

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative



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It’s About You

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

It’s about you. Maybe better put, it’s not about me. Everything we do here at CEC is in support of our mission statement:

“Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.”

Whether the capital credit retirement that was reflected in your April billing (your board of directors authorized over \$1.9 million in patronage capital to be returned to the members) or the restoration of an outage caused by a spring storm, every employee at CEC provides a service that supports this mission and ultimately our members. I am not saying that we do this without compensation and, of course, we all have different motivators, the focus is always on what is best for the cooperative and its members.

Early in my career while working with an investor-owned utility

company, I found myself with the opportunity to meet with the Executive Vice President of engineering and operations. This leader was a bit of a role model to young engineers in the company because, unlike most of the other executives at this very large corporation, he had started at the entry level and worked his way up to the executive level. Certainly, we were not all going to progress to the C-suite, but the fact that he was originally one of us gave us all hope that it could happen.

Being the young, ambitious and, dare I say, arrogant person I was back then, I took the opportunity to ask for any advice he might be willing to share with someone who aspired to advance as he had. His advice surprised me and became a foundation for my approach that still serves me and, by extension, you today. He simply said that he always tried to make his decisions based on what was best for the company, not what was best for him personally. His rationale was that while what was best for him may offer a short term gain, if the company failed, he would ultimately suffer. However, if the company did well then, he and every

other employee would benefit from it. A rising tide lifts all boats as it were.

Simple? Yes. Obvious? Maybe. Easier said than to be disciplined enough to follow (especially as an arrogant kid), definitely. But fast forward to today and this advice seems tailor made for the cooperative business model. The advice has served me well in my career and we have built and are continuing to build a team of leaders here at your cooperative who have learned and continue to learn this lesson, "It's not about me."

We are all at different levels of buy-in to the idea, but every time an employee is provided the opportunity to make a decision and they choose what is best for the cooperative and the members, the positive results are apparent and they get on board. As each employee gets more personal responsibility and participates in our daily operations, I am always energized as employees see the value they bring to the members and want to do more. This is evidenced by the fact that we get great ideas from throughout the organization about how we might get better and improve the service for our members. These ideas don't come from a selfish, "How does this benefit me?" attitude, but instead from the enthusiasm that their ideas might be incorporated into how we serve our members, giving them some ownership. And, if they ultimately advance in the cooperative because the cooperative is doing well, then, all boats rise.

Not everyone aspires to sit in my chair, we all have different motivators, but what we see here every day at CEC is that regardless of what motivates us, when we start with the foundation that it is not about me and remember why we are here, we will reach our goals through service to our members. On behalf of all your cooperative employees, let me thank you for the opportunity to serve.

MEMORIAL DAY

Remember And Honor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Our office will be closed for Memorial Day on May 27th.




\$4.57

Average Daily Cost of Power



\$5.36

Average Cost of a Big Mac®



Sources: Big Mac® Index, EIA (Dec. 2022)
Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Matthew P. Boshaw** | CEO & General Manager
- Chester Conti** | Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO
- Lisa A. Hoover** | Director of Member Services
- Christopher W. Kossman** | Director of Information Technology
- Fred E. Terwilliger** | Assistant General Manager/COO

 **Central Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Members, you're invited to the

2024 CEC MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Friday
June 14, 2024
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Central Electric Cooperative
716 Route 368
Parker, PA 16049

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To the Top!

Training Stages for Electric Lineworkers

Known for their strength and agility, lineworkers are dedicated to ensuring our communities have reliable power. Safety is always top priority on the job, which is why lineworkers spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

Here's a look at the career progression of a lineworker.

Crew Leader

A crew leader is an advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors and directing daily activities for crews.



Journeyman Lineworker

Post-apprenticeship and with roughly 7,000+ hours of training under the belt, journeyman lineworkers are fully trained in their field. They repair, update and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other electrical equipment.



Apprentice Lineworker

Before reaching lineworker status, they are required to work as an apprentice. Apprentice lineworkers earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.



Groundperson/Linehelper

Many lineworkers begin their career as a groundperson, or linehelper. They assist line crews with tools, keeping job sites safe and operating smaller equipment.



Regardless of stage, all lineworkers continue education and training throughout their career. Training and testing requirements vary from utility to utility.

2024 Photo Contest

Don't forget to enter CEC's 2024 Photo Contest! The top three winners will receive a prize: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place.

The photo can be of beautiful scenery, power lines, landscapes, or anything! **Members must submit their photo before June 7.** Members will vote for the top five photos from June 14 to July 26. Then voting begins for the top three photos from Aug. 2 to Oct. 18.

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in the September issue of this newsletter.

Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in future publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov





Culture of Safety

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

Across the country, in nearly every workplace, safety is recognized during May. Some will set aside a day, a week, or even the better part of the month to recognize the importance of safety and how it plays such a crucial role in our day-to-day lives. One of the major talking points you may hear mentioned is the idea of a safety culture.

Almost every employer follows a mission and/or vision statement. These statements provide the organization and its employees with the fundamentals of the established company culture and the core values by which it operates. CEC's mission statement reads, "Central Electric Cooperative safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve." By definition, that narrative provides all employees with a common goal that we share a part in achieving.

Our vision statement emphasizes specific areas of the organization that reflect the core values that are incorporated into everyday tasks and responsibilities. As the cooperative looks toward the future, we will focus on improvement in all areas with a dedicated focus on

safety, reliability, cost, service, and culture. Each of the above-mentioned topics has additional information to further emphasize its importance and the role it plays in the overall mission.

It is not by coincidence that safety is mentioned at the beginning of both statements. Whether you are reading our purpose, mission or vision statements, it is evident that safety is treated with the utmost respect and a high priority.

At CEC, safety is everyone's responsibility, and it involves a strong team mentality from all departments, not a single person. We all have the responsibility to work safely and operate proactively towards hazard identification and mitigation. The goal for all employees is to go home to their loved ones and life passions every

day. The success of our safety program relies on the commitment of each employee to understand why we work together to seek this achievement, as well as continuously learning about and improving our processes and procedures. The product of an effective and successful safety program can be measured and understood by speaking with anyone at the cooperative about the hard work and dedication we put into maintaining safe working environments.



Whether at home or work, take a moment this month to think about what safety truly means to you. We all have a reason why we work safely. Don't let anything or anyone compromise your passion and desire to go home to what you love!



You're invited to the 2024 CEC MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Friday
June 14, 2024
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Central Electric Cooperative
716 Route 368
Parker, PA 16049

CEC is excited to invite members to the first annual Member Appreciation Event. This event will take place at CEC's headquarters on June 14 from 3-7 p.m. This will be an open-house-style event where members can come and go at a time that is convenient for them. The event will include educational information, entertainment, children's activities, giveaways and raffles, opportunities to meet CEC staff and the board of directors, and refreshments.

Activities

This event will include many activities for the whole family. Children's activities include bucket truck rides, face painting and electrical safety information. Members will have the opportunity to see bucket trucks and other fleet equipment, learn about electric vehicles, watch our linemen give pole climbing and hot line demonstrations, and learn about the various programs CEC offers its members.

Our hot line demonstration educates viewers about the dangers of high voltage transmission. Our linemen will show the dangers of contacting overhead electrical lines and electric equipment during the Member Appreciation Event. Our linemen will give four, 45-minute demonstrations throughout the evening. The presentations will begin at 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Entertainment

Entertainment will include a band and car show. The band, Perfect Timing, will perform a variety of music throughout the event. Additionally, members are invited to join our car show. Each car show participant will receive a dash plaque and a chance to win a bill credit. Members who would like to participate in the car show

www.central.coop

must complete a waiver. Waivers are available by calling the office at 800-521-0570.

Arrival & Parking

When arriving for the Member Appreciation Event, members will be directed behind the co-op on Perryville Road. Traffic control and yard signs will direct members to park. This will limit traffic buildup on Route 368. Members will then be directed to the parking lot behind CEC's building.

Transportation will be available for any members who may have trouble getting from their car to the building.

Members will then enter the building through the second floor tunnel once parked. Once inside the building, members will be asked to register for the event. Members will be given a registration prize and have the opportunity to receive additional prizes throughout the event. Members will also receive a map of the building and a list of activities in each area.

Refreshments

Food and refreshments will be available. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. Mobile Meadows, a dessert food truck, will also be present and provide ice cream during the event. Children's snacks will also be available.

We hope you can join us for this new event! We are excited to provide a behind the scenes look at everything we do at CEC and show our appreciation for our members.

If you would like to attend the Member Appreciation Event, please RSVP by filling out the form on our website or call 800-521-0570.



Preparing for Storms and Summer Heat

by *Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist*

When preparing for storms and summer heat, it is crucial to take proactive measures to ensure safety and comfort during extreme weather conditions. Storms can lead to power outages, disrupting daily life and posing potential risks. It is important to have a plan in place to deal with such situations. One key to storm preparation is being mindful of electrical usage. During summer heatwaves, the demand for electricity often spikes as people rely on air conditioning units to stay cool.

