

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Apply for a PREA  
Scholarship

Safely Drive in Reverse

Submit Your Recipes  
to be Featured in Our  
Newsletter

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# PowerLines

Photo by member Piper Schofield of Sandycreek Studio

## A Capital Idea

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

In several articles that I have written, I have referred to the “cooperative difference.” On a daily basis you probably aren’t thinking about the things that make your cooperative different from other distribution utility companies, but we are. The difference is something different to everyone. It might be the cooperative principles: one member, one vote, and the like. Maybe you think of our member-elected board of directors offering local oversight and control. One of the more noticeable differences is the service and member focus of our employees. I get great feedback from many of you about that.

Perhaps the biggest difference is the fact that we are a private, not-for-profit organization. That not-for-profit piece is a pretty

big deal. It means that we collect, through our rates, only what is needed to run the organization and maintain the system. Everything else is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credits. Investor-owned utilities’ rates include a return on investment that is used to pay dividends to stock holders. And anyone can own those stocks, which are publicly traded. As a private, member owned organization, only our members get a say. Members vote for, and serve on the board of directors, and members receive capital credits based on their electrical usage.

The whole patronage capital concept can be a little complicated, but I will give the short version. At the end of the year, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has a remaining margin. This is the amount of money remaining after

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## A Capital Idea/From Page 1

we have paid all the bills. Our staff and independent auditors review the numbers and ensure their accuracy for the board's approval. That margin is then allocated to the membership based on each person's electrical usage. Those allocations are kept track of for each member individually, and in a subsequent year, are returned to the member in the form of a capital credit retirement. There are many finance and accounting requirements that we have to follow that are driven by the law and the direction from the board, but that would be a level of detail that I couldn't describe here.

CEC's board has long embraced the cooperative difference of patronage capital and is committed to returning that capital to members whenever our financial position allows. To that end, at the Feb. 25th

board of directors' meeting, the board approved the capital credit retirement to our membership in the amount of \$838,463.97. Given the fact that February ended three days after the approval, we were unable to process the credit in time for the March billing cycles, so you will see the credit on your April billing. That happens to be the bill included with this newsletter — what a coincidence!

It is our goal to provide you with that cooperative difference, no matter how you define it. We strive to maintain and improve our level of service, both electric and personal. We make every effort to control costs and keep rates reasonable, and will continue to retire capital credits illustrating your participation in that cooperative difference.

## Tips for Driving in Reverse

1. Try to always position your vehicle so you are driving into traffic and not backing out into traffic.

2. Limit the distance you have to drive in reverse to a few feet.

*More tips on p. 3.*

### Attention High School Seniors: PREA Scholarship

A minimum of five \$1,000 PREA scholarships in memory of William F. Matson are available for the 2013–2014 college year.

#### Who is eligible?

The PREA Scholarship Trust Fund offers scholarships to children of members and employees of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who belong to the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). Applicants must be high school seniors.

Applications and required information must be received no later than **May 10, 2013**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 7, 2013**. Scholarship awards will be announced at the PREA Summer Meeting in July. To download a PDF version of the application visit: [www.prea.com](http://www.prea.com) or mail your request to:

PREA Scholarship Trust Fund,  
P.O. Box 1266,  
Harrisburg, PA 17108–1266.

# SAFETY

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## Tips for Driving in Reverse

- **Avoid Backing Up:** Ask yourself “Is it necessary to back up at this time?” “Can I position my vehicle in a way so whenever I stop I can continue in a forward motion when I’m ready to leave?” An example is when you park along a curb behind a vehicle. If you park too close to the vehicle ahead of you, you now have to back up before leaving the curb. Backing up has risk, avoid that risk.



- **Backing Out Into Traffic vs. Driving Into Traffic:**

When entering a driveway, back



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operations Support

into the driveway so that you can then drive forward out of the driveway. Remember when backing up into a driveway or parking spot there is minimal risk. Backing out into traffic has a great deal of risk; other traffic coming in the opposite direction, traffic changing lanes in your vicinity, pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, joggers, etc.

- **Limit the Distance You Have to Back Up:** Position your vehicle so the reverse direction is only a few feet.

## CEC’s Annual Pole Inspection

As part of CEC’s ongoing effort to improve system reliability, contracted pole inspection crews will begin inspecting 900 poles in early April on circuits originating from Clearfield substation in Butler County. The job was contracted to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. (Osmose).

Inspections typically include a visual inspection, sounding of the pole with a hammer and excavation up to 18” around the poles. Poles identified as having issues will either be addressed in the field by Osmose or by CEC personnel at a later time. All Osmose representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification.

The project will last several months. CEC will give additional notice when the project is complete. If you have any questions, please contact CEC’s Matt Alderson, manager of safety and operations support, at 1-800-521-0570 x2206.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

## Always Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig!

Spring has finally arrived! It’s time to plant a garden, install a deck or build an addition to your existing home. But wait! Before digging, check to see if there are any underground facilities. It’s easy. Just call the Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. at 8-1-1 or visit [www.paonecall.org](http://www.paonecall.org) for answers to all your questions. Make sure you call at least three working days before you plan to dig.

Whether you are a contractor, home builder or landowner the Pennsylvania One Call System can assist you in digging safely. If you have any further questions feel free to contact CEC at 1-800-521-0570.



