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Run for a  
Director's Seat

Apply for the Good  
Neighbor Scholarship

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## Board of Directors

Jody P. Weaver  
*President*

Kenneth Durrett  
*Vice President*

Althea M. Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

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Nancy Lendyak  
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# PowerLines

Photo by Sidney Pearce on Unsplash

## Many Voices — One Cooperative

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

In case the constant stream of news and social media notifications have escaped your attention, 2020 will have some important elections. If you are anything like me, you might be experiencing some political burnout from what appears to be a never-ending battle of ideology — or maybe just name calling. It can be difficult to tell the difference. With that said, I need to stress the importance of participation in the political process and the selection of candidates who represent your views — especially in rural America.

For many years voter participation in rural America had been on the decline and it had begun to lead to rural areas being underrepresented in Washington and Harrisburg. In 2016, we saw somewhat of a resurgence in rural voting and that has led to our elected officials being more willing to hear

rural issues and concerns. As the CEO of your cooperative I am an active participant, with those who govern, in representing the issues of importance to Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and electric cooperatives collectively. The board of directors, employees of CEC, and I interact with elected officials at all levels (local, state, and national) to ensure the cooperative's best interests are represented.

It is often said that cooperatives were born in politics and, if we are poor stewards, will die in politics. So why do not-for-profit electric cooperatives get the attention of our legislators? It is not because of money. As a group, we contribute a small fraction of the contributions that are received from other organizations and lobbyists. Much like our increased voter turnout in 2016 got their attention, our individual and collective

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### Don't Forget to Apply for the Good Neighbor Scholarship!

The deadline for Good Neighbor Scholarships is March 15.

Eligible candidates for Good Neighbor Scholarships are students who are furthering their education by attending a college or trade school. CEC will award ten scholarships of \$2,000 each in early May 2020. To apply for the scholarship the applicant, or their parent or guardian, must be a member of CEC and must be accepted to a post-secondary educational or training institution.

For more information contact Emily Shumaker at 800-521-0570 x2152 or visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

participation is hard to ignore. When a representative from our statewide or national association is speaking to one of our elected officials, they are representing us — not funding — but real people, constituents, and votes. Not faceless people — but those who the legislators know and have heard from personally on the issues raised by our representatives. Issues that directly affect our cooperative and the communities we serve. That is a powerful political motivator.

All of this brings me to what you can do to add to this motivation and help to keep rural and cooperative issues in the conversation — VOTE! If we were in Chicago, I would even say vote early and vote often, but vote nonetheless. Nothing illustrates, to those running for office, the influence of rural America like increased participation at the ballot box. You might notice that I haven't advocated that you vote one way or another, this is because the important point is to vote. Several years ago cooperatives launched an initiative intended to engage rural voters called Co-ops Vote! Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program, introduced by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas. During the 2012 presidential election voter turnout was down 18 percent in rural areas. The Co-ops Vote program is designed to engage cooperative members. Co-ops Vote will not endorse or recommend candidates; however, it will educate members on candidates' stances on issues of importance to cooperatives.

Please visit our website and click the *Make Your Voice Heard!* link at the top of the page or visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) and you can learn more about being an active participant in the process.

Another way you can help to shape the future here in Western Pennsylvania is by joining your board of directors, me, and most of the employees in a political action organization which represents the interests of your cooperative and its members. Today's legislation will greatly affect your electric bill tomorrow. The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Co-op Owners for Political Action<sup>®</sup> is a bi-partisan, political action committee representing the interests of cooperatives and their members. It brings important issues to the attention of your representatives on both the state and federal levels. As I mentioned, it is our numbers — not our dollars, which demonstrate the strength of our area. When a lobbyist for a special interest or corporation is meeting with a legislator, they can provide large contributions, but they don't represent the constituency of that legislator. When you join ACRE, you know the program's representatives are meeting with legislators who know us and our best interests, and that they are advocating for them. The efforts of this action committee have led to significant cost savings and protections for rural electric members which makes it possible to

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continue to provide electric service throughout rural areas.

I can't stress enough how important your participation is for both your cooperative and your community. Please consider joining us and making your voice heard. At the risk of repeating myself, these efforts are bipartisan or even nonpartisan. You might even call them Co-op Partisan, to coin a new

phrase. For those of you who are already participants — thank you, and please tell a friend. We can make a difference and make our voices heard together. As always, thank you for your continued support of your cooperative.

## **Meter Readings**

**with Laura Hensley**

Member Energy  
Specialist



If you have purchased a television in the last five years, chances are you have a pretty energy efficient option. Advancing technology means that although households are adding more televisions, and they are getting bigger, we aren't necessarily paying a lot more for our in-home entertainment through our energy bills.

Liquid crystal displays, commonly known as LCDs, are largely popular and are an affordable energy-efficient option. Today, LCD displays utilize light-emitting diode, or LED, technology for backlighting to boost efficiency and are sometimes referred to as LED televisions. Older LCD televisions may use less-efficient cold cathode-fluorescent lamps, or CCFLs, for back lighting. If you are in the market for the latest technology, organic light-emitting diode, or OLED, options more fully utilize LED technology and will take the title of most energy efficient option, but they will also be the priciest.

