

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative



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Co-ops Vote

BY **MATTHEW BOSHAW**
CEO & General Manager

While rural electric cooperative voters are active politically and recognize the importance of voting for candidates and issues, the title of this article isn't intended to simply point that out. Instead, this article is intended to remind our membership of the Co-ops Vote campaign and website, vote.coop.

Nearly 900 cooperatives across the country in largely rural areas serve about 42 million people. Electric co-ops are local energy and technology partners. Consumer-owned and not-for-profit, they are shaped by the specific needs of the communities they serve. Issues of importance to the cooperatives often have significant importance in the communities we serve. In past years, rural areas were often not adequately represented in election processes. The Co-ops Vote campaign has worked toward reversing that trend.

My mother always told me that I should not talk about religion or politics in polite company. I believe her statement came from the Mark Twain quote, “I am quite sure now that often, very often, in matters concerning religion

and politics a man's reasoning powers are not above the monkey's.” Given that Mr. Twain passed in 1910, it is amazing how this quote resonates today. With that said, the nation's electric cooperatives have provided us with a way to discuss politics in polite company. Believe it or not, the Co-ops Vote campaign has removed partisanship from politics to reengage rural America in the election process.

Co-ops Vote is a campaign that encourages cooperative members across the country to get out and vote in every election. Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program designed to enhance the political strength of electric cooperatives, as well as educate and engage cooperative members. The program continues the cooperatives' commitment to raising awareness in rural communities.

Co-ops Vote will not endorse or recommend candidates; however, it will educate members on candidates' stances on issues of importance to cooperatives.

The site provides access to information regarding the elected officials to whom you are a constituent. It will also provide information on candidates for upcoming elections. There is information to assist in voter

Continued on page 2

registration and when, where, and how to vote. The information provided covers local, state and federal election information. It even offers educational resources regarding the election process.

I honestly can't think of another site claiming to be non-partisan that actually has been. As it turns out, cooperative issues often fit that bill, but Co-ops Vote really hits the mark. The goal is not to influence your vote in one direction or another, but simply to encourage you to vote while providing access to the information you might need about candidates and issues.

I mentioned earlier that rural voting had slipped — leaving our areas, and by default our cooperatives' voices, largely unheard. Since the inception of this national effort, voting in cooperative service territories has increased noticeably and regardless of the outcomes of individual elections, our voices are again being heard and we are influencing the outcome of elections. I don't think the importance of this can be overstated, especially when you consider the importance of rural America in critical areas like, I don't know, feeding the world.

Our internal political action committee organizer would take me to task if I didn't take the opportunity to ask that you consider joining Co-op Owners for Political Action, the member version of the cooperative political action committee (PAC). This PAC focuses on issues relevant to your electric cooperative. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please reach out to Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and ask about Co-op Owners for Political Action and you will be connected to our program coordinator.

The only connection between the PAC and Co-ops Vote is the fact that cooperatives are part of both so, please, even if you choose not to participate with Co-op Owners, avail yourself of the no-cost information at Co-ops Vote and cast your vote. Rural voices need to be heard at the local, state, and federal levels and we encourage you to use yours and vote, vote, vote!



VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

**ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

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*



Get Involved, Join the MAAC!

Are you interested in serving on a respected committee and sharing your ideas with CEC employees and members? Then the Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) is the perfect opportunity for you!

CEC is currently looking for members to serve on the 2024-2025 MAAC committee. The committee establishes effective communication between cooperative members, the board of directors and management.

As a MAAC member, you have the chance to discuss and contribute your ideas on issues concerning members, as well as submit recommendations to the board of directors and management on improving services and procedures. The MAAC will meet eight times (once a quarter) during the 2024-2025 term.

CEC will select representatives from the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest and Venango. In keeping with the co-op's bylaws, Allegheny County members shall be affiliated with Butler County and Mercer County members with Venango County.

MAAC members must be residential members with their permanent residence on CEC lines in the county they represent. In addition to residential members, the

committee will also include a seasonal representative who has a seasonal account on CEC lines.

All interested members must be in good standing with the cooperative to be considered. The board of directors will appoint members if there are no volunteers for a specific county. MAAC members receive a per diem and mileage compensation for attending each meeting.

CEC would like to recognize the 2022-2023 MAAC members for their dedication and outstanding efforts. They are: Bob and Patty Shoemaker of Armstrong County; Jane and Jeff Baker of Butler County; Joseph Reed of Butler County; Angela Bernardo of Butler County; Danny (Gerald) Pursuit of Forest County; Jamy Whitmire and Erin Martin of Forest County; Craig and Catherine Schoeppner of Clarion County; Jim and Sheila Snyder of Clarion County; Chelsea O'Neil of Clarion County; Jeremy and Bobbie Jo Tidd of Venango County; Joshua Ballard of Venango County; and seasonal representatives Michelle Hickman and Daniel Steele.

