

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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A Tangible Difference

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

I have said it many times, but I will say it again: we are not just here to serve our members, we are here because of our members. Our members are what set electric cooperatives apart from investor-owned utilities. There are noticeable similarities between the two such as how our power lines often share the same areas, and provide electricity to homes and businesses. However, the differences are the important distinction, and they begin with you, our members. Almost 88 years ago, the rural community members of this area were unserved by investor-owned utilities because the return did not justify the investment. Those community members, our founders, recognized the importance of electricity to the future of our area and formed the cooperative.

Perhaps the most tangible difference between an electric cooperative and an investor-owned utility is the rotation of patronage capital. The patronage capital process represents the member's financial participation with and ownership of the cooperative. At the end of each fiscal year, the amount of money left after expenses are paid for an investor-owned utility is profit and is used for the benefit of the investor. The

money remaining after expenses for an electric cooperative are paid represents our margin and this marks the beginning of our patronage capital rotation process. Margins are allocated to each member proportionally based on their usage over the course of the year. CEC has held onto that patronage capital for a number of years, during which it represents the members ownership in the cooperative. Finally, our member-elected Board of Directors makes an annual decision based on the financial health of the cooperative to retire patronage capital in the form of capital credits. The capital credits are then returned to our members either on their bill or via a check for those no longer receiving electric service.

This process is unique to cooperatives and serves our members in several ways. First, as I have already pointed out, patronage capital represents the members' ownership of the cooperative. Member ownership is reflected in the member equity percentage that we maintain. Second, the retirement of capital credit decreases the cost to our members for the service they receive. One of the financial goals set by our Board is to maintain competitive rates with the investor-owned utilities that surround us. We have been able to take advantage of market conditions

Continued on page 2

and set rates to meet this goal. Third, and perhaps most importantly, this process represents our commitment to the community. Investors in electric utilities can be anyone from anywhere, using profits for their own benefit. Through this process, cooperatives keep all the money that our members pay, for services in our community to benefit the cooperative and our members.

I have described the overall patronage capital rotation process from allocation to retirement. Now, let me explain how the process directly impacts you and our philosophy in more detail. Each year, our Board allocates our end of year margin to your member patronage capital accounts then; after evaluating the finances of the cooperative, they make the decision to retire patronage capital to you. The Board determines the amount to be retired, the timing of retirement, and the methodology by which we retire. The factor of “when” is the easiest to regulate. We have done this at various times throughout the year in the past, but now we schedule it to align with the completion of our financial audit.

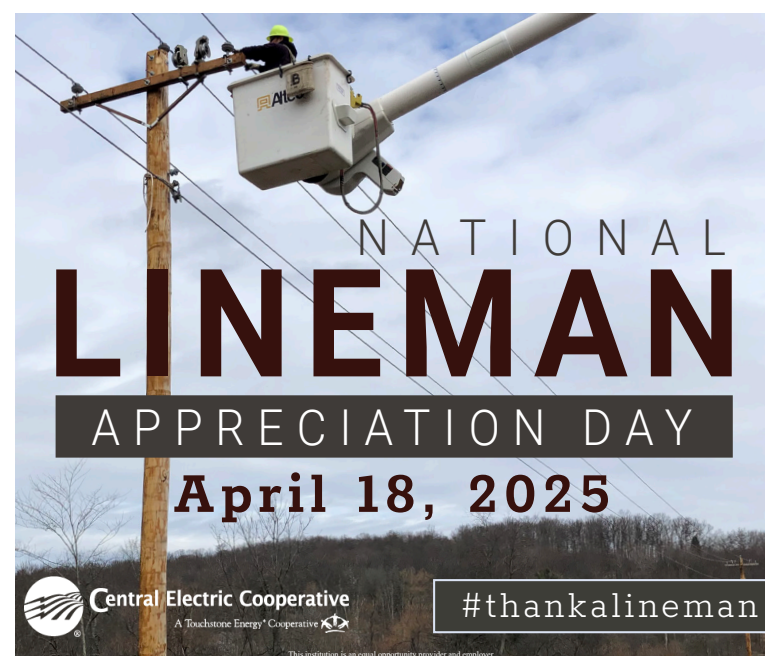
The timing provides us with all the necessary financial information regarding the health of the organization. At our February Board meeting, the Board considers alternatives to be retired during the April billing cycle. The amount to be retired is a complicated decision that considers the number of years of patronage rotation, the cooperative’s equity ratio, and the availability of cash. These components account for the previously mentioned financial goals. The methodology for retirement applies to the Board’s philosophy of balancing, maintaining, or decreasing the number of years of patronage capital rotation by maximizing the number of members that benefit from the retirement. To accomplish this, we apply a hybrid first in first out (FIFO) and percentage approach. As implied, the FIFO method retires the oldest year or years in their entirety. This allows us to maintain or decrease the number of years of patronage capital rotation but only those that were members in those years receive a retirement. A percentage method would retire a percentage of all allocated years resulting in any member with an allocation receiving retirement. Our Board utilizes a hybrid method to get the best of both worlds.

