

Inside: Learn How To ...

Attend the 2015
Annual Meeting

Participate in Voluntary
and Open Membership

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines

2013 Photo Contest Entry
Taken by Jeff Kline of Rimersburg

Be Aware and Be Safe

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Safety is a topic I discuss with some frequency. I try to include at least one or two articles a year dedicated to it and I reference it in most of the articles I write. Each month we have an installment of Safety MATTERS from our own Matt Alderson, manager of safety & operations support. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) also offers an Electrical Safety Program we present to fifth grade classes throughout our service territory. (If you would like more information about this program, please contact us at 1-800-521-0570 x2173 or visit our website.) When it comes to living with, working with and otherwise using electricity, it is all about safety. Hazard identification is a big part of our safety training and it serves our employees both at work and at home. It is important to us that our employees are armed with this information because, regardless of where the ladder they

work from is, if they are injured we lose our employee while they recover.

Groundhog Day is upon us and Punxsutawney Phil will be crawling out and predicting the rest of our winter. The transition between seasons can present significant safety concerns. These transitions have us doing things that we seldom do and can therefore present hazards that we don’t often consider. Hanging and removing Christmas lights as we transition into and out of the holiday season is a good example. Cleaning gutters in the late fall or early spring is another.

The Electrical Safety Program we offer provides a number of excellent examples, is well received and utilities all over the country provide similar presentations. Sometimes we busy adults get complacent and don’t pay attention to the excellent lessons illustrated in the presentation. You see, every

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accident depicted in the presentation has unfortunately happened to someone. They are common activities that have led to accidents and injuries simply because the victim wasn't paying attention to the potential safety hazard, electrical or not. Climbing a ladder to clean those gutters or take down those Christmas lights; or digging a hole for a new fence post could create an electrical contact accident.

The good news is that most electrical contact accidents can be easily avoided with minimal effort. If you are going to be digging call 1-800-242-1776 or 8-1-1 and all utilities will come mark the location of their underground facilities so that you can avoid them. When climbing ladders or doing any work that is above your head, simply look up and identify where the wires are. It might seem like common sense but the more time that has passed between now and the last time you walked up that ladder makes it easier to forget some of the smallest steps. If you are cutting trees, be especially cautious. Trees are our number-one cause of outages and because they are growing, their position in relation to power lines changes. Always identify the location of power lines before you trim, and if you have questions or concerns contact us and we can help you through it.

All of these examples have been describing circumstances that exist when the wires are where they are supposed to be, safely installed and operating on poles or underground. But

what do you do if those seasonal transitions lead to storms that cause our facilities to be damaged or knocked down? Your awareness of your surroundings is even more important in this situation. Identifying a potential hazard is perhaps the most important step in avoiding or mitigating it. Once you identify a hazard like a downed wire, your best course of action is to stay away from it and call emergency services and CEC. Treat any down wire as live. Unlike in the movies, energized wires don't always jump around making noise and sparking. As a matter of fact, they are usually quiet and still. A good rule of thumb is that if you can't see both ends of a wire, consider it live.

When I have given these presentations, I start by reminding everyone of how great it is to have electricity available for everything that we use it for, but also remind them that it is only a positive when used correctly and safely. We work around electricity every day so electrical safety is first, second and third on our minds. For those who don't work with electricity every day, the employees of your cooperative want to remind you to put electrical safety at the top of your list so that you are aware and safe. I mentioned Punxsutawney Phil and Groundhog Day earlier. If this article has a familiar or repeating theme, just like Bill Murray in the movie, take the opportunity to get safer and safer each time through.

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Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

SAFETY MATTERS

Portable Generator Safety

Portable electric generators provide a good source of power during electrical outages, but if improperly installed or operated, they can become deadly. About 40 percent of all portable generator related deaths occur during the winter months when homeowners often need power due to weather related outages. Follow these tips to use your generator safely.

- Do not connect generators directly to household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch installed. Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can backfeed power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, especially line workers making repairs.

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, are free of cuts and worn insulation, and have grounded plugs.
- Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Never operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Use carbon monoxide detectors in nearby enclosed spaces to monitor levels.



Don't forget to apply for the Good Neighbor Scholarship!

The deadline for Good Neighbor Scholarships is March 15.

