

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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## From the General Manager/CEO



### Eyes on the road

By Rick L. Eichelberger

IN 2015, cooperative-supported legislation was passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and signed by Gov. Tom Wolf.

Known as Act 61 of 2015, this “Move Over PA” law provides greater protections to cooperative and utility lineworkers engaged in restoring service during emergencies. Specifically, the law includes line personnel as emergency service providers within the first 72 hours after an emergency is declared or until the expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is later.

The law requires vehicles to yield to line personnel actively engaged in emergency situations. Line crews are now legally considered emergency service responders, joining police officers, firefighters, ambulance personnel, highway maintenance and construc-

tion personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and towing and recovery personnel.

Drivers who are approaching or passing an emergency response area (unless otherwise directed by an emergency service responder) must move to a lane that is not adjacent to the emergency response area, if possible. If moving to a nonadjacent lane is impossible, illegal or unsafe, drivers are directed to carefully pass the emergency response area at a reduced speed.

Persons who do not move over or slow down can be found guilty of a summary offense and fined up to \$250. Additional penalties are in place if the violation leads to the injury of a worker.

This new law helps drivers to know they need to move over, but unfortunately *(continues on page 14d)*

### Distracted Driving FACTS

- ▶ As of December 2015, 156.7 billion text messages were sent in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico, Guam and other U.S. territories) every month.
- ▶ Nine percent of all drivers 15 to 19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the crashes.
- ▶ Distracted driving is any activity that diverts a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger and bystander safety.
- ▶ At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cellphones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.
- ▶ According to a 2016 State Farm survey, teens who reported using their smartphone while driving were much more likely to report being involved in a crash while driving, and exhibited other dangerous driving behaviors including speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Participation in these other dangerous behaviors was also strongly related to self-reported crash rates.
- ▶ According to a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, sending or receiving a text takes a driver’s eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55 miles per hour for the length of an entire football field.

# Engineering today for a brighter tomorrow

By: Xiara Long, 2016 New Enterprise REC Youth Tour Student

RAYANNA FETTERS, a local 11-year-old girl, lost her right arm a few years ago after complications with a cast. I had the pleasure of working with Rayanna, a beautiful and inspiring little girl, for my senior project, "Engineering Today for a Brighter Tomorrow."

I decided I wanted to use my school's 3-D printer to create a prosthetic arm for a local child in need as my senior project. The first and most important step in the process was finding a child in the area who needed a prosthetic arm. I began my search by calling doctors' offices, hospitals and physical therapists, but every person I spoke to turned into a dead end.

Issues with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws, a lack of patients and some doctors not wanting a 17-year-old to be involved in their patients' treatments became a huge problem and turned each prospective lead into another hopeless endeavor. After more than a month of searching, I became increasingly worried I wouldn't be able to find a recipient for the prosthetic, until I received a call from a family friend that turned my project completely around.

One morning, Cheryl Gonsman called me and exclaimed, "You will never guess what happened this morning! I was in my morning prayer group and a woman asked for prayers for her granddaughter who needs a prosthetic arm, but insurance will not pay for it. And I told her, 'You won't believe this, but your prayers may have already been answered. I was just talking to a girl last night who wants to create a prosthetic arm and is looking for a recipient.'"

Later in the conversation, Cheryl gave me the name of the young girl and her family, and I immediately set up a time to meet with them.

A few Saturdays later, I arrived at the Fetters' house and was greeted by an energetic, beautiful, curly haired little girl named Rayanna. After speaking



ALL SMILES: Rayanna Fetters, right, shows Xiara Long she can now hold her Barbie.

with the whole family, I took Rayanna into the kitchen and explained my project more in depth and began taking measurements. After I took all of the pictures and measurements I needed, I let Rayanna pick out the colors for her arm. As she sat looking at pictures of the design and picking what colors she wanted to go where, the look of pure joy spread over Rayanna's face. In that instant, my project became more than a graduation requirement: it became a project for the adorable little girl smiling at me from across the table.

I spent the next few months configuring the design to proper measurements using Makerbot software, printing each piece, and assembling the arm, and on Sept. 29, I was finally able to present Rayanna with her arm. I made a few minor adjustments to straps and padding in the arm, and then showed Rayanna how to operate her arm. Before I left her house, Rayanna was able to pick up many household items including her Barbie dolls, cups and flowers. While I was at her house, Rayanna didn't say much as she experimented with her arm, but her smile spoke volumes. 🌟



IN PIECES: Xiara Long lays out pieces of the prosthetic arm before assembling this wonderful gift.

