

Inside: Learn How To ...

Receive an
Appliance Rebate

Apply for Youth Tour
& the Good Neighbor
Scholarship

“Watts” Inside

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Power Lines

2014 Photo Contest Entry
Photographed by Chris Heinack of Fenelon

Teamwork and Hard Work

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

When my oldest son was a junior in high school he played on the varsity football team. They had one of those remarkable special seasons and won a state championship. I had the good fortune to be one of the junior varsity coaches at the time and had a front-row seat to the year as it unfolded. There were many things that had to come together to get the team through a perfect season. They needed some talent, good coaching and good luck, but more than any of those, they needed to work hard as a team toward a common goal. Before the season, the coach sat down with each player and asked what their goals for the year were, and while the underclassmen all gave individual answers, each senior simply replied “a state championship.” This team was good, but not the most talented group of players the coach had ever had. But there was clear conviction

and chemistry that made the coach think they could be something special. To give you an idea of the special nature of the group, one of the players shared with the team that his father had told him that the only free thing in life was hard work. So, each day as the boys prepared for practice one of the many team leaders would abruptly say “let’s go get some free s****!” (remember these were high school boys) to which they would all enthusiastically go work extremely hard throughout practice. Each practice ended with a huddle where the coach exclaimed “gotta love it!” and the entire team responded “we do!”

I share this story with you because I am reminded of it every day when I come to work at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC). The dedicated employees who work on your behalf recognize the tradition established by the cooperative of

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working hard to provide a superior level of service to our members, and they are proud to carry it forward.

I talk about our mission, “CEC provides safe, reliable electricity at a reasonable cost to our member-owners, is committed to the communities we serve, and dedicated to the Cooperative Difference,” the Cooperative Principles and our strategic plan to everyone who will listen. These are our common goals, or “state championship,” if you will.

We have more than our share of talent in all facets of the organization. Our senior staff provide excellent coaching and direction for the mix of veterans and rookies alike. Our long-term employees have seen it all and set an example for those learning their craft. Whatever each employee’s personal motivations, we are all working toward common goals because, in the end, we all benefit when our goals are reached. As my youngest recently told me, “we are all the hero of our own story,” but we are at our best when we are able to put our egos aside and work toward clear, common goals. Our team illustrates this every day. We are organized into six departments, each having specific roles to fill. Our work crosses between those departments so it is of paramount importance that we communicate well and work with one another. As you can imagine, when you put professionals from different disciplines together, they can sometimes have different priorities.

“ ... while we may never have a “perfect” season, we have all of the pieces in place for meeting our members’ needs and expectations. So, welcome to 2016 and rest assured that your hardworking team of CEC employees will get all the ‘free stuff’ we can and when someone says ‘gotta love it,’ we most assuredly do.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

However, our group has an amazing ability to focus on the end goal. The chemistry this team demonstrates with working toward a goal is remarkable. I would love to recognize our entire team by name, but space restrictions, and some modest employees, prevent that.

So, we have the talent, the chemistry, the leadership and the common goals. All that remains is the hard work and dedication. Well, to paraphrase those football players, we get more than our share of “free stuff.” CEC’s hardworking employees always show up. With or without daily direction, our employees work tirelessly to support our entire membership. I wrote an article in February 2014 talking about a day in the life of a lineman that illustrates the effort and dedication of just one of our employee groups. I think it is important to mention that, without each employee’s daily efforts, none of the others could reach their goals.

Well, while we may never have a “perfect” season, we have all of the pieces in place to meet our members’ needs and expectations. So, welcome to 2016 and rest assured that your hardworking team of CEC employees will get all the “free stuff” we can and when someone says “gotta love it,” we most assuredly do.



CEC is excited to announce that our rebate program will resume Jan. 1, 2016. Qualifying appliances must be certified as Energy Star. Verify your appliance by visiting the Energy Star website www.energystar.gov. Select the category “Energy Efficient Products” and locate your particular appliance. Use the “Find and Compare Products” (green) tab to enter the exact model number. Model numbers listed in the search are qualified. Rebates are available for:

- Refrigerators: \$100
- Freezers: \$50
- Clothes washer: \$50
- Dishwashers: \$25
- Window air conditioners: \$25
- Dehumidifiers: \$25

Member requirements are:

- Qualifying appliances must be certified as

Appliance Rebates

Energy Star to be eligible. Verify your appliance by visiting www.energystar.gov or calling 1-888-STAR-YES.

- Members must complete the CEC Appliance Rebate form available at www.central.coop.
- Mail rebate form and a copy of the appliance sales receipt to the address provided on the form. All sales receipts must be dated on or after Jan. 1, of the current year.
- Limited to one rebate per appliance type per year.
- Allow up to six weeks for rebate check processing.

Rebate funds are available from energy credits earned by our power supplier’s renewable generation assets. Program funding is limited and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Contact CEC at 800-521-0570 x2172 or visit www.central.coop to learn more.

Good Neighbor Scholarship Program 2016

CEC is excited to announce its eighth year of the Good Neighbor Scholarship program. Eligible candidates include adult members wishing to further their education, currently enrolled college students, and high school seniors. Scholarships are \$2,000 each and 15 winners will be awarded in May 2016.

