

Inside: Learn How To ...

Become a CEC
Director

Save Money on Your
Energy Bill

Win the Good Neighbor
Scholarship

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines



Photo by Member Sherry Chambers

The Best of Plans

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Planning a vacation can be a lot of fun. Planning for your childrens' education is perhaps a little intimidating. Planning a move across the country is something I am trying to forget. Planning in the electric distribution utility business can make them all seem pretty simple. There are a lot of “moving parts” when we consider Central Electric Cooperative’s (CEC’s) future.

CEC, like all electric utilities, spends a lot of time making plans for our members’ future needs. Because of the great experience of the many qualified employees, those plans are often executed exactly as we would expect. We tend to plan very conservatively so that we will remain a healthy and viable organization well into the future.

The first quarter of the year is often spent reviewing the past year and planning for the future. Here at CEC, we spend October and November creating and presenting

the upcoming year’s budget for our board to review and approve. With that process we begin the review of our rolling three-year strategic plan. We spend the time during budget season looking at the year we are completing to see what we have accomplished, what needs rebudgeted for the upcoming year and how we need to adjust priorities. To begin the new year we present to our board the year-end financials and the results of our strategic plan from the year past. We will also revise the strategic plan to reflect those priorities previously mentioned, and to add the new third year to our rolling three-year plan. In this case 2012 will be wrapped up, and 2015 will be added. The idea in all this is that we make continual progress, maintain continuity and still remain flexible enough to correct our course, if necessary.

Best Plans/Page 2

Best Plans/From Page 1

The past year has been a challenging one. The year 2012 saw the completion of major system improvements and the construction of our new office facility. We have reached many of our target milestones. We experienced a very volatile weather year, electric generation interruptions and lower-than-normal sales. (I'll bet you are thinking that I am preparing you for bad news, but I am not.) Despite these concerns, the cooperative remains a financially sound organization, meeting all of our required debt service requirements while maintaining our target equity, as prescribed by our board. We will once again be allocating and retiring patronage capital to our members. As I have previously mentioned, our capital credit retirement for 2012 will coincide with the closings of the books and subsequent audit so that the allocation and retirement are based on actual, rather than estimated, numbers. Additionally, we began 2013 with no rate increase. In the interest of full disclosure, we will continue to monitor our financial condition closely and consider a rate change if conditions warrant.

Our planning approach has allowed CEC to maintain a balance between reliability, rates

and financial stability. The year 2012 was not the financially positive year that we projected for many of the reasons listed above. However, because we took those things that are out of our control into account, we still exceeded our requirements. As we look at our 2012 numbers, I reflect on a question that recently retired Director Bob Sterrett asked me last year. That question was "Are you satisfied?" The context of the question was during my annual performance evaluation after a pretty strong year for our company.

My response then, as it is now, is that while I am pleased with the efforts and performance of our organization, I am never satisfied. I believe it is important to identify problems and work to resolve them, celebrate successes and look to build on them. However, the moment you believe you are done, you begin to fall behind. So we continue to make our plans, control what we are able and adjust to what we are not. We will continue to solicit your input and do what is needed to maintain the service you expect.

Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls

1. Keep floors clean & clear of clutter.
2. Maintain good lighting.
3. Use a sturdy stepstool when reaching for high places.

More tips on p. 5.



Photo courtesy Dave Hammaker

Are You Interested in a CEC Director's Seat?

As a CEC member you have a voice in who serves on our eight-member board of directors. Every year members elect two directors, giving each director a four-year term. Director seats are divided among counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Clarion and Venango counties are invited to petition for these two respective seats. To be eligible for director nomination you must have a permanent residence in that county and meet other qualifications required by your cooperative's bylaws.

To receive a qualifications list and petition, please submit the following coupon by April 1, 2013. If you meet the qualifications you will send a written request (including your full name, address, telephone number, county of residence and account number) along with a completed petition signed by 20 cooperative members, to the nominating committee at the address provided by May 1, 2013.



After the cooperative confirms your eligibility, you will visit the CEC office to attend an orientation meeting and meet with the nominating committee for an interview. The committee then submits a list of the eligible candidates for placement on the ballot.

Nominee names, along with a photo and background information, are presented in the July issue of Power Lines. Cooperative members will vote by mail or internet prior to the Annual Meeting, or vote by paper ballot on the day of the meeting on Aug. 23, 2013, prior to the meeting's commencement. The final election results will be announced prior to adjournment.

