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Photo by Diane Blauser of Parker

PowerLines

Cooperative Culture

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

There are seven principles that are the foundation of the cooperative business model. They are: 1) Voluntary and Open Membership; 2) Democratic Member Control; 3) Member Economic Participation; 4) Autonomy and Independence; 5) Education, Training, and Information; 6) Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and 7) Concern for Community. I would like to take this time to highlight a couple things Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) does that illustrate these principles.

The first is the rotation of patronage capital. This process is the very definition of Member Economic Participation. At the end of each year, the amount of money left after paying all of the cooperative’s expenses is our margin. In a for-profit business this would be a profit, but in a cooperative, we allocate this money

to our members based on their respective electric usage throughout the year. We then hold that money in individual allocation accounts to serve as our members’ equity, or the part of the cooperative that you own. After a number of years have passed, we then return this money to the membership in the form of a Capital Credit refund. Patronage capital is specifically what makes our members owners and the rotation of that capital is a big part of what makes us a cooperative.

Each year, our board makes the decision of how much and when to retire Capital Credits, based upon the financial health of the organization. Our board considers the rotation of patronage capital and the retirement of Capital Credits to our members to be a foundation of what it means to be a cooperative and therefore has identified financial goals around that process that are second in priority

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only to rate stabilization.

Our financial goals for patronage capital have two components. The first, as I mentioned, is to retire Capital Credits to our membership every year provided the cooperative is financially healthy. The second is less visible, but equally important, and is to work to decrease the number of years that CEC holds your patronage capital before retiring it to you. We have been very successful in recent years on both accounts and this year was no exception. At the February meeting of the Board of Directors, the board approved the repayment of over \$1,600,000 in Capital Credits to our members. Our hybrid retirement approach, retiring the oldest years in their entirety while also retiring a percentage of all other years, allows all members a credit, while decreasing the years of rotation. Current members will see the retirement described above as a bill credit on their April bill. Former members with outstanding Capital Credit allocations will receive a check in the same time frame. I hope this refund serves as a tangible reminder of the benefit of your membership in your cooperative.

The second thing CEC does to illustrate the principles is the Annual Meeting of the Members. This meeting hits on several of the principles above (Democratic Member Control; Education, Training, and Information; and Concern for Community). Our annual meeting is required by our by-laws to provide the membership with a business meeting

where our financial statements are shared and our board elections are held, but it serves as much more than that. This year marks CEC's 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members and it provides staff with the opportunity to share news and information on a wide array of topics — from safety to services to the financial health of the cooperative. It also gives us the opportunity to hear from you about what concerns you and how we might serve you better. Our local, state, and federal politicians often participate demonstrating the value they see in the cooperative and providing you the opportunity to speak with them as well.

With all that said, I see the annual meeting as bigger than the sum of its parts. It represents an opportunity for members to actively participate in, and show their support of, the cooperative and the cooperative principles in an environment of fellowship and respect for one another. It doesn't hurt that there is food, prizes, entertainment, and fun for all ages. Even though it is a bit early, please take this as yet another personal invitation to join us at this year's annual meeting on Aug. 21. Just reach out to our office and get yourself, and your family, registered and please join us for the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members of CEC — your cooperative.

**Check your April bill
for your Capital Credit
refund!**

Save the Date! CEC's Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual meeting **Aug. 21, 2020** at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center in Emlenton.

Attendees will receive a Kentucky Fried Chicken meal, live entertainment, and a chance to win a number of great prizes!

Children are also encouraged to attend and will enjoy a variety of activities and prizes specially for them!

Visit www.central.coop or call 800-521-0570 for more information.

#ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, CEC, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our cooperative.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't

work around holidays, vacations, and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

CEC is proud to honor the 24 lineworkers who maintain 3,200 miles of power lines in our service territory.

CEC invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy Specialist



If you have shopped for an electric water heater recently you may have noticed alternatives to a standard storage tank and, since water heating is the second largest energy consumer in the home, researching your next water heater is wise.

Tankless water heaters take up only a small amount of space, but homes requiring an electric option may find very few other benefits. When in operation these units can demand as much, or more, than what it takes to heat or cool your entire home.

While the retail price of these units has decreased, the installation cost is higher than a typical tank as most homes will need to upgrade their electric service to accommodate the high-demand appliance. Tankless water heaters boast unlimited hot water, but the simultaneous demand for hot water, like a shower and dishwasher running, can cause noticeable inconsistencies with water temperature. You will also experience a delay at the tap as it is not readily available, as it has to be produced by passing over the unit's heating

Electric Water Heater Alternatives

elements. Therefore, for a family, this unlimited commodity may be costly and unreliable.

All in all, purchasing a tank with a high efficiency rating and conservation capabilities remains the more cost effective option.

