

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Make a Difference!  
Join ACRE®

Vote for the Winners  
of Our Photo Contest

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## Board of Directors

Jody P. Weaver  
*President*

Kenneth Durrett  
*Vice President*

Althea M. Smith  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

William J. Eichner  
Kenneth D. Etzel  
Nancy Lendyak  
Bette D. Walters  
Richard L. Weaver



# PowerLines

2013 Photo Contest Entry

Photographed by Deb Spangler Greene of Cranberry

## Electricity as a Second Language?

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

At our annual meeting in August I mentioned that we ask a lot of our member-elected board of directors. As all of our board can attest, but more notably our newest directors, there is a lot more to our business than just poles and wires. Our employees represent a wide variety of professional disciplines. We utilize a extensive array of technologies. We interact with many electric utility associations — a major sector of the American economy. Our directors must be educated, informed and engaged in an industry that is often very different from the experiences that they bring with them to the board room. I have made similar comments in the past regarding the demands we place on our board, but I don’t generally elaborate or give any specific examples. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss just one: communication.

After listening to a radio show discuss the use of acronyms and emoji’s used in the world of social media, it struck me that, on top of all the tasks we ask of our board members, we often have to explain things to them in what must seem like another language. The electric utility industry is no different from any other technical business in its use of acronyms. If you work in this business, you get so used to acronyms that you don’t even recognize that you are using them.

For professional reasons I would like to think we use acronyms only because the actual words are too long or difficult to say or remember (as in ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease instead of arterial lateral sclerosis), but the reality is we use them more like texting teenagers would. We use acronyms to describe ourselves and our associates: CEC instead of Central Electric Cooperative, PREA rather than the Pennsylvania Rural

***Electricity ... /Page 2***

## *Electricity ... /From Page 1*

Electric Association or NRECA as opposed to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This is done for ease of communication but the same acronym can have different meanings — so take care in what you type into an Internet search engine.

“This more detailed look into one seemingly simple aspect of the demands we make on our board gives you a better appreciation for what I mean when I say we ask a lot of them and, as I said at the annual meeting, they represent you admirably.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

Electrical nomenclature is filled with acronyms: kW (kilowatt), kVA (kilovolt-ampere), kWh (kilowatt-hour), Hz (hertz), AC (alternating current), DC (direct current), A (ampere) and I (current) are just a few examples that describe and quantify the measurement of electricity. Sometimes we make it pretty difficult, even for those who work in the business, as we have more than one way of referencing the same thing. “A” and “I” for example, both refer to current, the flow of electricity. Then there’s our codes, standards and agencies: NESC (National Electric Safety Code), NEC (National Electric Code), ANSI (American National Standards Institute), FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) come to mind just off the top of my head. We follow the rules of, and interact with many of, these organizations on a daily basis. Lastly, how about the tools and technologies that we use to efficiently serve our members? OMS (Outage Management System), AMI (Automated Meter Infrastructure), ABS (our accounting software), iVUE (our member service software) are even

more acronyms frequently used.

This is, by no means, a comprehensive list, nor is it intended to be. I guess I would compare it to your first few weeks of high school Spanish class, you won’t be able to read, write or understand the language but you might be able to ask where the bathroom is. These few examples are only to illustrate that we use acronyms in all aspects of our work at CEC and we ask our board not only to understand the subject matter and make reasonable decisions, but to do it in a language they may have never heard.

There is no language learning software for utility industry acronyms so we provide interpreters such as myself and other CEC employees. When it comes down to it, board members take a full immersion course in learning our industry’s language. I would compare it to dropping a non-Spanish speaker in the middle of a community where only Spanish is spoken. This approach has proven valuable because our board picks up the language quickly and our employees are required to understand well enough to explain it, sharpening their skills as well.

This more detailed look into one seemingly simple aspect of the demands we make on our board gives you a better appreciation for what I mean when I say we ask a lot of them and, as I said at the annual meeting, they represent you admirably.

**K**en's  
ilowatt  
orner



www.central.coop  
Check it out!

By Ken Maleski  
Residential Analyst  
& Advisor



Power outages in rural areas can be more inconvenient than in urban areas. Why? A vast majority of rural homeowners use private water wells for drinking, toilets, showers, etc. All require electricity to operate. Urban residents, on municipal water systems, have water even when the lights are out. The answer to this problem for cooperative members is to use a stand-by generator connected directly to your home's breaker panel to operate your well pump. However, if not operated properly, generators can send power back out on to the electric lines possibly injuring the very people trying to restore your electricity.

