

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

“WATTS” INSIDE

- 3 CEC Member Appreciation Event
- 3 Join America’s Electric Cooperatives PAC
- 4 Long-Term Power Outage Checklist
- 4 Employee Spotlight
- 5 What It Takes to Be a Lineman
- 6 Surge Protection = Home Protection
- 6 2026 Member Photo Contest
- 7 Energy Explorers: Word Search
- 8 Raisin Puff Cookies Recipe

The Difference, Revisited

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

A former member of Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) recently asked a question of one of our Board members. Their question prompted an excellent discussion about capital credit retirements and how different the cooperative business model is compared to our investor-owned neighbors. This discussion led me back to the newsletter archives and influenced me to update a previous article that covers this topic so you can benefit from the boardroom discussion.

An electric cooperative is different, and I would argue better than an investor-owned utility in many ways. One of the most significant differences is how members are not simply electricity consumers but also owners of the cooperative. This ownership is perhaps most evident through the rotation of patronage capital. For those who might not be familiar with the process, let me describe how it works. CEC is a private, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative. At the end of each fiscal year, the amount of money

left after we have paid all expenses is our margin. The margin is put into an account for each of our members based upon their respective electric usage that year. This allocation represents your individual ownership in the cooperative, your equity. CEC uses this equity for several years to ensure financial stability. Then, when the cooperative’s financial position allows, the Board of Directors authorize staff to return a portion of that equity to the membership in the form of a capital credit retirement. Your Board of Directors considers the regular retirement of capital credits to be foundational to what makes us a cooperative. They have given it priority second only to maintaining a competitive rate in our long-range financial plan. After reviewing our financial condition each year, they decide whether to retire capital credits, how much to retire, and the manner by which they will be distributed.

Under the direction of our long-range financial plan, we have been working to increase our equity level and decrease the number of years of the patronage capital rotation. Doing this will provide us with some flexibility when market conditions are less favorable. The

Continued on page 2

current economic conditions are demonstrating the value of these efforts. Unfortunately, it was necessary for us to raise members' rates in February 2026 for the first time since early 2023. As I have described in detail with previous articles, there have been significant issues in the electric marketplace leading to a significant cost increase in 2026 from our generation and transmission provider. In keeping with our philosophy of regularly retiring capital credits and to help mitigate the impact of the rate increase on our members, the Board voted to retire over \$2 million to our membership in April of 2026. This decision was not entered into lightly as it involved CEC's financial health at the end of 2025, our equity level, and the number of years of patronage capital rotation.

In anticipation of the common question regarding a rate increase followed by a capital credit retirement, let me try to describe the process. Earlier, I addressed the process of the patronage capital rotation. We are required to allocate our end-of-year margin to membership accounts. We cannot use it to pay expenses in the following year. In short, the rate increase is a look forward to the expenses that we will have to pay. We must have a rate that covers those expenses in order to remain financially viable and meet the loan covenants from our lenders. The retirement of capital credits allows us to demonstrate the flexibility that our financial planning has created for this type of circumstance. We have taken advantage of positive economic conditions in recent years to put ourselves in the position to mitigate the rate increase to our members. We have been able to take

advantage of positive conditions in the recent past to extend time between rate increases, become more competitive with utilities surrounding us, decrease our number of years of patronage capital rotation, and increase our equity level all while meeting the loan covenants of our lenders. To put it simply, our financial planning efforts were intended to mitigate costs to our membership while allowing for flexibility in addressing changing market conditions and our efforts have proven successful.

The approved capital credit retirement keeps the rotation of patronage capital at 16 years while still maintaining an equity level that offers a sound financial position and the ability to plan for future adverse conditions. Your board and staff recognize the impact on our members and communities by the current economic conditions and believe this retirement will be a direct benefit to our members. As I mentioned, you will see this distribution reflected on your April billing if you have an active account with CEC. This process is unique to cooperatives and can seem complex so if you have questions or would like more clarification please reach out to CEC. As always, thank you for your continued patronage, as you can see it serves you well.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

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>
Caitlin Kriebel	<i>Director of Human Resources</i>
Fred E. Terwilliger	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?

Build your kit:

- Bottles of water
- Non-perishable food
- Portable phone charger
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- First-aid supplies
- Prescriptions
- Can opener
- Hand sanitizer
- Battery-operated radio
- Toys, books, and games



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Gear Up for CEC’s Member Appreciation Event!