**Know what’s below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Update

ACRE is your political action committee that keeps in constant contact with our lawmakers to ensure that the interests of rural electric consumers are fairly represented. Our legislative affairs people in Harrisburg report that we are lucky to have so many representatives with a favorable view of the rural electric program. Once a person is elected to congress or the state house their tenure, and the committees they serve on, can expand their influence. Here are the latest committee assignments for our area legislators:

### U.S. House of Representatives:

- Mike Kelly, R-3rd District: Ways and Means
- Glenn Thompson, R-5th District: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce

### Pennsylvania Senate:

- Scott Hutchinson, R-21st District: Intergovernmental Affairs, Finance, Environmental Resources and Energy, Local Government, Public Health and Welfare, Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
- Randy Vulakovich, R-40th District: Communication and Technology, Aging and Youth, Appropriations, Community, Economic and Recreational Development, Judiciary, Transportation
- Don White, R-41st District: Banking and Insurance, Transportation, Community, Economic and Recreational Development, Environmental Resources and Energy, Law and Justice, State Government
- Robert Robbins, R-50th District: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, Agricultural and Rural Affairs, Game and Fisheries, Local Government, Rules and Executive Nominations, Urban Affairs and Housing

### Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

- Dick Stevenson, R-8th District: Committee on Committees, Caucus Administrator
- Jaret Gibbons, D-10th District: Commerce, Committee on Ethics, Environmental Resources and Energy, Professional Liscensure, Tourism and Recreational Development
- Brian Ellis, R-11th District: Appropriations, Committee on Ethics, Consumer Affairs, Judiciary, Liquor Control, Rules
- Daryl Metcalfe, R-12th District: State Government
- Frank Dermody, D-33rd District: Minority Leader, Rules
- Jeff Pyle, R-60th District: Appropriations, Committee on Committees, Environmental Resources and Energy, Transportation
- Donna Oberlander, R-63rd District: Appropriations, Children and Youth, Environmental Resources and Energy, Local Government
- R. Lee James, R-64th District: Finance, Human Services, Local Government, Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
- Kathy Rapp, R-65th District: Education, Environmental Resources and Energy, Finance, Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

No bill gets voted on unless it clears committee first. As you can see we have a number of our representatives on energy and appropriations committees — very important positions. Please consider joining with thousands of cooperative employees, directors and members to make sure rural electric consumers are treated fairly by joining ACRE. Please contact Chris Panian at 1-800-521-0570 x2171 for details.



## Cool Energy Costs With a New Refrigerator

If your refrigerator dates from the 1980s, replacing it with a new model could cut your electric bill by \$100 per year, according to ENERGY STAR. To estimate how much energy your refrigerator consumes, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and search for the Refrigerator Retirement Calculator. Type your refrigerator's model number into the calculator and you'll receive an estimate of how much energy it uses and how much money a new one may save.

More than a quarter of U.S. households own a second refrigerator. Many are older and less efficient models, manufactured prior to 1993. They can use two to three times more energy than today's ENERGY STAR-qualified models. Although convenient, a second refrigerator can mean \$420 to \$750 in additional energy costs over the lifetime of the appliance.



If you can't live without the second fridge, reduce energy use by plugging it in just to keep drinks and food cold during parties.

**K**en's  
ilowatt  
corner



By **Ken Maleski**  
Residential Analyst  
& Advisor

[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)  
Check it out!



When shopping for a new refrigerator, look for one with a top-mounted freezer. It typically uses 10 to 25 percent less energy than bottom-mount or side-by-side models, according to ENERGY STAR. Also, choosing a larger refrigerator will require more energy, so purchase the size you actually need to fit your lifestyle.

Always keep the back of the refrigerator 3 to 4 inches from the wall for proper air flow. Cooling coils on the back or underneath the unit act like dust collectors. So make sure to vacuum them once or twice a year, for better operating efficiency. Keep the inside compartment temperature between 34 to 37 degrees. Freezer compartments should be between zero to 5 above.

Remember that no matter if you are at home or away, your refrigerator is always working for you. Cool your energy costs by using a more efficient model and some good old fashioned cleaning.

## Budget Billing — It's Nice To Know

Surprises are nice, unless they are bills. Budget billing can eliminate the unknown by creating a specific payment amount each month for electric service. Both members who heat with electric in the winter or use air conditioning in the summer are excellent candidates.

In order to get the most benefit from budget billing, April is the perfect month to join. Accounts must be paid in full and you must have had service for at least 12 months. The payment amount is based on your average usage over the previous 12 months.

The budget year runs from April to April of the following year. April is what CEC considers budget catch up month. If you have paid for more electric than you have used a credit would be applied to the next budget season or refunded at your request. If you have used more electric than you have paid for you would be responsible for the difference, which would be included on your April bill.

If you are interested in budget billing, contact a member services representative at 1-800-521-0570.

## Recipe of the Month

### Strawberry Dessert

#### Additional ingredients:

- 1 quart of strawberries

*Works great with  
peaches too!*

#### Bottom layer ingredients

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1-1/4 sticks of butter

#### Bottom layer directions

- Mix above and press into a greased 9x13 pan.
- Layer strawberries on top of this mixture.

#### Topping ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

#### Topping directions

- Mix above and crumble onto strawberries.
- Bake until brown, approximately 1 hour at 350 degrees.

*Thank you to Janet Guthrie for submitting this recipe!*

**My recipe supply is running low!  
Please send in your recipes, to be  
shared in our newsletter, today!**

#### Send Recipes to:

Renee Spence at [rspence@central.coop](mailto:rspence@central.coop) or mail to CEC,  
716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw  
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Lisa A. Hoover  
Director of Member Services

Dennis W. Beggs  
CFO, Director of Finance and  
Accounting

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

Stephanie Deal  
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger  
Director of Engineering and  
Operations

## Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

**Ann & Tom Hargenrader of Marble**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Erick Byers of Tionesta**

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below. CEC holds an additional drawing for a \$50 bill credit for quizzes submitted online at [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** Refrigerators with a bottom-mounted freezer use the least amount of energy.

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

**2. True or False:** Backing out into traffic has minimal risk.

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

**3. True or False:** We collect, through our rates, only what is needed to run the organization and maintain the system.

**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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