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Check Your Home
for Hazards

Register for the
Annual Meeting

“Watts” Inside

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Board of Directors

Jody P. Weaver
President

Kenneth Durrett
Vice President

Althea M. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Kenneth D. Etzel
Nancy Lendyak
Bette D. Walters
Richard L. Weaver

PowerLines

Photo by Kathy Palla of Chicora

A Capital Idea

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

There are many things I could point to that make the cooperative business model stand out over other utility models. I could mention our commitment to member service, our being not-for-profit, our employees, or the Cooperative Principles. That said, I would be hard pressed to identify something that better embodied the cooperative business model than member ownership and, by extension, the rotation of patronage capital.

Patronage capital is specifically what makes you — our members — owners. The rotation of that capital is a big part of what makes us a cooperative. The process is a simple one. At the end of each year, the amount of money we have left after paying all of the cooperative expenses is our margin. In a for-profit business this would be a profit but in a cooperative, we allocate this

money to members based on your respective electric usage throughout the year. We then hold that money in individual allocation accounts to serve as your equity, or the part of the cooperative you own. After a number of years have passed, we then return the money to you in the form of a capital credit refund.

Each year, our board makes the decision whether or not to, how much to, and when to retire capital credits based upon the financial health of the organization. Our board considers the rotation of patronage capital and the retirement of capital credits to be a foundation of what it means to be a cooperative and therefore has identified financial goals around that process that are second in priority only to rate stabilization. Our financial goals for patronage capital have two components. The first, as I mentioned, is to retire capital credits

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to our membership every year, provided the cooperative is financially healthy. The second is less visible, but equally important, and is to work to decrease the number of years that Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) holds your patronage capital before retiring it to you.

At the February meeting of the board of directors, the board approved the repayment of over \$1,700,000 in capital credits. This amount represents the largest single distribution of capital credits in CEC's history. This is the third consecutive year we have broken that capital credit record. For many years, the method we have utilized in determining the retirement amount has been a hybrid or combination method. This method allows us to retire the oldest years outstanding (this year and the two oldest) in their entirety and also allows us to return a percentage to some of our newest members allowing for our entire membership to recognize the benefits of being a cooperative member. Retiring the oldest years in their entirety has allowed us to meet the second part of our patronage capital goal and decrease the number of years of rotation of patronage. Current members saw the retirement described above as a bill credit on their April billing. Former members with outstanding capital credit allocations received a check in the same timeframe. I hope this refund serves as a tangible reminder of your membership in your cooperative.

“At the February meeting of the board of directors, the board approved the repayment of over \$1,700,000 in capital credits. This amount represents the largest single distribution of capital credits in CEC's history. This is the third consecutive year we have broken that capital credit record.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

The priority of our financial goals are: 1. To go at least two years between rate increases while maintaining rates competitive with neighboring utilities; 2. To retire capital credits each year and decrease the number of years of rotation of patronage capital; 3. Incrementally increase our member's equity. As may or may not be obvious, these goals are often in direct conflict with one another. I am pleased to report however that over the past three years we have been able to meet, or exceed, all of these goals concurrently. We will continue to strive to exceed these goals and maintain the Cooperative Difference. Thank you for your continued patronage of your cooperative.

Don't Forget to Enter Our Photo Contest!

Entries are due by June 14. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners: \$100 first place, \$50 second place, and \$25 third place.

Members vote for the top five photos from June 19 to Aug. 2. Then voting for the top three photos begins Aug. 7.

Visit www.central.coop for more information.

SAFETY MATTERS

Safety Starts with You — Tips for Spotting Hazards in Your Home

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at CEC, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last forever.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

Outdoor outlets, or those in potentially damp locations, often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done.

Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors help safeguard expensive equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and a basic power strip is left.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect

devices to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to your electricity, having outlets in the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional, or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped, or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. Always make sure extension cords used in potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.



May is Electrical Safety Month.

Safety Starts with You.

CEC's Manager of Accounting, Chester Conti's personal safety goal is to incorporate a culture of safety at home. What's yours?

Local Teens Selected for Youth Tour

Nine local high school juniors were recently selected to attend the June 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The 2019 winners are: Grace Genaway, Karns City High School; Ryan Groner, Cranberry High School; Chelsey Hillwig, AC Valley High School; Lindsey Karenbauer, Karns City High School; Abigail Mackrell, Karns City High School; Myia Page, AC Valley High School; Anthony Scardina, PA Leadership Charter School; Breanna Tomsey, Karns City High School; and Lily Zacherl, Slippery Rock High School.

They will join over 1,500 students from across the nation to see the U.S. Capitol, meet with congressmen, tour national monuments and memorials, and visit the National Zoo and Smithsonian museums. Students learn about electric cooperatives, U.S. government and history, and attend educational seminars.



**Grace
Genaway**



Ryan Groner



**Chelsey
Hillwig**



**Lindsey
Karenbauer**



**Abigail
Mackrell**



Myia Page



**Anthony
Scardina**



**Breanna
Tomsey**



Lily Zacherl

Always Call 811 Before You Dig!

Spring 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 8-1-1 or visit 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.

Mark Your Calendar for Our 82nd Annual Meeting!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account No: _____

Phone No: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners for me.

I will be bringing _____ children with me.

Only children ages 5 to 10 will be permitted into Children's Entertainment.

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 coupon by July 31, 2019 to:

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329

Attend our Annual Meeting on Friday, Aug. 23 at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center, in Emlenton, at 4:30 p.m. for a live performance by American Pie (Pittsburgh's favorite oldies band), 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 adjacent form, 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.



Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy Specialist



May often brings storms and inevitably some power outages. The cooperative, above all else, wants its members to keep safety in mind during outages. A portable generator connected to a home's distribution circuit-panel is commonly a source of emergency power.

If not connected properly, a portable generator can cause a dangerous situation for members and line workers restoring outages. The power created by your generator can backfeed to the utility. This danger is avoided by installing a transfer switch. A transfer switch can be installed by a certified electrician and will require an electrical inspection.

Generator Transfer Switches

CEC also offers GenerLink™ (meter socket) transfer switches to members. The Generlink™ device provides a quick power gateway from a portable generator to your home's breaker panel and guards against backfeeding. Installation is completed by a lineman and does not require an inspection. A 20-foot cord is provided to connect your generator to the GenerLink™.

Members interested in a GenerLink™ can visit our website for more details or call 800-521-0570 x2132. To verify compatibility and provide pricing, we will ask the make and model of your generator.

May is National Electrical Safety Month and a perfect time to plan for safe generator operation. No matter how you prevent backfeeding during a power outage, please remember to take precautions when operating a generator to power your home.

Recipe of the Month

Grape Salad

Ingredients:

- 8 cups seedless grapes
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

Directions: Wash grapes, drain, and dry well. Place grapes in 13x9 pan. In a separate bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Mix in sour cream. Pour cream cheese mixture over grapes. Stir until all grapes are covered in cream cheese mixture. In another separate bowl, mix the pecans and brown sugar. Sprinkle the brown sugar mixture over top of the grapes. Enjoy.

Thank you to Linda Knott for submitting this recipe!

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:

Scott Huffman of Shippenville

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Sally McCune of Butler

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.

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 using a generator, it's important to make sure you are not backfeeding utility lines and potentially injuring lineworkers.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: CEC returns its profits, or margin, to members through capital credits.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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