If you are interested, please complete the coupon below and send it to: Central Electric Cooperative, MAAC Committee, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

Member Aware Advisory Committee

I would like to volunteer to serve on the 2024-2025 MAAC Committee

Name(s): _____ Residential or Seasonal (circle one)

Account #: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Coupons must be returned by Dec. 1.
If you have any questions, please call 800-521-0570.



Deck your halls for the CEC Christmas Lights Contest!

Deck your home with all things festive and you could 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!**

The contest is open to both residential and commercial CEC members and the rules are simple — there are no

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special themes or guidelines, just be creative and festive.

To enter, members must complete the registration form on CEC's website and attach a photo or video of their 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 and in February's Power Lines newsletter.

Visit www.central.coop for additional contest details!



Fire Extinguisher Safety

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

Over the years, members have provided suggestions and made requests for topics for the Safety Linke section of the CEC newsletter. Several ideas were submitted regarding fire prevention and protection, so I felt it would be appropriate to start with an article regarding some general knowledge and proper use of portable fire extinguishers.

There are several brands, styles, classes, and sizes of portable fire extinguishers. Each class of extinguisher has contents that are specific for the fire hazard present. Some of the agents include **A** (ordinary combustibles – wood/paper/cloth/etc.), **B** (flammable liquids – grease/oil/paint/solvents), **C** (electrical equipment – electric panels/motors/wiring/etc.), **D** (combustible metals – magnesium/aluminum/etc.), and **K** (commercial cooking – cooking oils/fats/grease/etc.).

Most portable fire extinguishers are rated for use for more than one classification of fire. For the purposes of this article, we will be referring to a class ABC extinguisher. ABC extinguishers are the most common type of portable fire extinguisher, typically found in office buildings, schools, homes, and on vehicles and



equipment. The size of the extinguisher is measured by the approximate square footage of a fire the unit can extinguish.

When using a portable fire extinguisher, be sure to remember the P.A.S.S. operating technique.

P – Pull the pin! Pulling the pin unlocks the operating lever or button so the user can discharge the extinguisher. It is recommended to stand approximately 6-8 feet away from the fire.

A – Aim low, pointing the nozzle of the fire extinguisher toward the base of the fire.

S – Squeeze the lever below the handle. Squeezing the lever discharges the contents of the extinguisher. When you release the lever, the discharge stops. Some models have a button to press rather than a lever.

S – Sweep from side to side while pointing the nozzle toward the base of the fire as you carefully move forward. Continue discharging until the flames appear to be out.

It is always important to watch the area after you have extinguished a fire. If it starts again, repeat the P.A.S.S. technique.

Always remember to dial 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY in the event of a fire or medical emergency. Portable fire extinguishers are intended for small fires and purposes of escape / evacuation. Please share the information and best practices detailed in this article with family and friends to help educate and increase awareness of fire protection.

The data found in this article was sourced from the National Fire Protection Associate at nfpa.org.



Role: Engineering/Operations Coordinator

Employee Since: September 2018

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Employee Spotlight: Crysta Heeter



What do you do at CEC? I support and assist with all daily activities of the engineering and operations department by coordinating through members and other employees.



What do you enjoy most about working at CEC? I like that I get to work on something that truly interests me and I learn something new each day. I am very proud to work at CEC and the opportunities it provides me with for building professional relationships and ample opportunities for professional development.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Spending time with my family, bird hunting and camping.



What is your least favorite food? Jell-O.



Do you have any pets? I have a dog (Wirehaired Vizsla), a cat and chickens!



A Day in the Life of a CEC Lineman, Part 1

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist

What does a normal day for a lineman look like? Well, the answer is simple. There are no normal days for a lineman. Their days always look different and can often include many interruptions, unexpected events, bad weather and long hours.

Most members have seen our linemen working in the field or have passed CEC bucket trucks heading to or from CEC’s headquarters. What happens before and after they begin working though? What planning and preparation occurs before they arrive on scene to work? As I was thinking of a topic for my next article, I realized if I didn’t know all of the answers to these questions, most of our members would not know either.

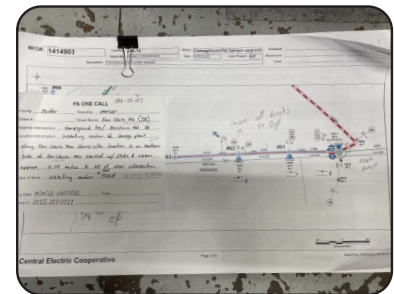
So, I asked our Manager of Operations and Manager of Safety if I could follow a crew for an entire day to see what a day in the life of our linemen looks like. While I intended to follow only one crew, the day we scheduled landed on a large scheduled outage day — which meant three crews and five bucket trucks were working simultaneously to get members back in power as soon as possible. Although I worried that this would not be the “normal” day I was hoping to observe, like I previously mentioned, they don’t have the luxury of having “normal” workdays.

