

“Watts” Inside

National Weather Service Alerts 3

Surge Protection 4

Local Teens Selected for Youth Tour 4

Outage Notifications 5

Cole Slaw Recipe 6

This issue of Power Lines was written prior to the Pennsylvania Statewide Stay-at-Home order issued by Governor Wolf on April 1, 2020. Some of the programs 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 Kathy Weiland of Chicora

Forward Together

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

The lead time in writing my monthly article has always been problematic, but in this time of global pandemic and unprecedented, rapidly changing conditions — writing something for publication in 5-6 weeks is a challenge at best. First and foremost, I hope you and your families are healthy and safe.

“Around here, however, we don’t look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” Giving credit where it is due, fellow fans of Walt Disney may recognize this quote as one of his. It has always resonated with me, and I have applied its message to the approach I take in management and planning. Continuous, incremental improvement isn’t as catchy, but for me they are one in the same.

Never before has this approach been more appropriate. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has had to initiate plans that have never been implemented before, and has been forced to address issues and make contingencies for circumstances unlike any other in our 83-year history. CEC has:

- Closed office to general public.
- Limited staff in office to those who need to perform a physical task for business continuity or urgent/emergency service.
- Setup remote “work from home” capabilities for staff.
- Utilized an offsite cooperative to address member concerns and provide 24-hour dispatch function to respond to outages and urgent/emergency field work.
- Leveraged unclaimed capital credit dollars to make a donation of medical supplies to local hospitals, and provide assistance

Forward Together/Page 2

Forward Together/From Page 1

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.

to members struggling to pay their bill without cost to the membership.

- Applied Capital Credits to members' April bills.
- Added important and valuable information to our website which will assist our membership during this global pandemic.
- Cancelled all business travel.
- Coordinated with our board, national association, statewide association, the State of Pennsylvania, vendors, and contractors to ensure continued ability to serve our membership — while following all appropriate health and safety restrictions.

The most critical part of our strategy during this difficult time has been maintaining the availability of our workforce. I had an old football coach tell me once that my greatest ability was availability. While we have many daily functions that we have been able to address remotely, volatile spring weather can lead to power outages that require personnel and equipment to physically restore service. With that critical requirement identified, we had to take the necessary steps to ensure that, should that eventuality occur, our workforce would be available.

Our employees needed to remain both healthy and not quarantined. Accomplishing this took a commitment from the cooperative, but it also took a personal commitment from each individual employee. CEC separated employees during working hours and had them report as necessary

in small, limited exposure crews. CEC, however, has no control over employees during non-working hours, and the burden of maintaining their availability by limiting their exposure to the virus and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines fell on them individually. I have said many times that the employees of your cooperative are a dedicated bunch and these circumstances have highlighted that fact yet again. Our employees have taken very seriously their greatest ability, “availability” and continue to answer the call.

Because of the timing of when I wrote this article versus when you read it, the circumstances may be very different and will have led CEC to adjust accordingly. I hope my description of what we have done, and our workforce's commitment, will illustrate that we will do what it takes to maintain our availability and your electric service.

The isolation, stress, and health and economic concerns created by this virus have challenged us all personally and as a company, community, and country. Moving forward together has, and will continue to, allow us to overcome this adversity — and having done it together, we will be better and stronger for it. I again want to wish good health and safety for you and your families, and thank you for working with us to move forward together.

Article was written at the end of March 2020.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

National Weather Service Alerts



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

Spring is here and we're entering tornado season. Which is why it is important to review what the various National Weather Service alerts mean.

A **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** means conditions are favorable for a severe thunderstorm in the area(s) covered under the watch.

A **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** means a severe thunderstorm has been spotted in the area either visually or via Doppler Radar. This could mean high winds, lightning, and heavy rain.

A **Tornado Watch** means the conditions are favorable for a tornado in the area(s) covered under the Tornado Watch. You do not need to take cover,

but you should keep an eye on the conditions and stay near a radio/TV/weather radio.

A **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been spotted in the area covered either visually by someone on the ground or via Doppler Radar. It means take cover immediately. If you have a basement or a storm shelter in your home, that is where you should go.

If you are not sure where to go or need help in determining the best place, checkout the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at www.fema.gov for detailed information on how to determine the safest place to be.



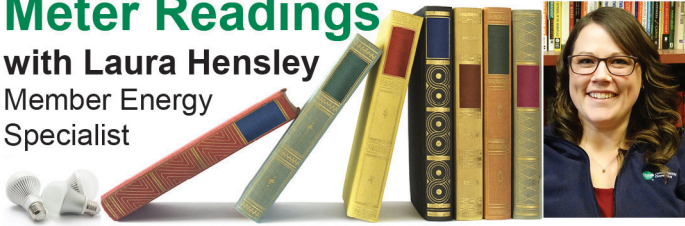
Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are clear warning signs of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician for an inspection.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**

Member Energy
Specialist



A power surge is a sudden increase in electrical current. A surge can cause an immediate failure of electrical equipment, or it can contribute to reducing the lifespan of the equipment.

