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Vote for Your Directors

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2016 Annual Meeting

Vote for Our Photo
Contest

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Board of Directors

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President

Kenneth Durrett
Vice President

Althea M. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

William J. Eichner
Kenneth D. Etzel
Nancy Lendyak
Bette D. Walters
Richard L. Weaver

PowerLines

2015 Photo Contest Third-Place Photo
Photographed by Laird Cole of Grove City

Maintaining Value

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I have good news and bad. I have always been told to give people the news they don't want to hear first. With that in mind, you probably know that Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) will have a rate increase effective July 1. The announcement was on your billing statement and our website in May and June. The increase will average 5 percent, based on your usage. It is the first increase we have implemented in three years. The last increase occurred July 2013. We make every effort to maintain a balance of rates, equity and retirement of capital credits while meeting our obligations to our lenders. As a not-for-profit organization, our goal is always to go as long as possible between rate increases and keep them at a reasonable level when they are necessary. You might have seen news stories regarding some rate increases local investor-

owned utilities are seeking. They range from 9 to 17 percent. I only mention this information so there is no confusion. These increases do not reflect CEC's rate change. (I guess that would be part of the good news.)

Now for some better news. Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity remains a good value. You won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a Big Mac® meal from McDonald's® for around \$5, but did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than that? In fact, electricity has the lowest cost per day of any of these items. And not all of them are necessary for daily life. As CEO/general manager of CEC, I urge you to consider your daily necessities like electricity and gasoline (or in my case, a soda “pop” addiction),

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and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase on a regular basis. We don't often question the cost of a Big Mac® meal — it costs over \$1 more to buy a Big Mac® meal than to purchase a day's worth of power. And yet, we sometimes become upset if our electricity rates rise.

It makes sense as we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. Electricity has, for many of us, gone from a luxury commodity to a necessity — and now an expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch and our power to stay on during the worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh, our homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter?

It's easy to cut a Big Mac® out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars, but you cannot simply cut electricity out of your budget when times get tough or you decide to scale back your spending in order to save. Or can you? CEC is committed to helping members save money on electric bills. Find out how you can reduce your electric bill by visiting our website at www.central.coop and clicking on the Save \$ On Your Bill tab. There you will find energy-saving tips and a handy Home Efficiency Analysis Tool. You can also learn about CEC's Appliance Rebate and Load Control programs.

If at times it doesn't seem that

electricity is affordable, remember, even as the demand for electricity grows, annual cost increases still remain low, especially when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline and, yes — even Big Macs®. And remember this: all of the employees of your cooperative are committed to making sure you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service to your home.

There is no good time for the cost of something so integral to our daily lives to increase and my comments are simply provided as a perspective on the value this commodity remains in comparison to things of lesser importance. So the next time you crave a Big Mac®, remember your electric bill, and think about what a deal you're getting for your dollar!

July 1, 2016 Rate Change

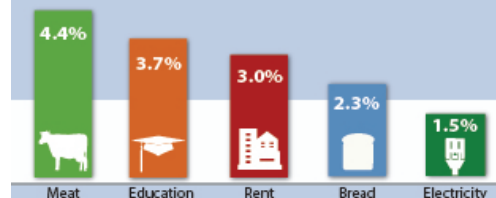
Due to rising costs, CEC rates will increase by 5 percent, or about \$5 a month (for the average residential member). This change takes effect July 1, 2016 and represents an increase in both kWh cost and the monthly base charge.

While CEC strives to keep rates as low as possible, this change was necessary to serve the membership. CEC's last rate increase was in July 2013.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

 Average Annual Price Increase
2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Ken's
ilowatt
corner



www.central.coop
Check it out!

By Ken Maleski
Residential Analyst
& Advisor



As you get ready to travel this summer don't forget to take these few easy steps before you leave to save energy.

- Turn your air conditioner thermostat to 85 degrees (unless you're leaving pets at home, of course). Experts agree the energy saved from turning your thermostat up while you're away is greater than the energy used to cool your house back down after you return.
- Close window blinds and shades to block out the sun's heat.
- Unplug hand-held electronics that might be charging such as phones, MP3 players, chargers and laptops.
- Place your pool pump on a timer and run it no

Summer Travel Tips

more than eight hours per day. Top off the pool water level. Load up on chlorine or algae killer. Turn off the pool heater.

- Leave one or two lights on a timer for safety, and make sure everything else is turned off.
- Set water heater to vacation mode or turn it off at the breaker or gas valve.
- Turn off the circuit breaker to your well pump and place your water softener on bypass.
- Turn off the hot tub at the circuit breaker.
- Check garage and outbuildings to make sure that all unused electric items are off or unplugged.

Taking these simple steps before going on vacation will ensure a carefree experience that will contribute to energy cost savings on your next utility bill.

SAFETY MATTERS

Portable Generator Safety

When utility power goes out, portable generators can offer life-changing benefits. They can power up essential tools such as heaters, refrigerators, water pumps and lighting, however generators can become very dangerous if not operated safely. The following tips will help you safely utilize your portable generator.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's use and safety instructions.
- Visually inspect your generator before and after each use.
- Inspect quarterly to ensure your generator stays in working condition.
- Never hook up a generator without a properly

installed transfer switch.

