

**Inside:  
Learn How To ...**

Win an Energy Conservation Kit

Improve Heating and Cooling in Your Home

Prevent Fires



**“Watts” Inside**

- Questions From the Floor 1–3
- CEC’s 74th Annual Meeting 4
- October is Fire Safety Month 5
- Baked Beans Recipe 6

**Board of Directors**

- Margery S. Terwilliger  
*President*
- Jody P. Weaver  
*Vice President*
- Althea M. Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- Kenneth Durrett
- William J. Eichner
- Robert F. Sterrett
- Bette D. Walters
- Richard L. Weaver

**Questions From the Floor**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

On Aug. 27 Central Electric Cooperative held its 74th Annual Meeting. The highlights were the election of board members, food, entertainment, prizes, a guest speaker, and of course some fascinating remarks from yours truly. This is YOUR meeting and each year we listen to your suggestions and make improvements while still attempting to maintain the traditions of our past.

Before the business meeting started I had the opportunity to meet and talk with many members for the first time as well as others I have grown to know over the past year. The most interesting portion of the day for me is the chance to answer members’ questions. Each year we take some time during the meeting to answer questions that were

submitted in advance and offer the opportunity to those present to ask a question from the floor. For those of you that didn’t have the chance to join us this year, I thought I’d share those questions and answers with you. Due to limited space, similar questions were combined.

**Q:** Why am I experiencing service interruptions more often and can you fix the “blinking” lights?

**A:** This summer we’ve experienced many storms in the area which caused tree limbs to come into contact with our lines. The blinks you describe are part of our system protection. Our protective devices are designed to briefly interrupt power so that the cause of the fault (a tree limb for example) might clear from the line, avoiding a more extended outage.

**Questions From the Floor/  
Page 2**

## **Questions From the Floor/ From Page 1**

This results in a momentary interruption or blink.

This same weather pattern has resulted in an increase in the number of outages that our members have experienced this year and, while we can't control the weather, we are working on several system upgrades and ongoing maintenance programs that will decrease the frequency and duration of weather related outages.

Q: Will our electric bill be higher because of the building being built?

A: The new administration building represents a significant investment for the cooperative. Because of avoided upgrades and maintenance costs to the existing facility, coupled with long-term financing at very favorable rates, the annual cost will be minimal and not require a rate increase.

We will experience an increase in the cost of power that we purchase to meet your needs in 2012. As this cost represents about 55 percent of our total cost, we will likely experience a rate increase to meet those expenses.

Q: Why is it that if one person has three accounts they get only one vote and one chance to win prizes at the Annual Meeting?

A: CEC operates on the

cooperative principles. One member, one vote is perhaps the most important. It allows for local, democratic control. The intent was to not allow an individual with the means to have multiple accounts to have a greater voice than any other member assuring all members are treated equally.

Q: Why did the Annual Meeting move from Friday night to Saturday?

A: The feedback we have received over the years indicated concerns about leaving the meeting late and in the dark as well as the potential conflict with local high school activities. We decided to attempt a Saturday meeting to address these and other concerns. Ironically, after deciding to try a Saturday, we opened a 50-year-old time capsule that contained an Annual Meeting notice for Saturday, Aug. 27, 1961. We are soliciting your feedback for the timing of next year's meeting.

Q: Why are no returning-adult students ever granted scholarships?

A: They actually are. In 2010 one of the scholarships awarded was a returning student. Our program considers all applicants equally. In 2011 we awarded 12 members \$1,000 scholarships. Incidentally this program is funded entirely from escheats or unclaimed property dollars that would otherwise be returned to the state. Our use of these funds for scholarships and low income energy assistance allows this

## **Questions From the Floor/ Page 3**

### **Fire Safety Tips:**

1. Practice a fire escape route with your family.
2. Always keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and laundry room.
3. Have your furnace system inspected once a year by a professional.

## Your Opinion Counts

**Complete this Survey and Have  
the Chance to Win an  
Energy Conservation Kit!**

We value your opinion! Help us make next year's meeting what you want it to be. Please take a minute to respond to, and return this survey. We will randomly select 25 survey responders to win energy conservation kits.

*Complete the quiz on the back and also have the chance to win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill.*

1. Did you attend this year's Annual Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

If you've never attended an Annual Meeting, what can we do to gain your participation? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How can we improve our Annual Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In 2012 CEC celebrates its 75th anniversary. What ideas do you have to make next year's meeting special? \_\_\_\_\_

For our 75th celebration we plan to produce a video. If you, or someone you know (members, CEC retirees), have a story to share please give us their names and contact information below.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions From the Floor/From Page 2

money to stay here and help our local communities at no additional cost to you.

**Q:** How do you find out if you are overstaffed?

**A:** We compare ourselves to other cooperatives in number of members per employee and led the state in that comparison. Perhaps more importantly, over the past 20 years our membership has grown by 14 percent and we have reduced our staff over the same period.

