

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Attend the 75–  
Year–Anniversary  
Celebration and  
Annual Meeting

Conserve Electricity  
During CEC’s Peak  
Alerts

## “Watts” Inside

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# PowerLines

## Choice

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

McDonalds or Burger King, Coke or Pepsi, paper or plastic, we make choices every day and thankfully, most are not of great importance. Since 1998, the topic of choice has been part of the conversation for electric service providers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Beginning in January 2011, electric utility consumers throughout the state were offered a choice in regards to who they would purchase their generation services from. Many of you have probably received phone calls or something in the mail from potential energy suppliers asking if you would like to switch suppliers. You might have experienced those calls hanging up on you once you mentioned you’re a cooperative member, since they don’t offer that service to you.

I should probably give you a quick overview of electric systems and what is meant by “choice” before I explain the process that exists today. The electrical system that supplies power to your homes and businesses is basically broken into three main pieces; distribution, transmission and generation. The part that connects directly to you, and is most visible in the form of poles and wires, is called the distribution system. Distribution is the piece Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) owns and operates, and is the system we use to deliver your service. The next piece is transmission and this part of the system is the link between the generator and our distribution system. The transmission system takes large quantities of supply over long distances at high voltage to be

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## Choice/From Page 1

handed off to the distribution systems. Lastly is generation. As the name implies, these are the units creating power that is subsequently transmitted and distributed. You have probably heard a lot of discussion about nuclear, coal fired, natural gas, wind and solar generation. These are simply the fuel sources used by the generator in order to create electricity. So in an oversimplified nutshell we have one system broken into three pieces to generate, transmit and distribute electric power.

Due to the integrated nature of the system just described, and a desire not to duplicate sets of wires, poles, substations and transmission towers, the “choice” decision is restricted to that of generation supply. More specifically, people who choose a different generation supplier will still have the same distribution company. As a matter of fact, many of the investor owned utilities do the billing for the alternate generation supplier, so the customer still receives a bill from the same distribution company with a separate line item for generation costs. The costs of the transmission piece of the system are handled differently by different companies but those costs are built into either the distribution or generation piece for the purposes of billing.

At this point, if you were watching television or listening to the radio, most of you would be changing the channel. Let me give you what you

have been waiting for ... **How does this impact me?** The short answer is this has no effect on our members at this time. Even though some of you have received mail or telephone solicitations, no other supplier is offering service to our membership at this time. That isn't to say that they won't because cooperatives are not exempt from choice. In order for an electric generation supplier (EGS) to offer generation choice to our members, they must enter into an agreement with CEC and Allegheny Electric Cooperative. This is required because the EGS needs our data regarding your usage in order to appropriately bill you. CEC has taken preliminary steps to prepare for the possibility, of working with an EGS in the future. We have held off on making any significant expenditure to accommodate the possibility because we don't want to have any stranded investment if no EGS chooses to sell to our membership.

Some electric distribution entities are exempt from this process. As I mentioned, we are not exempt. I believe a part of the reason that EGSs' are not attracted to our system is the very reason that we exist. The rural nature of our system and low number of members per mile of line makes us less attractive to a profit-driven generation supplier.

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## Member Memories:

*“The average bill per month in 1945 was \$2.75.”*

*Julian Males,  
member since 1968.*

*If you have a favorite CEC memory and would like to be considered for this special column, please contact Jessica Brison at 1-800-521-0570 x2173.*

## Choice/From Page 2

To get this all back into the nutshell, CEC will continue to monitor the impact of choice in Pennsylvania and keep you informed along the way. Most importantly, we will continue to focus on keeping the lights on, and the rates competitive, as you have always desired. If you

receive notices or calls from other agencies and have questions, feel free to call and talk to us about it. In the meantime, join us on Sept. 29, 2012 for our 75-Year-Anniversary and Annual Meeting, and celebrate what it means to be a cooperative member.

## Mark Your Calendar for the 75-Year-Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting

Attend this year's 75-Year-Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 at Whitehall Campgrounds at 9 a.m. for hot air balloon rides (weather permitting), and a chance to win a number of 75 door prizes! Also, submit your recipe for a chance to win a special prize and have it published in "Power Lines." Either bring your favorite recipe to the meeting and drop it off at the registration table, or submit it prior to the

meeting to be eligible for the special prize. Also, check out this year's musical entertainment, "The Wrangler Band."

You can make reservations for the meeting by completing the form or calling us at 1-800-521-0570. Registration deadline is Sept. 1, 2012. This year's meeting will also include children's entertainment provided by Keystone Smiles! For more information, or to check out the agenda, visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

### Annual Meeting Registration Form

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

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

Account No: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve a total of \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for my family as we will attend the Annual Meeting dinner on Sept. 29, 2012.

Children's entertainment is provided for children ages 5 through 10. Please indicate how many children will be attending \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

(A child with a medical condition must be accompanied by an adult.)

Contact at meeting in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your question before the meeting to allow us to answer it efficiently. (You may ask a question at the meeting even if you did not submit it ahead of time.)

