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PowerLines

We Are Not From the Government But We Are Here to Help!

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Happy new year! If you are reading this, it means the world did not end on Dec. 21, 2012 after all. 2012 was quite a year. We saw the economy continue to struggle, a “super storm” named Sandy and a very contentious election that ended with mostly the same group back in Washington trying to figure it all out again.

At your cooperative we finished a new building, weathered some significant weather and worked to manage our costs so that we begin 2013 with no rate increase. I have talked about the Cooperative Difference and the principles cooperatives are founded upon several times. But something caught my attention during Hurricane Sandy and her aftermath news coverage. It made me think more than just the

cooperative difference could use some explaining. At the peak of the storm as many as 8 million people had lost electric service. About a week after the storm had passed, many people were still without services: water, gas and yes — electricity. Thankfully, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) members did not experience that type of interruption and, as a matter of fact, we sent men and equipment to assist other electric companies. What struck me beyond the tragedy was that some of those interviewed were expressing concern that the government had not yet restored their electric service. As someone who has worked for electric utility companies for nearly my entire adult life, this was concerning to me. You see “the government,” no matter how you define it, does not provide electric

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Member Memories:

“I remember my parents bringing me to the Annual Meeting when I was 6 years old. When my children were old enough they came to the Annual Meeting with me. I have been to the meeting most years for the last 60 years. I enjoy participating in my cooperative by attending and serving as a teller at the meetings, and I encourage all members to be active with their cooperative.”

*Joyce Zuck,
Member since 1966.*

*Members!
Don't miss this year's annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 23. Details to follow!*

service — your electric company does. This business can be a complex one with generation suppliers, transmission companies, distribution companies and, in some cases, regulators. I would like to help our membership understand who we are, who they are and, yes — the cooperative difference.

For the purposes of this discussion I will not be talking about generation, transmission, choice or price to compare because I think these topics just add to the confusion. The electric distribution utility is where “the rubber hits the road,” or in this case, the power is delivered to your home or business. You see, no matter who generates or transmits the power and no matter how complicated the business model can be, distribution companies are the last step to bring power to you.

There are basically three different types of distribution companies. The investor-owned utility, the public-power utility and the electric cooperative. The investor owned, as its name implies, is owned by investors and is a for-profit company. Because they provide what has become an essential service and are trying to make a profit, the government regulates their operation. The public-power utility is owned by the public, specifically a defined political boundary, and operates on a not-for-profit basis. Public-power companies are regulated by a locally elected board of directors that are elected from

the political boundary they serve, whether the person receives service from the utility or not. Lastly, and I think best, is the electric cooperative. Electric cooperatives exist to supply their members with electric service and operate on a not-for-profit basis. We are locally controlled by a member-elected board of member directors. Since electricity works the same for all three of these types of companies, the difference is in our principles. One member, one vote being at the top of the list but equally important is how we use your money to support the organization. At the end of a year, investor-owned utilities return profits to investors and public-power companies keep margins in a general fund. Cooperatives return margins to the membership in the form of capital credits.

At the end of the year our margins are allocated as patronage capital for each member. After some time passes and conditions of CEC's financial health are met, this allocation is returned to members in the form of capital credits. CEC's board is committed to this principle, and returns patronage capital to our membership whenever we are financially able. For the past several years, this retirement has appeared as a bill credit in December, based on estimates of year-end financial statements.

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Because of the challenging year that was 2012, we have decided to wait until the books have closed on 2012 so that the capital credit retirement will be based on actual, rather than estimated, numbers. You should see the capital credit in the March time frame.

While I went in a different direction, I'd like to offer a closing thought about Hurricane Sandy.

This was a massive storm that caused the tragic loss of life and destruction of billions of dollars of property. The efforts of the thousands of people

have made the rebuilding possible. Among those thousands were electric utility workers from all types of utilities from all over the country. It is a wonderful illustration of the best of us that differences were put aside to come to the aid of so many. Please join me in thanking both those CEC employees who helped, as well as all of the dedicated utility workers who worked tirelessly to restore electric service to those impacted. Let's all have a safe and happy new year!

Good Neighbor Scholarship Program

It is time once again for CEC's Good Neighbor scholarship program. Eligible candidates are high school seniors, enrolled college students or adult members who wish to further their education. Seasonal account members or their children are also welcome. CEC will award two scholarships of \$1,000 each in early May, 2013. Applicants or parents must be CEC members. To apply, student must submit:

- A Letter of Acceptance from a post-secondary educational institution, or a current enrollment verification.
- The application found at www.central.coop under the Community tab.
- A one-page essay on how they have contributed back to their community.
- A letter of reference from a teacher, employer or community member.

Essays and the application must illustrate the candidate's commitment to community, school or church in non-paid service activities. Mail the four required documents to: Central Electric Cooperative, c/o Ken Maleski, 716 Route 368, P. O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

Due date for all materials is March 15, 2013.

