

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

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Final Note of Gratitude

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

This will be the final article I write as the CEO & General Manager of Central Electric Cooperative. I am pleased that the print schedule and timing of article submissions for our newsletter have afforded me the opportunity to address our membership, Board, and employees one last time. For over 16 years, it has been my honor to serve this cooperative, its members, its employees, and the communities of western Pennsylvania that we are proud to call home.

When I began in this role, I understood that reliable electric service was essential. What I came to appreciate more deeply over time is that a cooperative is really built on trust in those that supply that service. Members count on us on cold mornings, during summer storms, and in the ordinary moments of daily life when electricity simply needs to be there. Earning and keeping that trust has been one of the greatest responsibilities of my career.

Serving a distribution electric cooperative in this part of

communities like ours—places where neighbors still help neighbors and where local ownership truly matters. To our members: thank you. Thank you for your patience during outages, your honesty when we needed to hear from you, your participation in annual meetings and programs, and your confidence in the people who serve you. This cooperative belongs to you, and that has always shaped the way we make decisions.

I am especially grateful to the employees of this cooperative, past, and present. No CEO accomplishes anything alone. The progress made over these 16+ years belongs to the people who answered phones, helped members, balanced accounts, planned construction, maintained equipment, managed safety, kept technology running, and worked the lines in every kind of weather. Their professionalism and pride in doing the job right have inspired me every day.

To our lineworkers, I offer a particular word of thanks. You have missed family dinners, holidays, ball games, and quiet evenings at home because someone needed the power restored. I have seen your skill, discipline, and

Continued on page 2

commitment up close, and I will always respect the work you do.

I also want to thank the board of directors for their guidance and trust. A strong cooperative needs thoughtful leadership, steady governance, and a clear commitment to the members. I have appreciated the board's dedication to safety, reliability, fiscal responsibility, and the cooperative principles that set us apart.

Much has changed during my tenure. Technology, member expectations, regulations, cybersecurity, supply challenges, and the electric grid itself have all grown more complex. Through it all, our responsibility has remained steady: provide safe, reliable, affordable electric service while preparing wisely for the future. I am proud of the investments we have made in system maintenance, outage response, right-of-way work, technology, and long-term planning.

I am equally proud that this cooperative has remained a true community partner. We are not some distant company. We live here, shop here, worship here, volunteer here, and raise our families here. Concern for community is not just one of the cooperative principles; it is part of who we are.

Of course, not every day has been easy. There were storms that tested us, difficult decisions, and times when the best path forward was not immediately clear. Those moments taught me that leadership is not about having every answer. It is about listening, telling the truth, trusting good people, and remembering whom you serve.

On a personal note, I want to thank my family. This job does not always stay at the office. It comes home through late-night phone calls, storm updates, meetings, travel, and

the weight of decisions. My family has shared that responsibility with me, and their support has meant more than I can express.

As I prepare to step away, I do so with confidence. This cooperative has capable employees, dedicated directors, engaged members, and a culture rooted in service. The future will bring challenges, but it will also bring opportunities. The next chapter will belong to new leadership, but the mission will remain the same.

If there is one thought I hope to leave with you, it is this: never underestimate the value of your cooperative. Local ownership matters. Democratic control matters. Service at cost matters. Neighbors helping neighbors matters. Those ideas have carried this organization for generations, and they will continue to guide it in the years ahead.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your CEO and General Manager for the past 16 years. Thank you for your trust, encouragement, patience, and support. It has been one of the great honors of my life to work on behalf of the members of Central Electric and alongside people who care so deeply about serving others and, while I am excited about my next opportunity, I will miss having those people in my daily life.

As I close this final article, I do so with gratitude, humility, and confidence in the road ahead. May this cooperative continue to serve with integrity, adapt with wisdom, and remain a trusted partner to the members and communities we are blessed to serve. Thank you, and may God bless this cooperative, its employees, its members, and the place we are proud to call home.



What is an Electrical Panel?

Your electrical panel (sometimes called a breaker box or fuse box) serves as the heart of your home's electrical system. Just as your heart receives blood and pumps it through arteries to every part of your body, your panel receives power from the energy company and circulates it through wires to every outlet, light fixture and appliance. Inside your panel, you'll find

- **The main breaker:** Large switch at the top that controls power to the entire home
- **Circuit breakers:** Smaller switches that control electricity to specific areas
- **Bus bars:** Metal bars that distribute electricity from the main breaker to circuit breakers
- **Ground bar:** Where ground wires connect
- **Neutral bar:** Where all white neutral wires connect
- **Service cables:** The main power lines coming into the panel
- **Labels:** A diagram or stickers that indicate which breaker controls which areas of the house

Learning the components of your electrical panel helps you troubleshoot issues and make informed decisions about energy use, home improvements and necessary upgrades. Look for signs of trouble like hissing sounds, burning smells, rust or corrosion, which indicate it's time to call a professional electrician.

