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PowerLines

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill. And may the year ahead be full of peace and joy. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Reflection and Preparation

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

The month of December is a transitional month, offering a unique opportunity each year to look back, and consider what was accomplished while simultaneously making plans for the year to come. At Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) we use this time to review and update our three-year strategic plan, as well as finalize the finances for the year, and prepare budgets for the next.

Our workforce evolved, we tackled our rights-of-way and maintained our rates through 2019. All in all, a very positive look back. As an 82-year-old company that provides an essential service and needs to remain viable in perpetuity, our changes are often evolutionary rather than revolutionary. But contrasting that, we are a small company in comparison to the giant investor-owned utilities- that offers us an opportunity to be perhaps a little more nimble in making changes. Many companies are facing a generational change and CEC is no different. We have an ever-increasing group of newer, younger employees that are bringing new ideas that our more senior employees are helping to implement with the experience and patience required to maintain our essential service.

Enhancing our preparation process for 2020, our Board of Directors held a strategic planning workshop in September that covered a wide variety of topics. One primary area of emphasis was our strategic plan and specifically the portions of the plan that the Board uses to provide clear direction to the cooperative

staff. The Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Initiatives were all reviewed, revised and updated to match our efforts going forward. The areas of emphasis- safety, rates, reliability and community- are still at the forefront of our efforts, but the Board added priority and consistency throughout. I can't stress enough how valuable these changes are for those of us charged with implementing the plan. They provide direction necessary to allow us to utilize the resources provided in the most effective and efficient way possible.

In some ways, December can be very quiet here at CEC but in others very busy. Finalizing the previous year and making certain things are in place to begin the next can be a stark contrast to the relative calm of the cold weather and Christmas carols. Because of the support and direction provided by our Board and the hard work of our employees, CEC had a good 2019 and we are ready to hit the ground running in 2020.

I would like to recognize everyone that has made 2019 positive and worked to create a plan for 2020 that focuses on improvement. The list is far too long to include individual names but thank you to our employees, the Board of Directors, and our members. May your look back at 2019 be a happy one, your plans for 2020 fill you with hope, and may your December be filled the joy of the holiday season.

“Our workforce evolved, we tackled our rights of way and maintained our rates through 2019.

All in all, a very positive look back”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley
Member Energy
Specialist



Winter Heating Mistakes to Avoid

- **Forgetting to program your thermostat.** You can save about 10 percent annually by setting the thermostat back 7-10 degrees for eight hours each day, according to the Department of Energy. A programmable thermostat can assist you with this. Make sure your programmable thermostat settings are suitable for a heat pump if you have one, as smaller adjustments are likely best.

- **Not caulking cracks and leaks.** Warm air naturally moves to cooler spaces and in the winter that could be your attic, basement, or even outside. To keep heated air within your living spaces, make sure to seal all cracks and gaps with caulking or spray foam. Areas to check include chimneys, duct work, plumbing, electrical outlets, windows, and doors.

- **Not insulating your attic hatch.** You may have spent the time and money to add insulation to your attic, but did you remember to insulate the attic hatch? Adding several inches of foam board insulation and appropriate weather stripping can go a long way to keep heated air in.

- **Using your ceiling fan incorrectly.** In the summer, your ceiling fan should move clockwise to cool bodies in the room. In the winter months, find the switch on the fan body to allow counter-clockwise operation. Run at a low speed to allow the fan to push warm air near the ceiling downward.

- **Forgetting to change your furnace filter.** Check your furnace manual or ask your HVAC technician the minimum requirement for changing or cleaning your filter. Monthly is often recommended. Consider changing/cleaning more often if you have multiple pets or your furnace is in a particularly dusty space.

- **Placing furniture in the way of your heat.** Be sure to allow adequate space around furnace air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators. Blocking such heat sources with furniture, carpet, or drapes can effect heating efficiency.

CEC's Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2019 Photo Contest! We started with 40 entries, and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2020 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters.



First Place: Peek A Boo Bears, taken by Diana Kunselman of Rimersburg



Second Place: Ooo, That Tickles My Nose!, taken by Donna Shelatree of Venus



Third Place: America the Beautiful, taken by Riley Kearney of Harrisville

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

Have you always wondered what you would say to your senator, or a member of Congress, given the opportunity? Or how you would feel watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? Or what you would see while sailing down the Potomac River?

For more than 50 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored Youth Tour by selecting high school juniors for a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. to experience, first hand, the essence that is our republic. Combining leadership, cooperation, and history with fun, Youth Tour is not your ordinary sight-seeing trip. Attendees spend a day on Capitol Hill meeting with senators and representatives; witness the profound grandeur of monuments to the greatest leaders; reflect on the true cost of freedom by eyeing row upon row of white crosses throughout Arlington National Cemetery; experience what life was like on George Washington's beloved Mount Vernon plantation;

and unlock their individual spirit.

All high school juniors who reside in a home receiving electric service from CEC are eligible. To apply, visit www.central.coop, call us, or see your high school guidance counselor. All application requirements must be completed and received by CEC before January 10, 2020. For more information about Youth Tour visit www.youthtour.coop.



SAFETY MATTERS

Tips for Staying Safe this Holiday Season

Gathering with family and friends during the holidays often means making great memories, reliving traditions, and sharing the spirit of the season. However, amid all the festivities, don't forget about safety. Here are some tips to help ensure that your holiday season remains a safe one.

Keep safety in mind when decorating your home. Ensure that your tree is placed at least 3 feet away from heat sources and on a stable platform. Before hanging holiday lights, check for worn spots, fraying, and excessive kinking. Damaged strands of lights should not be used.

Don't get burned in the kitchen. Clean your stovetop and oven often. Doing so will help prevent

fires in the kitchen, should a malfunction or accident take place. Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stove top. Keep all appliance cords away from heat. Plug appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.

Whether you are leaving the home for a few hours or for a few weeks, turn off all holiday lights and decorations when they are not in use. Your neighbors can still enjoy your exterior Christmas lights while you are away if you put them on an automatic timer. This will remove the extra worry of an electrical accident while also reducing energy costs.



Our Holiday Coloring Contest is Back!

Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! Deadline is Jan. 17, 2020. 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

Craisin-Walnut Coffee Cake with Greek Yogurt

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1-1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1-1/2 cup craisins
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1-1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees and flour a 9-inch baking pan. Cream butter and a cup of sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Blend in Greek yogurt. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt into another bowl. Blend into the creamed mixture. Mix well. Spread half of the batter in the pan. Mix nuts and remaining sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle half the nut mixture over batter. Sprinkle craisins, spreading carefully. Sprinkle remaining nut mixture over the top. Bake 40-50 minutes. Cool in pan 10-15 minutes. Then remove from pan and put on a rack. Serve warm.

*Thank you to Ronald & Lois Peck
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:

Bill Bobbert of Parker

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Ken Edinboro of West Sunbury

Read Power Lines for a chance to 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 can save about 10 percent annually by setting the thermostat back 7-10 degrees for eight hours each day.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Regularly cleaning your stovetop and oven helps reduce fires in the kitchen.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: CEC is an 82 year old company.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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