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Sign Up for E-Tips

Participate in Our Load Management Program

Join the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®)

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**Board of Directors**

Jody P. Weaver  
*President*

Kenneth Durrett  
*Vice President*

Althea M. Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

William J. Eichner  
Kenneth D. Etzel  
Margery S. Terwilliger  
Bette D. Walters  
Richard L. Weaver



# PowerLines

Photo by CEC member Kimberly Tzoulis

**The Cheapest Kilowatt-Hour (kWh)**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

You have probably been reading or hearing quite a bit lately that tougher federal environmental laws are resulting in closures of coal-fired power plants reducing PJM’s (our region’s electric grid manager) generating capacity 10 percent by 2017. The closures include two FirstEnergy Corporation plants in southwestern Pennsylvania that are slated to close in October. Valley Forge-based PJM Interconnection oversees electricity distribution to all or parts of 13 states, including Pennsylvania. Simple supply-and-demand economics would indicate that a decrease in the supply, without a corresponding reduction in demand, would push the price up. While Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has little input into those supply decisions, or the federal regulations that lead to them, there is some good news. Because CEC

has an ownership stake in generation resources that meet 65 to 70 percent of our requirements, our exposure to some market price volatility is limited. The rest of the good news is that we are actively trying to decrease demand to keep costs low. An old colleague of mine who worked specifically on conservation programs used to say, “the cheapest kWh is the one we don’t have to buy.” A simple but significant thought as not only are we not paying for what we are not using, but because of that whole supply-and-demand thing, we are making the kWh that we do buy less expensive by decreasing demand.

Every distribution electric utility has an energy conservation program. However, everyone does it a little differently, with varying levels of success. Investor-owned utilities are required to do these programs and a small charge is

***The Cheapest kWh/Page 2***

## ***The Cheapest kWh/From Page 1***

included in their bill to pay for them. Public power companies and cooperatives have conservation programs, even though they are generally not required to do so. I say generally because every state has slightly different rules on the subject. If they aren't required to have the program, and don't collect extra money for the program, why do you suppose companies would intentionally try to sell less of their product? Well, in the case of CEC, there are several reasons. First, we are a member-owned organization and conservation efforts, in combination with our efforts to keep costs as low as possible, help our members spend a little less each month on their energy bills. Second, it is just the right thing to do. Using electricity, or anything else, unnecessarily or wastefully would illustrate that we don't appreciate its value. Electricity has become far too much a part of our everyday lives for us not to appreciate it. Lastly, and most importantly from the CEC point of view, is the decrease in the cost of what we have to buy. As mentioned above, the cheapest kWh is the one we don't buy. Our demand management helps keep those kWhs that we must buy be that much less expensive. This benefits you, our member, and the financial health of your cooperative.

CEC actively promotes various conservation efforts and is always considering cost effective ways to do more. If you visit our website

([www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)) you will see a section devoted to energy savings. Under this section you will find a link to a home energy calculator as well as suggestions to help you use electricity more efficiently. Additionally, you can read Ken's Kilowatt Korner in this newsletter and you can sign up to receive CEC E-Tips, a weekly email that provides energy tips. You can also contact us for a home energy audit by calling 800-521-0570. Perhaps the most impactful steps you can take are to participate in our Peak Alerts or our Load Management Program. To participate with our Peak Alerts you simply voluntarily reduce your electric usage when you hear a Peak Alert on the radio. The Load Management Program is a voluntary program that provides you with a monthly discount on your bill as it lets CEC control either your hot water heater, electric heat or both. This demand management program has a direct impact on our peak usage and helps us get a few more of those cheapest kWhs.

If you have questions about these or any other programs, or would like to participate, just give us a call at 800-521-0570 or visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop). We will continue to investigate ways to conserve energy and, with your help, will be able to get a few more of those cheapest kWhs.

## **How To Sign-Up for E-Tips ...**

To start receiving a weekly emailed energy-saving tip, email Ken Maleski at [kmaleski@central.coop](mailto:kmaleski@central.coop).

## **For More Information on the Load Management Program ...**

Call Ken Maleski at 800-521-0570 x2172.

## CEC's 76th Annual Meeting

CEC conducted its 76th Annual Meeting on Aug. 23 at Whitehall Campgrounds near Emlenton. During this meeting our members re-elected Jody P. Weaver of Clarion County and elected Kenneth D. Etzel of Venango County to the board of directors.

More than 1,000 attended the meeting. Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) catered the dinner, and the band Leather & Lace provided entertainment. The meeting opened with the Parker Post 7073 presenting the American flag, CEC's Stacey Bechtel singing the National Anthem and a moment of silence for Michael E. Over.