On to describing the tangible difference that our members will benefit from this month. At our February Board meeting, our Board approved the retirement of over \$1.9 million. They chose to maintain our current rotation cycle of 16 years by retiring the entirety of our oldest allocated year and increasing the percentage of all remaining years. This way any member who has been on CEC’s lines for more than a year will experience the value of membership. The retirement is being applied to your April billing cycle for those that currently have accounts with us, and all who are no longer members will be sent a check for the appropriate amount. I enjoy sharing this information because in addition to its being a benefit to our members, it clearly illustrates the tangible difference in cooperative membership.



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



Save the Date for CEC's Member Appreciation Event!

June 13, 2025

CEC is thrilled to invite our members to the 2025 Member Appreciation Event. The event will take place at CEC's headquarters in Parker, PA on June 13, 2025, from 3-7 p.m. Members can expect an open-house style event that includes entertainment, educational information, children's activities, giveaways and bill credits, opportunities to meet your board of directors and staff members, and refreshments. Come and experience CEC at your pace and at a time that is convenient for you!

Members will be able to explore the facility while having the opportunity to view CEC's fleet, take in EV

information, and learn from our lineman through our hotline, pole setting, and pole climbing demonstrations. CEC is planning entertainment for attendees, such as a band, car show, and more. There will also be refreshments including picnic style food, and a dessert food truck. This event will be perfect for the whole family as there will be attractions for children. Bucket truck rides, giveaways and electrical safety education will be available!

We hope to see you, our members, so we can share information, share in fellowship, provide a look beyond the lines, and most importantly, show our gratitude to the membership at the 2025 Member Appreciation event on June 13, 2025.

More information will be released in the coming weeks, but as always, feel free to contact CEC with any questions.

Help Make a Cooperative Difference: Join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC!

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.

CEC recognizes the importance of expressing concerns and providing information about co-ops and rural communities to our national, state and local legislators. America's Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee (PAC), provides a voice for electric cooperatives. The PAC is a non-partisan political action committee that aids legislators who support cooperative initiatives.

Your participation in the PAC will support legislators who understand our interests and fight for co-op members. Members can also support the PAC's initiatives by knowing co-op issues, engaging with local legislators as an electric cooperative leader, and by voting.

You can add your voice to this important cause and join the PAC by filling out the adjacent form and sending it in with your electric bill. For more information, visit our website at www.central.coop or contact your PAC coordinator, Toni Bresnahan, at 800-521-0570 x2161.

Sign Me Up Today!

Select:

- ☐ \$25 Regular Member
- ☐ \$50 Ambassador Club Member
- ☐ \$100 Century Club Member

Payment options:

- ☐ Add a one-time contribution to my electric bill
- ☐ Enclosed is a check payable to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account # _____

Return this form to:

Central Electric Cooperative
Attn: PAC
P.O. Box 329
Parker, PA 16049

Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nations who lack permanent resident status. 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.



Appreciating Linemen, Prioritizing Safety

by Grant Potsbay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control

CEC serves over 25,000 members across 3,000 miles of line in seven counties surrounding our headquarters in Parker. Our team of professionals, such as linemen, engineers, meter servicemen, and more, work hard every day to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure. This involves routine maintenance of our facilities, system improvement projects, and prompt responses to emergency outage restorations. Whether facing the challenges of adverse weather conditions or working tirelessly through the night, our workforce is dedicated to providing reliable service for all its members.

It is well known that being a power lineman is a dangerous job, but let's put that into perspective. The lineman occupation is ranked in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States. It is 4 times more dangerous than the average job, with an average of 26 linemen losing their lives every year due to fatal work injuries. Linemen experience a non-fatal injury rate of 104.6 per 10,000 full-time workers. For every lineman fatality, there are approximately 20 non-fatal injuries. The hazards of utility work are abundant with exposure to harmful substances, treacherous environments, and traffic crashes. Given that linemen work outdoors most of the time, they're often exposed to harsh heat, and extreme cold. These conditions can easily increase the risk of accidents for linemen. Among the hazards they face, electrocution stands out as the leading cause of work-related deaths among lineworkers in the United States.

