

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

1-800-270-3177

From the General Manager/CEO



What you're missing at the annual meeting

By Rick L. Eichelberger

DID you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as bylaws changes and, of course, the great door prizes!

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the errands of life and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like New Enterprise REC to bring together all consumer-members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors (in part because we need to), it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

Our country and community face many challenges. Our economy feels like it has been stagnant for years. Overcoming these challenges will only happen if we come together.

New Enterprise REC's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial

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MEMBERS MEET: New Enterprise REC holds an annual meeting every year to discuss cooperative business and elect directors to represent members on the board of directors. The next meeting is June 13.

Did you know....

Payments

New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op has many different options to pay your monthly electric bill. Below are the ways you can pay:

- ▶ **At the office:** Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payments can be made in person at our office during normal business hours. After hours, a night deposit is available.
- ▶ **By mail:** Mail your payment and the bottom portion of your bill. Allow time for payments to be received on or before the due date.
- ▶ **Over the phone:** Call our office during regular business hours to make your payment with a check, debit or credit card.
- ▶ **With Auto Pay:** Your payment is drafted from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. A form needs to be completed before starting Auto Pay. You will still receive a monthly statement.
- ▶ **By Recurring Debit/Credit Card:** Your payment is charged to a debit or credit card on the 20th of each month. A form needs to be completed before starting Recurring Credit Card payments. You will still receive a monthly statement.
- ▶ **At our website:** You can make your payment with a check, debit or credit card on www.newenterpriserec.com.
- ▶ **On your smartphone or tablet:** Pay with our free SmartHub app. This app can be downloaded for Apple and Android mobile devices. Just go to the Apple Store® or Google Play®, and search for SmartHub.

Budget Billing

Would it be helpful to know what your electric bill amount would be each month? With our Budget Billing program, you would know this information. The computer looks back at your previous 12 months' use, averages it and rounds the amount off to the nearest \$10. This is done each month to ensure the budget amount doesn't get out of line. Should the amount need to be increased or decreased, the computer does it right away. The only way the amount would be different would be if your use increased or decreased from the previous year.

If you are interested in the Budget Billing program, please call or email the office.

Family in Need Fund

The Family in Need Fund is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. Members volunteering for this round-up program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the few extra cents going to the Family in Need Fund. This is a tax-deductible program that assists New Enterprise REC consumer-members ONLY.

Life support

If you or someone in your home depends on life support equipment prescribed by a doctor, contact our office to get the necessary form. When an outage occurs, New Enterprise REC will make every effort to restore power as quickly as possible. Be sure to have emergency backup plan in case of extended outages.

Unauthorized pole attachments

Below are some examples of things that SHOULD NOT be on an electric pole:

- ▶ Satellite dishes
- ▶ Birdhouses, flower boxes or basketball hoops
- ▶ Deer stands
- ▶ Addresses
- ▶ Signs
- ▶ Nails, staples or tacks



The above are just a few examples of things that we have seen on poles. Should these items be found on a pole, they will be removed. The cost of removing the items will be charged to the consumer-member responsible for placing the item there.

Electrical inspection agencies

Below are the current approved electrical inspection agencies for all townships/boroughs in New Enterprise REC's service territory. They may change from time to time.

Bedford County

Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance
125 S. Richard St., Suite 102
Bedford, PA 15522
Phone: 814-310-2326
Fax: 814-310-2338
Email: pmcabedford@pacodealliance.com

Fulton County

Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance
405 Wayne Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: 717-496-4996
Email: pmca@pacodealliance.com

Huntingdon County — Clay Township

Nelson Nead (Private third-party contractor)
814-448-3013

Huntingdon County — Clay & Wood townships

Bureau Veritas (formerly Guardian Inspection)
814-643-3480

Tip of the month

Did you know 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy. Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



PA sales tax

We are required to have a sales tax exemption certificate from all meters that aren't taxable. So how do you know if you are exempt from sales tax? Here are a few reasons for being exempt:

