

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Emergency Outage Number

814-766-3221

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From the General Manager/CEO



Serving the membership and community

By Mark Morrison

THE END of 2018 is closing in on us. Each year, time certainly seems to be gaining speed and it passes by faster than the year before. I would like to reflect on the past year and what accomplishments have been made here at the cooperative, and extend sincere thanks to our members.

A large portion of our work is the same year to year, where our crews fill much of their days building, maintaining, and repairing the line that delivers electricity to our members' homes, farms, and businesses. This year, we took on a project that was a bit bigger than normal. Members in the Waterfall area experienced a planned outage in late August. Although our goal is to provide uninterrupted service to the membership, sometimes it is necessary to plan a service interruption. This was the case on that late August day. Coordination and planning began months earlier. Our goal was to get as much work done to the line that feeds our Waterfall Substation in the shortest amount of time.

The job entailed replacing aging poles, crossarms, anchors, and other equipment on the line, as well as substation upgrades where our crews replaced support structures, switches, and other equipment vital to ensuring efficient and reliable delivery of electricity. Although every effort is made to notify members of inconveniences like these, and we try to communicate how long members will be inconvenienced, sometimes we run longer getting the work done. This was the case in August,

where we ran about a half hour over the time we estimated for the outage. Nonetheless, we completed all we had on the schedule that day and the improvements will last for years to come. I would like to thank every member who was affected by the planned outage that day for their patience.

Each year, usually in early fall, conversation in the boardroom turns to a topic that is unique to cooperatives and one that each of the directors and I feel very strongly about. That topic is capital credits. We are currently in the fifth year of a 10-year plan to retire more than \$1.1 million to the membership. This year's distribution totals just south of \$190,000. Members will see a bill credit or receive a check by the middle of December.

Again, a huge thank you goes out to the membership and their support of this program that was started some 80 years ago. Your willingness to be a member of this electric cooperative and the trust you instill in the directors and management to serve your homes, farms, and businesses with the best value in reliable electric service out there helps us better our local communities.

Thank you all for believing in and taking pride in New Enterprise REC and the electric cooperative business model, 80 years and counting. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the board, management and staff here at New Enterprise REC. As always, feel free to stop in or call with any questions or comments. ☀

There is help paying your electric or heating fuel bill

THE Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills. The program began Nov. 1, 2018, and ends April 12, 2019.

To receive help:

- ▶ You don't have to be on public assistance,
- ▶ You don't need to have an unpaid bill, and
- ▶ You don't have to own your home.

Two grants are available: cash and crisis.

Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. This is a one-time payment that is sent directly to the utility or fuel provider. Cash grants range from \$200 to \$1,000. These grants are based on your household size, income and type of heating.

Crisis grants are for an emergency situation where you are in danger of losing your heat. You can receive more than one crisis grant during the season. The maximum benefit amount is \$600.

Emergency situations include:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be repaired or replaced,
- ▶ Lack of fuel,
- ▶ Termination of electric service, or
- ▶ Danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated.

To apply for this program, go to www.compass.state.pa.us or call your county assistance office:

Bedford County – 800-542-8584 or 814-623-6127

Fulton County – 800-222-8563 or 717-485-3151

Huntingdon County – 800-237-7674 or 814-643-1170

When you apply, you will need the following information:

- ▶ Names of people in your household,
- ▶ Dates of birth for all household members,
- ▶ Social Security numbers for all household members,
- ▶ Proof of income for all household members, and
- ▶ A recent heating bill. 🌞

Attention high school juniors

WHAT DO 1,800 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind — to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op alone has sent 82 students since 1985.

It all takes place on June 16 – 21, 2019, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Some of the stops along the way are: Arlington National Cemetery, Newseum, Iwo Jima

Sunset Parade, Madame Tussauds' Wax Museum, the Smithsonian, the National Zoo, the Holocaust Museum and a boat ride down the Potomac. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

The New Enterprise REC Youth Tour is open to any high school junior from Northern Bedford, Tussey Mountain, Forbes Road, Southern Huntingdon, private school or home school whose parents or legal guardians are members of the co-op.

So, if you are a high school junior or know a junior who would be interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information. Remember, the trip is FREE!

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local commu-



nities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Participants' parents or guardians need to be members of New Enterprise REC. Students need to write a 500-word essay or produce a 10-minute video. Each student will also need to complete an application and participate in an interview at the cooperative office.

For more details, check with your school guidance counselor or check our website: newenterpriserec.com, or Facebook page. Additional information will also be printed in *Penn Lines*. 🌞

Food drive

Last year, we held a food drive from November to January and gave the food to three local food banks. Thank you for being so generous.

Once again, we will have our food drive from now through January. All

nonperishable food, hygiene products or paper products are needed to fill our truck (below) many, many times. Some suggestions for items to donate include: canned meats and stews, soup, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, rice, baby products, toilet tissue, paper towels, or health and beauty products. 🌟



In October, the due date changed to the 23rd of the month unless the 23rd is a weekend or holiday. When this happens, the due date is the first business day after the 23rd. Payments should be in our office on or before the due date each month to avoid a penalty. All payments will be credited the same day as received.



