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Youth Tour

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# PowerLines



**Warmest thoughts and wishes for a blessed Christmas and a very happy New year.**

## All We Want for Christmas ...

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

It's the Christmas season and I'm sure we've all made our lists. I'm also sure we all want a brand-new bill format for Christmas! I know that sounds like a boring gift, but hear me out.

At our annual meeting in late August, I discussed the pieces that make up our Mission Statement. I discussed the good parts and those that need our continued attention and improvement. Among the good things I talked about, was reasonable cost.

Electricity is an essential service, but none of us want to pay any more for it than is absolutely necessary. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is pleased to report our rates are competitive with those investor-owned utilities that surround CEC, despite us having only about seven members per mile-of-line as compared to their 35 to 40. But I am not writing about that today.

At the annual meeting, I reminded you that CEC has had no rate increase since July of 2016 (nothing in 2017 and nothing in 2018). I also shared that we plan no rate increase for 2019, based on our current financial position.

Beginning in January, your monthly bill from CEC will be changing. (No, we aren't changing your rate. Like I said we have no plan to have a rate increase in 2019.) The format of your bill has become outdated and we now have the ability to improve the form and function. We have added information to our bills over the years, but have been limited to

how much we can add because of the format.

The new format allows us to provide more relevant information to our members in a more readable and user-friendly format. The first thing you will notice is the total due circle in the top portion of the bill. This allows you to quickly identify your charges. We are also taking this opportunity to simplify your bill. For our residential and seasonal members, there will be three simple pieces to your bill; base service charge, distribution charge, and generation charge. As always, the base charge is a fixed monthly charge. The distribution and generation charges are energy-use charges, based on your measured monthly kilowatt-hour consumption.

Of course, all appropriate account information will still be included so you can verify the information we provide. Service address, account number, meter number, meter readings, and usage will be printed in an organized and clear manner. We will be adding a valuable piece of usage information in the form of the demand reading. Demand represents the maximum kilowatt demand you used during the month. This will help us to ensure that the equipment we have installed can adequately meet your maximum need. It can also be helpful with managing your energy use.

“CEC has had no rate increase since July of 2016 (nothing in 2017 and nothing in 2018). I even shared that we plan no rate increase for 2019, based on our current financial position.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

## All We Want ... /From Page 2

CEC knows many of you find our usage graph very helpful to understand your usage and costs. With that in mind, we have improved the graph to include a comparison of the current usage to the previous year. We have also added a small table for comparison that, at a glance, allows you to see your current usage, average outdoor temperature, average kilowatt-hours used per day, and number of days in the billing period compared to the previous month and the same month last year. We have also added easy to find tips and tools to enhance your service with us.

We are providing all the information our previous bill did in a more organized, easier to read

format, and adding several features we hope you will find beneficial. This new format will provide a level of flexibility that allows us to better communicate with you. With all of this said, I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that even though it is a brand-new bill, it is the same old price. There is no rate increase for the new bill.

So, as I said before, it's December and all we want for Christmas is a brand-new bill format — well, and maybe a puppy. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our members and friends, and thank you for a great 2018!

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Add Safety to Your Holiday Traditions

For millions of people every year, the holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights, decorations, extraordinary foods, and lavish parties. Unfortunately, (if precautions are not taken) time-honored traditions can easily end in tragedy. Make a point to take care of yourself and those you love by taking time to decorate safely — without skipping any safety steps.

- When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them.

- Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them. GFCI protection is very important outdoors, where weather conditions can create dangerous electrical situations.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, and do not attach anything to utility poles.
- Outdoor holiday lights are for seasonal use, up to 90 days. Bring them inside after the holidays.
- Avoid decorating outside on windy or wet days. Choose to decorate in favorable weather conditions and during daylight hours.

CEC hopes your season will be full of happy and safe traditions.

## 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 2019 offers students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. from June 16 to 21 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 school's guidance counselor. All application requirements must be completed and received by CEC before **Jan. 18**. 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.

