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Photographer: Carol Kruth of Saxonburg

Credit Where It’s Due

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees are dedicated, hardworking, safety conscious and member focused. Many of my articles have revolved around specific individuals or teams within our organization. It is easy for me to extoll their virtues and recognize their efforts on behalf of members, even when things don’t go exactly as we had planned. There are times that our efforts are undermined by circumstances beyond our control.

Last year we encountered one of those circumstances in the form of power supply outages. In the way of background, a power supply outage is exactly what the name describes, the company that supplies service to our substation has a service interruption. The cause of these interruptions can vary just as can distribution (CEC) interruptions. Weather, trees, wildlife, equipment failure and

human error are just a sampling of the potential causes. A typical year might have from one to five of these power supply problems of varying length. Last year we experienced 25. That is a big — no wait — huge number, especially when you consider that a single power supply outage can effect nearly 2,800 members. I would like to clarify that I am not talking about Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC), our generation and transmission cooperative, and the source of our generation, but rather the companies that mange the transmission grid that serves our distribution system. You see, we are part owners of AEC and have a representative on their board of directors. Therefore we have a much greater influence over their operation and how it might impact our service.

Some of the outages were weather related, but many were

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“By way of an update I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you what has been accomplished, and provide you with some early results. As the article title implies, I want to give credit to our power suppliers for recognizing the issue and working with us to take steps toward short and longer term corrective action.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

not, and were compounded by human error resulting in a significant impact on our members. Usually I don't like to single out these types of interruptions as I recognize that from a member's perspective, you were out of service and the cause doesn't change that fact. Last year was so extreme, however, that I felt the need to keep you informed about our concerns and the steps we were taking with our power suppliers to address them. I posted two open letters to our members on our website, discussed it at our annual meeting and spoke to many of you individually.

By way of an update I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you what has been accomplished, and provide you with some early results. As the article title implies, I want to give credit to our power suppliers for recognizing the issue and working with us to take steps toward short and longer term corrective action. Our power suppliers are very large companies and have a parent company that oversees their respective operations, so changes can take time and be challenging. With that said, once we got the appropriate players involved in the discussion, real progress was made that has initially had a positive result. Additionally, plans have been made that should have a continued positive impact on our reliability.

The issues that were identified were procedural, human error, equipment failure and maintenance. The procedural

and human error concerns were addressed immediately and CEC representatives were included in the process to ensure our satisfaction with the result. Redundancies and immediate response were incorporated diminishing the possibility of something being missed or misinterpreted, a sort of “belt and suspenders” approach. Equipment failure and maintenance issues were a little more difficult to tackle in a short time frame. Appropriate concerns of budget, timeline and what new additions would be most effective were discussed. After productive and constructive discussion, plans were made for switch replacements and upgrades, additional monitoring and reporting equipment and processes.

So, what are the results? Most urgently, new and upgraded equipment coupled with improved communication, both internally and with CEC, have resulted in three power supply interruptions so far this year (as of the time of this writing) that have been five minutes or less in duration. What we have seen, thus far, is that the process is greatly improved and we are more involved. Most importantly we have an improved communication and working relationship with our power suppliers. Given the impact of this relationship on our members, this improvement is invaluable. In giving credit where it is due, I would like to recognize the efforts of all involved — your CEC team, AEC and our power suppliers.

SAFETY MATTERS

Swimming Safety

Swimming pools and spas are great places for family fun. However, it's important to ensure everyone follows these simple steps to stay safe in and around the water.

- Keep children under active supervision at all times. Stay in arm's reach of young children. Designate a responsible person to watch the water when people are in the pool — never allow anyone to swim alone.
- Establish and enforce rules and safe behaviors, such as “no diving,” “stay away from drain covers,” “swim with a buddy” and “walk

please.”

- Caution children against showing off and playing rough, and explain the dangers of running and diving recklessly.
- Install proper barriers, covers and alarms on and around your pool and spa.
- Know how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Keep rescue devices and first aid supplies near the pool.



Local Teens Selected for Youth Tour

Five local high school juniors were recently selected to attend the June 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The 2017 winners are: Jenna Huegel, Cranberry Area High School; Kera Cussins, North Clarion High School; Carissa Janecek, Keystone High School; Emmanuel McLean, Moniteau High School; Rebecca Pennington, Karns City High School.

They will join over 1,500 students from across the nation to see the U.S. Capitol, meet with congressmen, tour national monuments and memorials, and visit the National Zoo and Smithsonian museums. Students learn about electric cooperatives, U.S. government and history, and attend educational seminars.

The idea for an annual Rural Electric Youth Tour was born from the 1957 address by U.S. Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson before electric cooperative leaders. Then in 1964, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) began to coordinate the program as “Youth Tour Week.” All expenses are paid from unclaimed capital credits and are at no cost to CEC members.



