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Scholarship

Winter Driving Tips

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# PowerLines

Photo by Joe Gouw on Unsplash

**The Cooperative**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

I must be the worst salesman that ever lived. When I was a kid, we had to sell candy bars or some other equally unnecessary product to raise money for clubs and teams. I absolutely hated asking people to pay for something they didn’t need.

Today, I lead a cooperative that provides the single greatest product since sliced bread, but since electricity predated the electric bread slicer and made sliced bread possible — the most valuable product ever. We use it in all aspects of our daily lives and it has accelerated technological advances dramatically over the past 120 years. With all that said, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) still encourages our membership to use as little of this product as possible. We provide incentives to curtail usage and structure our rates to encourage less use.

So, why do we do this and

why does it make sense to have a hesitant salesman as CEC’s CEO? The answer is simple, we are a cooperative.

In the 1930s, great minds locally and nationally recognized that to pull ourselves out of the Great Depression and be competitive in the world marketplace, the United States needed all citizens to have access to electricity. Local community leaders partnered with the federal government through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), later the Rural Utility Service (RUS), to create distribution electric cooperatives. The REA provided support in the form of low-interest loans and electric utility experience that allowed communities, like ours, to electrify rural America. The best part of this partnership is it allowed cooperatives to remain private, independent corporations, governed locally by those they serve, the

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## *The Cooperative /From Page 1*

members.

As a private, not-for-profit cooperative, we are able to supply electricity to members at the lowest cost possible. Initially, this service was a luxury and made life easier, but today electricity has evolved into what can only be described as an essential service. Our self-governance and adherence to the seven cooperative principles have allowed us to evolve through this transition and continue to provide value to our members for the last 85 years. The seven principles I mentioned are:

### **1.) Open and Voluntary**

**Membership** — Anyone living within our service territory is eligible to be a member.

### **2.) Democratic Member Control**

— Members elect a governing board from the membership with each member receiving only one vote regardless of the number of accounts they may have. This provides local control and equal representation for each member, regardless of their financial status.

### **3.) Members' Economic**

**Participation** — Members have an ownership stake in the cooperative through their individual usage.

### **4.) Autonomy and Independence**

— CEC is an independent corporation and while we benefit from relationships with statewide and national associations, our board has the authority to make decisions in the best interest of our members.

### **5.) Education, Training and**

**Information** — We continually provide information to our members through various programs and sources. Additionally, CEC regularly trains our board and employees on the skills and issues necessary to operate the cooperative.

### **6.) Cooperation Among**

**Cooperatives** — CEC and its members benefit in cost and expertise because of our strong relationships with cooperatives all over the country.

### **7.) Concern for Community** —

Our operations and programs create value beyond electric service in the communities we serve because we are governed locally.

My lack of salesmanship becomes irrelevant because we provide a service to ourselves. We provide the service with a single goal of meeting the needs of our members, without a profit motive. So, we are going to continue our efforts to find ways for members to use less of what we sell because it is ultimately in members' best interest — because what is good for members is good for CEC.

The value of the cooperative business model in providing an essential service has never been more evident than over these past two years. Our last rate increase was prior to the pandemic shutdown. We had no rate increase in 2021 and our current financial outlook has no plan for one in 2022. The collaborative

“The collaborative and cooperative manner in which members have and continue to work with the cooperative has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative as we work to serve you.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &  
General Manager

# Power Lines

## The Cooperative /From Page 2

and cooperative manner in which members have and continue to work with the cooperative has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative as we work to serve you. Happy New Year!

## 2022 Good Neighbor Scholarship Program

CEC is pleased to offer the Good Neighbor Scholarship again in 2022. 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 2022.

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 and to apply, please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

**Deadline is March 15, 2022.**

## Youth Tour 2022 — Cancellation Notice

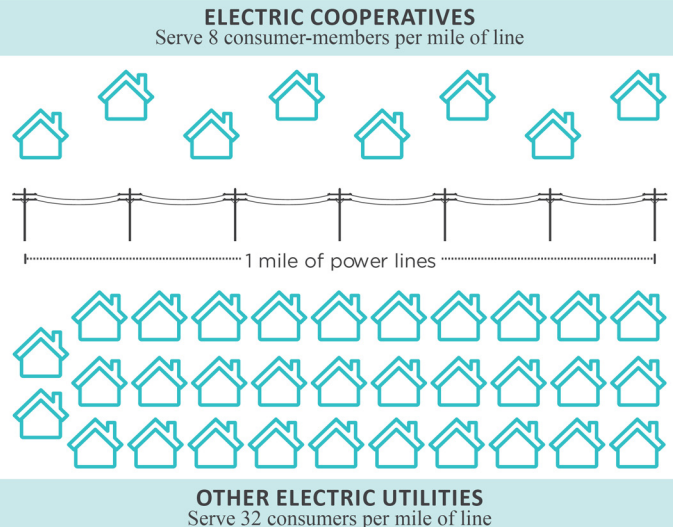
Youth Tour provides students from all across rural America the opportunity to go to Washington D.C., courtesy of their local electric cooperative (like CEC), statewide associations (like Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 and our commitment to keeping students, staff and communities safe, Pennsylvania cooperatives will not participate in Youth Tour this June. This decision was difficult to make, but we sincerely hope Youth Tour will be back in 2023.

