

## “Watts” Inside

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Why is the Power Out?       | 3 |
| 2020 Scholarship Recipients | 3 |
| Proper Hand Washing         | 4 |
| CEC Annual Meeting          | 5 |
| Tellers Request             | 5 |
| Bar-B-Que Meatballs Recipe  | 6 |

*This issue of Power Lines was written in the beginning of May. Some of the information included may be delayed as a result.*

*CEC appreciates your patience and understanding at this difficult time. Stay safe and be well.*

## Board of Directors

Jody P. Weaver  
*President*

Kenneth Durrett  
*Vice President*

Althea M. Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Kenneth D. Etzel  
Nancy Lendyak  
Robert W. Smith  
Bette D. Walters  
Richard L. Weaver

# PowerLines

Photo by Linda Gutaszkas of Slippery Rock

## Safety in a Time of Pandemic

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

Every year I try to write at least a couple of articles about our area of first priority — safety. The idea is to always be relentless about ensuring that safety remains first in our minds as we go about the business of supplying this essential service. I have been with Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) for 10 years as of April 6. I will let you do the math, but that translates to 20 or more articles about safety in my tenure at CEC.

Part of the challenge is to keep the topic at the forefront of everyone’s minds without being repetitive. As repetition can lead to complacency — one of safety’s biggest enemies. Last month I touched on the extraordinary and unprecedented efforts CEC’s staff have been undertaking to make certain we maintain a healthy and available workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to spend my time with you

this month talking about safety and the additional efforts required of our employees, members, and the community in order to live and work healthy and safely.

One of the first areas affected is hazard identification. Under normal circumstances, our employees need to navigate smaller, local roads with large vehicles and trailers just to arrive at remote work locations. Once there, employees deal with adverse weather and challenging terrain. Now we must add into our analysis potential points of exposure to the virus, increased distance between co-workers, and additional cleaning procedures to eliminate additional potential hazard.

We must also consider personal protective equipment (PPE). In the past this would have included hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protection, arc-flash rated clothing, and specialized equipment designed

**Safety ... /Page 2**

## Safety ... /From Page 1

to insulate from electrical exposure. Now, we must include face masks, frequent hand washing, and possibly medical or first-aid gloving. This additional PPE doesn't stop at the walls of our facilities or job sites, they extend to our interactions with our members and the community. We recognize that in this highly contagious environment we should do what we can to minimize the exposure to you as well.

Then there is the actual performance of our work. Like any change, learning to do the same thing a new way can be challenging and frustrating.

Effectively, the safety components I mentioned need to be integrated into our standard operating procedures just like our previous safety practices. The good news, if there is good news, is that integrating new practices eliminates any possibility of complacency. The bad news is there are more critical concerns in performing the safe operation of our daily routine.

The safety specific changes we have implemented in order to meet requirements and keep employees, members, and the community safe include:

- Additional and more intense cleaning of our facilities and equipment in keeping with CDC guidelines.
- Provided PPE in the form of masks and gloves to prevent exposure per recommendations.
- Provided guidelines to employees and posted direction throughout the office as a

- reminder to minimize personal contact, wash hands regularly, and maintain social distancing.
- Limited face to face meetings, opting instead for electronic communication or small meetings while maintaining social distance.
- Limited rotation of crew personnel so employees are exposed to fewer people.
- Identified and provided disinfecting spray which can be safely used on equipment and tools that will be used in energized areas.
- Defined protocols designed to isolate infected or exposed employees, to minimize impact.

This is not an exhaustive list, but I think it does provide the complexity that this new normal has provided to safety within our organization and the community at large. By the publication date of this article, provided the trajectory of the virus continues on its current path, we will all be out from under stay-at-home orders and business closures. Let me ask for your continued due diligence in practicing safe habits regarding social distancing and avoidance of unnecessary exposure. I would also like to thank you all for your cooperation, help, and patience as we have navigated these unprecedented changes together.