- Use grounded (three-pronged) extension cords that are fully intact and properly rated in amps.
- Keep your generator dry.
- Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- Do not place generators outside near doors, windows, or any area where carbon monoxide could enter occupied space.
- Before refueling, allow your generator to cool.
- Keep fuel away from heat-producing devices, such as the generator itself.



Mark Your Calendar for our Annual Meeting of the Members

Don't miss this year's annual meeting, Aug. 26 at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center at 4:30 p.m. for a live performance by Isaac Cole and Mikayla Lynn, a delicious meal, a bill-credit voucher and a chance to win door prizes. Children ages 5 to 10 are also encouraged to attend to enjoy activities specifically for them! Only children ages 5 to 10 will be admitted to the children's entertainment area. Any

child registered by July 31, and attending, will have a chance at winning an iPad mini!

Reserve your spot by July 31. Members who register by this date, and attend, will also be entered in a special drawing on Aug. 29 to win bill credits for \$100 and \$50.

For more information, visit www.central.coop.

Annual Meeting Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account No: _____ Phone No: _____

Please reserve a total of _____ dinners for my family as we will attend the annual meeting dinner on Aug. 26.

Children's entertainment is only provided for children ages 5 through 10. Please indicate how many children will be attending: _____ Ages of children: _____

(A child with a medical condition must be accompanied by an adult.)

Contact at meeting in case of emergency: _____

Submit your question before the meeting to allow us to answer it efficiently. (You may ask a question at the meeting even if you did not submit it ahead of time.)

My question: _____

By attending the annual meeting, I grant CEC permission to use my likeness in photographs in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website entries, without payment or other consideration.

Return this coupon to CEC by July 31, 2016.

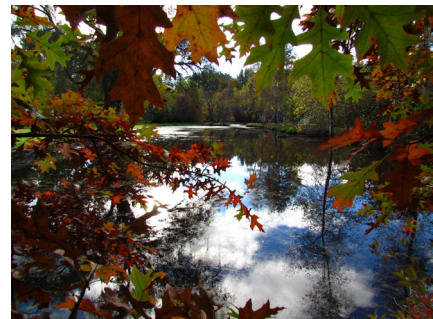
Vote for Our Photo Contest!

Vote for the top five photos in our Photo Contest at www.central.coop.

Online only voting will take place from June 20 to Aug. 4.

Members without the internet will be able to vote through the September issue of this newsletter.

A big thank you and good luck to everyone who entered this year's contest!



2015 Photo Contest First-Place Photo,
Taken by Kathryn Stover

Nominees for Election to the Board of Directors

You may vote for one nominee from each county, no matter where you live.



Butler County: Kenneth D. Durrett, Incumbent Nominee, Butler

Mr. Durrett has been a CEC member since 1996 and has served on the board of directors since 2009. He has 30 years of business experience and has held senior level finance and executive operations positions with various companies. Mr. Durrett is currently working with small to mid-size businesses, helping them improve profitability, obtain financing and achieve other financial objectives. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Financial Executives International. Mr. Durrett also serves on the board of Bethany Christian Services of Western Pennsylvania, a non-profit organization helping children and families.



Clarion County: Richard Weaver, Incumbent Nominee, Knox

Mr. Weaver has been a CEC member since 1978, and has served on the board of directors since 1988. He serves as CEC's representative on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative Board and has earned the Board Leadership and Credentialed Cooperative Director certificates. Mr. Weaver owns and operates Weaver Excavating and Sewage Systems. He and his lovely wife Ruth Ann have been married for 38 years. They have two daughters and five grandsons and are members of the Grace Church in Ninevah.



Clarion County: Barney Knorr, Fern

Mr. Knorr, an Air Force veteran, has been a CEC member since 1979. He has volunteered locally as Autumn Leaf Festival chairman and president of the Clarion Area Chamber, and with Clarion Rotary, Keystone SMILES Americorps and the Ross McGinnis Memorial Service Awards. He is best known as the former director of the Clarion County Career Center. Mr. Knorr's children have also served our country, but through the United States Navy — one as a lieutenant and one as a machinist's mate first class. He lives in beautiful downtown Fern with his wife Jan. He is an active member and trustee of the Fern Trinity Church.

**More information on candidates available at www.central.coop.
Look for your official ballot in the mail.**

Exercise Your Right — Vote for Your Directors!

Your electric cooperative is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make our electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote

for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, exercise it!

So, at this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast and maybe win a prize, but you will feel good knowing you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

Recipe of the Month

Spinach Roll Ups

Ingredients:

- 1 package large flour tortillas
- 2 packages frozen spinach; thawed, squeezed, chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 6 to 8 green onions, chopped
- 1-1/2 to 2 packages dry ranch dressing mix
- 1/2 bottle imitation bacon bits

Directions: Mix spinach, mayonnaise, sour cream, green onions, ranch dressing mix and bacon bits. Spread mixture on tortillas. Roll up and refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours (or overnight). Then slice into two-inch pinwheel shapes.

Thank you to Johanna Shimo for submitting this recipe!

Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at rtritten@central.coop or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Member and Community Relations

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Philip Double of East Brady

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Diane Carson of Fenelton

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop.

1. True or False: As a not-for-profit organization, our goal is always to keep rates at a reasonable level.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: It's not important to use a properly installed transfer switch on a generator.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: You should turn your air conditioner to 85 degrees when away from home.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Customer Service 1-800-521-0570 • Emergency Outage Number 1-800-282-8610

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