

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative



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## AI at a Cooperative

**BY MATTHEW BOSHAW**  
CEO & General Manager

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has become a hot topic of discussion recently, stirring a range of emotions – both positive and negative. There are some that see it as an amazing tool to increase efficiency and add value in several ways. However, others see it as the first step towards “Terminator” the sci-fi thriller in which the machines were wiping out humanity and Arnold famously uttered, “I’ll be back.” Personally, I lean toward the former interpretation but acknowledge the need to guard against potential unintended consequences.

Our cooperative has been using AI for decades, using tools like a predictive modeling program that efficiently allows us to estimate the scope and location of power outages. In fact, many of us have been using AI in various forms for longer than we realize – whether it be the autocorrect function on our phones or IBM’s Watson DeepQA, defeating former Jeopardy Champions, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, back in 2011. Technology has since advanced, leading us to what we now refer to as Generative AI (GenAI).

Much like Arnold in Terminator,

GenAI can be thought of as AI on steroids. The tool is remarkably powerful and can mimic many activities that humans do. This mimicry often raises concerns about the potential dangers of AI. Like any tool, it can be misused or poorly implemented, and bad actors may exploit it for harmful purposes. In all these cases, people are the problem, not the tool. As with any innovation, there are both pros and cons, and the decision to utilize it requires careful consideration of these factors.

Even as a proponent of the tool, I recognize that choices regarding its use are not always straightforward. AI can effectively manage large amounts of repetitive tasks or data, saving time and providing useful insights for better, timely decisions. However, letting the tool make its own decisions comes with risks and should be approached with caution.

In the utility world, its use is contradictory as it can add significant efficiency to an electric grid but can also be the source of huge demand on that same grid. It is estimated that a GenAI internet search consumes ten times the power of a standard Google search. The proliferation of datacenters, primarily to develop and support GenAI, intensifies concerns about available capacity in the current marketplace. The

*Continued on page 2*

premature closure of base load generators without suitable replacements, combined with this surge in demand, has already resulted in a capacity market auction in the PJM grid that yields prices ten times higher than the previous year. While I have reported this capacity market issue before, I think it is relevant in this discussion as GenAI is a direct contributor to the issue. Cooperative members will initially be impacted by increased rates as a result. The larger concern, however, is the actual availability of power as the demand continues to rise.

By way of full disclosure, this article has been written without the assistance of GenAI. While the tool can bring value and assistance to communication, I believe, especially in communicating with our members, humans must have control of the message. Cooperatives are uniquely positioned to implement this technology wisely as we are small enough to react quickly and remain connected to our membership. We will continue to evaluate the changing landscape of GenAI functionality and, where appropriate, integrate its use to the benefit of our membership.

## Round Up & Make a Difference this Season

Round up your monthly bill to the nearest dollar through CEC's Round-Up Program and help local families in need pay their energy bills this winter.



## MANAGEMENT TEAM

<b>Matthew P. Boshaw</b>	<i>CEO &amp; General Manager</i>
<b>Chester Conti</b>	<i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i>
<b>Lisa A. Hoover</b>	<i>Director of Member Services</i>
<b>Christopher W. Kossman</b>	<i>Director of Information Technology</i>
<b>Fred E. Terwilliger</b>	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

# CEC Holiday Closures

Dec. 24 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 for Christmas Day (normal business hours resume Dec. 26)

Dec. 31 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 for New Year's Day (normal business hours resume Jan 2)

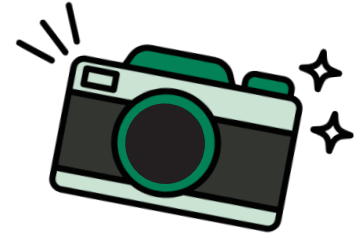
**Central Electric Cooperative**  
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For you, your family, & your home, we wish you a safe and cheerful **HOLIDAY SEASON.**

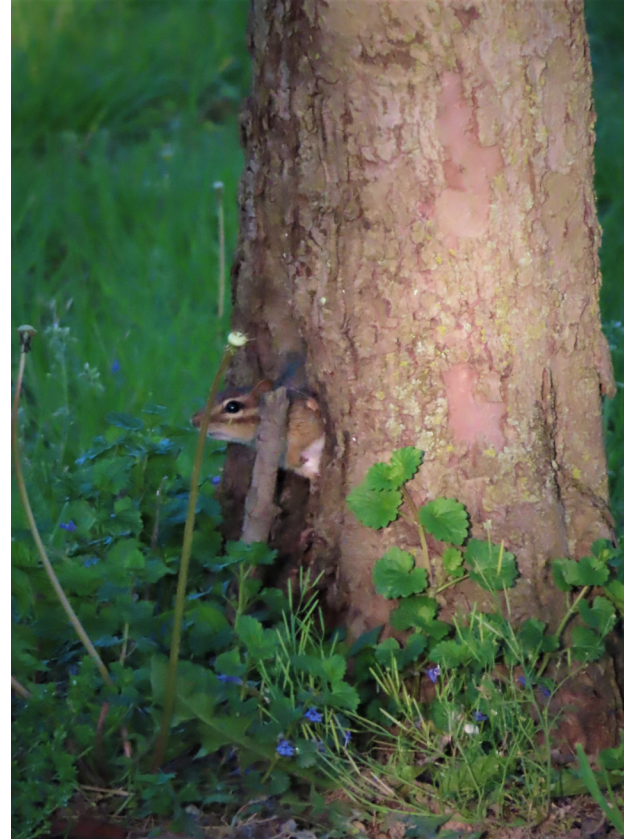
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## 2024 Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2024 Photo Contest. After 3,851 online and paper (via the Power Lines newsletter) votes, our top three photographs have been selected. Congratulations to the following winners!