My question: \_\_\_\_\_

*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 this coupon to CEC by Sept. 1, 2012.**

## 2012 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

The Good Neighbor Scholarship program awards 12 grants of \$1,000 each to cooperative members who want to further their education. It is available to all members who are at least a high school senior, or enrolled in a post-secondary institution. Returning adults are welcome.



**William C. Chittester**  
Cranberry H.S. to attend Penn State University (University Park Campus)



**Jessica C. Ferris**  
A-C Valley H.S. to attend Westminster College



**John Griebel**  
attends Westminster College



**Michelle Hartzell**  
Slippery Rock H.S. to attend Penn State University (University Park Campus)



**Nicholas S. Hepfl**  
Keystone H.S. to attend Clarion University



**Jacqueline M. Hetzler**  
A-C Valley H.S. to attend Penn State Altoona



**Allyson Olkowski**  
Karns City H.S. to attend Messiah College



**Deborah M. Kruszewski**  
Shaler H.S. to attend University of Louisville



**Cristin Osterling**  
Portersville Christian School to attend Liberty University



**Benjamin Sinz**  
Karns City H.S. to attend Penn State Behrend



**Blaine Sinz**  
Karns City H.S. to attend Penn College of Technology



**Christopher Znosko**  
Karns City H.S. to attend the University of Akron

**K**en's  
kilowatt  
corner



By **Ken Maleski**  
CEC Consumer  
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop  
Check it out!



## Be Alert for Peak Alerts

Did you know that your cooperative pays more for power during hot summer days than at other times of the year? But if power costs for the cooperative go up, eventually your price per kilowatt-hour will, as well.

Our coordinated load management program helps reduce expensive power purchases. You can also voluntarily participate by conserving power usage during CEC's Peak Alerts.

A Peak Alert is a radio announcement during hot summer afternoons (between 12 and 6 p.m.) asking CEC members to turn up thermostats on air conditioner units, turn off pool pumps and dehumidifiers, and

reschedule household chores to early evening.

Listen for radio Peak Alert announcements at the top and bottom of each hour's newscasts. The following local stations carry the alerts:

- WISR 680 AM            Butler
- WBUT 1050 AM        Butler
- MAJIC 99.3 FM        Franklin
- WFRA 1450 AM        Franklin
- WUZZ 107.7 FM        Oil City
- FROGGY 98.5 FM      Oil City
- WCCR 92.7 FM        Clarion
- WYTM 1380 FM        Kittanning

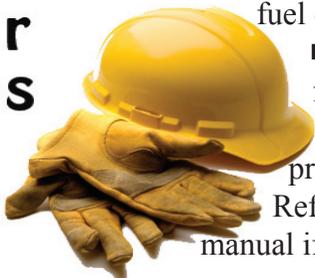
# SAFETY

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## Travel Safety

Traveling season is officially here! Whether you are going to the beach for vacation or driving to the city to catch a ball game here are a few tips you should consider.

- Always map out your trip, including road closures and fuel costs.
- Prepare your vehicle for the drive. You should check tire pressure and fluid levels. Refer to the owner's manual if needed.



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operational Support

- Always buckle up! Make sure both you and your children are properly fastened. Follow the safety guidelines for children in car seats.
- Stay focused on the road. Yes, that means no texting or playing with your GPS system. Also, if you start to feel drowsy, pull over and rest, or let someone else drive.

## Recipe of the Month

### Black Bean and Roasted Corn Salad

#### Ingredients:

##### Salad:

- 6 ears of corn, or 2 boxes of frozen corn, or two cans of corn
- 2 (15–1/2 ounce ) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 small red onion, chopped finely
- 2 avocados, chopped in 1 inch chunks
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and chopped

##### Dressing:

- Juice from one lime (or lemon)
- 1 teaspoon sugar, agave or honey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions:

If using fresh corn, cut corn from ears. If not, drain or thaw enough to spread corn on oiled cookie sheet and roast for about 7 minutes to enhance the sweetness. Combine all ingredients except the avocados and cilantro. Make the dressing by whisking the lime juice with the olive oil. Add the sugar and whisk more. Add the avocados and cilantro. Pour dressing over the salad and stir gently. **Note: you can substitute a can of corn or black beans with another type of bean.**

*Thank you to Mitzi Evankovich for submitting the recipe!*

**Submit your recipe for a chance to win a special prize at the 75-Year-Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting and have your recipe published in “Power Lines.”**

#### Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at [jbrison@central.coop](mailto:jbrison@central.coop) or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Staff

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**Questions or Concerns?**  
Contact us at 1–800–521–0570  
or email [info@central.coop](mailto:info@central.coop).

## Read Power Lines and



Last Issue’s Winner:

**Gina Beaver of Butler**

Read your issue of CEC’s “Power Lines” and win! It’s simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading “Power Lines” and completing the quiz below.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules or a faster entry, you may complete the survey online at [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** There are no other generation suppliers offering service to our membership at this time.

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

**2. True or False:** This year’s Annual Meeting will include the band The Rowdy Brothers.

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

**3. True or False:** Prepare your vehicle for the trip by checking tire pressure and fluid levels.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Account No:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Central Electric Cooperative**

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