

**Inside  
Learn How to:**

**Win FREE  
ELECTRICITY  
FOR A YEAR!!**

Join ACRE®

**“Watts” Inside**

Powering Through: Generators	3
Member Survey Reminder	4
Halloween Safety for Motorists	4
Make a Difference: Join ACRE®	5
Cream of Butternut Squash & Leek Soup Recipe	6

**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 Jocelyn Maloney on Unsplash

## Clearing the Lines

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

When I was a kid, I used to think trees were great. You could climb them, hang a swing on them, and there was no better home base for hide and go seek. As I got older, I saw different value in trees. I enjoy woodworking and who doesn't like a nice campfire? When I lived in Oregon, we even took a trip to see big (ok, giant) trees in the Redwood National Forest. There are several industries dedicated and dependent on trees and, as a capitalist that wants a strong economy, I see their value as a renewable commodity.

With all of that said, as a distribution electric-utility professional, I hate trees. Ok — hate may be too strong a word. How about strongly dislike?

Each year, trees cause 45 to 60 percent of Central Electric Cooperative's (CEC's) service interruptions. We continuously

improve our system by replacing smaller poles with larger ones, shortening our span lengths, and adding fuses so outages will affect fewer members. In recent years, we have even placed a greater number of lines underground — when it makes financial sense. These efforts are not solely for the purpose of mitigating outages caused by trees, but tree interruptions are part of every new build or rebuild of lines that we do. Part of every design includes avoiding or clearing treed areas.

Each year we make a substantial investment in the clearing of our rights-of-way. It is one of our largest annual expenditures. We use multiple contracted, tree cutting services who provide pre-defined bid work, as well as time and material services. They work to clear our existing lines, clear rights-of-way for new construction, and respond to individual locations to address safety related concerns or

**Clearing the Lines /Page 2**

## Clearing the Lines /From Page 1

danger trees.

Our latest efforts are an attempt to reclaim our rights-of-way. The goal is to clear from ground to sky the entirety of every right-of-way. When we are able and allowed, we also remove trees from outside of the right-of-way that pose an imminent threat to our facilities. In addition to cutting or removing trees, we also have the rights-of-way mowed to clear all brush and debris from under the lines. This allows more efficient access to the facilities by our linemen in the event they need to work on the lines — speeding up restoration efforts. Where appropriate, we also spray the rights-of-way to inhibit future growth.

This combination of varied contractors, tree cutting and removal, mowing, and spraying is proving effective and our lines are much clearer and safer. The construction practices I mentioned earlier have also added to the improvement. Unfortunately, short of removing all of the trees, inside or outside of the right-of-way, that could possibly contact our lines — we cannot eliminate all tree-related outages.

When I first arrived at CEC, the “trimming season” was limited to the nicer weather months. Today, the contractors work year-round — which is why this article is appearing in October rather than March.

We appreciate your understanding as we work in and around your area, and sometimes cut your trees. As I have described, it is fundamentally important that we maintain this effort

continually. The beautiful area in which we all live and work, has an awful lot of trees requiring our diligence. I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation as we do this important work.

It seems like a long time since I wrote an article that wasn’t somehow related to our operations during a pandemic. I think the fact that we have needed to continue this work throughout the pandemic illustrates just how relentless and important it is to the operation of your cooperative.

I do still appreciate trees for all the positives they provide, and the Redwoods are magnificent (if you have never seen them). I just appreciate them a lot more when they are nowhere near a power line.

I hope your family and friends remain healthy and well. Thank you for continuing to work with us during these difficult times.

“Our latest efforts are an attempt to reclaim our rights-of-way. The goal is to clear from ground to sky the entirety of every right-of-way.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &  
General Manager

**BE A  
CO-OP  
VOTER!**

Be an active participant  
in our democracy.

Go to the polls on  
**November 3, 2020**

[www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop)

## Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy  
Specialist



One way to meet the challenge of a power outage is with a generator — which can help you get by until power is restored. The following tips can help make sure the generator you are buying is right for your needs.

- Determine if a portable generator can meet your needs during an outage — keeping in mind it typically does not meet all electric needs. You must decide what is most important during a power outage and add up the wattage of these items. The generator should have more output than your total need, so that it can provide enough electricity for the additional start-up of some appliances.
- An alternative to a portable generator is a permanent (stand-by) generator. These generators are wired directly into your home by a qualified electrician. Although they are a larger financial investment, some members may find they need whole-house backup electricity.

Operating a generator safely is crucial. Make sure you always:

- Thoroughly read and follow all manufacturer instructions to properly ground the generator, before turning it on.

