



Photo from Unsplash

**Inside:**

Forest County Board Member Vacancy

Introducing CEC's New Website

**“Watts” Inside**

Space Heaters	3
Youth Tour 2021	3
2021 Good Neighbor Scholarship	4
Winter Weather Prep	4
Board Member Vacancy	5
Introducing CEC's New Website	5
Beer Dip Recipe	6

**Board of Directors**

Nancy Lendyak  
*President*

Kenneth Etzel  
*Vice President*

Althea Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Kenneth Durrett  
Robert Smith  
Jody Weaver  
Richard Weaver

**We Want You!**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is a private, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative. There is a lot to that description, but it describes what we do, who we are, and what we stand for. Electric distribution is what we do, but being a private, not-for-profit cooperative is who we are.

All cooperatives are guided the Seven Cooperative Principles, but none of those principles are more important than democratic member control — which is why we are governed by a member-elected board of directors.

I have written articles over the years about our board of directors and the value they bring to our organization. We have eight directors who have been elected by our members to represent all members and guide our cooperative. The directors are elected by the entire membership, but come from specific areas of CEC's service

territory. This ensures representation that reflects the entire service territory. The board has two directors representing Butler, Clarion, and Venango Counties respectively; and one representing Armstrong and Forest Counties respectively.

We ask a lot from our board. We are not just a poles and wires company. We ask them to be engaged and educated in the entirety of the cooperative business model. This includes daily operations and finances, of course, but it also includes the cooperative principles, relationships with our members, interactions with our national and statewide associations, and political advocacy regarding issues important to the cooperative with our elected representatives. We also ask them to attend board and committee meetings and training courses on a variety of topics, and to network with their counterparts at other cooperatives

***We Want You! /Page 2***

## **We Want You! /From Page 1**

and bring best practices to our cooperative for discussion. It isn't an easy duty, but it is necessary and important to the continued success of your cooperative.

This description brings me to the point of this article — we want you. Sadly, in September 2020 we lost one of our long-serving board members when Bette Walters passed away. Mrs. Walters served CEC by representing Forest County since 1988. She leaves some big shoes to fill as she had represented CEC at our national and statewide associations during her time here and served in several leadership roles for the cooperative. She was an engaged board member who always put the membership first.

So — we are looking for a member who is willing to serve in her place. Given that Mrs. Walters had been reelected in August 2019, our board has decided to appoint a replacement to fill her seat for the remainder of her four-year term. From now through mid-February, we will be soliciting candidates to fill the vacated director seat representing Forest County. Our solicitation will be in local newspapers, our website, other community websites, our newsletter, word-of-mouth, and any other way we can identify interested candidates. If appointed, the new director will need to run for election in 2023.

This process starts with you. If you are interested, please contact us. Those interested in the position need to be a member in good standing, a full-time resident of Forest County, and

meet all of the requirements per the cooperative's by-laws. Eligible candidates will be interviewed by our Nominating Committee. The committee will then make a recommendation to the board of directors regarding the candidates they recommend for the board to consider. The board of directors will then select a candidate from those submitted for consideration. During the process, cooperative staff will provide information to the respective candidates about the duties and responsibilities of board members.

The process is involved, but given its importance to the cooperative, necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite Forest County members to engage in this process. Even if you are not ultimately selected for the position, it is an opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and for your cooperative to learn more about you. It is this connection to our members that illustrates who we are.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and remember — We Want You!

“I would like to take this opportunity to invite Forest County members to engage in this process. Even if you are not ultimately selected for the position, it is an opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and for your cooperative to learn more about you. It is this connection to our members that illustrates who we are.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &  
General Manager

**If you would like more information on filling the Forest County director vacancy, please see Page 5 of this newsletter or CEC's website.**

## Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**  
Member Energy  
Specialist



Throughout my 2021 articles, I will highlight appliances and other items that come up most when discussing energy usage with members. I will share operating costs and tips for energy savings. Since we are beginning in the winter, we will tackle space heaters first.

Electric space heaters are intended to offer comfort and supplement your home's heating system. They are designed for heating spaces you are occupying. Electric space heaters are energy efficient, as all of the energy required to create heat comes out as heat — no wasted energy.

There are a variety of types of electric space heaters. Each design offers something different. For example, radiant heaters are designed to heat objects, not the air in the room. This is good for when you want to warm up quickly and aren't worried about warming the room. Convection heaters are designed to heat the room by circulating warm air up and away from the unit — this is ideal for heating a room for longer periods of time. Newer infrared options combine infrared

## Space Heaters

technology and a fan to distribute heat into the room. Infrared options commonly look like fireplaces or attractive wood cabinets.

The reality is almost all electric space heaters, regardless of how they produce heat, use the same amount of electricity to operate. So — no matter what it looks like or how much you spend on the unit, it will likely require the same amount of power to operate — 1,500 watts.

Your monthly electric bill is the total kilowatt-hours (kWh) used in one month. A kWh is 1,000 watts used for one hour. So that 1,500 watt space heater is using 1.5 kilowatts each hour it is in operation, or 1.5 kWh. Given current rates, a space heater will cost \$0.17 per hour. Running the space heater for eight hours per day, every day of the month, that's about \$40 per month.

In addition to matching the space heater to your needs, buy a heater with a thermostat and timer option to help you save energy. Remember that space heaters are designed to warm you or a small space, so only use for rooms you are occupying.