# Beware of silent killer this winter

CARBON monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas created when common fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is often called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of detection technology like a CO alarm.

## Installation tips:

- ▶ Install CO alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Interconnected CO alarms provide the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ▶ CO alarms are not a substitute for smoke alarms. Install both types of alarms in your home.
- ▶ Purchase CO alarms from a reputable retailer that you trust.
- ▶ Choose alarms that bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer’s instructions regarding proper placement and installation height.

## Maintenance tips:

- ▶ Test CO alarms at least once a month by pressing the test button.
- ▶ CO alarm batteries should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps” or “beeps” to indicate low batteries, they should be replaced immediately.
- ▶ The lifespan of CO alarms varies. CO alarms should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

## Alarm tips:

- ▶ Make sure everyone in your family knows the difference between the sound of the CO and smoke alarms, and what number to call for a CO emergency.
- ▶ If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to fresh air outside. Alert others in the home to the danger and make sure everyone gets to fresh air safely.
- ▶ Never ignore an activated CO alarm.

## Bills, bills and more bills

BEING behind on bills is something a person is not proud of. Since electricity is a necessity and is important to you, an electric bill is one bill you don’t want to let go. Here are a few suggestions to prevent this:

- ▶ Do not delay; please call as soon as possible. Your bill may not be past due yet or it may be past due 60 days or more. We can set up a payment arrangement to fit your financial needs. Payment arrangements cannot be made the day before or the day of disconnection of service due to non-payment.
- ▶ Should you not be able to pay your bill, you may be eligible to receive assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program is open during the winter months. Contact your county office: Bedford County – 800-542-8584 or 814-623-6127; Fulton County — 800-222-8563 or 717-485-3151; and Huntingdon County — 800-237-7674 or 814-643-1170.

We are happy to work with you to help you get your account balance to zero. By setting up payment arrangements or receiving assistance, you can avoid having your service disconnected and paying additional fees to have your power restored. ☀

*Wishing the new year will be a messenger of joy, happiness, peace, smiles and good tidings for you and your family.*

*Happy New Year*

*From the directors and employees of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative*

## From the General Manager/CEO

(continued from page 14a)

nately another danger to our linemen is distracted drivers.

Driving safely is an important factor every time a person enters a vehicle. Some people think, “Well, I don’t text and drive, so I drive safely.” Not texting and driving is a great practice to follow, but people also check their makeup, eat, change the radio station, plan their day’s work, or make calls on their cellphones while driving.

Some may not realize it, but this is being a distracted driver. Each time people take their focus off the road, even if just for a split second, they are putting another person’s life in danger. Distracted driving crashes caused at least 3,179 deaths and nearly 431,000 injuries in the U.S. in 2014.

Many times, New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op’s linemen need to work along roads to repair or maintain our electric lines and equipment. Whether they are working on the ground or in

the air, their safety depends on drivers not being distracted.

The good news is distracted driving crashes are preventable. Below are a few suggestions:

- ▶ Turn off all electronics,
- ▶ Secure pets properly,
- ▶ Don’t eat or drink, and
- ▶ Set your GPS before starting to drive

For the safety of you, others and our linemen, please make it a habit to take every precaution to prevent distracted driving. ☀

## KIDZcorner



### 2017 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



WHAT do 1,700 high school students, our nation’s capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Rural Electric 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 cooperatives.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is proud to be one of the cooperatives sponsoring this trip each year. This is another way New Enterprise REC invests in our youth.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing. New Enterprise REC directors believe it is important to teach students why electric cooperatives were created and how government works. Students come away from this outstanding trip with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Amer-

icans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

It is easy to qualify for New Enterprise REC’s Youth Tour. Students need to be a junior at Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon, or Tussey Mountain high schools or be home schooled. Their parents or legal guardians need to be consumer-members of New Enterprise REC.

Still not sure if this trip is for you? Check out the Youth Tour’s website: [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop). On this website, there are student, parent, educator and alumni sections plus much more.

Another great source of information for Youth Tour is last year’s students, Dillion Morris, Matt McCloskey and Xiara Long. These students can tell you what they saw, the things they learned and the friendships they made.

If you or someone you know would be interested in this great trip, contact Brawna at the cooperative’s office at extension 4602 or email [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com). The necessary paperwork will be available from Brawna, high school guidance counselors or our website: [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com).

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

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. ☀