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85th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt!!

Learn How To Win an Outage Preparedness Kit!

“Watts” Inside

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Power Lines

Photo by Paul Simcic of Springdale

Supply Chain

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

The news has been filled with stories about supply chain issues, workforce availability and outrageous gas prices. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is not immune to these issues, but I thought this might be a good time to share what we are doing to mitigate these concerns, while providing the essential service we supply.

Throughout the pandemic, we saw several retirements and a few other employees leave to pursue other opportunities. I am happy to report we have been able to fill most of the positions and augment our workforce with outside vendors as required to keep up with the demands of our work and the needs of our members. It is always difficult to lose a significant level of experience in a workplace, but we have an excellent group and our new arrivals make up for inexperience with a strong work

ethic and desire to be successful. We also just completed an organizational structure review designed to identify efficiencies and best utilize the talents of our workforce.

We have continued some virtual participation in off-site meetings that began out of necessity during the pandemic and this, and other curtailments, has allowed us to consume less fuel. We also have our own diesel and unleaded fuel tanks and kept the tanks filled prior to the significant increase in fuel prices, providing short-term savings.

Supply chain issues are proving to be some of the biggest concerns and, at this point, we can see no obvious light at the end of this tunnel. It began with vendors raising production concerns as inventories were depleted while production shut down during the pandemic. It worsened as all supplier inventories were completely depleted as

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production shutdowns lasted much longer than anticipated. It continues now because raw materials and finished products are currently not able to raise production levels to meet current orders or restock inventories.

As with the other items discussed, your cooperative has not been sitting around wringing our hands because hope is not a plan. We took steps at the beginning of the pandemic and early into supply chain concerns to increase our on-site inventory, allowing us available material at prices that preceded significant increases. We also confirmed the availability of our emergency storm materials and reached out to additional vendors to determine alternate potential supplies. We tapped into additional sources of specific material as available in the refurbished marketplace. We even identified facilities in the field that are either under or unutilized so they can be pressed into service as needed. As always, the fact that we are a cooperative also augments our efforts as we have a statewide and national association of other cooperatives who work together to offer mutual assistance in times of extreme need.

During good times, we make plans that allow us to position CEC in the best possible way so when we face challenging times, we have resources available that allow us to continue to meet the needs of our membership. Of course, our efforts cannot guarantee we will not face additional adversity in this challenging

“During good times, we make plans that allow us to position CEC in the best possible way so when we face challenging times, we have resources available that allow us to continue to meet the needs of our membership.”

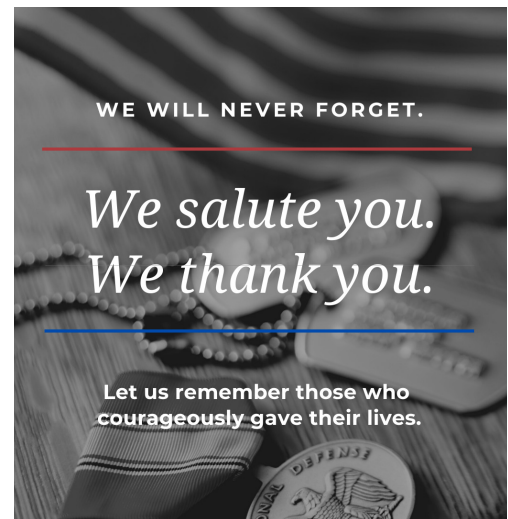
Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

time, but I believe they do mitigate concerns and put us in the best possible position to weather the storm. This is evidenced by the fact that, as I have mentioned before, we had no rate increase in 2021 and have no plan to increase rates in 2022. This is all possible because of the great relationship with, and in support of, our membership. I know that CEC will come out on the other end of this stronger because of it.

Don't forget to enter our 2022 Member Photo Contest!

Entries are due by June 10. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners: \$100 first place, \$50 second place, and \$25 third place.

Visit www.central.coop for more information.