Eligible candidates for Good Neighbor Scholarships are high school seniors, enrolled college students or adult members who wish to further their education. CEC will award two scholarships of \$1,000 each in early May of 2015. Applicants or parents must be CEC members.

For more information contact Ken Maleski at 800-521-0570 x2172 or visit www.central.coop.

Save The Date: CEC's 2015 Annual Meeting!

Join us for our
Annual Meeting of the Members
Friday, Aug. 21, 2015
Whitehall Camp & Conference Center
Emlenton, Pa.



More information to come.



Cutting back on unnecessary energy use is an easy way to keep money in your pocket. Here are some no-cost suggestions to try at home:

- Save 10 percent on heating, simply by turning back the thermostat 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours or more at night or when away.
- Open drapes during the day to take advantage of the sun's warmth. Close again at night.
- Move furniture around so you're sitting near interior walls and not near windows. Sitting in drafty areas increases the need to turn up the thermostat.
- Close fireplace dampers when embers are completely out. Use a chimney sock or rigid board insulation in the fireplace flue to ensure complete blockage.
- Turn off lights when a room is unoccupied.
- Unplug or replace refrigerators or freezers that are over 15 years old, and save over \$120 annually for each unit!

Fast and Free Energy Savings

- Turn off kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans when their job is done. Timers or a humidistat work great for bathroom fans.
- Cutting shower times in half will save about one third of water heating costs. Turn down the water heater to 120 degrees and drain one to two gallons from tank every three months to clean sediment.
- Only run full loads in clothes washer, dryer and dishwasher. Save one dollar per load of laundry if washing in cold water and hanging laundry to dry on a basement clothes line. Clean dryer lint trap after every load.
- Replace or clean furnace filters monthly.
- Use the power management feature on computers to put them to sleep after five minutes of inactivity. Use power strips for electronics such as televisions, DVRs, gaming consoles, computer accessories and mobile device chargers that can be easily turned off when not in use.

Try some of these fast and free tips to start saving today or visit our website for more ways to save money!



Sign up for weekly energy saving "E-Tips" by contacting Ken Maleski at kmaleski@central.coop!

Your Co-op's Guiding Principles! No. 1: Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-ops are open to anyone who is able to use its services, which means any person who moves onto CEC lines is allowed membership. Annual Meetings serve as a way for members to get to know the people who run their co-op, and it's where members are updated on business matters. Every year in August, CEC convenes for its annual membership meeting. See Page 3 for more information on this year's Annual Meeting. Watch for more information on our other six principles in upcoming issues!

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, for a four-year term. Director seats are divided among counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Forest and Venango counties are invited to run for these two respective seats. To be eligible for nomination you must be a CEC member in good standing, have a permanent residence in that county and meet other qualifications required by your cooperative's bylaws.

To receive a qualifications list and nominating petition, please submit the coupon below by April 1, 2015. If you meet the qualifications, you will then 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 by May 1, 2015.



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, Aug. 21, 2015, 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.

Forest County

Dennis Lamb
Tionesta, Pa.

Butler County

Donald F. Christy
Saxonburg, Pa.

Venango County

Carl E. Gadsby
Grove City, Pa.

Joe Gibson

Parker, Pa.

Ron Paranick

Cranberry, Pa.

Clarion County

James M. Reed
Fryburg, Pa.

Randy Tharan

Knox, Pa.

If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee, please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2015 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: _____

Recipe of the Month

Warm Winter Lemon Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 yellow cake mix
- Two 4-ounce serving size boxes of instant lemon pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 1-1/4 cup water

*Thank you to
Mary Ellen Edinger
for submitting this
recipe!*

Directions:

Mix cake mix according to package directions. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 cake pan. Set aside.

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Pour milk and water into a large bowl. Add instant lemon pudding. With a wire whisk beat for two minutes. Pour over cake. Place cake pan on cookie sheet to catch spills as this bubbles. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes. Let set for 20 minutes before serving. Serve with raspberries or cool whip.

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:

Sharon Redick of Franklin

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Leslie Cashell of Saxonburg

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: Energized wires don't always jump around making noise and sparking. They are usually quiet and still.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: 60 percent of portable generator related deaths occur during the winter months.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: To save energy you should leave your drapes open at night.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

716 Route 368 • PO Box 329 • Parker, PA 16049-0329 • www.central.coop
Customer Service 1-800-521-0570 • Emergency Outage Number 1-800-282-8610

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.