Here are some tips to help you stay safe and comfortable during these challenging conditions:

Storm Preparedness:

- Keep an emergency kit handy with essentials like flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, water and a first aid kit.
- Secure outdoor furniture and loose items that could become projectiles in high winds.
- Stay updated on weather and power outage updates.

Power Outages:

- Unplug electronic devices during storms to prevent damage from power surges when the electricity comes back on.

- Consider investing in a generator for backup power during extended outages. CEC offers members the option to purchase a GenerLink, to ensure safety for our members and linemen.
- Have alternative lighting sources, such as candles or lanterns available.

Summer Heat:

- Use fans or air conditioning efficiently to stay cool while minimizing energy consumption.
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoid prolonged exposure to high temperatures.
- Consider installing window shades or using reflective window film to reduce heat gain indoors.

Energy Conservation:

- Set your thermostat to an energy-efficient temperature when you're home and raise it higher when you're away.
- Use appliances like dishwashers and laundry machines during off-peak hours to reduce strain on the electrical grid.
- Consider investing in energy-efficient appliances that consume less power. CEC offers rebates for some energy-efficient appliances. Learn more on our website.

By taking proactive measures and staying informed, you can navigate through summer weather challenges with ease. Stay safe, cool and energy-conscious this season!



Role: Commercial Accounts Manager

Employee Since: January 1999

Employee Spotlight: Chris Panian



What do you do at CEC? I am the representative that interacts with businesses on our lines.



Tell us about a professional success story that you're proud of. I graduated from the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership Program in 2007.



What is one fun fact about yourself? I build stick and tissue rubber band powered planes.

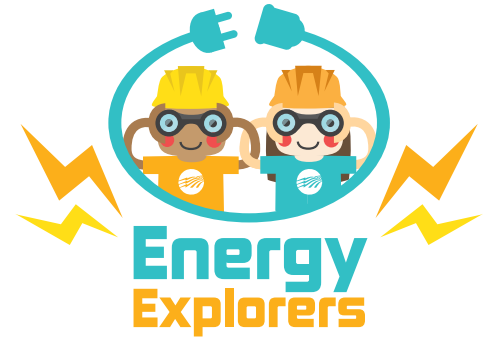


What do you enjoy most about working at CEC? The variety of different businesses and people I have met over the years.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? To be a pilot.

LINEWORKER SAFETY GEAR WORD SEARCH



Lineworkers use a variety of gear to stay safe while working near power lines and other electrical equipment. Read about their safety gear below, then find and circle the blue words in the puzzle.

- Safety **goggles** keep debris out of a lineworker’s eyes while they work.
- Rubber **gloves** are insulated and protect lineworkers from electric shock.
- Steel toe **boots** provide extra protection when lineworkers lift heavy objects.
- **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from potential head injuries.
- Lineworkers wear a safety **harness** to prevent falls while climbing **poles** or working in a bucket.
- Lineworkers use a **hot stick**, an insulated tool made from fiberglass, when working on energized lines.

I	O	Y	L	L	F	S	O	P	W	D	L	S	S	G
G	J	H	U	P	M	K	T	O	E	U	Q	T	W	C
H	U	N	A	P	B	I	Y	L	Q	Q	Z	A	W	B
M	W	F	R	Z	P	L	V	E	O	W	B	H	E	Y
F	F	S	E	V	O	L	G	S	R	B	N	D	G	D
I	E	N	Z	D	Q	R	S	N	Z	F	G	R	A	Y
A	F	K	X	R	Q	E	Z	V	Z	O	K	A	I	B
N	J	Y	G	H	N	H	U	Q	G	Q	N	H	J	E
T	C	X	C	R	L	H	G	G	J	B	U	W	H	H
S	Q	X	A	R	O	M	L	M	G	O	B	S	Z	U
R	F	H	R	T	Y	E	Y	A	E	O	Q	A	X	Z
O	O	F	Y	G	S	C	G	M	P	T	J	Q	R	S
H	O	T	S	T	I	C	K	R	J	S	C	F	U	V
A	P	X	F	P	N	Z	Y	A	R	A	G	U	N	W
P	T	S	Z	L	S	B	E	Y	T	E	Y	T	T	O

From the Kitchen of:
Linda Knott

RECIPE: **CHOCOLATE CHIP PIE**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie pastry
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

Beat eggs on high speed until foamy. Beat in flour, sugars and butter. Stir in chips and nuts. Spoon into pie shell, mixture will be thick. Bake at 325 degrees for 55-60 minutes.



**ON THE GO AND
IN CONTROL.**

MANAGE

your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative

Your Board of Directors



From left (back row): Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Vice President, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; and Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049
Member Services: 800-521-0570; Outages: 800-282-8610
www.central.coop

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Moore

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

