

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Celebrate Linemen  
Appreciation Day

Safely Operate  
a Generator

Enter Our 2018  
Photo Contest

## “Watts” Inside

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# PowerLines

Photographer: John Royer IV of New Bethlehem

## The Best Part

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I am a very fortunate person. My chosen profession is something I truly enjoy. The people I get to work with are hard-working and dedicated. The members we serve are good people and I get to be part of providing them an essential service. I even have the good fortune to work in the best of the electric-utility business models. Each business model — investor owned, public power and cooperative — has their pluses and minuses, but having personal experience in all three, I can say without reservation the cooperative model is the best.

What makes this model the best? Is it just because this is the one in which I currently serve? No — it is not the best because I work in it, I work in it because it is the best. I chose this model over the others. I often speak and write about the cooperative difference and the seven cooperative principles. So,

what makes this the superior model? It could be the truly democratic control provided by the one member, one vote approach that has allowed each member to have an equal voice. It could be our concern for, and support of, the communities we serve. It most certainly could be the local control and direction provided by our member-elected board of directors.

These are all outstanding possibilities but I think what leads the way is our unique economic model and how that works. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is a private, not-for-profit organization. Our members not only elect our board from their ranks, they own the business. Through your patronage (your electricity usage) you supply the revenue required to operate our electric system. At the end of the year, any unspent revenue is

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## *The Best Part /From Page 1*

“At the February meeting of the board of directors, the board approved the repayment of over \$1,600,000 in capital credits. This amount represents the largest, single distribution of capital credits in CEC’s history.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

identified as our margin. This would be the profit for an investor-owned company. CEC allocates that margin to members based on their annual electric usage — after the money is held in individual accounts as patronage capital for a number of years — and represents the equity, or financial ownership, that our members hold in CEC’s business. Following that number of years, the patronage capital is then returned to our members in the form of capital credits.

Each year our board makes the decision of whether or not, 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. Therefore the board has identified financial goals around that process that are second in priority only to rate stabilization.

The timing of this article is not an accident. At the February meeting of the board of directors, the board approved the repayment of over \$1,600,000 in capital credits. This amount represents the largest, single distribution of capital credits in CEC’s history. For many years, the method we have used to determine the retirement amount has been a hybrid, or combination method. This method allows us to retire the oldest years outstanding (this year the two oldest) in their entirety and also allows us to return a percentage to some of

our newest members thereby allowing our entire membership to recognize the benefits of being a cooperative member. Retiring the oldest years in their entirety has allowed us to maintain and even decrease the number of years of rotation of patronage.

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 your membership in your cooperative. Keep an eye out for your refund and thank you for your continued patronage and support.

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

CEC operates at cost.  
Any excess revenue is  
returned to members  
in the form of  
capital credits.

For more information visit  
[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or call  
800-521-0570.

# Power Lines

## The Power Behind Your Power

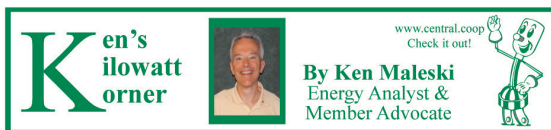
April is the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can include power outages. While CEC strives to provide reliable electricity, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group that springs into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst — co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. In our community, CEC lineworkers are responsible for keeping 3,200 miles of lines across seven counties working — in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the

weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work lineworkers do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



Want to make attic insulation more effective without a lot of cost or work? Lay an approved, aluminum-foil radiant barrier over your attic insulation. It will help reduce heat gain into your living space in summer and reduce heat flow out of insulation in the winter. Here's how it works:

In the summer, radiant heat from the sun is absorbed by roofing materials and is transmitted directly into your attic insulation. It, in turn, migrates into your living space, which causes air conditioning to work harder. Applying a radiant-barrier foil directly on top of your insulation will reflect 97 percent of heat back into the attic and out roof vents. It can reduce insulation layer temperatures up to 20 degrees.

During the winter, heavier, cold attic air naturally sinks into insulation, pushing out any heat

## Adding a Radiant Barrier to Insulation

that migrated into it from a home's conditioned space (referred to as “convective looping”). This continual process causes heating systems to operate more and promotes roof damage from ice dam formation. Reflective radiant-foil can greatly slow down this process.

Always choose a reflective foil with perforated air holes to permit moisture migration through the radiant barrier. Do not overlap layers more than an inch to assure successful moisture migration.

Two products that work well are Arma Foil™ by Energy Efficient Solutions or AtticFoil.com. Both are light-weight, flexible and contain perforated air holes for moisture migration.

Save money and increase comfort by installing a reflective foil radiant-barrier on top of attic insulation before summer comes. Why not use your income tax refund to pay for it!

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Think Safety When Operating a Generator

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporary or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen. A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. CEC offers a Generlink™ Transfer Switch for a safe connection.

Once you have purchased the proper generator, follow these tips from Safe Electricity to properly operate your generator:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide. They need proper ventilation.
- Generators pose electrical risks especially when

operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire.
- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on to prevent a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## 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 2018-2019 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 7, 2018**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 15, 2018**. Scholarship awards will be announced at the PREA summer meeting in July. To download a PDF version of the application visit [www.prea.com](http://www.prea.com) or mail your request to:

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

# Power Lines

## Submit Your Photo and Win!

CEC is excited to announce its 2018 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 15.

Members vote for the top five photos from June 18 through Aug. 2. Then vote for the top three photos from Aug. 6 to Oct. 19.

You can vote through our website at [www.central.coop](http://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 [rtritten@central.coop](mailto:rtritten@central.coop) or call 800-521-0570 x2151.

### 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 [rtritten@central.coop](mailto:rtritten@central.coop) or through our website by June 15. 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.

*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.*

## Save The Date: CEC's Annual Meeting!

Join us for our annual meeting Aug. 24, 2018 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](http://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 Nectarine, Sandy Creek, Mineral and Starr 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.

## Recipe of the Month

### Cheesy Kluski Bake

#### Ingredients:

- 8-ounce package of Kluski egg noodles
- 1 pound ground beef
- 3/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 4-ounce can mushrooms, drained
- Two 8-ounce cans tomato sauce
- 16 slices American cheese, diced

**Directions:** Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Cook noodles and drain. In a medium skillet, brown meat with onion and garlic powder. In a 2-quart casserole dish combine noodles with meat mixture, mushrooms, tomato sauce and diced cheese. Bake for 25 minutes.

*Thank you to Grace Becker for submitting this recipe!*

## Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to: Renee Tritten at [rtritten@central.coop](mailto:rtritten@central.coop) or mail to CEC, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## 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:

**Stephen Hudacko of Greensburg**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Terry Stroup of Chicora**

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](http://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:** CEC operates at cost. Any excess revenue is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

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

**2. True or False:** Applying a radiant-barrier foil will reflect 97 percent of heat in the summer.

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

**3. True or False:** Generators can be safely operated from inside a garage.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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