The primary focus of this article is CEC's safety training provided for linemen. At CEC we have multiple safety courses and training that our linemen are required to go through to keep them safe. This includes annual safety training for all employees like fire extinguisher use, bloodborne pathogens, crisis communication, hazardous substances incidental spill response, and CPR first aid AED training.

Not only does CEC conduct multiple safety training courses to every employee, but also training from the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, or PREA. The statewide organization administers training courses including but not limited to: ladder safety, fire prevention, emergency action planning, and bucket truck & digger derrick safety for our linemen specifically. For our apprentice linemen, PREA also offers training courses at JT&S school for the safety of our employees.

On average, it takes five years for an apprentice to become a journeyman lineman. At CEC, safety is and will always be the top priority of our everyday operation. A lineman is brave, takes risks, and most of all, is cautious. The cooperative safety trainings are vital to keep our employees safe, and for our members, help keep the lights on.



Role: System Engineer
Employee Since: May 2023

Employee Spotlight: Susan Kandor



What is something you are most proud of? Earning my degree in Electrical Engineering. It was challenging, but was incredibly rewarding to have achieved.



What is one thing on your bucket list? Visiting Italy. I've always wanted to see the Amalfi Coast and try authentic Italian food.



Do you have any pets? Yes, I just got a cat named Rikki (after Rikki-Tikki-Tavi because of his bushy tail).



What is one goal you've accomplished within the past year? I bought my first house. It was a big milestone, and I'm proud to have achieved this.



What is your least favorite food? Cheese... unless it's mozzarella.

Linemen Then & Now Pt. 1

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

To be a lineman is to be ranked in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States. The job is physically demanding, requiring strength, stamina, and agility. It is mentally exhausting, working long hours during the day and through the night, often under a great deal of pressure. Brandon Wylie, Vice Chairman of the National Association of Journeyman Lineman, once said, “Being a lineman is not just a job or paycheck, it’s a lifestyle. You live it every day of the year.” Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18th honors the line workers who are committed to keeping communities’ lights on. Wherever you may be, if you have power, then you likely have a lineworker to thank for it.

Linemen have been around since the invention of telegraph lines in the 1840s, however we have come a long way since then in terms of tools, technology, and protocols. When CEC was founded in 1937, people relied on linemen just how we rely on them now, with safety being the number one priority. While the risks they take have certainly decreased, one of CEC’s linemen with nearly 4 decades of experience knows all too well that danger is never completely gone. The lineworker profession has greatly evolved since the 19th century. The question is how much has it changed in the past 40 years? We are going to walk through the CEC timeline and share the anonymous input of 3 out of the 23 dedicated linemen who work in our service territory. For the sake of anonymity, we are going to call the lineman hired 40 years ago Jack, the lineman hired 15 years ago Will, and the lineman hired less than 5 years ago Josh.

Back in the 1990s, linemen had many of the same responsibilities they do now, but with limitations in gear, tools, and technology. Jack started his CEC career as a tree trimmer, then became a heavy equipment operator, apprentice linemen, journeymen linemen, and from there kept working up the chain. He shares, “Back then, we free climbed with nothing but spurs, belts, and gaffs. Now, you’re attached from the ground up.” The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) now requires employees working at heights of more than 4 feet on a pole, tower, or similar structure to wearing a body belt or body harness system that attaches to a pole. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) like rubber gloves, grounding, and hard hats has not changed much over the

last few decades. However, the world has seen a lot of technological advances in this time and has greatly helped the utility industry. For instance, Jack states, “Mapping tech now is far superior, especially the GPS we use. When we had paper maps though, I knew them like the back of my hand. Every page I recognized a landmark.”

Reflecting on the past, Jack shares how he helped in the restoration effort in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. Houses were gone, leaving only rubble, with trees and poles down left and right. He states, “It was devastating. People lined the roads with what little belongings they had left, and coolers packed with lunch meat. We were offered something every place we went.” Jack has helped many communities in his role as a lineman and explains why he had done it for so long, “I always took pride in putting people’s power back, because I know what it’s like to be without it.”

After nearly two centuries of lineworkers, they are finally getting the recognition they deserve in the past decade. They put their lives on the line all year round. Take a moment this month to appreciate and thank lineworkers for their work, dedication, and sacrifices. Stay tuned for next month’s Faces, Places, and Voices article to explore perspectives from Will and Josh, part of the next generation of CEC linemen.

