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Save on Your Next Water Heater

Receive Energy Savings Tips on Your Phone

Drive Safely During the Fall

“Watts” Inside

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President

Jody P. Weaver
Vice President

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Kenneth Durrett
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Robert F. Sterrett
Bette D. Walters
Richard L. Weaver



PowerLines

75!

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) held its 75th Annual Meeting on Sept. 29, 2012. The event was outstanding! Our employees and board of directors went above and beyond to make this a special day for our membership. And there were significant issues to overcome. Our tent vendor went out of business and had to be replaced. Our long-time food vendor canceled, starting a chain of events that led to us finding a replacement food vendor only 12 days before the event. There were other smaller items, but I think you get the idea. Despite all of this, the event was great. We had our required business meeting and director elections, food, 75 prizes, entertainment, the Touchstone Energy® hot air balloon, and even a perfect weather day. We had our hardworking employees and our board of directors. The only thing

that we need more of is you. Don’t get me wrong, we had a good turnout of dedicated members but I’m greedy — I want more.

I am often asked if I am nervous about the Annual Meeting. That is probably because I speak in front of the crowd. I am not nervous, to the contrary, I look forward to the event. It gives me the opportunity not only to provide our members with information on stage but, more importantly, the chance to talk one-on-one with members from all over our service territory. That is the reason that I would like more members to attend. We are always looking for better ways to communicate with our members, but there is no substitute for a face-to-face conversation, or an in-person presentation.

This year I spoke with members on a wide range of topics including our new building, our line clearance

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Member Memories:

“As zoning officer for Clinton Township, Butler County, I had the opportunity to work with Central Electric to help make Victory Road Business Park a reality. Central went out of their way to help ensure the Park was a success. Today, Victory Road Business Park is almost sold out and hundreds of local people have good jobs. Central Electric really does care about the communities they serve.”

Mary Zacherl, Clinton Township Zoning Officer, Central Electric Member since 1967

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(tree trimming) practices, our outage restoration efforts and even how the Pirates collapsed in the second half of the season. For those of you that couldn't join us at the meeting, let me take this opportunity to share some of what was covered.

While 75 years is quite a milestone, we have been spending our time and effort preparing for the next 75 more than looking back at the last.

As has been reported to you over the past several years, after much deliberation and planning, CEC's board and staff made the decision to replace the office facility. We completed construction of the new office facility this year. On behalf of the employees, I would like to thank the membership and board for recognizing the importance of this project and committing to it. We now have a facility that will take us well into our next 75 years. Internally, we have been busy with strategic planning and an organizational review. The overriding emphasis for these efforts is to maintain continuous, incremental improvement in service to our membership. Through the process we identified areas of strength that we want to build upon, and areas in need of improvement. For example, our employees excel during large storm events. During storms, it's all hands on deck, the expectations are clear, we are all

working toward common goals with the same priority, and everyone does what needs to be done. We are applying some of these principles to our day-to-day activities through a change in management's approach to projects. This will allow us to remain consistent while still improving our service.

At our Annual Meeting we discussed outages and restoration, and the benefits that our maintenance and tree trimming have shown. While we can't control the weather, we can continue to prepare for, and respond to, the events efficiently and with all of our resources. The outcomes of these efforts are evidenced in our continuing wire-replacement program that will wrap up in 2013, completing a 900-mile project. More than 10,000 poles have been inspected and treated in 2011 and so far in 2012, and over 700 line miles have been cleared in the same time frame. And I can't stress the importance of the tree trimming enough as it has a direct impact on our reliability.

We implemented an automated phone payment system that allows members to pay bills electronically, 24 hours a day, and increased the percentage of our members paying electronically, decreasing cost to the cooperative. We also completed the implementation of identity verification procedures for CEC's Identity Theft Program, keeping member information safe.

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We had no rate increase in 2011. Our rate increase in 2012 was primarily due to a power generation increase. CEC retired capital credits at the end of 2011 in the amount of \$833,000 to our membership. Our board remains committed to making the allocation and retirement of capital credits a priority.

In 2011, CEC again participated in the National Rural Electric Associations' Youth Tour, and our Good Neighbor Scholarship. These two programs exemplify the cooperative difference as they focus on educating our youth and giving back to our communities. The Youth Tour program is remarkable and continues to educate the next generation on the difference and importance of the cooperative business model and how it relates to politics. We were able to provide a dozen \$1,000 dollar Good Neighbor Scholarships this year to area students throughout our service territory. Over the past several years we have been able to either partially, or wholly, fund these programs with escheats (unclaimed capital credits) dollars. This money is returned to the cooperative instead of being given to the state, and can be used for low-income energy assistance and/or programs like these.

This represents only part of what was covered and doesn't begin to describe the day itself. I would like to invite, cajole, pressure, arm twist or whatever else I can do to convince you to be a part of your Annual Meeting and a bigger part of your cooperative. So join us next year, but don't wait until then to let us know what you think. Call us, e-mail us or stop by when you have an idea or concern.

Too Good To Pass Up!