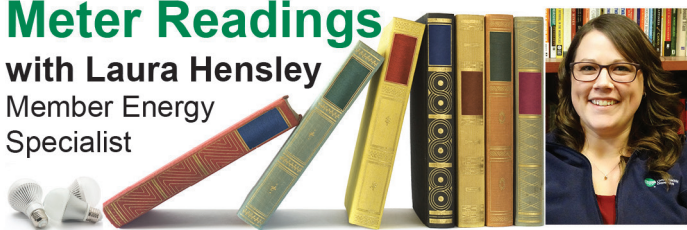


2018 Youth Tour attendees: (from left) Shannon Adams, Katie Sherman, Noah McLean, Emilee Klingler, and Kyleigh Craddock.

## Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy Specialist



As you grab your hot chocolate and favorite blanket to cozy up and begin making this year's holiday gift list, consider the often overlooked but practical present — an energy-efficient gift.

According to [Energystar.gov](http://Energystar.gov), the typical U.S. household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills. A fast-growing energy category is electronics — so why not buy a gift that will keep giving (savings)? Here are some ideas:

- LED or smart light bulbs.
- Energy-efficient or smart power strips.

## Give Gifts that Keep on Giving

- A surge protector and power strip with wireless remote, which allows you to shut off or put on standby, multiple devices at once.
- A smart or programmable thermostat.
- Computer tablet or laptop, which takes less energy to run than a desktop.
- An electric pressure cooker (expedites cooking) or slow cooker (uses less energy to cook).
- A home electricity monitor, which gives feedback on energy consumption (kind of like a Fitbit for your home).
- Solar-powered items, such as lights and cell phone and battery chargers.
- A solar-powered toy — what better way to teach kids about renewable energy?



## Holiday Safety Pledge & Drawing Contest



Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Safety Pledge & Drawing Contest for a chance to win a prize!



Deadline to enter is Jan. 18, 2019. 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 Safety Pledge Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

**I PLEDGE TO BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**



### Instructions:

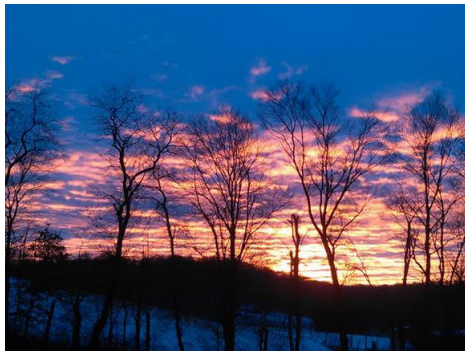
1. Include a drawing illustrating your commitment to safety this holiday season, or throughout the year, on an 8.5 x 11 inch (standard letter size) piece of paper.
2. On the drawing, include your Holiday Safety Pledge. Example One: I pledge to always look up for power lines when decorating for Christmas. Example Two: I pledge to never play around or inside an electric substation.
3. On a separate piece of paper, include your name, age, CEC member's name, CEC account number, address, and telephone number.
4. Crayons, colored pencils, markers, colored pens, etc. are all fine. Just no computer created illustrations.

## CEC's Photo Contest Winners

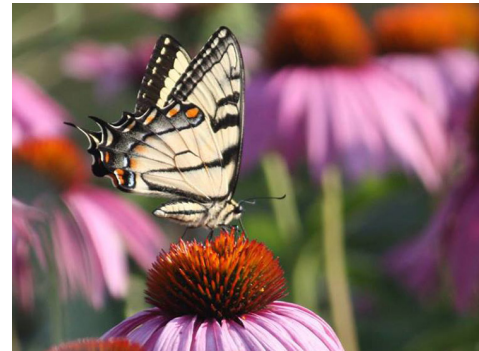
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2018 Photo Contest! We started with 45 entries, and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2019 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters.



First Place: Cherish Freedom, taken by Martin Harold of Fenelton



Second Place: Sunrise in Butler County, taken by Linda Harigan of Saxonburg



Third Place: Morning Snack, taken by Donna Shelatree of Venus

## Recipe of the Month

### Ginger Nut Nog French Toast

**Ingredients:**

- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 3/4 cup eggnog
- 12 slices of bread

**Directions:** Beat together eggs, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger. Add eggnog. Dip bread in mixture. Cook bread slices in lightly greased pan on both sides. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve warm with maple syrup.

*Thank you Judy Spangle for submitting this recipe!*

## Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to: Renee Tritten at 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:

**Kathleen & Bill Barklow of Tionesta**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**David McDougal of Grove City**

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:** Home electricity monitors give feedback on energy consumption (kind of like a Fitbit for your home).

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

**2. True or False:** There is no rate increase as part of the new bill.

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

**3. True or False:** GFCI protection is not important outdoors.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Central Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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