Attention High School Juniors: Youth Tour is Back!

CEC proudly announces an invitation for high school juniors to experience the trip of a lifetime! Youth Tour 2013 will bring more than 1,500 high school students from across America to Washington D.C. from June 17 to June 21 to experience our nation's capital, sightsee, meet legislators and learn about electric cooperatives. All expenses are paid by CEC.

Interested students are required to complete the Youth Tour application available from their guidance counselors or at CEC's website at www.central.coop (click on the Community tab and select Youth Tour 2013).

Participation in Youth Tour is limited to high school junior students. Parents or legal guardians must be cooperative members.

Deadline for completed Youth Tour applications to guidance counselors is Feb. 11, 2013.

For more information on Youth Tour 2013 visit www.youthtour.coop or contact Ken Maleski at 800-521-0570 x2172, or kmaleski@central.coop.



SAFETY

M A T T e r s

Winter Weather Safety Tips

Outside Safety Tips: When going outside dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes that are lightweight. This will help you keep you warm while pulling moisture away from your body. Wear a hat to keep your body heat in, and a scarf over your mouth to prevent cold air from entering your lungs.



Mittens are warmer than gloves, making them a better choice for hand protection, and all areas of your body should be covered to guard against frostbite.

Snow Shoveling Safety Tips: Shoveling snow is inevitable if you do not own a snow blower, but it is hard work and you should be in good health. Be sure to pace yourself and rest often to avoid overexertion.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

When lifting, do so with your leg muscles rather than your back to prevent an avoidable back injury.

Indoor Safety Tips: Have all your heaters checked to ensure they are in good working order. Inspect your carbon monoxide detectors as well, especially if you use propane or kerosene to heat your home. If you use space heaters, keep them away from your furniture, walls and curtains to prevent a fire from starting.

Driving Safety Tips: Keep your gas tank full to prevent ice from building up in the tank and fuel lines. Inspect your windshield wipers, replacing them if they are worn, and check your wiper fluid, keeping it full at all times. Place extra weight in your trunk, especially if your vehicle is rear-wheel drive. This will help prevent you from sliding on slippery roads.

Capital Credit Decision Delayed

CEC's board of directors is waiting to review final 2012 financial figures in January to determine the amount of patronage capital retirements.

If the financial conditions permit, members should receive their capital credit funds on their March 2013 electric bills.

Thank you for your patience!

Ken's kilowatt corner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative



New Year's is a time for making resolutions to improve your life. Two favorites are dieting and saving money. This year, combine these two ideas by going on an energy diet. Post these simple steps from CEC on your refrigerator and start trimming your energy costs and environmental impact:

- Switch to energy efficient lighting, LEDs and CFLs.
- Clean and replace furnace filters regularly. Heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense.
- Plug energy leaks with weather stripping around windows and doors.
- Take advantage of natural sunlight and window shading for no-cost lighting and heating.
- Maintain water heater temperature at 120°F or lower, take short showers instead of baths.

10 Resolutions for a Slimmer 2013 Energy Bill!

- Adjust your thermostat when your home is unoccupied to avoid heating or cooling an empty house.
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when fully loaded.
- Air dry clothes when possible; clothes dryers are big energy users.
- Power down, turn off and unplug computers, battery charges and other electronics when not in use. Also, consider buying a laptop for your next computer purchase; it uses less energy than a desktop computer.
- When replacing older appliances and equipment, purchase high efficiency ENERGY STAR® products.
- For more energy savers, visit TogetherWeSave.com and www.central.coop.

CEC's EmPOWERED People Who Care!

RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS:

Please contact me with questions
or tips on saving energy \$.



Ken Maleski
Residential Analyst
& Advisor
1-800-521-0570
x 2172

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS:

Please contact me with questions
or tips on saving energy \$.



Chris Panian
Commercial Analyst
& Advisor
1-800-521-0570
x 2171

Recipe of the Month

Crockpot Stuffing

Ingredients:

- 2 cans (4-1/2 ounces each) mushrooms, drained
- 4 celery ribs, chopped
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, minced
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1-1/2 pounds day-old bread (about 13 cups), cubed
- 1-1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoon rubbed sage
- 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounce) chicken broth

Directions:

Saute mushrooms, celery, onions, parsley in butter until tender. In large bowl, toss bread cubes with seasonings. Add mushroom mixture. Combine eggs & broth. Add to bread mixture, toss. Transfer to 5-quart slow cookers. Cover and cook on low 4 to 5 hours.

*Thank you to Kathy Lorch of Tionesta
for submitting the recipe!*

Recipes to: Chris O'Donnell at codonnell@central.coop or
mail to Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368,
PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:
Donald Cussins of Lucinda

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 a faster entry and for quiz rules you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: CEC employees work for the government.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Youth Tour students meet legislators and learn about electric cooperatives.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: When allocated, capital credit funds appear as a credit on members' bills.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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