## Powering Through: Generators

- Do not connect generators directly to a home's electrical system. Doing so could endanger the lives of linemen working to restore power. Installation of a transfer switch is the only way to properly connect any generator to your home's electrical system.
- Prevent damage to appliances by not plugging anything into the generator before starting; and unplugging everything before powering down the generator.
- Use properly rated extension cords (length and load) when connecting appliances.
- Operate generators in a well-ventilated space to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and other harmful fumes. Never operate indoors.
- Make sure the generator stays dry during operation, and never touch electrical equipment with wet hands. Generators pose an electrical risk when operated in wet conditions.
- Turn off the generator and allow it to cool before refueling, to prevent potential fires.
- Perform regular maintenance and store it according to manufacturer recommendations, so it is ready when you need it.

CEC offers a meter-socket transfer switch for safely connecting your portable generator. Please visit our website or call for more information about the GenerLink Transfer Switch.

Rain or shine,  
day or night,  
we're here for you.

October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn



## Did you take our survey yet?

Complete the survey by Nov. 20 and be entered into a drawing to win **FREE ELECTRICITY FOR A YEAR\*** or a Visa Gift Card!

CEC will give away one year of free electricity (valued up to \$1,500\*) and a total of six Visa gift cards valued up to \$200 each.

[www.central.coop/survey](http://www.central.coop/survey)



## The Safety Linke



*Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.*

### Halloween Safety for Motorists



Manager of Safety  
& Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

Although things may be a bit different than usual, many of us will still celebrate Halloween this month by getting treats from neighbors. It is all in fun, but can turn tragic very quickly as areas are flocked with everyone wandering around for this celebration. That's why it's important for motorists to take special precautions during the festivities.

Here are some Halloween safety tips.

- **If you don't have to go out during trick-or-treating, stay home. This is the most effective way to help keep everyone safe.**
- Slow down in residential areas and neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals. Drive at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.
- Don't use high beams. It may help you see, but it prevents opposing traffic from seeing.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, curbs, sidewalks, etc.

- Watch for children crossing the street mid-block or between parked cars — who may not be paying attention to traffic.
- Don't park in the street if you don't have to. Instead, park in a driveway, alley, or somewhere off the road to give children and other motorists plenty of room.
- **BE CAREFUL BACKING UP!** Have someone stand behind the vehicle to make sure no one is walking by.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children and other pedestrians in dark clothing.
- Be Alert, Be Aware, and Be Safe!

Each year there are stories of children who are hit by cars during trick-or-treating. Don't be one of the statistics! Remember — children can be very unpredictable and may dart out when and where you don't expect it. Take extra precautions and ensure everyone's child gets home safely.

## Make a Difference: Join ACRE®!

For as little as seven cents per day you can help ensure that the voice of CEC, your electric cooperative, can remain strong in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.

Seven cents per day is all it takes to join with hundreds of your member-owner neighbors, your CEC Board of Directors, CEC employees, and tens of thousands of fellow rural electric cooperative member-owners nation-wide who belong to the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Co-op Owners for Political Action.

By joining ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action you can be involved in the legislative issues impacting your cooperative. You are directly affected by the energy laws created by legislators. Changes in those laws could mean increased costs, difficulty building or operating power plants, or a change in power reliability.

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action only supports candidates for state and federal offices, regardless of political affiliation, who will speak for you and protect interests of you and your fellow member-owners. It is in your best interest to help elect candidates who will work to keep your cooperative successful. Our goal at CEC is to continue providing you with safe, dependable, and affordable electricity. Together we can make a difference.

Many voices joined together have a mighty impact. Please consider adding your voice to our team. Join ACRE 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](http://www.central.coop) or contact your ACRE coordinator, Emily Shumaker, 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

### Cream of Butternut Squash & Leek Soup

- 5 tablespoons butter
- 2 leeks, chopped (white and green parts)
- 4 pounds butternut squash; peeled, seeded, and cubed
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
- Fresh chives (or parsley), chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in heavy, large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add leeks and stir for four minutes. Add squash and stir to coat with butter. Mix in stock, thyme, and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until squash is very tender — about 40 minutes. Puree in batches. Return to saucepan. Mix in cream and milk. Add pepper. Garnish with cheese and chives. Serves 6-8 people.

*Thank you to Joanne McVay  
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:

**John P. White of Ellwood City**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Joseph McDivitt of Utica**

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](http://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:** You should never connect a generator directly to a home's electrical system.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** You have a chance at winning free electricity for a year or a Visa gift card, if you take the member satisfaction survey by Nov. 20.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** Each year, trees cause 45 to 60 percent of CEC's service interruptions.

**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