Your board of directors has appointed a nominating committee to review prospective candidates interested in running for CEC director. Committee members are:

Armstrong County
Harvey W. Loose
East Brady, Pa.

Butler County
Donald F. Christy
Saxonburg, Pa.

Joe Gibson
Parker, Pa.

Clarion County
James M. Reed
Fryburg, Pa.

Randy Tharan
Knox, Pa.

Forest County
Dennis Lamb
Tionesta, Pa.

Venango County
Carl E. Gadsby
Grove City, Pa.

If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee, please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2013 to: Central Electric Cooperative, Nominating Committee, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329.

Please send me a qualification list and petition requirements for being a director nominee to Central Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

County: _____ Account: _____

Ken's
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corner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop
Check it out!



Furnace Savings

Forced-air heating systems are the number-one choice for many members. The greatest way to save on heating costs is to turn back the thermostat while sleeping or away from home. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting back the temperature by 10 degrees for at least eight hours. The results will yield a 5 to 15 percent reduction in heating costs.

A common misconception is that the energy used to reheat a cold house is greater than the energy consumed maintaining a desired temperature. This misconception has been dispelled by years of research and numerous studies. Your furnace's output is constant, so the total energy used depends on how much heat the home is giving off that must be replaced. A cold house gives off less heat than a warm one. The long time your furnace runs to reheat your house may feel wasteful but is canceled by the long time the furnace is off when the house cools down. So the longer your house remains cool, the more you save.

A programmable thermostat is the easiest choice for getting the job done. They are available in digital or electromechanical formats. And if you don't want to spend the money on one, manually turning back your thermostat will also work. Please note that setting back the thermostat by more than 2 degrees is not recommended for heat pumps, resistance heating, boilers or radiant floor systems.

Finally, placement of your thermostat can affect performance. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows. It's never too late to make some small changes to save money over the long haul. Stay safe and warm this winter season by turning down to save up!



2013 Good Neighbor Scholarship

This year, two cooperative members who want to further their education will receive \$1,000 grants from the The Good Neighbor Scholarship program. It is available to all members who are at least a high school senior or enrolled in a post-secondary institution. Returning adults are welcome. To be eligible, CEC must provide electric service to your primary residence.

To apply, you will need to submit a:

- Completed GNS application.

- Letter of acceptance from a post-secondary educational institution, or an enrollment verification letter.
- One-page essay on how you have contributed back to your community.
- Letter of reference from a teacher, employer or community member.

Submit your package by March 15, 2013 to Ken Maleski, Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329.

SAFETY

M A T T e r s

Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls

A few of the major causes of accidents in the home and workplace are slips, trips and falls. Here are tips to help you prevent injuries for you and your family.

- Keep floors clean and clear of clutter.
 - Maintain good lighting both indoors and on outdoor walkways.
 - Secure electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas.
 - Install handrails on all stairways.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

- Use a sturdy stepstool when climbing or reaching for high places
- Clean up spills right away.
- Wear sensible footwear.
- Never stand on a chair, table or surface on wheels.
- Arrange furniture to provide open pathways to walk through.
- Periodically check the condition of outdoor walkways and steps, repairing as necessary.
- Remove fallen leaves or snow from outdoor walkways.

Save the Date!

Join us for our
Annual Meeting of the Members
on Friday, Aug. 23, 2013 at
Whitehall Campgrounds
in Emlenton, Pa.

More information to come.



Recipe of the Month

Pistachio Fluff Fruit Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 (3 ounce) instant box pistachio pudding
- 1 (12 ounce) frozen whipped topping
- 2 bananas
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 (15 ounce) can fruit cocktail, drained
- 1 can mandarin oranges, drained

Directions:

1. Combine pudding with pineapple and mix well.
2. Mix in whipped topping.
3. Stir in bananas, fruit cocktail, oranges and marshmallows.
4. Chill.

*Thank you to Bette Walters
for submitting the recipe!*

Send Recipes to:

Chris O'Donnell at
codonnell@central.coop or mail to
CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329,
Parker, PA 16049

CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Dennis W. Beggs
CFO, Director of Finance &
Accounting

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Member &
Community Relations

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering &
Operations

Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:
Scott Daly, Emlenton

Read your 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. CEC holds a separate drawing for a \$25 bill credit for quizzes submitted online.

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

1. True or False: CEC began 2013 with a rate increase.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: CEC members elect their eight-member board of directors.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Programmable thermostats help save money on heating bills.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ Account No: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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