Eligibility requirements are:

- Applicants (or their parents) must be CEC members.
- Student must supply a Letter of Acceptance from a post-secondary educational institution or verification of current enrollment.
- Complete application available at www.central.coop (under the Community tab).

- Compose a one-page essay describing how they have contributed to their community.
- Provide a letter of reference from a teacher, employer or community member.
- Requirements must be met by March 15, 2016.

Essay and the application must illustrate the candidate’s commitment to community, school or church in nonpaid service activities.

For more information or application forms, please visit www.central.coop or call us at 800-521-0570, x2172. The Good Neighbor Scholarship is one more example of CEC’s commitment to community.

Deadline is March 15, 2016.

Power Lines

New Member Benefit: Check Out PSECU!

Many of you know of the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU), and as a member of CEC you are now eligible to join!

PSECU started in 1934 when 22 people made a commitment to one another “to create a financial institution where pooled resources benefit all members.” That commitment is still evident today. They work hard every day so members have the same great options when it comes to financing their lives. That’s why we decided to include eligibility to join PSECU as one of our member benefits.

Now as a member of CEC you have the choice of joining two great credit unions! We are not discontinuing our relationship with USX. We are only adding PSECU.

Some of the benefits of joining PSECU include:

- Low fees and loan rates.
- High rates on deposits.
- Immediate access to your money. Deposit. Withdraw. Transfer. No waiting.
- Surcharge-free ATMs, free bill payer service, free debit card.
- Digital banking, including mobile deposit.
- Free checking with no monthly account maintenance charge.

If you’d like to join PSECU, or for more information, please contact Rose Chernay at 800-237-7328 option six, x2182 or rchernay@psecu.com.



USX Opens New Location!

CEC’s other partner credit union, USX Federal Credit Union (USX FCU), now has a full service office in Petrolia, Pennsylvania! You are invited to visit the new office located at 206 Main Hill Road in Petrolia and experience the “Credit Union Difference!” Let their experienced staff show you how you can take advantage of truly free checking, outstanding interest rates on all types of loans, their FREE Credit Score Management program that can

help improve your credit score and so much more! Best of all, they look forward to helping you!

For more information about membership and the products and services offered by USX FCU, visit their website at www.usxfcu.org or call 888-219-3159.

USX Federal Credit Union “Where Membership is a Rewarding Experience.”

USX
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION



High School Juniors: Want a Free, Week-Long Trip to Washington, D.C.?

CEC proudly announces an invitation to high school juniors to experience the trip of a lifetime! Youth Tour 2016 offers students the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. from June 12 to 17 and experience all the beauty and history of our nation's capital. Approximately 1,500 Youth Tour participants from across the country will see the U.S. Capitol, meet with congressmen, tour national monuments and memorials, visit the National Zoo and Smithsonian, see a Kennedy Center production and MUCH MORE! They will also learn about electric cooperatives, American history, the U.S. government and attend educational seminars. While on the tour, students will attend an All States Dinner Dance where they will have the chance to meet students from around the country. Best of all, Youth Tour is **FREE OF COST** to students!

All high school juniors who reside in a home receiving electric service from CEC are eligible. To apply either visit www.central.coop, call us or see your guidance counselor.

All application requirements need completed and received by CEC before **Feb. 5, 2016**. For more information about Youth Tour visit www.youthtour.coop, contact Renee Tritten, CEC's Youth Tour coordinator, at 800-521-0570 x2173 or visit www.central.coop.

Finalists are not only entitled for the trip to D.C., but are also eligible for special scholarships and national recognition.



2015 Youth Tour attendees: (from left) Skye Mitchell, Ashley Janecek, Jonathon Best, Andrea Shay & Samantha Gallaher.

SAFE TY MAT ERS

Winter Weather Safety: Tips for Walking in Snow & Ice

Most people know snow and ice can create dangerous driving conditions. But what some people tend to ignore is the dangerous conditions it can cause for pedestrians. Winter conditions can lead to injury if pedestrians don't take precautions. The Snow & Ice Management Association offers the following tips for walking in ice and snow:

- Wear proper footwear. Wear shoes with heavy treading and a flat bottom that place the entire foot on the ground.
- Wear things that help you see and be seen.

Wear sunglasses so you can see and bright, reflective clothing.

- Anticipate ice. What appears to be wet pavement may be black ice, so approach it with caution. Ice often appears in the mornings, so be more aware in the early hours.
- Avoid shortcuts. A shortcut path may be dangerous because it is less likely that snow and ice removal occurred.



Recipe of the Month

Split-Pea Sausage Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 pound kielbasa
- 1 pound dried split peas
- 8 cups water
- 3-4 bouillon cubes
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup cut up cabbage
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Directions: Cut sausage in quarter-inch pieces. Place in soup kettle. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil. Reduce heat. Simmer for one to two hours until ingredients are tender.

Thank you to Kathy Guth for submitting this recipe!

Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at rtritten@central.coop or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

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

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Juanita Duell of Greenville

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Kristi Double of Parker

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop.

1. True or False: CEC has a variety of professional staff, with varying talents, who work together to serve you, the members.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: We should take precautions when walking in the snow and ice.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Rebates are available for Energy Star appliances purchased after Jan. 1, 2016.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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