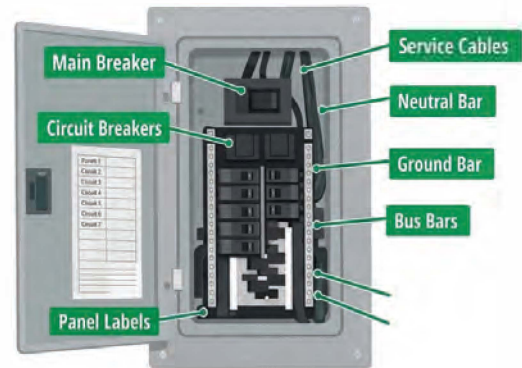
Most panels are located in basements, garages or utility rooms. Some apartments have them in hallway closets or kitchen pantries. If you're a renter or first-time homeowner, ask your landlord or home inspector if unsure. Knowing the location of your electrical panel is crucial for several reasons:

- **Safety:** During an electrical emergency or fire risk, you need to quickly cut power to the affected area or the entire home.
- **Troubleshooting:** When a circuit overloads and trips a breaker, restoring power requires a trip to the panel to reset the appropriate switch.
- **Home projects:** Planning to install a new appliance or light fixture? You'll need to shut off power at the panel first to avoid dangerous shocks.

Understanding your panel's location and capabilities isn't just about managing today's needs; it's about preparing for tomorrow's demands as our homes become increasingly electrified and connected.

Take a few minutes to locate your electrical panel and ensure it's accessible and not blocked by furniture or storage items. Consider labeling the breakers if they aren't already marked. Watch for signs that your panel needs replacing, such as frequent tripping or flickering lights.

What is an electrical panel?



Know where your panel is before an emergency.

*Central Electric Cooperative does not install, maintain, or repair main breaker panels, distribution subpanels, or customer-side wiring. You would need to get a licensed electrician.

Member Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Halloween Safety

As Halloween approaches, our neighborhoods come alive with costumes, candy, and people getting into the spirit of the holiday. Trick-or-treating is an all time favorite with excited kids going from door to door. It's easy to overlook safety amongst all the festivities, but practicing safe choices is equally as important. Central Electric Cooperative wants everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Halloween. That's why we've put together a few essentials tips to keep your little ghouls and goblins safe while they're out trick-or-treating.

Trick-or-Treating SAFETY TIPS

1. Have children travel in groups or with a trusted adult.
2. Stay on sidewalks and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far left as possible.
3. Have children wear bright, or reflective costumes.
4. Use flashlights or glow sticks to stay visible.
5. Never enter a stranger's home or vehicle.
6. Inspect all treats before eating and watch for allergens.
7. Set a curfew for older kids and review their route.

SOURCES: Children's Health, Safe Kids Worldwide



Role: Forestry Supervisor
Employee Since: August 2026

www.central.coop

Employee Spotlight: Matt Hepler



Why did you choose a career in Forestry? I started at Hazlett tree service when I was 18 and fell in love with Vegetation Management.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Spending time with family, sitting around a campfire, fishing and riding ATVs.



What's the best or most memorable trip you've ever been on and why? Family vacation to Hawaii. It was as beautiful as the pictures suggest.



Do you have any pets? Yes, a chocolate lab named Hank.



Do you have a favorite family tradition? First day of buck we all get together and go out and hunt.



**WE WANT
YOUR
FEEDBACK!**

HELP US IMPROVE BY TAKING OUR 2026 MEMBER SURVEY!

Chance to win one of the
following **PRIZES** upon entry:

- 1 year of free electricity*
- \$500 visa gift card
- \$100 visa gift card

*FULL DETAILS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.CENTRAL.COOP

Opens Oct. 1st
Closes Dec. 31st



Member Survey

We value your feedback! At Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), we aim to understand and acknowledge our members' voices. As we continue to grow and adapt, your input is vital for ensuring we make the changes that matter most to you. This is why we invite you to participate in our upcoming member survey.

The member survey provides a confidential approach for the co-op to gain insight into how we can improve our services. CEC is committed to our member-owners and the survey's purpose is for you to participate in the decision-making process at the cooperative. As member-owners, your feedback is necessary for our decisions and an improved understanding of relevant community needs.

You can participate in the survey from October 1st until December 31st. Upon completion, you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of several prizes: a \$500 Visa gift card, a \$100 Visa gift card, or a grand prize of one year's worth of electricity valued up to \$1,700! The \$1,700 amount is based on the average annual electricity costs for a typical CEC residential member. Please note that the grand prize must be redeemed for energy use (via billing credits) by December 31, 2027. Additionally, only one entry per CEC membership is allowed, and CEC employees, directors, and their immediate family members are not eligible to win.

To participate, visit the "Member Center" tab on our website. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact us at 800-521-0570.



Deck the Halls for CEC's 2026 Christmas Lights Contest!

Deck your home with all things festive and you could win the CEC Christmas Lights Contest! First place (the Griswold Award) will receive a \$500 bill credit and a \$500 donation to a charity of the member's choice! Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit and third a \$100 bill credit!

The contest is open to both residential and commercial CEC members and the rules are simple — there are no

special themes or guidelines, just be creative and festive. To enter, members must complete the registration form on CEC's website and attach a photo or video of their display before Dec. 8.

