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Board of Directors

Nancy Lendyak
President

Kenneth Etzel
Vice President

Althea Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

John Campbell
Kenneth Durrett
Robert Smith
Jody Weaver
Richard Weaver



PowerLines

Photo by Joe Simmons of Slippery Rock

Goals, Planning and Flexibility

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I have always been very goal oriented. In my youth, that was accompanied by a certain level of intensity that was well received on a football field, but not always in other situations. The old saying “it is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game,” was lost on me as something that the losing side would say.

The wisdom of experience has shown me quite the opposite. I realized the competition energized me, not the outcome. The contest, or how the game was played, is where the value lies and demonstrates what we are capable of. This realization has been behind my approach to goal setting and planning in the workplace. Long range goal setting is driven by what we think we will need at some point in the future, based upon circumstances today. It is very important to define the goal, but we must understand that as we work

towards its achievement, those needs may evolve, redefining the goal.

The more important process is the planning of how we are going to reach that goal. I was told once that a goal without a plan to achieve it is just a dream. I would love to give appropriate credit for that statement, but can’t for the life of me remember who said it. I have shared our strategic planning process many times in previous articles and public remarks. The plan is detailed, has clear goals and strategies for reaching them, but also provides a level of flexibility that allows us to adjust our plans or modify our goals as circumstances require.

The world effectively shut down in March 2020. The first global pandemic in over 100 years has tested us all in a number of ways. Early on it seemed we were all pulling together to squelch the pandemic and get back to our normal

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“As pandemic concerns have not yet subsided as I write this article, I will not be so bold as to declare victory. However, I will say that we are winning and because of our goals, planning and flexibility, we are doing well.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

lives. After all, our history is filled with moments of adversity that brought us all together. However, the uncertainty and constantly changing requirements linked to the ebbing and subsequent resurgence of the virus has left many feeling frustrated, to say the least. It is all too easy to let that frustration push us to behave negatively and the internet is full of examples supporting that theory. Even locally, it seems some are looking for reasons to argue as an outlet for their frustration.

While your Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees are not immune to these influences, our strategic plan has provided clear guidance toward specific goals, a plan to achieve them and the flexibility to adjust to our rapidly changing circumstances. We provide an essential service to our members that has never been more important as they spend more time at their homes. The safety of our employees and the public is always our top priority and we were able to add their health and availability to that priority.

In the early stages of the pandemic, we leaned on our emergency response planning and experience. Circumstances required us to build in new protocols and alter our work practices in order to mitigate concerns over major outbreaks within our workforce. We distilled our efforts to only that which was essential and modified our plan to accommodate. Plans can sometimes be seen as an attempt to control, but I see planning as recognition that we

cannot control outside influences and need a strategy that provides the opportunity to meet the challenges offered by circumstances we face.

Over the 18 months that we have weathered this pandemic, CEC has changed protocols to match changing requirements so frequently that at times it might have appeared as if we had no plan at all. Nothing could be further from the truth. The flexibility of the planning process allowed us to reach important goals, while rising to meet the challenges presented in an unprecedented time.

As pandemic concerns have not yet subsided as I write this article, I will not be so bold as to declare victory. However, I will say that we are winning and because of our goals, planning and flexibility, we are doing well. I do believe that “how we are playing this game” will both help us win and make us proud of how we did. I sincerely thank you for your continued participation with your cooperative. As we enter into the Holiday Season of 2021, I hope we all have much to be thankful for!



CEC's 84th Annual Meeting of the Members

COVID-19 continues to impact all of us and CEC's 84th Annual Meeting of the Members was no exception. However, CEC did still have its annual directors' election and business meeting.

On Aug. 20, CEC held a nonpublic, annual business meeting. It was out of an abundance of caution for the well-being of cooperative members, that CEC decided to again hold the meeting without the physical presence of members (a video of the meeting is available on CEC's website). But — that didn't stop 3,109 members from participating with the meeting via the expanded ballot, which was mailed to all cooperative members in July.

It was also through this ballot that members re-elected Jody Weaver of Clarion County and Kenneth Etzel of Venango County to CEC's Board of Directors.

Then at the September board meeting, CEC's directors elected Nancy Lendyak as board president, Kenneth Etzel as vice president and Althea Smith as secretary/treasurer.

Additionally, Richard Weaver was elected to a two-year term to serve as the Allegheny Electric Cooperative Member Delegate and Althea Smith is currently in her second year of her two-year term serving as the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Member Delegate.

Unfortunately, there is still no way for any of us



**Newly re-elected directors (from left):
Kenneth Etzel and Jody Weaver**

to know how 2022 will be impacted by COVID-19. But, we do hope you know that CEC will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for you — the members we serve. COVID-19 may necessitate changes in how we interact, but it will not change what we do.

From all of us here at CEC, we wish nothing but safety for you and your family during this time. We sincerely hope to see you all at Whitehall as soon as it is safe to do so. Details on the 2022 annual meeting event will be released in mid-2022.

