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# PowerLines

2013 Photo Contest Second-Place Winning Photo  
Taken by Margaret Davis of Clinton Township

## How Big is an ACRE?

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

If we are discussing land measurement, an acre is equivalent to 43,560 square feet. Today, I want to offer a different definition. For the purpose of this article, an ACRE is something much bigger, especially to cooperative members and employees. ACRE is an acronym that stands for the Action Committee for Rural Electrification. ACRE is the political action committee (PAC) representing the interests of rural electric cooperative members across the country. ACRE was formed in 1966 with the mission of making the voice of rural electric cooperative consumers heard in the U.S. Congress. Currently, ACRE is one of the top PACs in the nation with over 29,000 individuals contributing. The term PAC has received a lot of negative press over the past few years but let me share with you how this one is different.

Like any PAC, ACRE accepts contributions from people and makes campaign contributions to candidates for Congress on their behalf. What makes ACRE unique is the people making those contributions. ACRE raises personal, voluntary contributions from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) eligible membership only. Federal law prohibits soliciting contributions from individuals other than NRECA and member-systems’ eligible employees, boards of directors, consumer-owners and the families of those individuals. Other PACs are often funded by special interest groups with deep pockets representing a very small number of people. ACRE is truly a nationwide grassroots effort and provides a collective voice in Washington, D.C. for 42 million consumer-owners of electric cooperatives.

***How Big is an ACRE/Page 2***

## Join ACRE!

### There are two easy ways to contribute:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to ACRE.

### Add a contribution to your electric bill:

- Regular: \$25
  - Century Club: \$100
  - President's Club: \$500
  - Other
  - Please renew my amount at this level annually
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

### Membership Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account: \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to  
 Central Electric Cooperative,  
 Attn: Chris Panian,  
 716 Route 368,  
 P.O. Box 329,  
 Parker, PA 16049.

## How Big is an ACRE/From Page 1

Remember, ACRE members are the same kind of community and politically active people as those who took on electrifying rural America years ago. I guarantee you that our legislators understand and remember that fact.

The donations that ACRE makes to members of Congress go to legislators who have demonstrated support of electric cooperative goals and share our cooperative values. While these donations pale in comparison financially to that of some other PACs, they represent the collective voice of 42 million cooperative members nationwide.

Because of this fact, when ACRE speaks, legislators are listening and hearing the real concerns that actual voters have regarding rural electric issues. ACRE contributions make it possible to get a seat at the table so that all sides of an issue are heard — not just those of the ones with the biggest checkbook. Our interaction with our legislators is to educate, as the electric utility business is often not their area of expertise. As a not-for-profit organization, we offer a perspective that doesn't usually come from a paid lobbyist. We offer insight into potential consequences of proposed legislation or regulation and how it may affect rural electric members — members who are also their constituents. As we head into the midterm election season, many current and would-be legislators are going to vie for your votes. Many candidates will wisely be pursuing the endorsement of ACRE. ACRE's

endorsement brings with it recognition that they have supported, through their votes and public statements, issues that are important to rural electric consumers.

Since 2008, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has expanded our ACRE program beyond our board of directors and employees to include you, our members. The ACRE Co-Op Owners for Political Action program provides each of our members the opportunity to add their voice to many thousands ensuring continued availability and affordability of electricity in rural America.

So, unless you are selling real estate or working on an oil and gas lease, the next time someone asks, "How big is an ACRE?" you can tell them it is as big as 42 million voices in support of safe, affordable and reliable electricity throughout rural America. I invite you to join Co-Op Owners for Political Action today by completing and returning the adjacent form. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Panian, our ACRE coordinator, at x2171 or visit the website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

**Save The Date!**  
**CEC's Annual Meeting**  
**is Aug. 22, 2014.**



What a winter we have had! We cannot control the weather, but we can choose how efficient to make our home. Attic insulation is the least costly home improvement that can make a noticeable difference in energy costs and comfort. Spring is a great time to insulate because attic temperatures are more tolerable to work in. Here are some suggestions to do the job right.

Inspect the attic to see what type and amount of insulation is currently up there. It's best to first air seal your attic to prevent leakage before adding the new insulation. Use caulking, foam sealants and weather stripping to all seams, cracks and openings to the outside, in your attic. Concentrate on chimney flashing, all ducts, attic hatch entrance and recessed lighting.

It is now time to add your insulation. Various types include fiberglass, cellulose and spray foams (open and closed cell). Insulation is measured in R-value or resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value the greater its effectiveness. R-38 is recommended in our region. New insulation can be added to what is already up there.

## Attic Insulation

Insulation types and R-values are as follows:

- Fiberglass (roll) 3.12 per inch
- Fiberglass (blown) 2.20 per inch
- Cellulose (blown) 3.20 per inch
- Spray Foam (open cell) 3.60 per inch
- Spray Foam (closed cell) 6.50 per inch

R-values listed above are under ideal conditions with no air leakage. Cost is always a concern for many. Fiberglass is less costly to install. If proper sealing is completed, it will perform similarly to both cellulose and spray foams. The choice is yours.

