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PowerLines

Courtesy of Patti Betros

You’ve Got to Stand for Something

When I was in school, I never really enjoyed writing. Given my nature I worked that much harder to ensure a good grade but often the subject matter required by various teachers strained my limited patience. I mean what high-school aged boy wants to read and write about “Wuthering Heights” or Jane Eyre?

While preparing to write this month’s article, I reviewed some of my previous submissions. I discovered that I thoroughly enjoyed writing these articles. For a moment I was confused but then the light bulb came on and I realized that I enjoy it because of the subject matter. From the Annual Report to topics on safety and our employees, this material is fun! Okay I will admit that it may only seem fun because I am an engineer by education and a utility manager by vocation. No

matter what the monthly topic is, you might notice that I always refer to CEC as YOUR cooperative. In the cooperative electric utility world that is a big deal. Rural electric cooperatives were formed to provide rural America with electricity. The Rural Electrification Act allowed the government to provide loans used to start the program but it was not the government that made these organizations work. It was you, our members. The principles below helped with the formation of cooperatives and continue to guide us today.

The Seven Cooperative Principles

All cooperative businesses adhere to these seven guiding principles.

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Generator Safety Tips:

1. Always read and follow the guidelines in your operator's manual.
2. Know how to shut the generator off quickly during an emergency.
3. Never refuel your generator while it is running or hot.
4. Operate your generator in a dry, well-ventilated area.
5. Set the generator on a firm, level surface.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their



members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members receive limited compensation, if any, on

capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with others organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public,

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particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. Concern for Community While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities

through policies accepted by their members.

As you can see, cooperative membership provides more than just reliable electric service. It offers a partnership between you, the member, and the employees who run your utility. We take this charge very seriously and that is why we will continue to work with and for you so that our cooperative does all it can to meet these principles.

Come Join Us and Be a Part of History



In 2012 CEC will celebrate 75 wonderful years of providing safe, reliable electric service to you, our members. We invite you to share your cooperative experiences and stories.



So stop by our video booth at this year's Annual Meeting and share with us. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, Aug. 27!

Do You Need An Emergency Generator?

Are you thinking about purchasing an emergency generator? CEC is partnered with Butler Power Equipment and World of Wheels to offer quality generators. Just bring your CEC monthly bill



(as proof of membership) and receive a special pricing on the purchase of a new portable generator. They offer complete service repairs for all purchased generators. Both establishments also display the GenerLink™ Transfer Switch offered by your cooperative. For more information contact us at 1-800-521-0570 or visit our Web site at www.central.coop.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2011 Annual Meeting

Attend this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Aug. 27, at Whitehall Campgrounds at 11 a.m. for a chance to win a number of door prizes. Also, submit your recipe for a chance to win a special prize and have your recipe published in "Power Lines." Just bring your favorite recipe to the meeting and drop it off at the registration table. All recipes submitted prior to the Annual Meeting will also be eligible for the recipe contest.

You can make reservations by completing the form or calling us at 1-800-521-0570. Registration deadline is July 29, 2011.

Important reminder: This year's Annual Meeting will not include children's entertainment or any form of child care. Also, you must display a state-issued handicapped parking permit to park in the handicapped lot.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Map No: _____ Phone No: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners for me.

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 Web site entries, without payment or other consideration.

**Return coupon by July 29, 2011 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329**

Tellers Needed for Annual Meeting

The cooperative board of directors is seeking CEC members to serve as tellers for the Annual Meeting on Aug. 27, 2011. The committee tabulates director election ballots returned prior to the meeting, via Internet or by mail, and votes cast at the meeting. Tellers must arrive by 10:30 a.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 our judge of elections. If there are no volunteers the cooperative directors will appoint needed tellers.

2011 Tellers Committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Map No: _____ Phone No: _____ County: _____

**Return coupon by July 29, 2011 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329,
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Ken's
ilowatt
corner



www.central.coop
Check it out!
By Ken Maleski
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative



CEC's New Interactive Voice Response System

Would you like the opportunity to pay your electric bill, at your convenience, over the telephone? In June CEC is installing a new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system referred to as "call capture." Just dial 1-800-521-0570 and choose the IVR option from your touch-tone phone. Members will be able to pay their electric bills using checks or debit/credit cards, get their account balance, and obtain payment or billing history information.

IVR will also allow members to report

power outages. Our regular outage number (1-800-282-8610) will still remain in effect. The call capture system will automatically call back our members during outage situations to ensure their service was restored. Other system features notify members of planned maintenance outages, delinquent bill courtesy calls and peak alert messages.

We take pride in providing excellent service to our members and with the new call capture system it just got easier!

SAFETY

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Generator Safety

At CEC the safety of our members and employees is top priority. When storms hit our service territory, the linemen work hard to restore power.

With storm season approaching many CEC members rely on portable generators during outages. Generators are a great asset to homeowners but can be very dangerous to linemen if backfeeding occurs. To prevent backfeeding contact CEC and have a GenerLink™ Transfer



Switch installed. Visit www.central.coop or call 1-800-521-0570 for more information.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

Generator Safety Tips:

- Always read and follow the guidelines in your operator's manual.
- Know how to shut the generator off quickly during an emergency.
- Never refuel your generator while it's running or hot.
- Operate your generator in a dry, well-ventilated area.
- Set your generator on a firm, level surface.

Recipe of the Month

Pork Chop Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 cup uncooked rice
- 4–6 pork chops
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 package onion soup mix
- 1 soup can water

Directions:

1. Blend all soups and water together.
2. Place rice in the bottom of a 9X13 inch baking dish.
3. Mix rice with 3/4 cup soup mixture.
4. Lay pork chops in a single layer and pour rest of soup mixture over the chops.
5. Cover tightly and bake for 2 hours at 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Recipe submitted by Marie Geibel.

All recipes submitted will automatically be entered in the 2011 Annual Meeting Recipe Contest.

Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or mail to Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Staff

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Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

Bonnie Olar of West Sunbury

Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all Central Electric Cooperative members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For a faster entry you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: The acronym IVR stands for Interactive Voice Response.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Tellers must arrive by 10:30 a.m. to this year's Annual Meeting.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: You can receive special pricing when you purchase a portable generator at Tractor Supply.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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