

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

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From the General Manager/CEO



Changes to annual meeting

By Rick L. Eichelberger

WE have some big changes ahead, so please mark your calendars now for the 78th annual meeting of the members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. This year's meeting will be held at the Northern Bedford County High School, Loysburg, on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

Kitchen closed for renovation

We'll be back at the same school location this year, but the school will be undergoing some significant changes. Due to a renovation project, the school kitchen will be closed this summer.

Unfortunately, that means we won't be able to serve our traditional meal at this year's meeting. That's the bad news. The good news is that we'll be able to provide additional prizes and rewards for those who do attend the meeting this year.

Meeting gifts, prizes, bill credits, entertainment

Thanks to shifting our meeting resources, we'll be able to offer the following benefits to those attending the annual meeting this year:


- ▶ **Meeting gifts.** The tradition of a special gift for the first 100 members registering at the door and attending the business meeting will continue.
- ▶ **More door prizes.** This year, we'll be expanding our door prize drawings. There will be more door prizes, and each prize will have a higher dollar value than in previous years. In fact, 30 members will receive door prizes totaling more than \$2,000 in electric bill credits.
- ▶ **Bill credits.** Every member registering and attending the meeting will receive a \$10 electric bill credit, so no member goes away empty-handed.
- ▶ **Entertainment.** The Northern Bedford High School Band will be on hand to provide a musical program prior to the business meeting.

With these changes, we hope to see many of you at this year's meeting. The annual meeting is an important time for a cooperative. It is the time that members meet to elect directors to three-year terms and a time to hear reports from the officers and management of your cooperative. This year, three director areas are up for election.

Member attendance at the annual meeting is important; cooperative bylaws require at least 100 members attend the meeting in order for a quorum to be met and make the meeting official.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment provided by the Northern Bedford High School Band. Their hour-long program begins at 5:45 p.m. These are the students who for decades have served the meal prior to the business meeting, so please come out and show your support for the band. The cooperative's business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

If you have paid a membership fee and have not received an official annual meeting notice and attendance card in the mail by the end of May, please call the office.

Remember: There will be 30 lucky members winning door prizes totaling more than \$2,000 in electric bill credits at this year's annual meeting on June 14! 

Home safe home

Here are some simple checks you can make in your home to help ensure your family's safety. For more information, please visit the National Electrical Safety Foundation website at www.nesf.org.

- ▶ **Bathroom safety** – Use extra caution when using appliances near water. Hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, radios, and television sets should be kept away from the sink and tub. If an appliance falls into the water, unplug it first. NEVER reach into water to retrieve an appliance without unplugging it first. During an electrical storm, do not use appliances such as hairdryers or telephones (except in an emergency); and do not take a bath or shower.
- ▶ **Kitchen safety** – Never stick a metal object such as a knife into a toaster to retrieve a piece of toast without unplugging it first. Keep kitchen appliances away from the sink.
- ▶ **Appliances** – If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or if it has given you a shock, unplug it, and have it repaired or replaced.
- ▶ **Light** – Use lightbulbs that are the proper wattage for your light fixtures and lamps. Bulbs that are not proper wattage can overheat, causing a fire. Replace lightbulbs when they burn out. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs may overheat. And never leave an empty socket.
- ▶ **Outlets** – Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to a fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. When small children and pets are present in a home, or visit frequently, keep outlets covered with plastic guards. These prevent children from accidentally sticking something in the outlet and suffering a shock.
- ▶ **Plugs** – Make sure your plugs fit your outlets. Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock.

NEVER FORCE A PLUG INTO AN OUTLET IF IT DOESN'T FIT. Plugs should fit securely into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances.

