

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Go On Youth Tour 2018

Enter our Holiday  
Coloring Contest

Be Safe & Energy  
Efficient this Christmas

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# PowerLines

We wish the warmth of Christmas  
to bring peace to your home.  
May you find happiness, love and  
friendship right beside you — and  
wherever you may go.  
Merry Christmas to you and your family.

## A CEC Carol

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

“We spend a great deal of time reviewing our past progress and planning for the coming year. Our fiscal year matches the calendar year, so in addition to trimming the tree, we spend time trimming the budget. Our work plan is designed to continuously improve the reliability of our system while balancing cost to our members. As I have mentioned in previous articles, we had no rate increase in 2017 and, based on our budgeting process, we don’t plan one for 2018 either. So our efforts have been worthwhile.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

This time of year has always been my favorite. The Thanksgiving Day Parade kicks off a day of football, family, eating too much and, in my home, the days immediately following are for decorating for Christmas and enjoying time together. Despite my best efforts to ignore it, my family also reminds me I have a birthday at this time of year. Perhaps because of the increased family togetherness, or because of the reminder of another year passing, I generally find myself being grateful more often in this season.

I have found since I have been at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), those feelings exist at work as well. A cooperative is very different than other companies that provide electric service. The feeling of community is palpable, especially during this time of year.

Around CEC’s office it’s budget and planning season. This time of year can get pretty busy for a lot of businesses and CEC is no exception. We spend a great deal of time reviewing our past progress and planning for the coming year. Our fiscal year matches the calendar year, so in addition to trimming the tree, we spend time trimming the budget. Our work plan is designed to continuously improve the reliability of our system while balancing cost to our members. As I have mentioned in previous articles, we had no rate increase in 2017 and, based on our

budgeting process, we don’t plan one for 2018 either. So our efforts have been worthwhile.

Much work needs to be done as the year comes to a close. It is easy to get a little Scrooge-like. But, all this work is made easier because of the people we work with and the members we serve. Much like Ebenezer after the ghosts visited him, CEC keeps the spirit of serving our members in our heart all year long. I hope Mr. Dickens can forgive my appropriation of his sentiment, but I truly believe that our members and employees see the difference all year long.

On behalf of our board of directors and employees let me wish you a very a wonderful holiday season and in the words of Tiny Tim “A Merry Christmas to all; God Bless us, everyone.”



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# Power Lines

## High School Juniors: Want a Free, Week-Long Trip to Washington, D.C.?

CEC proudly announces an invitation to high school juniors to experience the trip of a lifetime! Youth Tour 2018 offers students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. from June 10 to 15 and experience all the beauty and history of our nation's capital. Approximately 1,500 Youth Tour participants from across the country will see the U.S. Capitol, meet with congressmen, tour national monuments and memorials, visit the National Zoo and Smithsonian, see a Kennedy Center production and MUCH MORE! They will also learn about electric cooperatives, American history, the U.S. government and attend educational seminars. While on the tour, students will attend an All States Dinner Dance where they will have the chance to meet students from around the country. Best of all, Youth Tour is **FREE OF COST** to students!

All high school juniors who reside in a home receiving electric service from CEC are eligible. To apply, visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop), call us or see your guidance counselor. All application requirements need completed and received by CEC before

**Jan. 19.** For more information about Youth Tour visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop), contact CEC at 800-521-0570 or visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

Finalists are not only entitled to the trip to D.C., but are also eligible for special scholarships and national recognition.



2017 Youth Tour attendees: (from left) Kera Cussins, Jenna Huegel, Emmanuel McLean, Carissa Janecek & Rebecca Pennington.

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Christmas Holiday Safety Tips

The Christmas holiday is a time for families and friends to get together. Flickering lights, festive celebrations and Christmas trees are hallmarks of this season. These basic precautions will help ensure your family remains safe throughout this joyous time.


- Water fresh Christmas trees daily. Place trees away from heaters, candles, and fireplaces.
- Blow out candles.
- Consider switching to LED lights that are cooler and use less electricity than traditional lights. Turn off lights when you leave the

house or go to bed.