So — when it comes to an average television, newly purchased in the last five years, the energy cost per year (based on being used five hours per day) is likely to be in the range of \$8 for a 32-inch LED television to \$25 for a 70-inch LED display.

## **Energy Efficient Televisions**

### **Purchasing a New Television:**

- Look for an Energy Star rated television — this means you are purchasing one of the most efficient options on the market in that category.
- Look at the EnergyGuide on the product to see the estimated operating cost.
- Buy the smallest size you can to meet your needs. The smaller the screen — the less electricity needed to power it.
- Avoid plasma televisions. There may be Energy Star versions available, but they will use more electricity than other available displays.

### **Energy-Saving Tips:**

- Turn it off when no one is watching.
- If you like it for the noise, try a wireless speaker connected to an audio streaming service instead.
- When streaming, a tablet will use less energy than a television.
- Turn down the contrast and brightness, and watch with low room-lighting.
- Use power strips to turn off your television and accessories, like the cable box and gaming system, by clicking one button.
- You could also ask your cable provider for an Energy Star rated set-top box and buy Energy Star rated accessories, like sound bars, to assist with your energy saving efforts.

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Power Line Myths Debunked

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines and other conundrums:

### What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area, call 9-1-1, and do not return to the area until you are given the okay by authorities.

### Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark or arc and it may not make any noise at all.

### What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel. If you smell gasoline or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (don't touch the car and ground at the same time) and hop away.

### Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.

Contact us at 800-521-0570 with any questions about downed lines.

**5 HOURS**  
of cooking  
on an electric  
stovetop



**1430 HOURS**  
of smartphone  
charging

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH



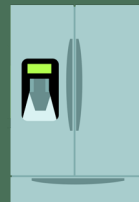
## \$1 WORTH OF ELECTRICITY?

Based on \$0.14 per kWh.  
These are estimates based on average power  
consumption.

**120 HOURS**  
on your  
laptop



Wash  
**14 LOADS**  
of laundry

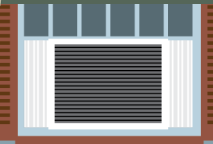


Run a large  
refrigerator for  
**48 HOURS**

**720 HOURS**  
of light from a  
LED light bulb



**72 HOURS** of  
shows on an  
OLED TV



**8 HOURS** of  
cooling with a  
room  
air-conditioner



## Are You Interested in a CEC Director's Seat?

As a CEC member, you have a voice in who serves on the eight-member board of directors. Every year, members elect two directors for a four-year term. Director seats are divided among the counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Butler and Clarion counties are invited to run for these two seats. To be eligible for nomination you must be a CEC member in good standing, have a permanent residence in that county, and meet other qualifications required by CEC's bylaws.

Please submit the coupon below by April 1, 2020 to receive a qualifications list and nominating petition. If you meet the qualifications, you will then send a written request, including your full name, address, telephone number, county of residence, and account number, along with a completed petition signed by 20 cooperative members to the nominating committee by May 1, 2020.

After the cooperative confirms your eligibility, you will visit the CEC office to attend an orientation

meeting and meet with the nominating committee for an interview. The committee then submits a list of the eligible candidates for placement on the ballot.

Nominee names, along with a photo and background information, are presented in the July issue of Power Lines. Cooperative members will vote by mail or Internet prior to the annual meeting, or vote by paper ballot on the day of the meeting, Aug. 23, 2020, prior to the meeting's commencement. Election results will be announced prior to adjournment.

More information about running for the board is available by visiting [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

**Your board of directors has appointed a nominating committee to review prospective candidates interested in running for CEC director.**

**Committee members are:**

**Armstrong County**

**Harvey W. Loose**  
East Brady

**Forest County**

**Dennis Lamb**  
Tionesta

**Butler County**

**Joe Gibson**  
Parker

**Venango County**

**Carl E. Gadsby**  
Grove City

**Ronald Morrison**  
Cabot

**Ron Paranick**  
Cranberry

**Clarion County**

**James M. Reed**  
Fryburg

**Randy Tharan**  
Knox



If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee, please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2020 to:  
Central Electric Cooperative, Nominating Committee, PO Box 329, 716 Route 368, Parker, PA 16049.

Please send me a qualification list and petition requirements for being a director nominee to Central Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

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

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

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

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recipe of the Month

### Crazy Cake with Penuche Icing

#### Cake Ingredients:

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups cold water
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder
- 2/3 cup oil
- 2 teaspoons baking soda

**Directions:** Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Make three holes. Pour vanilla, vinegar, and oil each in their own hole. Pour water over the top and stir. Pour into greased 9x13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes.

#### Icing Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- Powdered sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup milk

**Directions:** Melt butter, add brown sugar, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer stirring constantly for two minutes. Remove from heat, add milk, return to heat just to reach boil. Cool. Beat with mixer while slowly adding powdered sugar until spreadable.

*Thank you to Rita Nixon for submitting this recipe!*

## CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti  
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:

**Cheryl Gray of Erie**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Shirley Garver of Valencia**

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](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:** Downed power lines have to be arcing and sparking to be live and dangerous.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** In the upcoming election, CEC encourages you to vote — regardless of who you choose to vote for.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** Plasma TVs are as energy efficient as LED displays.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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