- ▶ **Cords** – Make sure cords are in good condition (not frayed or cracked). Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs, or rest any furniture on them.
- ▶ **Extension Cords** – Check to see that extension cords are not overloaded. Additionally, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help prevent young children from shock hazards and mouth burn injuries.
- ▶ **Fuses and Circuit Breakers** – Fuses and circuit breakers should be the correct size for the circuit. Always replace fuses with another correct size fuse for the circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used.
- ▶ **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** – GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCIs regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.
- ▶ **Entertainment/Computer Equipment** – Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly; look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors.

Know how to survive auto accidents involving power lines

INSTINCTS tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Safe Electricity wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received and survived

because they knew the right actions to take. And they helped others who ap-



SURVIVORS: Ashley Taylor, left, and Lee Whittaker, along with two classmates, survived a vehicle collision with an electric utility pole. The students had recently seen a safety demonstration on what to do in this type of situation, which ultimately saved their lives.

proached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on www.SafeElectricity.org.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

“When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone’s mind,” Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. “We’re often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

Lee and Ashley are grateful to White County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, the Safe Electricity partner electric cooperative that sponsored a live line demonstration program at their school. The students are encouraging everyone to learn from their experience.

To learn more, watch the video on www.SafeElectricity.org. Visitors can also check out a live power line demonstration, just like the one the Indiana teens saw at their school.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

Tree planting and maintenance

Now that warm weather is here, many homeowners are back in their yards and gardens. Not only are flowers and vegetables being planted, but trees as well. Before you plant a tree, there are some important factors you need to consider. While they add beauty to your home, trees can also help you save energy when they are planted in the proper areas. They provide shade, absorb heat and control wind. Some tips to consider are:

- ▶ Plant *deciduous* trees, which shed their leaves during the winter. These trees provide shade and block heat during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall, they allow sunlight in the colder months.
- ▶ Plant *deciduous* trees on the south and west sides of your home.
- ▶ *Evergreens*, which keep their needles year around, serve as a windbreak to save energy during the heating seasons.
- ▶ *Evergreens* should not be planted on the south or west side of your home. This will block warming sunlight during the winter. These trees also provide shade during summer.

Although trees are very beneficial in helping to save energy, they can also be a danger if not planted in the proper areas.

With proper planning, you can have a variety of beautiful trees without having to worry about them conflicting with power lines in the future. When you plant a tree, remember the following:

1. Visualize the tree at its full size (both height and width) when preparing to plant.
2. Avoid planting trees near a power line. New Enterprise REC has a 20-foot right-of-way on either side of the power lines.
3. Plant large-growing trees in an area where they will be a safe distance from the power line when fully grown, and be sure to allow for wind sway.

Avoid planting trees near underground power lines. If there are underground power lines on your property, be sure to call 811 (the “Call Before You Dig” number).

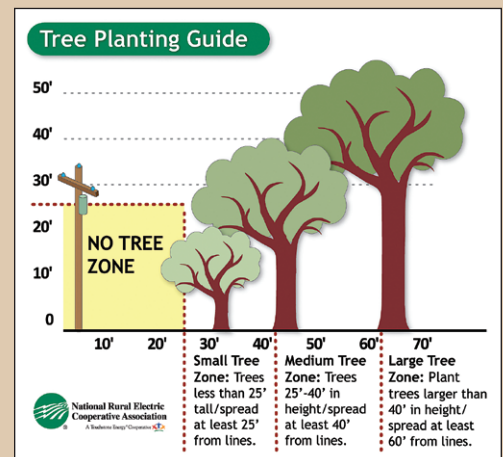
EXISTING TREES

For many years, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) has had a Right-of-Way Maintenance Program in place. The entire service territory has been trimmed, cut or sprayed once, and we have been working on the second cycle for a number of years. It is important to keep our rights-of-way clear of trees and vines. The number of outages caused by trees has greatly decreased since our Right-of-Way Maintenance Program was put into action.

We believe keeping our rights-of-way clear is a very important matter. When a tree or large branch falls onto a power line, your electricity can go out. In some cases, trees can tear down the entire line, breaking poles and wire.

Not only is it an inconvenience to you, it can also be a hazard. If anyone touches a downed power line that is still energized, the result can cause serious injury, even death.