Since the Annual Meeting, the board of directors has elected officers: Jody P. Weaver is the board president, Kenneth Durrett is the vice president and Althea M. Smith is the secretary/treasurer.



CEC's Board of Directors



2012-2013 MAAC



2013 Good Neighbor Scholarship recipients



Thanks to Hazlett Tree Service for providing the bottled water!



Lineman Michael E. Over Memorial Display





Most homes heat and cool with a ductwork system. Unfortunately, they are out of sight and therefore out of mind. It is estimated that most existing ductwork systems lose as high as 30 percent of the air they distribute. Symptoms of ductwork problems are rooms that do not heat or cool properly. Therefore, many members resort to adding supplemental heat for these areas, such as electric space heaters, driving up their total energy bill. Correcting the problem can be less costly, over time, than continuing to pay high electric bills.

Here are some ways you can correct the problem:

- Inspect and seal all duct joints with mastic paste or aluminum foil tape (do not use duct tape).
- Check duct connections at the top of the furnace (plenum).
- Make sure duct pipe is connected to boots at register grilles.
- Inspect for constriction or kinks on any

## Get Your Ducts in Order

flexible duct. Flexible ducts may have holes from improper installation or a nail may have been pounded into it accidentally.

- Insulate ductwork in unconditioned, cold spaces. Attic supply lines need to be a minimum of R-8 and all other ducts require an R-6 insulation rating. The higher the R-value the better the material is as an insulator.
- Hire a professional HVAC company to size your system. Original lines may be too small or large for the job.
- Comfort levels can be greatly increased by adding additional cold air returns.

A poorly designed and installed ductwork system delivers little comfort and high energy bills. A well-insulated house, or high-efficient HVAC system, will do little to solve the problem if the ductwork is incorrect. A call to a good HVAC contractor is a sure way to make sure your system is sized correctly and you'll be glad you did.

# SAFETY

## M Space Heater Safety

Space heaters, if not used properly, can be a major safety hazard as they have been known to release carbon monoxide and start fires. The following tips will help you use your space heaters safely.

- Only use a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and has been certified by a nationally recognized laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use.



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operations Support

- Place the heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Keep the heater at least three feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Turn the heater off if you leave the area.

## Make a Difference: Join ACRE®!

Join the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action and have your voice combined with rural electric members across the country. This program is a nonpartisan political action committee established to support political candidates who share common public policy goals with rural electric cooperatives.

With unprecedented interest in energy issues at the federal level and in state legislatures across the country, it is important now more than ever to actively support legislators and candidates who favor fair and equitable treatment for electric cooperatives. The stakes are high and decisions regarding legislation today can have a far-reaching impact on energy costs for years to come. Your contributions will help make sure the voices of rural electric consumer-owners are heard.

Join Co-op Owners for Political Action today by completing the adjacent form and sending it in with your bill. You can also visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or contact the ACRE coordinator for CEC, Chris Panian, at 800-521-0570 x2171.

*Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*

### Membership Form

*Yes I Want to Join!*

#### There are two easy ways to contribute:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to ACRE.

#### Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill:

- Regular: \$25
- Century Club: \$100
- President's Club: \$500
- Other
- Please renew my amount at this level annually

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Election Law requires  
the following information for contributions  
equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to  
Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368,  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

## Recipe of the Month

### Cranberry Salad

#### Ingredients:

- 2 pounds of cranberries
- 1 cup nuts
- 3 oranges
- 2 bunches of celery
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 packages cherry Jell-O®

#### Directions:

Grind cranberries and mix with sugar. Cook over low heat, stirring to mix melted sugar. Grind oranges, skin and all, and mix with cranberries. Add Jell-O® made with half the recommended amount of water. Put all together and set aside to cook until set. Slice celery into thin slices and chop nuts. Mix everything together and let sit in the fridge overnight for good flavor.

*Thank you to Omaha Gosney for sharing this recipe!*

#### Send Recipes to:

Renee Spence at [rspence@central.coop](mailto:rspence@central.coop) or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

### CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
CEO, General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs  
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman  
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal  
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell  
Director of Member and Community Relations

Lisa A. Hoover  
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger  
Director of Engineering and Operations

## Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

**Jonathon Mack of New Bethlehem**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**William Lewis of Emlenton**

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** Keep space heaters two feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** CEC offers a weekly email that provides energy-saving tips.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** Most existing ductwork systems lose as high as 30 percent of the air they distribute.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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