CEC Holiday Closures

- **Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving (normal hours resume Nov. 26)**
- **Dec. 23 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve**
- **Dec. 24 in observance of Christmas Day (normal hours resume Dec. 27)**
- **Dec. 30 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve**
- **Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's Day (normal hours resume Jan. 3)**



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

Tree Trimming Safety

Every year professional and recreational tree trimmers get hurt or killed while taking down a tree. Logging operations are one of the most dangerous jobs in the country and with good reason. Everyone must be aware of hazards and take the necessary precautions to complete the job safely.

Felling and Pruning

Felling involves cutting the tree so it falls in the desired direction. Always consider the surrounding areas when performing your hazard assessment and properly utilize personal protective equipment.

Pruning involves removing dead or undesired branches. The hazards are similar to felling, but also include the risk of being struck by falling objects. Always utilize a groundman or spotter.

Overhead Power Lines

Trimmers must be aware of power lines and assume they are energized. Contacting power lines causes serious injury or electrocution. The current from lines can also “jump” between the line and the person or equipment, even without direct contact.

Only experienced professionals should trim trees near power lines. Follow these procedures to decrease the risk of injury:

- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area.
- Check for overhead power lines before felling trees or trimming limbs and branches.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Never use a metal ladder near power lines.
- Contact CEC with any questions.

Meter Readings

with **Laura Prosser**

Member Energy
Specialist



Why are LEDs energy efficient?

Traditional incandescent bulbs produce light by heating a wire filament to a temperature that produces light. Ninety percent of the energy needed for an incandescent bulb is released as heat and only ten percent is utilized for producing light.

LED light bulbs create light when an electrical current passes through a microchip, which illuminates the tiny light sources we call LEDs. LEDs do the same job, require less energy and only lose five percent of energy — saving you money.

What about watts?

Watts are no longer an effective comparison for

LED Light Bulbs

buying light bulbs. A watt is a unit of measurement of power and, having nothing to do with brightness, will not help us get the right bulb. Instead, look at lumens. Lumens measure brightness — the higher the lumens, the brighter the bulb. For comparison, a 9-watt LED bulb offers 800 lumens, which is the same amount you once got from a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

Another measurement to consider is color temperature, measured in kelvins (K). Bulbs between 2,700K-3,000K are warm white, 3,000K-5,000K are cool neutrals and 5,000K+ get you close to daylight.

What are you really saving?

An easy comparison is a 60-watt incandescent bulb and a 9-watt LED bulb, both offering 800 lumens. A 60-watt incandescent used three hours a day, every day of the year, would cost a CEC member \$7.51. A 9-watt LED bulb used for the same amount of time, would cost a member \$1.13 in electricity.

Make a Difference: Join ACRE®!

As a member-owned cooperative, we care about the laws and regulations that affect our members' electricity cost and reliability. Energy regulations are constantly being debated and you want to know how this will affect your electric bill.

For just seven cents a day, you can help ensure elected officials are knowledgeable about what co-op members want and need by supporting the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action.

ACRE® is a grassroots organization of electric cooperative employees, directors and member-owners that works to ensure our voices are being heard in Washington, D.C. and state capitals nationwide. ACRE® is a nonpartisan, political action committee focused on the future of electric cooperatives. Your decision to participate in ACRE® will support legislators who fight for electric cooperative members.

Join your member-owner neighbors, your CEC Board of Directors, CEC employees and tens of thousands of fellow rural electric cooperative member-owners nationwide who belong to ACRE®.

Many voices joined together have a big impact. Please consider adding your voice to this worthy and deserving cause. Join Co-op Owners for Political Action by completing the adjacent form and sending it in with your bill. For more information, visit our website at www.central.coop or contact your ACRE® coordinator, Kessa Stydinger, at 800-521-0570 x2152.

Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

Membership Form

Yes, I Want to Join!

There are two easy ways to contribute:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to PREA ACRE.

Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill:

- Regular Member: \$25
- Keystone Member: \$50
- Century Club Member: \$100
- President's Club Member: \$500
- Other \$ _____

Submit a check:

Amount enclosed \$ _____

- Please renew my amount at this level annually.

Membership Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account: _____

**Federal Election Law requires
the following information for contributions
equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return this form to:

ACRE

**c/o Central Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

Recipe of the Month

Easy Pumpkin Cake

Cake Ingredients:

- 1 box cake mix (yellow or spice)
- 1 can (about 16.9-ounces) pumpkin

Directions:

Mix cake mix and pumpkin. Pour into 9x13 cake pan and bake at 350 degrees per box directions or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool completely and top with cream cheese icing.

Icing Ingredients:

- 5 tablespoons butter, softened
- 3-ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-3/4 cups powdered sugar
- 3 to 4 teaspoons milk

Directions:

Mix all ingredients except milk. Then add milk until desired icing consistency.

Thank you to Marjorie R. Herold for submitting this recipe!

Send in your recipes to be shared!

Send Recipes to: Kessa Stydinger at kstydinger@central.coop or mail to CEC, Attn: Kessa Stydinger, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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:

Robert Glass of Venus

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Thomas Baron of Sarver

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's planning process helped reach important goals, despite the challenges COVID-19 presented.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Tree trimmers can safely assume power lines are not energized.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Watts are no longer an effective comparison for buying light bulbs.

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

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