A Generlink™ Transfer Switch can help! CEC can easily install the unit on your meter, providing a power gateway from a portable generator to your breaker panel. A 20-foot cord is provided to link your portable generator to the meter-socket transfer switch. Generlink™ has an indicator light that notifies the homeowner when power from the cooperative is lost. This same light informs members when cooperative power is restored. Generlink™ can also be purchased with built-in surge protection for an additional fee.

## Generlink™ Transfer Switch

Before ordering a Generlink™ from CEC, make sure you know the running wattage output of your portable generator. Also, find the exact designation of the 4-space female receptacle located on the generator face plate. Designations range from L14-20, L14-30 or L14-50. Both pieces of information will be required to find the Generlink™ to match your needs.

Once installed, you are ready to safely use a generator during power outages. Remember to always locate your generator outside of your home to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning or fire hazards associated with generator fuels. Visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) and click on the Products and Services tab to

learn how to size a generator for your personal needs. Then call us at 800-521-0570 to order your Generlink™.



### To Celebrate the Holidays CEC will be Closed:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 (normal hours will resume Nov. 27)

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closing at noon

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 (normal hours will resume Dec. 28)

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closing at noon

New Year's Day, Jan. 1 (normal hours will resume Jan. 4)

## Check on our Photo Contest!

You can vote online until Oct. 16 and the winners will be posted on Oct. 21 at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

## Your Co-op's Guiding Principles

### No. 5: Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives are committed to keep their members informed — not just about cooperative business, but also about topics like energy efficiency, safety and community involvement. For example, this newsletter is one way we keep members up to date on relevant news.

You can always stay informed via our website ([www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)).

### No. 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Even though co-ops are independent entities, we still rely on one another to share resources, information, and, in some cases, manpower.

Electric co-ops have long relied on one another to get power restored more quickly after severe weather emergencies. Called “mutual-aid agreements,” it works just as it sounds: When we need extra hands after a massive storm, co-ops from neighboring towns and states help out. And when neighboring co-ops need help, we send crews to them.



### Fire Prevention Month

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and injure approximately 20,000 more. This month, make sure your home and loved ones are protected from a fire.

- **Smoke Alarms:** These are a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test them monthly.
- **Prevent Electrical Fires:** Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high-traffic areas.

- **Keep Plugs Safe:** Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety recommendations and use your senses to spot any potential hazards.
- **Clean Dryer Vents:** Clothes dryers often start fires. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes or after the drying cycle is complete.
- **Create An Escape Route:** Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house.



### Water Heater Program Suspended

All sales of 80-gallon electric water heaters have been suspended. Recent federal regulations affecting the manufacturing of large tank size electric water heaters have temporarily curtailed production nationwide. CEC is researching water heater suppliers and anticipates offering a new product as soon as more information is available. CEC thanks members for their patience as we strive to continue to provide this valuable service.



## Make a Difference: Join ACRE®!

Join the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action® and have your voice joined with rural electric members across the country. This program is a nonpartisan political action committee established to support political candidates who share common public policy goals with rural electric cooperatives.

In the face of a myriad of special political interests promoting agendas potentially detrimental to CEC's mission (to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to rural consumers) ACRE® stands on the front lines defending our heritage of cooperative service and ensures our continued ability to carry out our mission. ACRE® is a grassroots organization of electric cooperative employees, directors and member-owners that is a growing force in Washington, D.C. and state capitals nationwide. Many small voices joined together have a mighty impact. As the threats to electric cooperatives have increased, so has the strength of the program. ACRE® has enjoyed unprecedented growth over the past few years at the national, state and local levels. Please consider adding your voice to this worthy and worthwhile cause.

Join Co-op Owners for Political Action® by completing the adjacent form and sending it in with your bill. You can also visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or contact your ACRE® coordinator, Chris Panian at 800-521-0570 x2171.

*Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*

### Membership Form

*Yes I Want to Join!*

**There are two easy ways to contribute:**

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

**Add a one-time 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: ACRE,  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

## Recipe of the Month

### Pumpkin Casserole

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 pinches cinnamon

**Directions:** Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients; put into a casserole dish. Bake for 1 hour. It will form a crust on top.

*Thank you to Linda Gulick for submitting this recipe!*

## Send in your recipes to be shared today!

#### Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at [rtritten@central.coop](mailto: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:

**Adrienne King of Harrisville**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**William Gesin of Tionesta**

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

**1. True or False:** Learning the language of an electric utility is like learning a second language altogether.

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

**2. True or False:** Generators can send electric to power lines, injuring people restoring your electric.

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

**3. True or False:** Smoke alarms should be on every floor of your home and tested monthly.

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

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Central Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.