Advice for incoming linemen entering the industry:

Jack says, “Don’t take any shortcuts because it’s not worth it. You don’t get a second chance.”



Sources:

Bieber, Christy. 10 Most Dangerous Jobs in America for 2025. www.forbes.com.
Drew, Alan. The American Lineman.
OSHA. Fall Protection – Overview. www.osha.gov.
Rocha, Victoria. Safety Gear Through the Years. Cooperative.com.



Energy Efficiency Meets Safety

by *Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist*

CEC is committed to keeping our linemen, employees, and community safe. We found that education is the key to fulfilling this commitment. By educating not only our employees, but also you, our members, we can achieve a safe and prosperous community. Now I know you might be thinking, "How is Connie going to connect energy efficiency and safety?" Well, let us get to it.

Let's start with a simple and preventative energy-efficiency tip for inside your home. There have been many tips and information I have shared along the way, one being the utilization of power strips. There are several types of power strips available, but we highly recommend smart strips as you can shut off the power with a switch or even a mobile app. In doing so, you are stopping phantom usage, saving energy, and could be preventing a potential house fire. If you own a power strip, making sure it is in good condition by conducting a visual inspection is important. Checking that the power strip is free from dust, clutter, and water is a great start. An older power strip could potentially cause more problems, as they usually only last about 3-5 years (check your manufacturers' guide). Remember not to overload a power strip as this can cause it to overheat, creating a fire hazard. Always check the labels to find out how much

voltage your power strip can handle, and if it is certified by a recognized testing organization like Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Now let's move to the outside of your home. As much as we try to prevent outages, in our line of business, they happen. We understand the frustration of being without power and try to get it turned on again as soon as we can. However, sometimes, based on the issue, it may take longer than anyone would like. This is where generators enter the picture. Generators are convenient for times when you may have a longer outage but something to remember is if you directly plug one into your home, it can be dangerous for not only you, but your neighbors and the linemen coming to restore your power too. Plugging it in directly can backfeed electricity into the line which is incredibly dangerous. At CEC, we have a product called a GenerLink transfer switch. This is a device that you can purchase to be installed by one of our Line Service Techs. It is installed behind your meter to prevent backfeeding and keep everyone safe while you use your generator for your home. Visit our website or call the office for more information regarding the GenerLink transfer switch.

Now, you know how energy efficiency and safety are connected as well as how they affect your environment. Each concept contributes to better well-being by reducing the risk of hazards and minimizing energy use. While I have only highlighted two situations that could make an enormous difference in both your life and the lives of others, this is just the beginning. By investing in education, and recognizing the hard work of our linemen, we will continue to maintain and improve a safe work environment and community.

CEC invites you to submit your best photo for our 2025 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 anything! Members must submit their photo before June 6. Members will vote for the top five photos from June 13 to July 25. Then voting will begin for the top three photos from Aug. 1 to Oct. 17.

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members may also vote for the top three photos using a ballot in the Sept. issue of this newsletter. Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October. Visit our website for details about rules and to enter!

2025 PHOTO CONTEST

By submitting a photo to this contest, you grant 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.



SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are several ways to save energy during spring months?

Read the energy-saving tips below to learn more, then find the bolded words in the puzzle below.

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

- Use **LED lights** around your home. LEDs use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- Plant **shade trees** around your home to block unwanted heat from the sun.
- Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy when they're not in use, like phone **chargers**.
- Seal air leaks around exterior doors and **windows** to save energy and keep your home comfortable.
- Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. To save **energy**, turn them off when you leave the room.

From the Kitchen of:
Linda Knott



RECIPE: **MEXICAN PIZZA APPETIZER**

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 c. flour	1 tomato, chopped
1/2 tsp. salt	1 c. lettuce chopped
1/4 c. butter; melted	sour cream (optional)
4 eggs; beaten	
1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chiles	
1 c. cottage cheese	
2 c. grated monterey jack cheese	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine flour, salt, melted butter.
2. Stir in eggs, chiles, cottage cheese, and monterey jack cheese.
3. Pour evenly into greased 12-in pizza pan. Bake 15-20 minutes at 375° or until firm and lightly browned.
4. Top with tomato, lettuce, and sour cream (optional). Cut into thin wedges and enjoy! Makes 16-18 servings.

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

From left (back row): Kenneth Durrett, Butler County; Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Jody Weaver, Vice President, Clarion County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; (front) Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong 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



Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**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.*



Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

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