The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Slips, Trips and Falls



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

OSHA reports that slips, trips and falls cause almost 20 percent of all workplace injuries. Slips and falls do not, however, constitute a primary cause of fatal occupational injuries, but represent the primary cause of lost days from work.

Nearly all slips, trips or falls involve one or more of the following factors.

- Substandard walking surfaces.
- Surface obstructions or contaminants.
- Improper footwear.
- Walking style of the person.

Proper housekeeping and lighting of working and walking surfaces can prevent most slips, trips and falls. Sometimes, surface contaminants can be very difficult to recognize as a hazard and once the hazard is noticed, it must be cleaned up to prevent injuries. Wearing the proper footwear for current weather conditions is important to prevent slips, trips or falls, and reduce fatigue.

Trips occur when an obstruction, such as a cord, tool, materials or debris, catches the person's foot and causes him or her to stumble forward. Tripping hazards should be routed in a safe location when in use and should be picked up and put away after use.

Slips occur when an individual has too little friction between their feet and the walking or working surface, causing them to lose balance. The use of proper footwear is imperative. Use absorbents to clean up any spills.

Falls occur from an individual descending freely by the force of gravity. Most falls occur from heights less than 10 feet.

Here are just a few safe practices for preventing slips, trips and falls.

- Utilize handrails or grab-bars in areas where there are stairs or changes in elevation.
- Use three points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- Take smaller steps and try to ensure your torso stays balanced over your feet when traversing slippery conditions.
- Minimize distractions to remain alert to hazards and avoid carrying bulky items that block your view.
- Remove obstructions from travel areas, such as extension cords, power cords, hoses, boxes or tools.
- Stay alert to parts projecting from areas around walking and working surfaces.



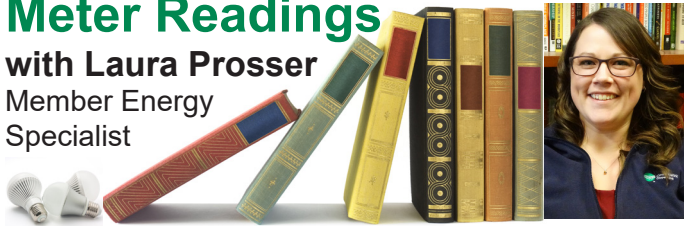
May is Electrical Safety Month

Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.



Meter Readings

with **Laura Prosser**
Member Energy
Specialist



Electric Vehicles (EVs) are increasing in popularity nationally, and with vehicle manufacturers announcing some aggressive plans for adding EV options to their lineups, we will see them on the road in rural PA. Adoption will be slower in much of the areas we serve, but we certainly recognize there are some great benefits to owning an EV — vehicle performance, reduced fuel costs, and decreased maintenance to name a few.

Because CEC provides the electricity our members will need to power these vehicles, we want to get a better sense of how EVs have already impacted our membership. CEC is interested in learning which of our members are already EV owners.

Are You an EV Owner?

Therefore, we are offering an incentive to current EV owners for completing a quick survey and connecting with us. We are interested to learn about your experience, and we would love to see some real-life charging examples.

If you own a plug-in EV, please head to www.central.coop/electric-vehicle-incentive to fill out the survey and earn a \$50 bill credit.



Outage Communication Via Text & Email

Would you like updates about outages affecting your service sent directly to you? Do you prefer to report an outage via a text message?

Since 2020, CEC has released a variety of outage communication options via text and email. These include outage notification texts or emails for reported outages, updates during an outage, estimated restoration times, and power restored, as well as the option of reporting an outage via text message. All of these happen through SmartHub — CEC's online account management portal.