The bottom line is that a properly sealed and insulated attic will reduce cooling and heating costs by as much as \$180 per year, increase comfort and can be accomplished by most of us. Why not use that income tax refund as an investment in lowering your future energy bills? You can also receive federal energy tax credits by doing so. Let's get started!

## Attention High School Seniors: PREA Scholarship

A minimum of five \$1,000 PREA scholarships, in memory of William F. Matson, are available for the 2014–2015 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 12, 2014**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 2, 2014**. 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

## M Eye Injury: Tips to Protect Vision

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When you think about who's at risk of eye injury, you probably picture people in work situations. Although many eye injuries happen at work, almost as many happen around the home. Fortunately, most eye injuries are preventable. Take these simple steps to reduce the risk of an eye injury.



- Wear protective eyewear during risky activities: Wear safety glasses with side shields anytime you might be exposed to flying particles, objects, or dust. Wear goggles when exposed to chemicals.
- Use caution with chemicals and cleaners: Carefully read the labels

## CEC's Annual Pole Inspection

As part of CEC's ongoing effort to improve system reliability, contracted pole inspection crews will begin inspecting 6,000 poles in the areas of Prospect, Coaltown and Karns City substations.

Inspections typically include a visual inspection, sounding 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 Utilities Services, Inc. or by CEC personnel at a later time. All Osmose representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification

The project will last several months. 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.



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operations Support

of chemicals and household cleaning supplies, such as bleach, before using them. Don't mix products. Keep all chemicals and sprays out of children's reach.

- Supervise your child's use of tools: Pencils, scissors, forks and knives can all cause serious eye injury. Keep in mind that common household items — such as paper clips, bungee cords, wire coat hangers, rubber bands and fishhooks — can also be dangerous.
- Don't allow your children to use laser pointers. Laser pointers, especially those with short-wave lengths such as green laser pointers, can permanently damage the retina and cause visual loss with exposures as short as a few seconds. Avoid directing the beam toward anyone's eyes.

## 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 x2195.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



## Submit Your Photo and Win!



CEC is excited to announce its 2014 member photo contest! CEC will award prizes for the top three winners: \$100 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 third place. Submit your best photo for a chance to win! The subject of your photo can be beautiful scenery and landscapes, interesting or unusual buildings or structures, power line equipment, or anything else that you find appealing. You must submit your photo before June 27.

Members will vote for the top five photos from July 1 through Aug. 6. You may then vote for the top three photos beginning Aug. 7.

You can vote through our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop), or by visiting our office. You will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in our September Power Lines newsletter. CEC will announce the winners in late October.

If you have any questions about this contest, please contact Renee Spence at [rspence@central.coop](mailto:rspence@central.coop) or by calling 1-800-521-0570 x2173.

*By submitting a photo entry to this contest you are granting CEC permission to use the image in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website entries, without payment. However, photo credit will be given. CEC reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or offensive.*

### Rules:

1. Only one entry per member.
2. The photo must have been taken by a CEC member within one of CEC's seven service counties (Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer and Venango).
3. The photo should be submitted electronically to Renee Spence at [rspence@central.coop](mailto:rspence@central.coop) by June 27. If you are unable to submit it electronically, please contact Renee to make other arrangements. When submitting a photo, you must include where the photo was taken, a brief description of the subject, who took the photo, how you would like to be recognized within the photo's credit line, and a title for the photo.
4. Employees and directors of CEC, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible.
5. The prizes will appear as credit on the winners' bills and may not be redeemed for cash.

## 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 monthly payment amount is based on your average usage over the previous 12 months.

The budget year runs from May to April of the following year. April is what CEC considers budget catch-up month as it is the last month of the budget year. 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, to 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

### Barbecue Chipped Ham

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pound low-fat ham (chipped; cut in small pieces)
- 2 large slices onion (cut fine)
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon paprika

#### Directions:

Melt butter and add onions. Saute until tender. Add rest of ingredients (except ham) and mix until blended. Add ham. Let cook for 45 minutes. Fill bun of your choice and enjoy!

*Thank you to Mary Usoff for submitting this recipe!*

#### 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 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:

**Lois Mays of Tionesta**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Arthur Best of Knox**

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/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

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/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** Laser pointers can permanently damage the retina and cause visual loss with exposures as short as a few seconds.

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

**2. True or False:** ACRE provides a voice for 42 million consumer-owners of electric cooperatives.

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

**3. True or False:** Attic insulation is a home improvement that lowers energy costs.

**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](http://www.central.coop)  
Customer Service 1-800-521-0570 • Emergency Outage Number 1-800-282-8610