- Have working smoke alarms. You need working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Replace smoke alarms if they are over 10 years old.
- Use extension cords wisely. Extension cords should only be used as a temporary connection. Don't overload them and match the cord to the appliance. Never put cords under rugs as this can damage the cord and cause a fire.




**K**en's  
ilowatt  
corner



www.central.coop  
Check it out!

By Ken Maleski  
Energy Analyst &  
Member Advocate



The Christmas spirit is reaching a crescendo as we busily purchase those last minute gifts. Most of us spend more than we intend — making it a season of “red” for our checkbooks. Here are a few ideas to help you save on your energy costs, so you have a little “green” when your January electric bill rolls around.

- Switch to LED Christmas lights. They use 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, last up to 100,000 hours, produce little heat (for fire safety) and come in a wide variety of sizes and shapes.
- Use fiber optic trees and decorations. These incorporate a single bulb at the base to illuminate the whole display.
- Install timers on outdoor decorations. We recommend five hours per evening for energy savings of up to 50 percent on holiday lighting costs.

## Christmas Energy Savings

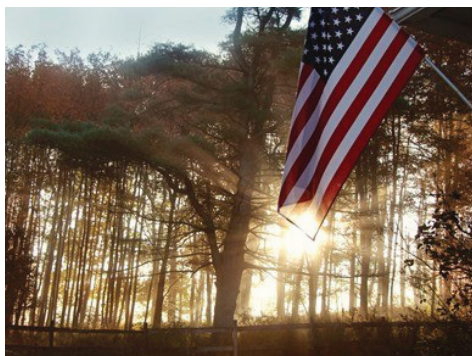
- Turn off other area lighting in the room that contains your Christmas tree, which should provide more than enough lighting to navigate around the room.
- Decorate outdoor areas with old-fashioned candle luminaries along walkways. These decorations can achieve a beautiful holiday glow without adding to the electric bill.
- Lower the thermostat a few degrees when company arrives. Extra bodies means extra warmth at no cost to you.
- Invest in rechargeable batteries (and a charger) for all those gifts that require batteries.
- Bake several dishes at a time. It takes the same amount of energy to heat a full oven as it does a nearly empty one.

Everyone at CEC wishes you, and your family, a blessed Christmas season!



## CEC's Photo Contest Winners

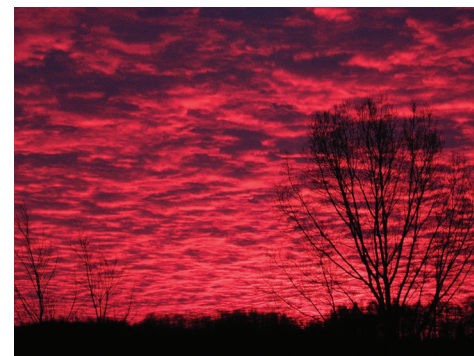
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2017 Photo Contest! We started with 37 entries, and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2018 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters.



First Place: A Patriotic Good Morning, taken by Donna Shelatree of Venus



Second Place: Easter Morning, taken by Kathy Palla of Chicora



Third Place: Farm Morning Sky, taken by Akemi Hoffman of Clintonville

## Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! Deadline is Jan. 17, 2018. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5-12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. Mail entry to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recipe of the Month

### Butter Pecan Turtle Cookie Bars

#### Crust:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup soft butter
- 1 cup whole pecan pieces

#### Caramel Layer:

- 2/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup chocolate chips

**Directions:** Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all crust ingredients except pecans. Beat at medium speed until well mixed (2 to 3 minutes). Press into bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Place pecans on top of crust.

In saucepan, combine butter and brown sugar for caramel layer. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until entire surface begins to boil. Boil for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Pour evenly over pecans. Bake 18 to 22 minutes or until entire caramel layer is bubbly.

Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Allow to melt slightly. Swirl chips leaving some whole for marbled effect. Cool completely; cut into bars. Yield: 3 dozen.

*Recipe Submitted by Marian Kalp. Thank you!*

### 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:

**Thomas Nolan of Chicora**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**John Kaltenbaugh, Jr. of Clarks Mills**

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:** You should have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas.

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

**2. True or False:** LED Christmas lights use 50 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs.

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

**3. True or False:** We do not plan for a rate increase in 2018.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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



Central Electric Cooperative

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