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Attend Our 81st  
Annual Meeting

Participate with Peak  
Alerts

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# PowerLines

Photo by HENGSTREAM on Unsplash

**It’s Personal**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

Safety is personal because it has to be. This month marks the 5th anniversary of the tragic accident that took the life of one of our journeymen linemen, our colleague, our friend. We have reminders throughout our facility and commemorate the loss each year with what we call Safety Stand Down Day.

“Safety is job one!” “Safety is our #1 priority!” “Safety is no accident!” These are just a few examples of safety slogans many companies use with their safety program materials and marketing. In the electric distribution business, safety is our highest priority and Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) uses slogans as well. The slogans and marketing are an important piece of any safety program as they keep the message in the forefront of our thoughts, and aide in our communication with the public. Like any good pep talk,

these efforts can inspire the team to be at their best, but also like those pep talks, the inspiration can be short lived when the need is not a short duration effort, but a career’s worth of safe behavior.

Our safety program is comprehensive. We provide significant skill training, both required and not, to all professional disciplines represented at CEC. We partner with our national association, statewide association and insurance cooperative to ensure the best and safest available work practices are followed. CEC makes major investments in tools and equipment designed to mitigate potential hazards of all types. Our facilities, equipment and work practices are inspected on a very regular basis. CEC provides electrical safety education to the communities we serve in the form of marketing materials and articles

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## *It's Personal /From Page 1*

### **Always Call 811 Before You Dig!**

Warm weather has finally arrived! It's time to plant a garden, install a deck or build an addition to your home. But wait! Before digging, check to see if there are any underground utilities. It's easy. Just call the Pennsylvania One Call System at 811 or visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) for answers to all your questions. 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 will ensure you are digging safely. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Caitlin Kriebel at CEC at 800-521-0570 x2195.

in our newsletter. We also provide safety education programs like our Safety City and First Responder's Training. Our Safety City program is typically presented to elementary school students and demonstrates how to be safe around electricity using a model with real world examples. Our First Responder's Training, as its name implies, is intended to provide electrical safety information to all first responders in our area in the hopes of keeping them safe while doing the important and dangerous work they perform.

In an effort to make sure we are not complacent, we make regular changes to our safety program. Each year we review our practices, procedures, equipment and communication efforts to improve or refresh our safety efforts.

I describe our safety program for a couple of reasons. First, I want you to be aware of the efforts we make to keep our employees, members and communities safe while we provide electric service. Second, and more importantly, I want to use this information to clarify what I mean by "Safety is personal because it has to be."

What I want to point out is while each of the parts of our safety program are very important, and in some cases required, they do not motivate working safely. Goals from an insurance company designed to decrease our costs, goals from a national or state-wide organization designed to decrease incident averages over a large group, or even CEC

company goals for zero lost-time accidents do not motivate employees or the public to behave more safely. Those big goals are often unimportant to us individually and seem out of our control.

Incentive or discipline based approaches to safety, the proverbial carrot and stick, are ineffective in creating a strong culture of safety because much like the pep talk, positive results are short-lived. As a not-for-profit organization we can't offer enough money to overcome complacency and, ultimately, the "pay for safety" approach doesn't lead to fewer accidents, it just leads to fewer reported accidents. Discipline can lead to the same problem but also adds a level of fear and mistrust which only further erodes efforts to improve safety.

In order to truly have a culture of safety, we need to get past compliance and get to commitment. Each of us individually needs to have a safety goal. It needs to reflect a thing for which we will not compromise. What one thing is so important to you that it will make you follow safe practices and make sure your partner does as well, no matter what?

We at CEC are starting a program to identify what is the one thing each of us is unwilling to compromise when it comes to safety. The thing so important that, if I or the person working next to me, is about to make a mistake or skip a safety step, will make me

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# Power Lines

## It's Personal /From Page 2

stop and do it safely or speak up. If each of us has our own immutable safety goal, the other broader goals I mentioned will fall into place.

I am asking each of our employees to think about it and literally write it down as a tangible reminder. I would also like to invite you to share yours with us because safety is all of our concern. Let me be the first to offer my goals. I want to go home to my wife

and kids every day. I want my co-workers to do the same. I never want to have to tell another spouse that an employee lost his or her life on the job. Please share your safety goal with us and help make our cooperative safer. Remember, safety is personal because it has to be. What's your goal?

**Peak Alert Season has started!** When you hear an alert, reduce your usage of non-essential electric items. Together we can keep rates stable — it is the cooperative way!