CEC is thrilled to invite our members to the 2026 Member Appreciation Event. The event will take place from 3-7 p.m. at CEC’s headquarters in Parker, PA this summer. 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!

Planning and preparation are in full swing for you and your whole family. Members can expect new attractions and some old favorites such as a dessert food truck, electrical safety and efficiency information, a band, a car show, and more!

We hope to see you, our members, so we can share helpful information, provide a look beyond the lines, and most importantly, show you our gratitude at the Member Appreciation event. The event date will be published in May’s issue of *Power Lines*.

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

Be the Change: Join America’s Electric Cooperatives PAC!

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, Katrina Konieczny, at 800-521-0570 x2161.

Sign-Up Form

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 to:

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

Long-Term Power Outage Checklist

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

Extended power outages can happen with little warning, and being prepared ahead of time is the best way to stay safe and comfortable until power is restored. It doesn't matter if it is caused by severe weather, equipment failure, or natural disasters, outages affect everything from communication to food safety. This checklist outlines the essential steps to take before, during, and after an outage so you can protect your home and your health.

Before

- Assemble Emergency Preparedness Kit with supplies to last at least 72 hours, including first aid, water, non-perishable food etc.
- Make sure your phone battery is fully charged. Consider buying a battery-powered or solar charger.
- Have a full tank of gas or make sure you have full charge in your EV. Gas and charging stations nearby could be impacted.

During

- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed. Use a cooler with ice if needed. Make sure to monitor temperatures inside.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances to prevent surge or spike when power returns.
- Generators, camp stoves and charcoal grills should always be used outdoors at least 20 ft. away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.

After

- If there are downed power lines, do not go near them. Call 9-1-1 right away.
- When in doubt throw it out. Dispose of any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for 2 hours+ or if food has unusual smell, texture, or color.
- Wait 10-15 min. for your electrical system to stabilize before reconnecting tools and appliances.

Sources: American Red Cross, CDC



Role: Safety and Loss Control Administrator

Employee Since: September 2024

www.central.coop

Employee Spotlight: Grant Potsubay



Why did you choose a career in EHS (Environmental, Health, and Safety)? I originally got into EHS because I wanted to help people.



What was your first job? Hunter's Truck Sales in Eau Claire, PA, and some contracting (happened around the same time).



What is something you can't live without? Air. Preferably 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and 1% other gases (like argon and carbon dioxide).



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? Learn to speak another language or two, which is in progress.



What's the best or most memorable trip you've ever been on and why? My trip across Asia and Eastern Europe. It was good seeing a different outlook on life.



What It Takes to Be a Lineman

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

The quality of life we enjoy, thanks to reliable electricity, depends on thousands of people working behind the scenes. Anyone who lives with electricity knows how hard and inconvenient it is to lose it. The men and women who restore power know that frustration just as well as anyone. Working all hours, it's linemen who respond to the call and show up to the outage site.

Linemen carry the responsibility of being the backbone of the power grid, and there is much more that goes into their work than most people realize. They take care of the general maintenance and repair for the grid, are first responders to outages, and need to know how to do all of it safely and efficiently. When you consider how much skill, judgment, and responsibility goes into their work, it raises the question of what it really takes to be a lineman.

Aside from having to be tough and adaptable, there is plenty of schooling and training that goes into this career path. Starting with the basics, a high school diploma or GED is required along with a CDL and good driving record. Although not required, many enroll in a training program or technical school before looking to be hired by an electric utility company. Once hired, every lineman goes through extensive hands-on training. In an entry level position, the first 6 to 12 months are typically spent working as a groundman. Groundmen are the ones preparing job sites and support other linemen from the ground. After, 4 years are spent as an apprentice under certified journeyman linemen. Apprentices log thousands of hours with overhead and underground line work, storm restoration, and more to be considered eligible for the next step.

Before an apprentice can go further, they need to pass the journeyman lineman test at the end of their fourth year. Once they do, they're issued a journeyman license from the state or local authority. Different utilities or regions may alter the details of this process, but the overall progression is the same. CEC involves supervisors to administer a hands-on skills test, after which a group

of chief linemen meet to decide whether the fourth-year apprentice is ready to advance to journeyman status.

Having a high-risk, high-skill lifestyle means that training is continuous and necessary throughout a lineman's career. CEC's requirements include procedures like Pole Top Rescue, which teaches how to safely bring down a conscious or unconscious person from a pole. Every other year, linemen refresh their CPR and basic first-aid skills. The training never stops, because being safe for themselves, their crew, and the community comes from constant practice and planning.