This job required a lot of coordination, as it involved almost our entire line crew to finish the work as quickly as possible. Over the next couple of newsletters, I will hopefully help create a better picture of what is involved in completing some of the scheduled work our linemen do.

Pre-job & Preparation

Before maintenance work occurs, such as this job, it first must be determined that there is even a need for the work to be completed. This particular job was needed to www.central.coop

update and reroute some of the lines to make it safer. A work order was created, the affected members were notified, 8-1-1 was called to look for underground lines, and coordination between engineering and operations was completed.



Work order



Pulling materials in the warehouse.

Normally, the warehouse staff would pull the needed materials for the linemen on the morning of the job. In this case, however, a line crew came in the day before to pull the materials so they could leave the shop as soon as possible the next morning.

With the help of their chief, two journeymen linemen and the warehouse staff gathered the needed materials using the work order and photos they had taken of the area beforehand. If possible, the linemen try to go to the area a day or a few days before a job to evaluate the equipment and see what extra supplies they may need to bring.

When pulling materials, they separated them into three piles, one for each chief lineman. Although five bucket trucks were operating simultaneously, they were all working under the supervision of one of the three chief linemen.

Once they gathered all the needed materials, they loaded it on the trucks to prepare for the next day.

Part 2 coming next month.



Spooky Savings

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist



Spooky season is upon us! I'm not sure about you, but I love spooky activities. One spooky thing I'm not thrilled with though is how household items or appliances can use energy even after they are turned off. There are different terms used for this, so maybe you have heard of one and weren't quite sure what it meant. So, let me help you learn the terms and meanings, as well as ways to help stop energy loss.

The spooky terms I'm referring to are phantom load, vampire power, standby consumption, or leaking electricity. Phantom load is when you think small appliances or household electronics are turned off, but they might still be using electricity. It seems in today's world we have more small items and electronics than ever before, which could all be pulling phantom load. In other



words, it's like a leaky sink — it's a very small amount, but over time it adds up and increases your energy usage.

Where could these phantom loads be hiding? It could be places like phones or phone chargers, coffee makers, digital picture frames or projectors. Entertainment devices, such as TVs, are always on standby waiting for a signal from the remote. Laptops or tablets left on the charger are also items it could come from.

Now that we've identified where the phantom load comes from, we can discuss how to prevent the extra cost. The simplest way would be to just unplug items once they are charged or not being used. Another option would be an advanced power strip. This allows for the strip to automatically shut off when the items are not in use if you don't turn off the power strip yourself. As an added bonus, most advanced power strips include surge protection to protect your items as well.

Don't let spooky season scare you by not knowing how to reduce your energy consumption!

CEC's 2023 Annual Business Meeting Recap

On August 10, 2023, CEC held its Annual Meeting at AC Valley High School at 6:00 p.m. Fifty-three members and their guests attended the meeting.

Members in attendance enjoyed refreshments, educational information, opportunities to speak with the board of directors and staff, a look at 2022 in review during the CEO's remarks, and a question-and-answer session. Additionally, each member received a gift at registration and was entered to win door prizes. Door prizes included six \$50 bill credits and one \$100 bill credit.

During the meeting, it was confirmed that incumbent directors Althea Smith, Venango County Representative and Board Secretary/Treasurer, and John Campbell, Forest County Representative, were re-elected in uncontested races.

CEC's CEO and General Manager, Matt



Incumbent directors John Campbell (left) and Althea Smith (right).

Boshaw, offered remarks during the meeting. Boshaw expressed that "commitment serves as the guiding principle in all we do" when referring to the cooperative's staff and company culture. Among other accomplishments from 2022, Boshaw also discussed the cooperative's financial health, stating that "the co-op had a strong financial year."

For members that were unable to attend, a recording of the 86th Annual Business Meeting is provided on CEC's website at www.central.coop/annual-meeting.

In the summer of 2024, CEC will host the Annual Business Meeting and a Member Appreciation Event. More details of each event will be released to the membership as they become available.

CEC thanks everyone that attended the 86th Annual Business Meeting and looks forward to the events to be held in 2024.



ENERGY VAMPIRES WORD SEARCH

Are energy vampires hiding in your home?
These electronic devices consume electricity even when they're not in use and can drain home energy bills.

Read the tips below to learn how you can fight energy vampires, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



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

Tips to Fight Energy Vampires:

1. If your phone is juiced up, unplug your **phone charger**.
2. Tell your parents to unplug the **coffee maker** when they're finished brewing.
3. When you're finished playing a game, unplug your **game console**.
4. Unplug **laptop computers** when you're done with homework.



From the Kitchen of:
Joanne McVay

RECIPE: **CUCUMBER SALAD**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large cucumber, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise or salad dressing of choice
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper
- 1 teaspoon dill weed (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Chill until serving time.



**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.

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www.central.coop

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Moore

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Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

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