Please stay healthy and be safe for all of us!

“Let me ask for your continued due diligence in practicing safe habits regarding social distancing and avoidance of unnecessary exposure. I would also like to thank you all for your cooperation, help, and patience as we have navigated these unprecedented changes together.

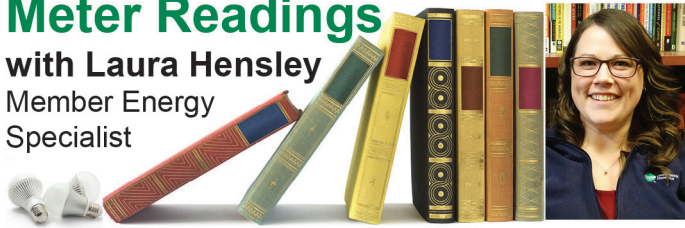
Please stay healthy and be safe for all of us!”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &  
General Manager

## Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**

Member Energy  
Specialist



When your power goes out, CEC works hard to resume service as safely and quickly as possible. We understand outages are frustrating and I promise, we dislike them as much as you do. Below we will discuss common reasons for outages.

**TREES AND STORMS** – When storm conditions such as high winds, snow, and ice occur, trees and their branches can fall on power lines. CEC invests in right-of-way clearing to help keep lines and equipment clear of these dangers, and we also ask members not to plant trees near power lines and equipment. Some storm situations alone, such as lightning, can cause outages and CEC has protections throughout our distribution system to help mitigate damage.

**ANIMALS** — You may be surprised that animals, largely squirrels, are the second leading cause of power outages. However, turkeys, snakes, and large birds can interfere with service too.

**ACCIDENTS** — Cars, trucks, and farm equipment sometimes have a run-in with utility

## Why is the Power Out?

poles or overhead lines and cause outages.

**EQUIPMENT FAILURE** — CEC maintains and inspects all power lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment fails.

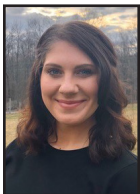
**SYSTEM DAMAGE** — Unsafe digging, equipment damage, vandalism, or theft can all cause interruptions. An important way you can help is by calling 8-1-1 to have underground facilities located, prior to any project that involves digging.

CEC encourages members to report all outages by calling 800-282-8610 or through your SmartHub account. Reporting outages is necessary so CEC's staff and outage management system can manage the restoration process and minimize the time the power is off.

Coming Soon: Outage Notifications! Members will soon be able to receive localized, outage notification texts and emails. Members need to update contact information and sign up to receive the notifications in SmartHub. All members who are signed up for SmartHub by July 1 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit valued at \$60. CEC will give away 100 kits. Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) to learn more.

## 2020 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2020 recipients of the Good Neighbor Scholarship! CEC awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to 10 members (or members' children) who will further their education in 2020. For more information on this program, please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).



**Annah  
Burke**

University  
of Pittsburgh



**Haley  
Bauer**

North Clarion  
High School



**Madison  
Cornelius**

Cranberry  
High School



**Skylar  
Geibel**

St. Joseph  
High School



**Chelsey  
Kabel**

Butler Area  
High School



**Matthew  
McQuaide**

Cranberry  
High School



**Myia  
Page**

AC Valley  
High School



**Hailey  
Sintobin**

St. Francis  
University



**Breanna  
Tomsey**

Karns City  
High School



**Amelia  
Walls**

Knoch  
High School



## The Safety Linke



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

### Proper Hand Washing



Manager of Safety  
& Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

With headlines on the coronavirus spreading throughout the world, it is notably worth spending some time on protecting yourself from infection. Experts from every corner of the world indicate that hand washing is perhaps the most effective preventive measure we all can take to prevent being infected with transmitted diseases.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cleaning hands in a specific way. They suggest following these five steps:

1. Wet hands with clean, running water and apply soap.

2. Lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Also, don't forget about your wrists and forearm areas.

3. Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

4. Rinse hands well under clean, running water. Do not use a basin of water to rinse your hands.

5. Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

While proper hand washing is of the utmost importance, always remember to respect others and maintain a social distance of at least six feet.