Voting is open to all and will take place on CEC's website from Dec. 12 to Dec. 20. The winners will be announced on CEC's website on Dec. 23 and in February's Power Lines newsletter.

Visit www.central.coop for additional contest details



Unlocking Extra Value: How Cooperative Principles Drive Member Success

by Connie Long, Key Account & Energy Management Advisor

When you turn on the lights or open your monthly bill, it's easy to think of Central Electric Cooperative as just another power company. But because we're a co-op based right here in Parker, value-added services mean something completely different to us than they do to traditional power corporations.

An investor-owned utility usually adds new features to boost profit margins for outside shareholders. Here at CEC, we introduce new resources, efficiency tools, and support programs for one simple reason: to fulfill our promise to you, our member-owners.

Every tool or service we offer is rooted in the cooperative principles that guide us every day:

- **Democratic Member Control & Autonomy:** You have a real voice. Our board and leadership live in the same communities you do and answer to you, not distant investors. The updates and value-added services we launch come directly from the real-world feedback you share with us.
- **Member Economic Participation:** Money spent here stays working for you. Any surplus margins don't leave the co-op, they get funneled right back into strengthening our local grid infrastructure, maintaining reliable power, and returning capital credits to your pocket.

- **Education, Training, and Information:** We care about more than just delivering kilowatt-hours. We're committed to offering value-added programs, energy-saving tips, and technical support so you can make informed decisions for your home or business.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives & Community Concern:** By teaming up with other electric co-ops, we leverage combined strength to keep operations efficient while staying deeply focused on powering our local Western Pennsylvania communities.

The Co-op Advantage at a Glance

Feature	Investor-Owned Electric Utilities	Our Central Electric Cooperative
Primary Goal	Maximize profit for outside shareholders	Maximize reliability and service for local member-owners
Service Design	Driven by bottom-line margins	Driven by direct member needs and feedback
Financial Surplus	Paid out to investors	Reinvested into local grid infrastructure or returned as capital credits

Value-added services aren't a sales pitch or an afterthought, they are living proof of our commitment to you. By putting local people over corporate profit, every improvement we make directly strengthens our shared community.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Central Electric Cooperative family.

Our commitment goes beyond power lines.
That's the cooperative difference.

Central Electric Cooperative

Central Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY

- Prepare an outage kit before losing power.
- Keep your food safe and your fridge/ freezer closed.
- Plan to have a fully charged phone or radio to monitor alerts.
- Consider alternative cooling/heating resources for your home.

Visit www.central.coop for more information.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CO-OP MONTH QUIZ



October is National Co-op Month

Did you know there are many different kinds of cooperatives?

A cooperative, or co-op, is a business that's owned by the people who use it. Some co-ops help people buy groceries, some help farmers sell their crops and some—like your electric co-op—bring power to your home.

Read each clue below and guess the type of cooperative you think it is.

Answer Choices:

Worker	Producer	Consumer	Utility	Retail	Financial	Housing
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1. Your local electric cooperative

It keeps the lights on, restores power after storms and is owned by the members it serves.

Type: _____

2. REI

People can become members to shop for outdoor gear, enjoy special benefits and help support the business.

Type: _____

3. Ocean Spray

Thousands of cranberry and grapefruit farmers work together to grow fruit and produce juice sold across the country.

Type: _____

4. Your local credit union

Members save money, open checking accounts and apply for loans through a financial institution they own together.

Type: _____

5. A grocery co-op

Local shoppers become members to help support a community grocery store and buy fresh foods.

Type: _____

6. A cooperative apartment building

People work together to own and manage the place where they live.

Type: _____

7. A cooperative bakery

The people who bake the bread, decorate the cakes and serve customers also own the business together.

Type: _____

Answer Key:

1. Utility 2. Retail 3. Producer 4. Financial 5. Consumer 6. Housing 7. Worker



From the Kitchen of:
Kayleigh Sherman



RECIPE: **WHITE CHICKEN CHILI**

Send your own recipe to:

Laura Prosser; lprosser@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box
329, Parker, PA 16049

INGREDIENTS:

4 boneless chicken breasts	2 cans corn
1 medium onion - chopped	1/2 cup sour cream
Minced garlic	garlic powder
5-7 cups chicken broth	onion powder
2 cans green chiles	oregano
30 oz can great northern white beans (rinse)	cumin

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cook chicken in crock pot on low for 4-6 hours then shred.
2. Saute onions and minced garlic in 2 Tbsp butter until soft.
3. Add all other ingredients except for sour cream to pot and bring to boil simmer for 20-30 minutes.
4. Add sour cream and stir until combined.
5. Top with cheese and tortilla strips.



Central Electric Cooperative

Your Board of Directors



From left (back row): Kenneth Durrett, Vice President, Jared McFarland, Forest County; Jody Weaver, President, Clarion County; Todd Shingleton, Butler County **(front)** Richard Weaver, Clarion County, Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County, Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; Dana Kellogg, 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

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Hoover

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**ON THE GO AND
IN CONTROL.**

MANAGE

your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

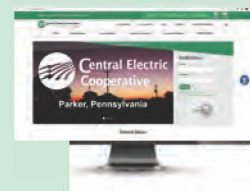
RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

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



Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

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