**First Place: "Hovering Hummingbird,"**  
Carol Kruth of Saxonburg



**Third Place: "Who goes There?!",**  
Kathy Palla of Chicora



**Second Place: "Peek-a-Boo,"**  
Amber Ford of Harrisville

## Last Call for the CEC Christmas Lights Contest!



Deck your halls and home and you could win the CEC Christmas Lights Contest! **First place (the Griswold Award) will receive a \$500 bill credit and a \$500 donation to a charity of the member's choice! Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit and third a \$100 bill credit!**

The contest is open to both residential and commercial CEC members. To enter, complete the registration form on CEC's website and attach a photo or video of the display before Dec. 8. Voting is open to all and will take place on CEC's website until Dec. 20. The winners will be announced on CEC's website on Dec. 23.

**Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) for contest details!**



## Holiday Safety Checklist

by Kayla Clark, Training and Events Specialist

**D**uring the month of December, traveling is at its peak as people make their way to their families' homes, cottages, and nearby hotels. Unfortunately, increased travel, whether by plane or car, can lead to increased accidents or emergencies.

If you are traveling, start by prepping for your trip days or even weeks ahead of time to aim for a safe journey. Be sure your car is up to date on maintenance and repairs. It's essential to have extra fluids and a roadside repair kit on hand. Verify your car is equipped with a spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and safety triangles in the event you have a flat (or consider getting a AAA membership!). Share your itinerary with someone you are not traveling with, so they are aware of your plans and location in case of an emergency. Additionally, pack a first aid kit, extra clothes, and flashlights in your car. Always buckle up and be ready for potential traffic delays while driving.

If you are hosting family during the holidays, prioritize safety in your home. Keep emergency information accessible, including the locations of the nearest hospitals and urgent care centers, contact numbers for local police, EMS, and utility outage services. Establish a well-stocked first aid kit and inform guests of its location. Discuss a



meeting spot in case of a fire with all guests and check that all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly – this is a great time to replace the batteries. Also, inspect your indoor and outdoor plants for any that may be poisonous or hazardous to pets and children as a precaution.

When cooking meals, for guests or yourself, there are several items to consider. Wash your hands frequently, and keep raw meat away from other foods, especially fruits and vegetables. Never leave stovetop burners unattended while cooking. Be cautious with candles, fireplaces, and turkey fryers, as they can easily start fires. These are just a few reasons why it is vital to own a fire extinguisher and keep it in an easily accessible location in your home. All small items that could be a choking hazard, such as magnets or batteries, appliances, and cords should be kept out of reach of children. If you need a gift idea this holiday, safety gear, such as helmets, roadside kits, and first aid kits make for great presents!

By taking these small precautions, you can help prevent accidents and be prepared in case of emergencies. Plan to keep your loved ones safe this season!



**Role:** Manager of Accounting  
**Employee Since:** March 2021

## Employee Spotlight: Samantha Prasky



**What do you do at CEC?** I manage the accounting and finance department. This includes payroll, accounts payable, and general ledger. I also do the annual budget, monthly financial statements, and debt portfolio. All the fun stuff.



**What is your favorite family tradition?** Every year, my husband and I go to the Florida Keys over the Christmas holiday. I love seeing the tropical twist with all the lights, trees, and decorations.



**Do you have any pets?** I have an all-white English Bulldog named Tubby.



**What's the best trip you've ever been on and why?** I went to Tanzania, Africa to teach a few elementary schools how to setup and use an accounting system. It was such a great experience to see the way of life there and meet new people. I also enjoyed seeing all the different animals on a safari tour.



**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** I enjoy sitting on my porch with a good book, and soaking in the sun.



LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY



# Explore. Learn. Connect.

*By: Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative*

**A**ttention highschool juniors! Imagine a week filled with exploration, inspiration, and connections that could shape your future. Join students from across the nation for a FREE, week-long trip in Washington, D.C. as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, sponsored by Central Electric Cooperative (CEC).