Buy American-made for Christmas

Why not purchase a Christmas gift for a family member or friend that is American-made? Unfortunately, American-made items are becoming harder and harder to find. New Enterprise REC has a gift that isn't hard to find and makes shopping easy — a gift certificate for electricity. Our gift certificates make a great gift for Christmas or anytime during the year. New Enterprise REC has gift certificates available year-round, but Christmas is the most pop-

ular time to buy the gift certificates. If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please complete the certificate below. Should you like more than one, you can write the additional information on a separate paper. Gift certificates can also be found on our website or purchased at the office. Amounts from the internet will not be posted to an account until a form of payment has been made.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____
 Amount of Gift: _____
 Purchaser's Name: _____
 Purchaser's Address: _____
 Purchaser's Phone Number: _____
 How should the certificate(s) be signed: _____
 (Mom & Dad, The Jones Family, Joe & Betty, etc.)

(Please circle one)
 I wish to remain anonymous Mail letter to recipient Mail letter to purchaser

Bright ideas for safe lighting this season

SPARKLING lights and dazzling decorations are hallmarks of the holiday season. Make sure your holiday decorating is done with safety in mind with these tips from the Safe Electricity program:

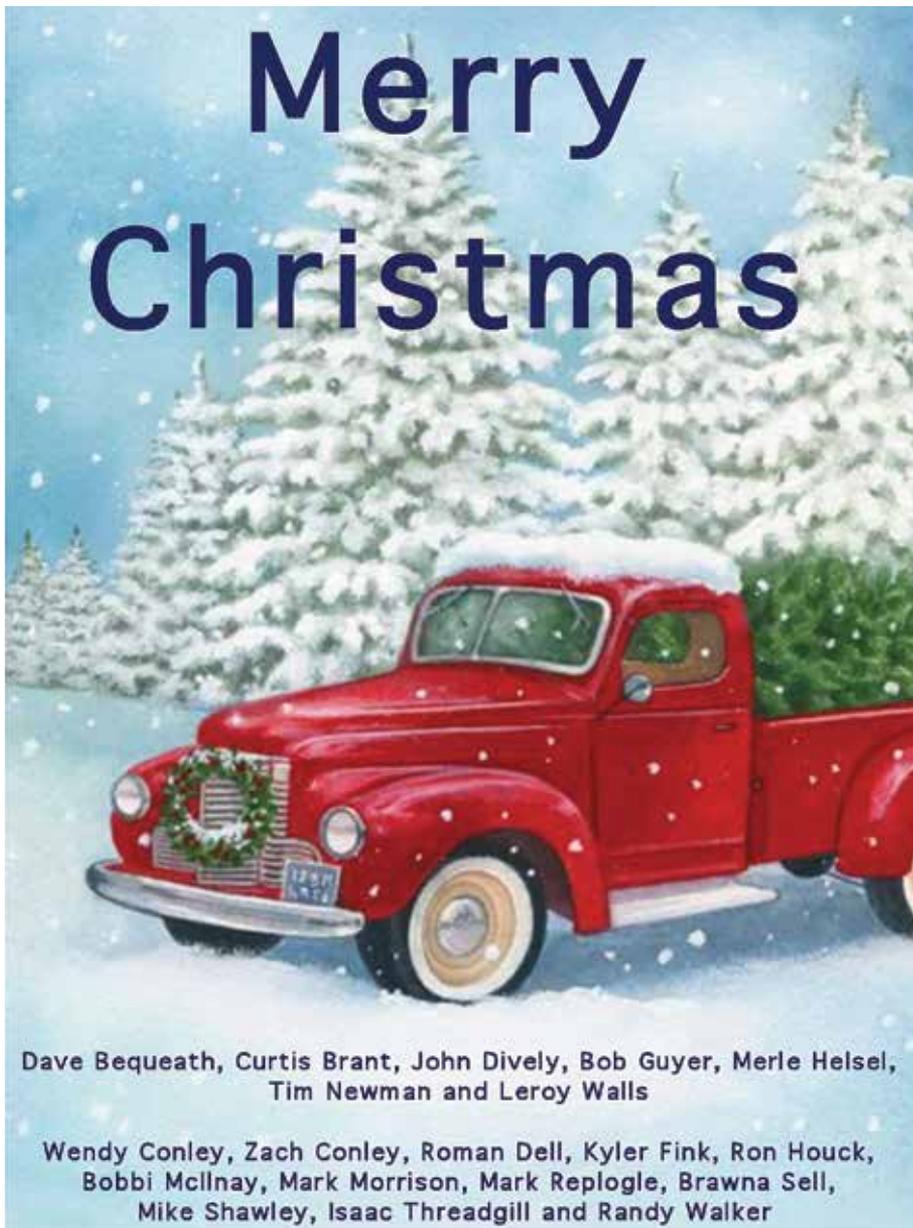
- ▶ Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label. Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Always be sure to unplug the lights when replacing a bulb. Don't string together

more than three standard-size sets of lights or you could risk overheating the circuit.

- ▶ Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
- ▶ Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are

near power lines and service connections.

- ▶ Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions. Also remember to water fresh-cut trees frequently.
- ▶ Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord. Don't remove the third prong.
- ▶ Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways; staple, nail, or tack them to the wall; or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- ▶ Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.



- ▶ Make sure extension cords are in good condition and are UL-approved cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- ▶ Don't let children or pets play with light strands for electrical decorations.

If you spot an electrical danger such as flickering or dimming lights or sparks from outlets, plugs, or cords, make sure to unplug the malfunctioning appliance immediately and get a replacement.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for more information. 