- ▶ Primary residence.
- ▶ Vacation home.
- ▶ A vacant rental property that you do not plan on renting again.
- ▶ The property will be directly used by you in your: manufacturing, mining, farming, dairying or ship-building operations that are performed as a business.
- ▶ The property will be used for an organization or institutional activities by purchaser that is a: religious organization, volunteer firemen's organization, non-profit educational organization, or a charitable organization holding a charitable exemption number.
- ▶ The property will be directly used by purchaser in the production, delivery, or rendition of public utility service and/or construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following Tariff of Rates: Enter full designation of latest Tariff of Rates: _____
PA P.U.C. No. _____
Supplement _____
- ▶ Other purpose (example: personal garage, shed, etc.).

These certificates are sent out approximately every three years. Some of you may have already received your sales tax form for this year. If we don't receive your certificate back by the date listed in the letter, your account will be charged sales tax.

Did you return the certificate? If not, it still isn't too late. Complete the form and get it back to our office. As soon as we receive the form, we will stop charging sales tax to your meter(s).

Not all 3,500 meters receive these certificates the same year. This may not be your year to receive a form, but still look at your billing statement. If you are being charged sales tax, but are exempt, contact or stop by our office. We will get a form to you so you can avoid paying more sales tax.

Should your account be exempt from sales tax and you have a sales tax exemption number, be sure to include this on the certificate.

It is very important for you to return this certificate. If you have more than one meter, you will need to complete a certificate for each meter. Please call our office with any questions you may have.

From the General Manager/CEO

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to our mission, improving the quality of life for all consumer-members is at the core of what we do every day.

Your electric cooperative was incorporated in 1938 with the first annual meeting held June 4, 1940. An excerpt from the minutes of that meeting follows: “The Annual Meeting of the New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held in the Loysburg Grange Hall, June 4, 1940. A supper was served by the Grange beginning at 5 o’clock. At 8 o’clock the meeting was called to order by the President, E.W. Van Horn. Mr. Van Horn gave a review of the work done by the cooperative up to date.”

These minutes document the evening to include a solo by Mabel Detwiler accompanied by Glen Ritchey, talks by representatives of General Electric Company and Rumsey Electric Company, as well as a movie entitled “Blame it on Love” by the General Electric Company. The first group of directors elected at this annual meeting included: E.W. Van Horn, C.P. Holsinger, G.E. Gladfelter, J.A. Appleman, H.L. King, J.L. Guyer, H.R. Snowberger, John Guyer and Carl Hoover.

The 2017 annual meeting is a few months away, but we urge you to consider marking the date on your calendar and attending this year. In the upcoming months, you will see information in a separate mailing to consumer-members, as well as within future *Penn Lines*. If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op consumer-members.

We get out of life what we put into it. New Enterprise REC is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. This year’s annual meeting is June 13, 2017, at the Northern Bedford County High School and includes a meal prior to the business meeting that starts at 7 p.m. 🌞

Power lines safety tips

You do not have to touch a power line to be in danger. High-voltage electricity can jump to anyone who gets too close. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and their connections.

Safety tips

- ▶ Look up before raising a ladder or pole to make sure that it will not come within 10 feet of any power lines.
- ▶ Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
- ▶ Contact your utility company immediately to report downed power lines outside your home.
- ▶ Always assume fallen power lines are energized. Stay at least 35 feet away from a downed power line and any nearby objects it may be touching, such as a fence or a tree limb.
- ▶ Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death. Electricity wants to move from a high-voltage zone to a low-voltage zone — and it could do that through your body.

Downed power line safety tips

- ▶ If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines — up to 35 feet away — may be energized.
- ▶ You cannot tell whether or not a power line is energized just by looking at it. You should assume all downed power lines are live.
- ▶ The proper way to move away from the power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- ▶ If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You



could become the next victim. Call 911 for help.

- ▶ Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- ▶ Be careful not to touch or step in water near where a downed power line is located.
- ▶ Do not drive over downed power lines.
- ▶ If your car comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away from your car.
- ▶ If you must leave your car because it is on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with both the car and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the car. 🌞