### Peak Alert Season has Started!

When you hear a Peak Alert announcement on the radio, please turn off all non-essential electric items, especially dehumidifiers and pool pumps, and set your air conditioner no lower than 78 degrees.

By decreasing electricity used during high-demand periods — when prices are at their highest — everyone can help stabilize future power costs.

Peak Alerts usually occur from June to September between noon and 6 p.m.

Small adjustments in when, where, and how you use electricity do make a difference in energy costs during high-demand periods.

Together we can keep energy costs down!

### Always Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig!

Nice weather has finally arrived! It's time to work outside. But wait! Before digging, check to see if there are any underground facilities.

Just call the Pennsylvania One Call System at 8-1-1 or visit [www.paonecall.org](http://www.paonecall.org) for more information. **Make sure you call at least three working days before you plan to dig.**

Whether you are a contractor, home builder, or landowner, the Pennsylvania One Call System can assist you with digging safely. If you have any further questions feel free to contact Caitlin Kriebel at CEC at 800-521-0570 x2195.

## CEC's 83rd Annual Meeting

During these uncertain times, it is challenging to organize an event of this magnitude — especially since it is still months away (this article was written at the beginning of May). At this time CEC still plans to hold our 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members while accommodating the suggested guidelines relating to the COVID-19 situation.

---

**Please know that CEC will do everything possible to continue offering a fun and safe event for all members.**

---

The event is set to occur Friday, Aug. 21 at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center in Emlenton beginning at 4 p.m. Attendees can still anticipate a live performance by Sawyer Stepp, a delicious meal from Kentucky Fried Chicken, and a chance to win a number of prizes. CEC staff will also provide attendees information on outage notifications and SmartHub, safety presentations, energy efficiency, electrical safety, and the importance and benefits of right-of-way clearing.

The event will also tentatively offer a variety of

information from vendors outside of CEC.

You can make reservations for this event by completing the form below or visiting our website. Registration deadline is July 31.

Please watch for more information on this event in upcoming newsletters and on [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

### Annual Meeting Registration Form

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

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

Account: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve a total of \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for my family.

Submit a question now to allow us to answer it efficiently. You may still ask at the event, even if you did not submit ahead of time.

Question: \_\_\_\_\_

*By attending the event, you grant CEC permission to use your likeness in photographs in any and all of its publications, without payment or other consideration.*

**Return this coupon to CEC by July 31.**

## Tellers Needed for Election

CEC is seeking members to serve as tellers for the annual election on Aug. 21. The committee tabulates director election ballots received by the Judge of Elections prior to the meeting. Tellers must arrive by 4 p.m.

Eight tellers are needed: one from Armstrong County, two from Butler County, two from Clarion

County, one from Forest County, and two from Venango County.

If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held by the Judge of Elections. If there are no volunteers, CEC's board of directors will appoint needed tellers.

### 2020 Tellers Committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for me.

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

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

**Return coupon by July 17, 2020 to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Renee Tritten, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

## Recipe of the Month

### Bar-B-Que Meatballs

#### Meatball Ingredients:

- 1 cup bread crumbs (store bought)
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped

#### Sauce Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 teaspoon, each salt and pepper

Combine all meatball ingredients and form into balls. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Place balls in baking dish. Combine sauce ingredients and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake for at least 30 minutes.

*Thank you to Lori Neiswonger  
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:

**Samuel Grossman of West Sunbury**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Wayne Decker of Kennerdell**

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:** When washing your hands, you should scrub for at least 20 seconds.

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

**2. True or False:** Unsafe digging, equipment damage, vandalism, or theft can all cause service interruptions.

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

**3. True or False:** Repetition can lead to complacency — one of safety's biggest enemies.

**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