Always Call 811 Before You Dig!

Spring has finally arrived! It's time to plant a garden, install a deck or build an addition to your home. But wait! Before digging, check to see if there are any underground utilities. It's easy. Just call the Pennsylvania One Call System at 811 or visit www.call811.com for answers to all your questions. Make sure you call at least three working days before you plan to dig.

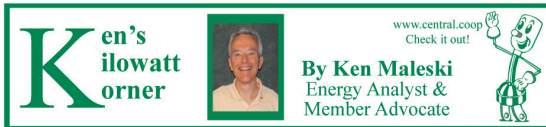
Whether you are a contractor, home builder or landowner the Pennsylvania One Call System will ensure you are digging safely. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Caitlin Kriebel at CEC at 800-521-0570 x2195.

Don't Forget to Enter Our Photo Contest!

Entries are due by June 9. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners: \$100 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 third place.

Members vote for the top five photos from June 19 to July 28. Voting for the top three photos begins Aug. 1.

Visit www.central.coop for more information.



Summer will be here before we know it, so now is the time to prepare for those hot and hazy days. Here is a list of cool ways to save you money this summer.

- Ceiling fans: Change blade rotation to counter clockwise (blowing down) and clean dust off.
- Programmable thermostat: These can save up to \$100 a season.
- Window air conditioning units: Remove foam filter to wash with soap and water. Inspect air sealing materials around units for cracks and voids.
- Dehumidifiers: Clean coils with soapy warm water (rinse thoroughly).
- Central air conditioning units: Remove leaf debris and vegetation from around units and hire a professional to inspect systems.
- Furnace filter: Replace, or clean, for central air conditioning systems.

Get Ready for Summer Weather

- Registers: Vacuum these and ensure furniture and other objects are not blocking air flow.
- Lighting: Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs (light-emitting diodes) or CFLs (compact fluorescent lights). Ninety percent of their energy creates light, not heat, and they use 75 percent less energy.
- Window shades: Great energy savers that help keep out radiant gain from direct sunlight. Close them on the east side in the morning and the west side in the late afternoon.
- Solar clothes dryer: No, it's not some new expensive product. It's an old-fashioned clothes line! It will keep heat and humidity out of the house and save 50 cents per load.

Don't forget to be ready to conserve come June when you hear our Peak Alert radio announcements. Be cool and save some money this summer!

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

Mark Your Calendar for our 80th Annual Meeting of the Members' Picnic

Name: _____

Address: _____

Map No: _____

Phone No: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners for me.

I will be bringing _____ children with me.

Only children ages 5 to 10 will be accepted into Children's Entertainment.

By attending the annual meeting, I grant CEC permission to use my likeness in photographs in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website entries, without payment or other consideration.

**Return coupon by July 31, 2017 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329**

Attend the Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, Aug. 25 at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center at 4:30 p.m. for a live performance by American Pie, delicious meal, bill-credit voucher and chance to win a number of door prizes. Children ages 5 to 10 are also encouraged to attend to enjoy a variety of activities specifically for them! Any child registered by July 31, and attending, will have a chance at winning an iPad mini!

You can make reservations for the meeting and for children's entertainment by completing the adjacent form, visiting our website or calling us at 800-521-0570. Registration deadline is July 31.

For more information, directions or to check out the agenda visit www.central.coop.



Tellers Needed for Election

The cooperative board of directors is seeking CEC members to serve as tellers for the annual election on Aug. 25. The committee tabulates director election ballots returned prior to the meeting, via Internet or by mail, and votes cast at the meeting. Tellers must arrive by 4 p.m.

Eight tellers are needed: one from Armstrong

County, two from Butler County, two from Clarion County, one from Forest County and two from Venango County. If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held by our judge of elections. If there are no volunteers, the cooperative directors will appoint needed tellers.

2017 Tellers Committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners for me.

Map No: _____ Phone No: _____ County: _____

**Return coupon by July 31, 2017 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329,
Parker, PA 16049-0329**

Recipe of the Month

Slow Cooker Pulled Pork

Ingredients:

- 2-pound pork tenderloin (or pork loin roast)
- 12-ounce can or bottle root beer
- 18-ounce bottle barbecue sauce
- 8 hamburger buns, split and lightly toasted

Directions: Place the pork tenderloin in a slow cooker. Pour the root beer over the meat. Cover and cook on low until well cooked and shreds easily (approximately 6 to 7 hours). Drain well. Stir in barbecue sauce. Serve over hamburger buns.

*Thank you to Joanne McVay
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
*Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO*

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
*Director of Communication and
Public Relations*

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

John Wolbert of Shippenville

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Braden Cozad of Franklin

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: You should always make a free call to 811 to check for underground utilities before digging.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Ninety percent of an LEDs' energy is used to create light, not heat.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: No one should ever swim alone, not even adults.

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.