Reliable electricity depends on the people who work hard, train often, and show up when they're needed. Linemen carry that responsibility every day, and their dedication is what keeps our network strong. As April 18 marks Lineman Appreciation Day, it's a great time to recognize what they do and thank the people who make dependable power possible.

Sources:

How to become a lineman in 6 steps - Under the Hard Hat The Northeastern Apprenticeship & Training Program





Surge Protection = Home Protection

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Power surges are more than a nuisance; they can cause permanent damage to your devices or even pose a fire risk. Central Electric Cooperative wants to ensure you have the information needed to protect your home. Did you know, on average, a home can experience 150 or more power surges per month? While most people think that surges only come from lightning, 60-80% of power surges originate from within your home. Surges in your home are caused by cycling appliances turning off and on like refrigerators, HVAC, etc. While these are small surges, over time it can cause wear and tear to your devices such as iPads, laptops and TVs. This essentially fries the microprocessors or memory chips, the parts that make your devices work, and leaves them unable to function.

For maximum protection, we recommend two layers of protection: whole-home surge protection and point-of-use devices. Both approaches protect your home from disturbances such as lightning and other problems that can occur with an electrical distribution system. Whole home surge protection stops the surge before it enters your home. Through CEC, the device is installed behind your electric meter, and with a licensed electrician, it is installed into your main electrical panel.

The second layer is point-of-use surge protectors. This would be like power strips with surge protection used to clean up the smaller surges generated inside the home. This safeguards your home from low-level surges and transient voltages and are typically installed near sensitive electronic devices. It is important to note that not all power strips are equal, some are just an extension cord with additional outlets. When shopping for point-of-use protectors, look for a UL 1449 certification and a high Joule rating to ensure your devices are shielded.

During a severe electrical storm, the only 100% effective protection is to physically unplug devices. Think of surge protection as an insurance policy. You hope you never truly need it but, if something happens, you'll be glad it's there.

2026 Member Photo Contest

CEC invites you to submit your best photo for our 2026 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! View something from a different perspective, go somewhere new, be creative. Members must submit their photo before June 5, 2026. Members will vote for the top five photos from June 15 to July 30. Then voting will begin for the top three photos from July 31 to Oct. 16.

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members may also vote for the top three photos using a ballot in the September issue of the 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!

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.



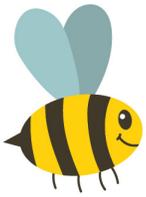
By: Tracey Vaccarello



By: Lorna Gavin



By: Donna Stepansky



SPRING SAVINGS WORD SEARCH



Are you ready to *spring* into energy savings? When we actively try to reduce our energy use at home, we save on bills and help our community. Read the efficiency tips below, then search for (and circle) the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

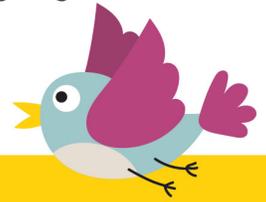
Spring Energy Tips:

Unplug chargers, gaming systems and other devices. Electronics can consume **energy** when they're plugged in, even if you're not using them.

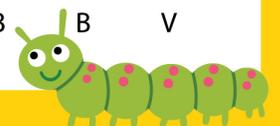
Open curtains and blinds during the day to use **natural light** instead of lamps and other home lighting.

Dress for the weather. When it's chilly, grab a **jacket** instead of turning up the **thermostat**. When it's warm, instead of turning on the A/C, open **windows** or turn on fans to circulate air.

Turn off **lights** when you're leaving the room for more than five minutes.



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



From the Kitchen of:

Shirley Andrejack

RECIPE: **RAISIN PUFF COOKIES**

Send your own recipe to:

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

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 c. raisins	1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. water	3 1/2 c. flour
1 c. shortening	
2 eggs, beaten	
1 1/2 c. sugar	
1 tsp. salt	
1 tsp. baking soda	



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven at 350°F.
2. In a saucepan, simmer raisins and water together until all water is absorbed but 1 Tablespoon.
3. In a bowl, cream together shortening and sugar. Add beaten eggs. Mix well. Add dry ingredients, mixing well. Add raisin mixture and vanilla. Mix by hand until combined well.
4. Roll dough into small balls and then roll in sugar. Place on cookie sheets.
5. Bake for 10 min. Leave on cookie sheet for a few min., remove to cooling racks, and enjoy!



Central Electric Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

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

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.