## 2018 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2018 recipients of the Good Neighbor Scholarship! CEC awarded scholarships of \$2,000 each to 10 member's children who will further their education in 2018. For more information on this program, please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).



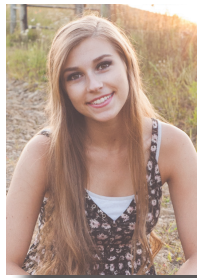
**Abigail  
Brockett**

Franklin Area  
High School



**Trevin  
Chittester**

Cranberry Area  
High School



**Kera Cussins**

North Clarion  
High School



**Kara  
Daugherty**

Grove City  
College



**Ryan Fair**

Christian Life  
Academy



**Emily Gourley**

Redbank  
Valley High  
School



**Carissa  
Janecek**

Keystone  
High School



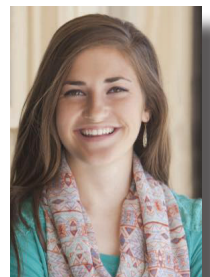
**Rebecca  
Pennington**

Karns City  
High School



**Logan  
Pistorius**

Karns City  
High School



**Lydia Roth**

Butler County  
Community  
College



## Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**

Member Energy  
Specialist



It didn't seem possible this year, but summer is finally here. As we head into warmer weather, here are some ways to keep your home comfortable.

- If you use window air-conditioning units, consider replacing older models with Energy Star ones. Newly purchased Energy Star units are eligible for a \$25 rebate through CEC.
- Make sure all filters are replaced or cleaned monthly to ensure efficient operation of your air conditioners and HVAC systems.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and higher when away. Consider installing a programmable thermostat so it can

## Comfort at a Low Cost

automatically change the temperature for you.

- Use ceiling fans to keep cool. Fans move air across our skin and can make us feel about 4 degrees cooler. When you're gone, turn the fans off as they do not cool the air temperature.
- Keep the sun out during the day with window blinds and drapes. Allow cooler air in at night by opening windows for cross-ventilation.
- If you are thinking about landscaping, consider strategically placing trees and scrubs to provide shade. Remember to keep them away from overhead and underground utility lines.

See available appliance rebates at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) for more ways to save. Remember a new Energy Star appliance should be a complete replacement. Using old appliances in the basement and garage is not saving you money.

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Power Line Safety After the Storm

Severe weather happens year-round. Tornadoes and other storms can seriously damage power lines and other electrical equipment. Storm damage causes dangers that lurk after a storm has passed. CEC encourages you to be aware of and prepared for those dangers.

When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact 9-1-1. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down could be in contact with an energized power line making them very dangerous. So stay away from all of them!

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed

power line can energize things around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact 9-1-1. Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your car, only in an event like a fire, jump free from the car and hop away from it with both feet together.

## Mark Your Calendar for Our 81st Annual Meeting

Attend our Annual Meeting on Friday, Aug. 24 at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center, in Emlenton, at 4:30 p.m. for a live performance by Keep Off the Grass (a local bluegrass group), a delicious meal from Kentucky Fried Chicken, and a chance to win a number of door prizes. The event also offers a health fair, drone demonstrations,



information on solar panels, and more! Children ages 5 to 10 will enjoy a variety of activities and a prize specifically for them!



You can make reservations for the meeting and for children's entertainment by completing the form below, visiting our website or calling us at 800-521-0570.

Registration deadline is July 31.

For more information, directions or to check out the agenda visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).



### Annual Meeting Registration Form

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

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

Account No: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve a total of \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for my family at the annual meeting on Aug. 24.

**Children's entertainment is for children ages 5 through 10 only.**

How many children will attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

## Recipe of the Month

### Cucumber Salad

**Ingredients:**

- One 3-ounce box lime JELL-O®
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 cup diced cucumbers
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 teaspoon onion flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

**Directions:** Combine the JELL-O®, hot water and vinegar. Let set until hard and then beat. Add rest of ingredients and mix well. Chill.

*Thank you to Mary Ellen Edinger for submitting this recipe!*

## Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to: Renee Tritten at [rtritten@central.coop](mailto:rtritten@central.coop) or mail to CEC, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
CEO & General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs  
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:

**William Uenking of Karns City**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Freddie Fair of Sligo**

Read Power Lines and 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:** Fans move air across our skin and can make us feel about 4 degrees cooler.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** Calling 811 before you dig helps you dig safely and is free.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** Lines have to be arcing or sparking to be live.  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



**Central Electric Cooperative**

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

Newsletter Editor: Renee Tritten