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Thank A Lineman

Enter Our 2019
Member Photo Contest

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Power Lines

Photo by Donald Shelatree of Venus

Nuclear Power is Co-op Power

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

From the time our alarm goes off, we’re on the grid. For many of us, it’s even before that if we leave our smartphones charging through the night. The point is, from morning to night, electricity powers much of our daily lives. And as long as the lights come on, we don’t give it much thought. Most of the time we focus on the distribution system because Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is an electric distribution cooperative. We rarely ever think about where our electricity comes from.

But as a consumer-member of CEC, where your power comes from is an important part of your cooperative membership. After all, rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania have an ownership interest in their power supply resources. Did you know, most of the energy used in cooperative homes and businesses throughout the

Commonwealth is generated by self-owned nuclear power? It’s true. In Pennsylvania, nuclear power is co-op power. As a cooperative member, you own part of a nuclear power plant.

Since 1977, Pennsylvania’s electric cooperatives have been partners in the ownership of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna), a nuclear facility in rural Berwick, Pa. For decades, this cooperative investment in nuclear power has been a driving force in providing our communities with safe, reliable, and affordable electric energy. The plant supplies approximately 60 percent of our energy needs, and is one of the main reasons cooperative consumers enjoy one of the lowest and most stable electric generation rates in the region.

But cooperative members aren’t the only Pennsylvanians benefitting

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from nuclear power. According to a report recently released by the Pennsylvania General Assembly's bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus, without the state's five nuclear power plants, Pennsylvanians would pay close to \$800 million more annually for electricity. The plants annually contribute \$2 billion to the state's economy, pay \$69 million in net state tax revenues, and employ 16,000 Pennsylvanians.

Nuclear power also provides 93 percent of the Commonwealth's carbon-free energy, helping Pennsylvanians avoid billions in health and environmental costs. No other generation resource comes close to having this kind of economic and environmental impact.

It's clear that nuclear power plays a vital role in Pennsylvania. It not only powers the state's rural electric cooperatives, it has helped establish Pennsylvania as an energy leader. In fact, the Commonwealth ranks second only to Illinois in terms of nuclear generation capacity, with its nuclear plants providing 42 percent of the state's total electricity production.

The future of our nuclear plants, however, is a matter of serious concern. Recently, two plants – Beaver Valley in the western part of the state and Three Mile Island in Southcentral Pennsylvania – have announced premature closures if action is not taken to correct current market dynamics. Such closures would have devastating, long-term economic, and environmental consequences,

because once a nuclear plant closes, it's closed forever.

While our Susquehanna plant is not currently in danger, if this troubling trend continues, it will result in higher energy prices and higher environmental costs for us all – something that will hit our rural communities particularly hard.

To avoid this fate, Pennsylvania needs a market design that recognizes nuclear power's positive contributions to the Commonwealth. Electric cooperatives are working with legislative leaders on a bipartisan effort to secure the future of nuclear power in Pennsylvania. These lawmakers are introducing legislation to equitably compensate nuclear power for its zero-carbon emissions and its grid dependability.

Rural electric cooperatives understand the benefits of nuclear power, and we can help to educate others on its importance. So, after you switch off your alarm clock and get your day started, please take a moment to visit PARuralAction.org and send an email to your local legislators urging them to support efforts to ensure nuclear power remains viable in Pennsylvania. After all, nuclear power is co-op power.

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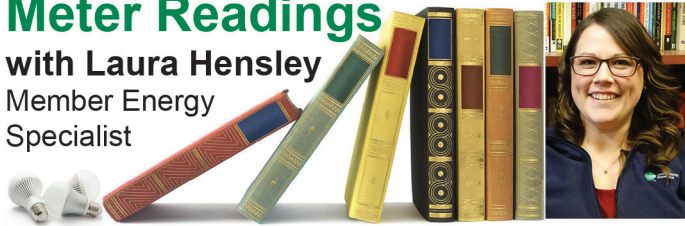
Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

**Members: Check
your April bill
for your Capital
Credit Refund!**

Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**

Member Energy
Specialist



What accounts for almost half the energy use in a typical U.S. home?

It's your HVAC, or heating ventilation and air conditioning system. Keeping your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter draws a mighty share of your energy budget. According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses 48 percent of billed energy just to heat and cool it.