**Q:** What percentage of power is generated using "Green" technology?

**A:** As a distribution electric cooperative we do not generate power but we purchase all of our power through Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC). We are member owners of this cooperative. We meet the state's renewable energy standard through AEC's ownership in the Raystown Hydroelectric plant. AEC regularly considers other renewable purchases or construction opportunities and acts when they meet cost-effective standards. Recently AEC has added 11 MW of solar capacity to its portfolio.

The last question was from the floor, and asked if we are doing anything special for our 75th anniversary at next year's Annual Meeting. The short answer is yes. The long answer is a solicitation of you to let us know what you would like to see. We have some great ideas already but we want to hear from you and have you join with us in the celebration. Please complete the survey on the left with your ideas and suggestions!



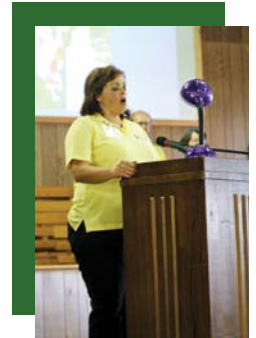
## CEC'S 74th Annual Meeting

CEC conducted its 74th Annual Meeting Aug. 27 at Whitehall Campgrounds near Emlenton. This year's theme was "Looking Out for You." During this meeting the members reelected Bette Walters of Forest County and Althea Smith of Venango County to the board of directors.

More than 1,000 attended the meeting that opened with the Parker Post 7073 presenting the American flag and CEC's Stacey Bechtel singing the National Anthem. The Burning Daylight band provided entertainment.



CEC's 2011 Board of Directors  
Missing from photo:  
Robert Sterrett



Stacey Bechtel



Matt Boshaw  
CEO & General  
Manager



CEC's 2010 – 2011  
MAAC committee



2011 Youth Tour participants  
On Left: Chris Znosko  
On Right: Allyson Olkowski

CEC members  
share their  
stories



Burning Daylight band



Members learn about  
load management



Parker Post 7073



U\$X Federal Credit Union

**K**en's  
ilowatt  
orner



By **Ken Maleski**  
CEC Consumer  
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop  
Check it out!



## Improve Heating and Cooling

Have you ever noticed that certain rooms in your home are not as comfortable as others? Increasing the size of your HVAC unit or adjusting the thermostat only adds to the problem. So what can you do?

- Inspect and change your furnace filter.
- Repair and replace old and leaky windows.
- Open curtains or blinds on the sunny side of your house to save on heating costs and sustain comfort.
- Contact an HVAC contractor to check duct work for adequate design. (Unfortunately this is not always an easy and cheap fix.)

Register booster fans may also provide an inexpensive solution to comfort issues. The most common solution requires installing a small fan unit inside the duct pipe and within a few feet of the register. If cutting into your duct work is not for you there is a product that simply fits over the register grille and plugs into an electrical outlet. Both units increase the air flow out of your existing duct system. The result is better comfort without changing thermostat settings.

So stop spending more sleepless nights and check your HVAC system. Your wallet and your family will thank you for it!

# SAFETY

**M**  
**A**  
**T**  
**T**  
**E**  
**R**  
**S**

## October is Fire Safety Month

Here are some fire safety tips for around your home.

- You should have at least two smoke detectors on each floor in your home. Check the batteries monthly.
- Hold regular family meetings to practice your fire escape route in case a fire occurs.
- Keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher in your kitchen and laundry room.



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operational Support

- Never leave your appliances unattended when they are on.
- Never place furniture in front of a heater.
- Have your furnace system inspected once a year by a professional.
- Never keep electrical appliances such as a hair dryer near water.
- Make sure you have at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.

## 2011 Annual Meeting Recipe Winner

### Baked Beans (Randomly selected)

#### Ingredients:

- 1 large can and 1 small can of buttered lima beans mostly drained
- 6 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 4 to 5 tablespoons brown sugar

#### Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a casserole dish.
2. Bake on 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 1 hour.

*Recipe submitted by  
Donald Wick of Chicora*

#### Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at [jbrison@central.coop](mailto:jbrison@central.coop)  
or mail to Central Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 329  
Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw  
*CEO and General Manager*

Lisa A. Hoover  
*Director of Consumer Services*

Dennis W. Beggs  
*Director of Finance*

Christina J. O'Donnell  
*Director of Communication  
and Marketing*

Stephanie Deal  
*Director of Human Resources  
and Administration*

Fred E. Terwilliger  
*Director of Engineering and  
Operations*

## Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

### Jerald B. Hatch of Kennerdell

Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For a faster entry and for quiz rules you may complete the survey online at [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** This year's Annual Meeting entertainment was provided by "Burning Sunlight."

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

**2. True or False:** Register booster fans are an inexpensive way to provide comfort in your home.

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

**3. True or False:** You should keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher in your living room and laundry room.

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

**How are we doing?** (no right/wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Account No:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete the Annual Meeting quiz on the back and also have the chance to win an energy conservation kit.*



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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