"Too good to pass up! And the \$400 total installed price is unbeatable!" That's what Member Gerald Lopata of Polk, Pa. said when he saw the professional water heater installation at his son Gregg's home through CEC's water heater program. So he called the co-op to have one installed at his home in Venango County.

Through CEC's water heater program, your old tank will be removed and disposed of, and a new 80-gallon Rheem Fury® electric water heater will be installed through the services of Dr. Waterheater, Inc.

To take advantage of the water heater program, members agree to participate in CEC's load management program that helps stabilize future power costs for all members.

If you need a water heater, contact us at 800-521-0570. That is what Gerald Lopata is telling all his friends and neighbors to do!



CEC'S 75th Annual Meeting

CEC conducted its 75th Annual Meeting Sept. 29 at Whitehall Campgrounds near Emlenton. This year's theme was "Energizing Your Future for 75 Years." During this meeting the members reelected Kenneth Durrett of Butler County and Richard Weaver of Clarion County to the board of directors.

More than 1,000 attended the meeting. A highlight for this year was the hot-air balloon ride. Luigi's catered the lunch, and the Wrangler Band provided entertainment. The meeting opened with the Parker Post 7073 presenting the American flag and CEC's Stacey Bechtel singing the National Anthem.



CEC's 2012 Board of Directors



CEO & General Manager
Matt Boshaw & wife Lori



100-year-old Opal Blauser & her brother
Chester Klapec cross one more thing off
Opal's bucket list!



Youth Tour & Good Neighbor
Scholarship representatives



2012-2013 MAAC



Elected & PREA representatives



Members learned about electricity
in the marketing tent.

Ken's
ilowatt
orner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop
Check it out!



TogetherWeSave.com

It can be daunting to search the internet for energy saving ideas. Touchstone Energy® Cooperative has made that easier with TogetherWeSave.com where you will find videos, tips and apps that can help you save energy.

The interactive home tour helps you learn how to save energy and money, room by room. Just click on highlighted items and tally your savings. Each tour tip also offers a video, blog tip, or more in-depth subject information.

Following these tips can add up to big savings on your electric bill. "Save Energy, Save Money," a new smart phone app, can be downloaded to either I-phones or Androids™ from the TogetherWeSave.com site. You can receive a "tip of the day" to learn how to save energy and money around your home, discover how much energy your appliances use, and to receive energy-related alerts from your electric cooperative.

For more energy-saving ideas, visit us today at www.central.coop.



SAFETY

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Fall Driving Safety

Wet leaves, fog, sun glare and frost are a few fall driving hazards. These tips will help make your commute safer.

- Increase your following distance in severe weather, at dusk and dawn, and when in an area with wet leaves. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.
- Check your vehicle's headlights, tail lights and turn signals to ensure they are working properly since darkness will be a part of many drivers' morning and evening commutes.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

- Have your vehicle's heating and wiper system checked to ensure they are working properly.
- Be sure to have tires with sufficient tread depth for any early-season snow.
- Slow down where deer crossing signs are posted. And remember when you see one deer, others may be following.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Turn on your headlights if your wipers are on: it's the law.

Courtesy PennDOT

2012 Annual Meeting Recipe Winner

Summer Squash Soup

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup carrot, diced
- 1/2 celery, diced with a few leaves
- 1 medium onion, chopped or several scallions including tops
- 6 cups yellow squash or zucchini, unpeeled & diced
- 2 - 3 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
- 2 - 3 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- 6 cups milk (I use 1%)
- 1-1/2 - 2 tablespoons butter
- Salt & fresh ground pepper

Directions:

Cook celery, carrot and onion in a small amount of water until tender. Add squash/zucchini and cook until tender, without additional water. Add basil, parsley and milk, heat but don't boil. Add butter and salt, several twists of peppermill.

Good vegetarian soup, but it may be garnished with parmesan cheese or crisp bacon crumbles.

The vegetable base can be frozen. Just add the milk, butter and seasonings when ready to serve. It's a taste of summer when the snow flies!

Thank you Margaret Boyer for submitting the recipe!

Send Recipes to:

Chris O'Donnell at codonnell@central.coop
or mail to Central Electric Cooperative
PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Consumer Services

Dennis W. Beggs
Director of Finance

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Communication and Marketing

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources and Administration

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

To Celebrate the Holidays CEC will be Closed:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 22 (normal hours will resume Nov. 23)
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closing at noon
Christmas, Dec. 25 (normal hours will resume Dec. 26)
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closing at noon
New Year's Day, Jan. 1 (normal hours will resume Jan. 2)

Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

Vince DiLembo of Valencia

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and be included in a drawing to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill by completing the quiz below.

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

1. True or False: CEC's 900-mile line replacement program should be complete in 2013.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: CEC retired \$833,001 capital credits at the end of 2011 to our membership.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: You can receive energy-savings tips on your smart phone.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

PO Box 329 • Parker, PA 16049 • www.central.coop

Customer Service 1-800-521-0570 • Emergency Outage Number 1-800-282-8610