Outage notifications offer real-time outage updates via text or email. **Plus! All members signed up to receive outage notifications before June 15 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit valued at \$60! CEC will give away 45 total kits.**

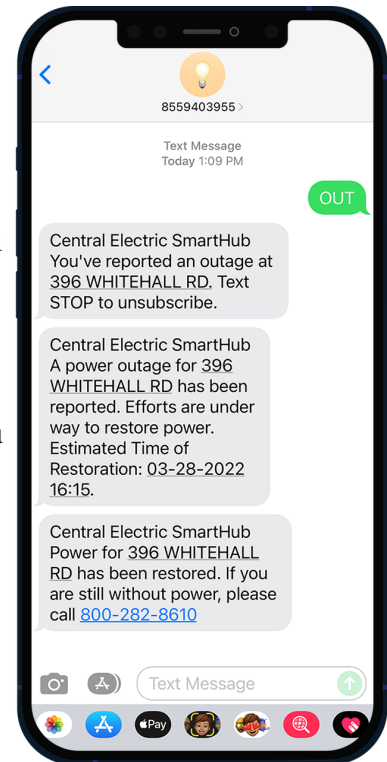
CEC's two-way texting feature allows members

with a single account to text the word "OUT" to report a power outage.

To take advantage of any of these options, you must be a registered SmartHub user and have a text enrolled mobile number.

Do not wait until you are experiencing an outage to utilize these great features — sign up today!

To learn more about any of these services, visit www.central.coop.



85th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt!!

You are invited to join us for a stroll through CEC's history via a scavenger hunt! Participants can expect a scenic tour through CEC's service territory while learning about (and seeing) some of the co-ops most historical moments and markers. Plus! There's a prize at the end!

The scavenger hunt will be available to all members from June 1 to Aug. 31. You can do all the locations in one day, or spread it out over the three months — it's up to you.

There are 8.5 locations throughout CEC's service territory for the scavenger hunt, all with historical reasons for being chosen. The scavenger hunt information is available 24/7/365 at all locations but the last. All members who complete the scavenger hunt will receive a prize at the last location.

To find each location, you will be given GPS coordinates. Each location will share the

coordinates for the next. These coordinates can be entered into any smartphone navigation app or by utilizing a map. The coordinates for the first location are: 40.814045, -79.520161. You must make sure to type these in exactly as shown.

At each location, look for the scavenger hunt's flyer. Each flyer will give a CEC historical fact, which location number you are at, a link to check-in, and the next location's coordinates.

To learn more about the scavenger hunt, please visit www.central.coop. We hope you enjoy the scavenger hunt as much as we enjoyed putting it together! Keep watching this newsletter for more anniversary celebration announcements.



Benefits of Right-of-Way Maintenance



CEC ROW maintenance in Kennerdell.

Right-of-way (ROW) refers to the pathway an electric line follows and the access utility crews have to perform improvements, maintenance and repairs. ROWs also provide a safety zone between electric lines and vegetation, trees or buildings.

CEC contracts line clearing crews to maintain 15 feet on each side of a single-phase line and 20 feet on each side of a three-phase line. Maintenance occurs on a seven year cycle.

ROW maintenance includes trimming, clearing and spraying vegetation to increase reliability. Properly maintaining ROWs is crucial to reliability — trees are CEC's main cause of outages.

Additional benefits of ROW maintenance include quicker restoration of power outages, keeping crews and members safe, and reducing unexpected repair costs.

Recipe of the Month

Father Orsini's Eggplant Balls

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 large eggplant, peeled and diced
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup grated cheese of choice

Directions:

In a large saucepan, heat olive oil and gently sauté garlic until golden brown. Add diced eggplant and water, then cover. Reduce heat and cook eggplant until soft. Once done, combine eggplant, bread crumbs, parsley, eggs and cheese in a mixing bowl. Mix well and form into balls. Fry on all sides in olive oil until lightly browned.

Thank you to Ann Coppula 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:

Brenna Moskala of Fenelton

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Edmund Nowikowski of Natrona Heights

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: CEC has several plans in place in an attempt to mitigate supply chain concerns.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: OSHA reports that slips, trips and falls cause almost 50 percent of all workplace injuries.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: CEC is offering an incentive to current EV owners for completing a quick survey.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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