Never attempt to clear a tree from a downed power line. If you have a dead tree or limbs close to the power lines, call New Enterprise REC to remove this hazard. We hire subcontractors to do most of our right-of-way cutting, trimming and spraying. These contractors and our employees are trained in safely cutting and trimming trees.



2016 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Each year, New Enterprise REC sends students to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year, three students will be attending this fun-filled week. The students are:

Matthew McCloskey

Matthew is the son of Lawrence McCloskey and Ashley and Terry Fleck. He attends Northern Bedford County High School, where he is active in the Scholastic Scrimmage, track and field, and AMA Math Competition.



Outside of school, Matthew is involved with Interact Club and Sheetz for the Kids. He does various charity work for these organizations. Along with all of these activities, he holds a job with Sheetz.

One of Matthew's teachers remarks, "Matt is truly 'one of the few I have met'... his willingness to work hard to succeed is one of his best qualities. He

exhibits a positive, cheerful attitude and has the potential to achieve any goal he sets for himself."

Matthew's career goal is to become an engineering professor or go into engineering research.

Xiara Long

Xiara, daughter of Matthew and Kimberly Long, is a junior at Northern Bedford County High School. After high school, Xiara plans to become a biomedical engineer. Xiara is kept busy with



track and field, National Honor Society, Student Council, Interact Club, Angels Among Us, being a class officer, and editor of the school newspaper, cheerleading, D.A.R.E. graduation introductions, and playing the flute. Outside of school, Xiara participated in the Bedford Fall Foliage Queen competition.

A teacher of Xiara's has this to say about her, "Xiara would be an excellent representative for your organization.

Xiara is well-travelled and well-spoken. I would choose Xiara to represent me without hesitation."

Dillon Morris

Dillon is the son of Robert and Tracey Morris. The Northern Bedford County High School student participates in the following school activities: FFA, football, wrestling, track, and SADD. When school is out, Dillon is active in the Six-Mile Run Volunteer Fire Company and Shooting Club.



Dillon's teacher states, "Dillon is a great person. He's a good student and a good athlete. He is involved in three sports each year and works for a local township doing outside work. He is a hard worker in every area of his life."

After high school, Dillon will be joining the United States Marine Corps.

New Enterprise REC is very glad to have these students represent us at the 2016 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

KIDZCORNER

The truth about electric shock!

This is so important! Electricity can shock, burn or kill you. You never know when contact with electricity will be fatal, but you can count on it hurting. It's not only power lines that can kill or injure you if you contact them, you can also be killed by shock from an appliance or power cord in your home if you don't know how to take precautions!

Avoid electric shock

- ▶ Never climb utility poles or play on fences around substations.
- ▶ Keep electrical cords and wires away from heat and water.
- ▶ If you are touching water, never touch electrical devices such as light switches, hair dryers, curling irons, mixers or toasters.
- ▶ Don't pull on electric cords to unplug them.
- ▶ Keep kites away from power lines, and never fly metallic balloons outside.
- ▶ Don't put your fingers in a lightbulb socket.
- ▶ If you see a fallen electrical wire, stay away.
- ▶ Tell someone if you see a frayed cord.
- ▶ Don't swim during an electrical storm.



Don't TOY with your SAFETY

- ▶ Don't climb a tree that has power lines running through or near it.
- ▶ Don't use an electrical appliance when you're wet.
- ▶ Tell your parents about damaged plugs and cords on outdoor and indoor appliances.
- ▶ Don't touch anyone or anything that is touching a downed wire.

Why do people get shocked?

Electricity flows through water almost as easily as it travels through the wire that brings electricity to your house.

Your body is 70 percent water. So if you touch electricity, it will flow through you, and you will be badly hurt.

The amperage of the electric current and length of time you're in contact with it determine the injury.

People who work with electricity use special protective gear. You do not have this gear, so stay away from danger.