Thank you for your understanding.

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Did you know electric co-ops power fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other utilities?



## The Safety Linke



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

### Safety Tips for Winter Driving



Manager of Safety  
& Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

Driving requires care and caution any time of year. Winter, however, adds even greater challenges because of wet and icy roads, longer hours of darkness and poor visibility due to snow, rain and fog. Here are some tips for driving safely during winter road conditions.

- Leave a few minutes earlier and allow plenty of time for travel. Rushing in difficult driving conditions can lead to an accident. Turn your radio on to listen to road reports and the weather forecast. Always remember to buckle up.
- Stay alert and be aware of prescription drug side effects, such as drowsiness. Don't drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol — driving demands your full attention.
- Sometimes other drivers become frustrated with slow-moving traffic, but remain calm. Maintain a safe speed, drive defensively and don't let other drivers aggravate you.
- Keep a safe distance between you and other vehicles. The "two-second rule" works well on dry roads and in ideal conditions, but in winter conditions you should extend it to four seconds.
- Keep your car well-maintained and in good working condition. This includes having good tread on your tires, the engine tuned-up for winter and all lights functioning properly.
- Keep your windshield washer fluid full and clean your windows and headlights frequently. Good visibility is essential for safe driving.
- Drive appropriately for the road conditions. Keep in mind the posted speed limit may be too fast for winter conditions. Driving on wet roads can cause hydroplaning — when a thin barrier of

water builds up between your tires and the road surface, causing your vehicle to slip. If you begin to lose control of the vehicle, take your foot off the accelerator and brace the steering wheel. Do not panic and attempt to counter-steer.

- Stay with your vehicle if it breaks down. When possible, move the vehicle to a safe location and put on your emergency flashers while you wait for help.
- Wait out bad weather. Strong, icy winds in combination with snow can make it nearly impossible to see where you are driving or walking.
- Never press and hold your brakes in slippery conditions, you will most likely skid and lose control of the vehicle. Instead, gently pump your brakes.
- Avoid driving through deep puddles, especially at high speeds. The water can make your vehicle's safety features less effective and cause engine damage. If you must drive through water and are not sure of the depth, slow down and proceed cautiously.
- Never drive when you're tired. When driving a long distance, take frequent breaks for fresh air and a walk.



"Winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year..."

Safe  
Electricity.org®

## Meter Readings

with **Laura Prosser**

Member Energy  
Specialist



Portable space heaters are meant to heat small spaces. But, unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their whole home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

Space heaters are not a practical solution to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, an inefficient heating system or drafty windows and exterior doors. Your best option is to improve the overall efficiency of your home.

If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Another great step is adding insulation. Taking proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth, can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient, but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be warmer than the rest of the house. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs.

A good comparison is ceiling fans — we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used similarly during the winter months. Only use a space heater in occupied, small spaces and, if possible, try to close off other rooms to contain the warmth. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space. Most heaters include a general sizing table to help you select the right one.

Keep in mind that electric space heaters come in

## Is a Portable Space Heater Right for Your Home?

all shapes and sizes, including ones that look like a fireplace and those marketed as Amish heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm, such as extra layers of clothing or an electric blanket. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

Winter months can get very cold, but remember space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly. Be sure you are using them for the right reasons.

## TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



## Recipe of the Month

### Macaroni and Cheese Casserole

#### Ingredients:

- 8-ounces elbow macaroni
- 1-1/2 cups small curd cottage cheese
- 8-ounces shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
- 2/3 cup plain bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions:

Cook and drain pasta. Stir together the cottage cheese, cheddar cheese, sour cream, milk, cooked macaroni, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Spread pasta and cheese mixture in a 13x9 pan. In a separate bowl, mix together bread crumbs and melted butter, sprinkle over macaroni. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes or until golden brown and bubbling.

*Thank you to Linda Knott 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:

**Judy Osche of Butler**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Marian Younkings of Kittanning**

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:** CEC and members benefit by having strong relationships with cooperatives all over the country.

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

**2. True or False:** Never press and hold your brakes in slippery road conditions.

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

**3. True or False:** Space heaters are a great option for heating your whole home.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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