Surges happen for a variety of reasons. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), 80 percent of surges are caused by internal sources. Internal sources are typically less detrimental, but more common and include things like faulty wiring, loose connections, large appliances turning on and off, overloaded or short circuits, and ground faults. External sources of surges include lightning, damage to power lines, and utility, power grid switching.

A common means of protection are point-of-use surge protectors, which are plugged into a local outlet and then have multiple devices connected to them. It is important to recognize not all power strips or outlet extenders provide surge protection. Surge protection varies in appearance and levels of protection. The following are important to know.

- Protection does not last forever. Repeated

Surge Protection

surges will diminish your device's ability to protect. Consider replacing old surge protection devices. Visual indicators, like LED lights, are helpful to distinguish proper protection.

- To function effectively, a surge protector must be connected to a properly wired and grounded AC outlet. Without a grounded outlet, you have no real protection.

- A higher joules rating means greater protection against large surges and more surges overall. Consider devices with a joule rating of 1,000 or higher for electronics.

- Top surge protectors feature clamping voltage, or amount of voltage permitted to pass through to the attached load, of no more than 400 volts.

- "UL 1449 Listed" devices offer piece of mind. A "UL Listed" product has passed quality testing, but the UL 1449 means the device has also met the criteria for minimum performance standards for surge suppression.

To offer protection on a larger scale, you may consult with an electrician about "whole-house" protection installed at your breaker panel. CEC also offers a meter-socket, surge protector to guard against external sources of surges entering through the power line.

Local Teens Selected for Youth Tour

Four local, high school juniors were recently selected to attend the 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. They are: Makenna Armagost, AC Valley High School; Riley Bauer, AC Valley High School; Henry Scardina, PA Leadership Charter School; and Nichole Sherry, AC Valley High School.

They will join over 1,500 students from across the nation to see the U.S. Capitol, meet 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.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C has been canceled due to COVID-19, for the safety and welfare of the students.



**Makenna
Armagost**



**Riley
Bauer**



**Henry
Scardina**



**Nichole
Sherry**

You Asked, We Listened. Outage Notifications Coming Soon!

CEC works hard to improve system reliability and keep the lights on, but we all know power outages happen. For this reason, CEC will soon be offering outage text and email notifications to members to improve outage communication.

This capability is coming soon through SmartHub. SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your electric account. It offers members the ability to pay bills, manage energy use, contact CEC with service issues, and (soon enough) receive outage notifications quickly and easily 24/7 online or from your mobile device.

To receive outage notifications, CEC must have up-to-date contact information on your SmartHub account and you must be signed up.



a text notifying you of an outage if you are a part of a larger outage and others have already notified us.

It is important that members who receive a power restored message and are still without power, report this to CEC. This helps us know that you have an individual outage and that the work we did on the other portion of the line feeding your location did not restore your power.

Once you are signed up for outage notifications, you will begin receiving them as soon as they're available. This will allow you to receive updates from CEC linecrews right to your mobile phone!

SmartHub is also available as an app. You can download it by visiting your app store from your mobile device and searching for SmartHub.

Standard text messaging rates may apply based on your mobile phone, carrier plan.

CEC employees and directors, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible to win an Outage Preparedness Kit.

Members who are currently signed up for SmartHub also need to verify all account and contact information is up-to-date and sign up for notifications.

Outage notifications will include alerts for a reported outage affecting your account, updates for those outages, and a notice that power has been restored. In the event of a large scale outage, notifications may vary.

All members who sign up for SmartHub before July 1 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit valued at \$60. CEC will give away 100 kits. Each kit includes a carrying bag, solar powered emergency radio, extreme weather preparedness brochure, report an outage magnet, LED lantern with compass, weather preparedness playing cards, first aid kit, foil Mylar rescue blanket, whistle with key ring, and two tea light candles and matches.

During outages CEC relies on members to notify that power is out, however, you may receive

How To Sign Up for Outage Notifications:

- Visit SmartHub – go to www.central.coop and click the SmartHub link in the top right corner.
- You must be a registered SmartHub user – if you need to register, click on New User.
- Once you are logged in, click on Notifications in the green menu at the top of the page.
- Then click on Manage Notifications from the options on the left.
- This page will show you all notifications available to you. Insert your contact information for the notifications you wish to receive. Then click Save Settings.
- You will need to verify your contact methods to complete the process.

Recipe of the Month

Cole Slaw

Cole Slaw Ingredients:

- 2 pounds cabbage, shredded
- 1 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 1 green or red pepper, diced
- 1 carrot, shredded

Dressing Ingredients:

- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds

Directions: Mix dressing ingredients together. Then add vegetables and mix thoroughly.

Can be made ahead of time — it keeps very well.

*Thank you to Rene Hoffman
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:

Sandi Best of Emlenton

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Tammy Neff of Chicora

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.

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: All power strips and outlet extenders provide surge protection.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are warning signs of faulty wiring.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been spotted in the area and to take cover immediately.

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