Aside from replacing your furnace and central-air unit with newer, high-efficiency versions, there are some things you can do to increase HVAC efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician who understands your system and can make sure it is operating efficiently.
- Consult with your HVAC technician to ensure

Make an Impact of Your Energy Bill

your system is sized properly for the space you are heating and cooling. Keep this in mind if you make structural changes to your home.

- Make sure your home is well sealed and insulated to keep the air conditioned by your HVAC system inside the home's envelope.
- Get a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Make sure outdoor units are clean and free from debris and obstructions.
- Change all filters regularly for increased efficiency. Invest a little more in filters that trap smaller particles.

The bottom line is the biggest energy savings for your home will come from an efficient HVAC system. For more energy tips, visit our Energy Center at www.central.coop.

Save The Date: CEC's Annual Meeting!

Join us for our annual meeting Aug. 23, 2019 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.

CEC's Annual Pole Inspection

As part of ongoing efforts to improve system reliability, contracted pole inspection crews are inspecting 7,500 poles in the areas of Starr, Lucinda, and Wolf's Corners substations.

Inspections typically include a visual inspection, sounding the pole with a hammer, and excavation up to 18 inches around the poles. Poles identified as having issues will either be addressed in the field by Osmose Utilities Services or by CEC personnel at a later time. All Osmose representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification.

The project will last several months. Please contact Bill Betros, assistant operations manager, at 800-521-0570 x2209 with any questions.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Submit Your Photo and Win!

CEC is excited to announce its 2019 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 14.

Members vote for the top five photos from June 19 through Aug. 2. Then vote for the top three photos from Aug. 7 to Oct. 18.

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

If you have any questions about this contest, please email Renee Tritten at rritten@central.coop or call 800-521-0570 x2151.

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 Renee Tritten at rritten@central.coop or through our website by June 14. 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 Renee 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.

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 2019-2020 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, 2019**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 14, 2019**. 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

SAFETY MATTERS

Driving Safety — Don't Drive Distracted

The popularity of handheld devices has increased distracted driving problems. Activities like texting, talking on the phone, and reading, take a driver's attention away from the road and driving conditions. It is hazardous for everyone.

Focus on potential hazards when driving after a storm – stay away from downed power poles, lines, and electrical equipment. Motorists should never drive over a downed line.

When drivers are distracted, there is a risk of an accident with a power pole. If you are involved in an accident with a pole or you witness one, you must know the steps to keep everyone safe.

Stay in the car if you are in a car accident with a

power pole. Call 9-1-1 for help and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. The best thing to do is call 9-1-1, stay far away, and warn others to stay away from the accident.

At CEC safety is everyone's responsibility. One of CEC's member service representatives, Emily Hagan's personal safety goal is to not text and drive, to keep not only herself and her boys safe, but others on the road as well. What's yours?

The Commitment of Electric Linemen

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric linemen are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

CEC's linemen are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineman. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of linemen. The job requires linemen to set aside their personal priorities to serve their local community.

To perform their jobs successfully, linemen

depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineman's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineman may have minimal communication and not see each other for days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Monday, April 8 is Linemen Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of CEC's linemen, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members out and about in the community, please offer them a thank you as well.

Recipe of the Month

Cream Puff Dessert

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons margarine
- 3/4 cup flour
- 3/4 cup water
- 3 eggs
- 3 small packages Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 4 cups milk
- one container of Cool Whip

Directions: Bring margarine and water to a boil. Add flour while on heat. Remove from heat and beat with a mixer. Then beat in eggs one at a time. Beat until dough is smooth. Spread on greased 13x9 pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 25 minutes, then turn down to 350 degrees for additional 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in the pan on a rack. For filling, mix the pudding and milk together. Spread onto dough and top with Cool Whip. Keep refrigerated.

*Thank you to Valerie Kapetanovich
for submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
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:

Eileen Easley of Karns City

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Robert Musser of New Bethlehem

Read Power Lines and 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: You should get out of a car if involved in a car accident with a power pole.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: A typical home uses 48 percent of their billed energy just to light it.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Without the state's five nuclear power plants, Pennsylvanians would pay close to \$800 million more annually for electricity.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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