This leadership-focused tour not only offers an opportunity to explore the nation’s capital but also equips you with valuable skills for personal and professional growth. Lydia Scardina attended Youth Tour 2023 as CEC’s student representative. She states, “My Youth Tour experience influenced me by showing me so many wonderful, unique people, and their experiences. Everyone was so willing to share their stories and offer amazing advice that helped guide me.”

Participants will engage in many insightful activities, learning about cooperatives, the history of our nation and different career paths. The week includes visits to D.C.’s many memorials, monuments, and museums, along with the chance to speak with their elected representative in the Capitol building. Scardina states, “There was so much that I learned on this trip. I loved seeing how they are coming up with new ways to help their communities.” Students

can have fun while gaining a better understanding of democracy and their impact on the community.

Youth Tour is more than just sight-seeing, it’s about learning, growing, and connecting with others. One of the most memorable parts of the trip for Scardina was the pin trading activity. She states, “It was such an incredible way to meet people.” Each state is provided with unique pins to trade with other students, creating a fun and interactive way to connect with one another.

Even if you’re attending solo, you may find that making friends is easier than you think. “I didn’t think I would make many friends or enjoy it as much as I hoped to,” Scardina states, “Luckily, I was entirely wrong and the friends I made are some of the greatest people I have ever met.”

This Summer, from June 16-21, 2025, you could experience the trip of a lifetime. Lydia states, “Whether you’re nervous to go or don’t think it is something you would enjoy, trust me, you will love it. It really is a once in a lifetime experience.” Ready to take the next step? Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) for more information and to apply. Don’t miss out – adventure awaits in Washington, D.C.!



## Recipes for Energy Savings

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

The holiday season is here and if your family is anything like mine that means COOKIES! In my family, we have a cookie day where we all get together and make our holiday cookies then disperse them amongst everyone. This gives us quality time together while getting all the baking done at one time. I didn't know prior to being in this position at CEC the energy-saving side of holiday baking. Did you know that baking all your holiday treats in one go saves energy? Leaving the oven on instead of heating it up each time you bake makes a big difference. Try not to open your oven until your timer goes off, if you have a window on your oven door this would be a good time to utilize it. If you have a dishwasher, washing your dishes all in one load also saves energy and water and if you let them air dry it will save even more!

There are many ways to save energy while cooking



holiday meals too. Turning down your thermostat while using your oven is an easy place to start. Coordinating your burner size with your pot or pan size is more important than you realize. Using a smaller pot on a larger burner can waste about 40% of the burner's heat.

Using a lid can also help heat food faster by keeping the heat from escaping, making it more efficient. Another way to be energy efficient while making your holiday meals is to use smaller appliances such as a crockpot, air fryer, toaster oven or even a pressure cooker.

We have our desserts, our delicious meal, so now, what about our guests? If you're following my advice,



your thermostat should already be lowered. Having more guests in your home helps to keep it warmer, which in turn means your furnace shouldn't have to run as often. Hopefully, you've stuck to your maintenance schedule and changed the filter to ensure your furnace operates efficiently. Adjusting your lighting can help you to be energy efficient as well. Make sure unnecessary lights are turned off. If you have holiday decorations you would like to showcase, consider turning off other lights that may compete with them. And remember, we always recommend LED lighting for lower energy use.

As always, we at CEC wish you energy savings and a happy holiday season!

## 2025 CEC Line Clearing

CEC will begin tree trimming January 1st, 2025, and continue work throughout the year, to reduce risks of outages and service interruptions. Contracted line clearing crews will work in the areas surrounding the Karns City and Lucinda substations.

CEC will utilize Treemsmiths Utility Arborists, Davey Tree Service, O'Connell Electric to carry out trimming

[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)

services. CEC members may encounter contracted crews. All contractors carry company issued identification.

Central Electric Cooperative respects property owners' rights, completing the work professionally, and as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-521-0570.

# Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter the CEC Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline to submit your coloring page is Jan. 10, 2025. 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 entries to Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049



Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

From the Kitchen of:  
**Ronald & Louise Peck**

RECIPE: **HASHBROWN CASSEROLE**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package frozen hash browns (thawed)
- 1 can condensed cr. of potato soup
- 1 c. sour cream
- 2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- salt and pepper to taste



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, combine soup, sourcream, and seasoning. Add hashbrowns and cheddar cheese. Mix well.
2. Pour into greased 13 x 9 baking dish. Top with parmesan.
3. Bake uncovered at 350° for 55-60min. Let cool for 10 min and enjoy!

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci at [icellucci@central.coop](mailto:icellucci@central.coop) or mail to P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA



**Central Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy\* Cooperative



**Your Board of Directors**

**From left (back row):** Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Vice President, Clarion County; Kenneth Durrett, Butler County; Richard Weaver, Clarion County; **(front)** Ken Etzel, Venango County; Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; and Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County.



[central.coop/meet-your-directors](http://central.coop/meet-your-directors)

**MISSION:** CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.



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Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