Another water heater option is the heat pump water heater. The initial purchase price, and installation cost, of these units will be higher than the standard storage tank but, operating costs will be lower. According to Energy Star, heat pump water heaters can offer annual savings of \$350 over standard, electric storage tanks and a payback period of only 2.3 years for a four-person household. And because of the heat pump technology used to heat the water, you will reduce carbon emissions produced by conventional options.

These tanks are worth a look, but there are some special considerations. Heat pump water heaters must be installed in an area that maintains a 40-90 degree temperature and has about 1,000 cubic feet of space for airflow. The tanks also produce cold air which may add to the job of your heating system. Larger households may notice that the tank takes longer to recover from a heavy use period.

CEC now offers a \$100 rebate for the purchase of an Energy Star rated, Heat Pump Water Heater.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Flooding Can Cause Electrical Danger



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

As we enter spring, snow melting and increased rainfall typically occurs. Heavy rain and melt-off often cause flooding in lowland areas, homes, and basements. The prospect of an electrical accident is probably not at the top of your thoughts when you are dealing with a flooded basement, room, or even outdoors. However — it is the first thing you should think of before you step foot in the water.

Please be alert to electrical equipment which could be energized and in contact with the water, creating a serious danger of electrocution. We urge parents, and other caregivers, to make sure children are also aware of these hazards.

Safety Measures to Remember:

- Never step into a flooded basement, or other room, if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you

cannot reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

A good safety measure is to have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed on outlets. These safety devices can cut off power instantly if there's a problem. GFCIs are recommended for outdoor outlets and outlets near wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath, and laundry room.

Attention High School Seniors: PREA Scholarship

A minimum of five \$1,000 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) scholarships, in memory of William F. Matson, are available for the 2020-2021 college year.

Who is eligible?

The PREA Scholarship Trust Fund offers scholarships to children of members and employees of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who belong to PREA. Applicants must be high school seniors.

Applications and required information must be received no later than **May 6, 2020**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 12, 2020**. Scholarship awards will be announced at the PREA summer meeting in July. To download a PDF version of the application visit www.prea.com or mail your request to:

PREA Scholarship Trust Fund
P.O. Box 1266
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266

Submit Your Photo and Win!

CEC is excited to announce its 2020 member Photo Contest! CEC will award prizes for the top three winners: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place. Submit your best photo for a chance to win! The subject of your photo can be beautiful scenery and landscapes, power line equipment, or anything else you find appealing. You must submit your photo before June 12.

Members vote for the top five photos from June 17 through July 31. Then vote for the top three photos from Aug. 5 to Oct. 16.

You can vote through CEC's website at www.central.coop or by visiting the office. You will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in the September Power Lines newsletter. CEC will announce the winners in late October.

If you have any questions, please email Emily Shumaker at eshumaker@central.coop or call 800-521-0570 x2152.

By submitting a photo entry to this contest you are granting CEC permission to use the image in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website, without payment. However, photo credit will be given.

CEC reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or offensive.

Rules:

1. Only one entry per membership.
2. The photo must have been taken by a CEC member within one of CEC's seven service counties (Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer, and Venango).
3. The photo should be submitted electronically to Emily Shumaker at eshumaker@central.coop or through CEC's website by June 12. When submitting a photo, you must include where the photo was taken, a brief description of the subject, who took the photo, how you would like to be recognized within the photo's credit line, and a title for the photo. If you are unable to submit it electronically, please contact Emily to make other arrangements.
4. Employees and directors of CEC, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible.
5. The prizes will appear as a credit on the winners' bills and may not be redeemed for cash.



Recipe of the Month

Beer Cashew Chili

Ingredients:

- 3 onions, sliced (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 3 stalks celery, sliced (1-1/2 cups)
- 2 green peppers, sliced (1-1/2 cups)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Two 28-ounce cans tomatoes, cut up (undrained)
- Three 15-ounce cans red kidney beans (undrained)
- One 15-ounce can Great Northern or Navy beans (undrained)
- 1 cup beer or water
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 cup cashews
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon snipped parsley
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 bay leaf
- 1-1/2 teaspoons dried crushed basil
- 1-1/2 teaspoons crushed oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon bottled hot pepper sauce
- shredded cheddar cheese

Directions: Cook onions, green pepper, and garlic in oil until tender. Stir in remaining ingredients except cheese. Bring to a boil, reduce heat. Cover and simmer for one hour. Remove cover and simmer for one more hour. Remove bay leaf. Top each serving with shredded cheese.

Thank you to Christina O'Donnell for this recipe!

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

David Anderson of Hilliards

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Jennifer Seybert of Chicora

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: There are no risks of electrocution within flooding situations.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: CEC's board prioritizes the rotation of patronage capital second only to rate stabilization.

Answer: _____

We want to know what you want to read about!

Are there any energy-related topics you would like more information about? Or any topic requests in general?

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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