For your safety, never leave any space heater unattended. Be sure the unit is on a flat surface, away from foot traffic and objects, and always plug the unit directly into an outlet.

## Youth Tour 2021 — Cancellation Notice

For over 50 years, teens from all-across rural America have been heading to Washington, D.C. for the “trip of a lifetime” known as Youth Tour, courtesy of their local electric cooperatives (like CEC), statewide electric cooperative associations (like the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Over the years, these students have toured some of the finest museums in the world and visited America's most historic monuments. They have met with their elected officials and explored Capitol

Hill. Most importantly, they have learned about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities.

Sadly, this year, because of COVID-19 and our overarching commitment to keeping students, staff, and communities safe, Pennsylvania cooperatives will not participate in Youth Tour this June. While everyone regrets having to make this decision, we hope Youth Tour will be back in 2022 and be better than ever.

Thank you for understanding.

## 2021 Good Neighbor Scholarship Program

It is once again time for CEC's Good Neighbor Scholarship Program. Eligible candidates include high school seniors, currently enrolled college students, and adult members furthering their education. Home-school students and seasonal account members, or their children, are also welcome. We will award scholarships in May 2021.

Applicants must provide the following to qualify:

- Fully completed application.
- 500-word, typed essay answering:
  - What does being a good neighbor mean to you? Describe activities you do to contribute to your community.
- An appropriate, high resolution portrait (school

or sport) style photo.

- Letter of acceptance from a post-secondary institution.
- Letter of recommendation from a non-relative.

This award is limited to one scholarship per applicant per lifetime. Application requirements can be submitted through CEC's website. Applicants must be able to communicate how they contribute non-paid time to help their community, school, and/or church. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

**Deadline is March 15, 2021.**



## The Safety Linke



*Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.*

### Winter Weather Prep

Working outside in the winter can be a dirty job, but many of us have to do it. Here are some reminders about dressing for the weather and staying strong, healthy, and safe.

- Frostbite and hypothermia can occur at much higher temperatures than many people realize as exposed skin can start to freeze at just 28 degrees. Hypothermia is a potentially fatal condition caused by loss of body temperature, even in winter conditions that people might not consider particularly nasty. Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, confusion, light-headedness, and profuse sweating.
- Wear the right gloves for the work you are doing. Gloves should have enough insulation to keep you warm and prevent frostbite, but be thin enough that you can feel what you're doing if you are manipulating controls or tools.



Manager of Safety  
& Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

- Dress in layers of light-weight clothing which keep you warmer than a single layer of heavy clothing. Remove layers as necessary to prevent overheating and perspiring, which can lead to chills or hypothermia later. Wet clothing is 20 times less warm than dry clothing.
- Look at the soles of your winter footwear. Your shoes or boots should have adequate tread to prevent slips and falls.
- Get plenty of rest. Working in the cold and even traveling to and from work in the winter, takes lots of energy. Cold weather can strain your heart, even if you aren't overexerting.
- Lastly, 70 percent of deaths during snow or ice storms occur in vehicles. It pays to carry supplies in case a winter storm sidelines you in your vehicle.

## Board Member Vacancy Announcement

CEC is seeking Forest County members who are interested in serving on their board of directors, to fill a vacant Forest County director seat.

This vacancy exists due to the passing of long-time CEC board member Bette Walters. Mrs. Walters had been reelected in August 2019, CEC's Board of Directors have decided to appoint a replacement to fill her seat for the remainder of her four-year term.

Members of the CEC Board of Directors are expected to perform all functions of the position including attendance at regular monthly board meetings, special board meetings, and committee meetings as well as to serve in board offices, on committees, and as delegates to affiliated organizations.

The appointed individual will serve as the Forest County Director through August 2023. If the individual is interested in continuing to serve, they

will need to run for election in 2023.

Interested individuals must complete the paperwork associated with this process and return it to CEC by Feb. 26 to be considered. Following a review of submitted materials, a Nominating Committee will schedule interviews with selected candidates.

If you are a CEC member living in Forest County and are interested in filling this vacancy, please contact Renee Tritten at 800-521-0570 x2151 or visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) for more information on board member eligibility and qualifications.

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative serving approximately 25,000 members with over 3,000 miles of distribution line in portions of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer, and Venango counties.

## Introducing the NEW CENTRAL.COOP Your destination for everything CEC.

CEC is thrilled to announce the launch of their new website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) to enhance all members' online experience with the cooperative!

Some of the great new features include:

- Enhanced mobile capabilities.
- Online service requests for reporting tree and outdoor light problems, starting a new service, and stopping service.
- Upgraded Outage Center and outage related information.
- Improved security and compliance.
- And so much more!

CEC's goal with the new website is to provide members an easier, more convenient way to meet all

of their electric needs.

Visit CEC at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) today to see all of the features and improvements!



## Recipe of the Month

### Beer Dip

**Ingredients:**

- Two 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup beer or non-alcoholic beer
- One envelope ranch salad dressing mix
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Pretzels

**Directions:**

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, beer, and dressing mix until smooth. Stir in cheddar cheese.

Serve with pretzels.

*Thank you to Marie Cherrison  
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:

**Jerry Chuhra of Renfrew**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Shirley Stoltz of Seneca**

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:** Members now have the ability to submit problems with outdoor lights and trees online through CEC's website.

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

**2. True or False:** Electric space heaters are energy efficient, as they don't have any wasted energy.

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

**3. True or False:** Frostbite can start to develop at just 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

**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

Newsletter Editor: Renee Tritten