electric meter by a qualified CEC employee. When connected to your

generator, it delivers power directly to your breaker box, eliminating the need to run power cords through your home.

The GenerLink™ provides a safe way to connect your portable generator for both you and our linemen. Installation of the GenerLink™ prevents backfeeding of the utility line. Backfeeding can occur when electric power is being inducted into the local power grid, so power is flowing in the opposite direction from its usual flow. This can be very dangerous or even deadly for our linemen who are trying to restore your power.

Now, back to the product, we do offer two models, a 30-amp model that works with portable generators with a running wattage below 8,500 watts and a 40-amp model that works with portable generators below 10,000 watts, both of which come with a 20-foot cord to connect to the GenerLink™. Still not sure which model you should get? We do offer a compatibility guide on our website, or I would be happy to assist you to find what best fits your needs.



Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your home's electrical system.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Only use light bulbs that meet (or are below) the maximum wattage listed on the lamp or fixture. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

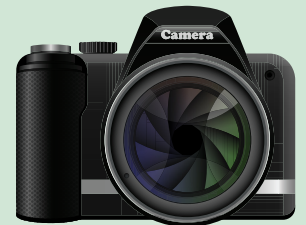
2023 Photo Contest

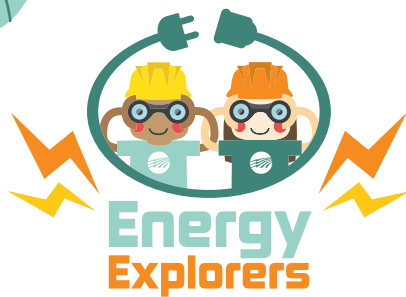
Don't forget to enter CEC's 2023 Photo Contest! The top three winners will receive a prize: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place.

The photo can be of beautiful scenery, power lines, landscapes, or anything! **Members must submit their photo before June 9.** Members will vote for the top five photos from June 16 to July 28. Then voting begins for the top three photos from Aug. 4 to Oct. 20.

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in the September issue of this newsletter.

Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in future publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October.





ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

May is National Electrical Safety Month! Take this quiz to test your safety skills. Check your answers in the key below.

1. It's safe to plug in several devices to one electrical outlet as long as you use a power strip.

A. True B. False

2. Smoke alarms should be tested _____ .

A. Every month B. Every other month C. Every six months

3. Extension cords are safe to use year-round if the cord is not frayed or damaged.

A. True B. False

4. When unplugging a device from an electrical outlet, always hold the _____ while unplugging.

A. Cord B. Plug C. Device

5. It's never safe to play near power lines, but it's OK to play near pad-mounted transformers (those big green boxes you see in neighborhoods).

A. True B. False

6. Where is the most dangerous place to use electricity?

A. Near other electrical equipment B. Outdoors C. Near water

Answer Key: 1.B 2.A 3.B 4.B 5.B 6.C

From the Kitchen of:
Lori Mock

RECIPE: **MEAT LOVER'S PIZZA CASSEROLE**



- INGREDIENTS:
- 1 lb ground beef
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 1 15-ounce can pizza sauce
 - 2 cups shredded mozzarella
 - 8-ounces elbow macaroni
 - 3-1/2 ounces sliced pepperoni

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Cook and drain the elbow macaroni. In a large skillet, cook the ground beef and onion over medium heat. Drain off the fat. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish and bake uncovered for 40-45 minutes.



**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.

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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.

