

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Annual meeting notice

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
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FAX 814/766-3319
Website:
www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Leroy D. Walls, President**
- David Bequeath, Vice President**
- Timothy Newman, Secretary**
- John R. Dively, Asst. Secretary**
- Robert Guyer, Treasurer**
- Dean Brant**
- Merle Helsel**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

MARK YOUR CALENDARS now for the 77th 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 16, 2015. Attend this year's meeting and join others in:

- ▶ A family-style turkey dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m.
- ▶ Country, patriotic and gospel music by "Tina Marie."
- ▶ Business meeting from 7 to 8 p.m.
 - Reports given by officers and general manager/CEO.
 - Election of one director to serve the cooperative for a three-year term.
 - Transaction of business properly brought before the meeting.

Official annual meeting notices and registration cards will be mailed out in late May. Only consumer-members are eligible to vote at the annual meeting (consumer-members are those who have paid a \$5 membership fee). If you are unsure if you have paid your membership fee, please contact the office for verification.

The Northern Bedford County High School Band students and parents will serve the meal. All members of the household are encouraged to attend. Two free adult and two free children's meal tickets for those living in the same household will be provided for each membership present. Additional tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under. Reservations must be made by June 2.

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



WELCOME: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members register for the 2014 annual meeting.

Happy anniversary

BY RICK L. EICHELBERGER
General Manager/CEO

YOUR MEMBERSHIP is a piece of American history that turned 80 this month. Eighty years ago — on May 11, 1935 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration. Executive Order 7037 paved the way for the development of rural electric cooperatives, a movement backed by a member-focused business model that would forever change the American countryside.

Before electricity was readily available, all farm work had to be done by hand. What didn't get done during the daylight had to be done by the light of a lantern. The power companies of the day served mostly cities and more populated areas, leaving the countryside in the dark. To these investor-owned utilities (IOUs), it just wasn't profitable to enter these sparsely populated, rural areas.

Originally, the executive order was designed to provide loans in order for IOUs to serve rural areas. Unfortunately,



PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration.

the IOUs were still not interested in reaching into the countryside. As a result, rural residents took it upon themselves and formed co-ops to bring power to their communities. In the years to fol-



FEDERAL REA PROJECT: Thanks to the Rural Electrification Administration, rural Americans are able to have electricity on their farms, beginning in the 1930s.

low, rural electric cooperatives would begin lighting up the rural landscape. Your cooperative, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, got its start on Nov. 18, 1938, when it was incorporated.

When you think about all the electricity-powered machinery, tools, appliances and gadgets we have now, it's obvious that many things have changed in the past 80 years. What has not changed is the cooperative business

model. Co-ops were established by members to serve members. Today, we are still a member-owned — and member-focused — business. Your cooperative is run by a board that you elect, and that board is made up of your fellow members.

Co-op business is done the co-op way: by pulling together to best serve you, our members. Your cooperative, which exists to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, is one of 14

electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey that make up the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). Formed in 1942, PREA provides services, including communica-

tions, training and education, and government relations, for all member cooperatives.

Your power is also procured cooperatively. In 1946, PREA member co-ops formed Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of power for our members. Through Allegheny, your cooperative is able to take advantage of economies of scale by joining together with other member co-ops.

Allegheny provides a highly competitive supply of power through a variety of sources, including ownership of the Raystown hydroelectric facility in Huntingdon County and a 10 percent ownership share of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station nuclear plant in Luzerne County. Allegheny also has long-term agreements for hydroelectric power with the New York Power Authority, and continuously monitors the wholesale market for the most competitive pricing for the remainder of cooperative needs.

The result is that you have one of the lowest and most stable wholesale generation rates in the region. This is impressive given that Pennsylvania is a retail-competitive state. Over the years, you may have heard about “retail choice” — an initiative to bring competitive electric

generation suppliers (EGSs) to the market in Pennsylvania. For a time, electric cooperatives were open to these suppliers, hoping that competition would bring lower costs to our members. However, in the nearly two decades since retail choice was established, none of these suppliers ever entered co-op service territory.

The reason for this is simple: EGSs saw no profit in our sparsely populated, rural areas. If it sounds familiar, it is. It echoes the very reason electric cooperatives were formed in the first place. Add the highly competitive and stable cooperative wholesale generation rates, and it's easy to see why there was no incentive for EGSs to market to cooperatives.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly



HARD WORK: Electrifying the countryside involved hard work as poles were set by hand.

understood this, and eventually removed cooperatives from the burdensome financial requirements associated with retail choice. It's true recognition of the effectiveness of the cooperative business model — a model that shows how a locally owned, not-for-profit cooperative, run by the members it serves, can consistently serve the best interests of the members.

After 80 years of successfully fulfilling the early promise of that executive order, it's a nice piece of American history to belong to. Happy anniversary. 🌞

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.

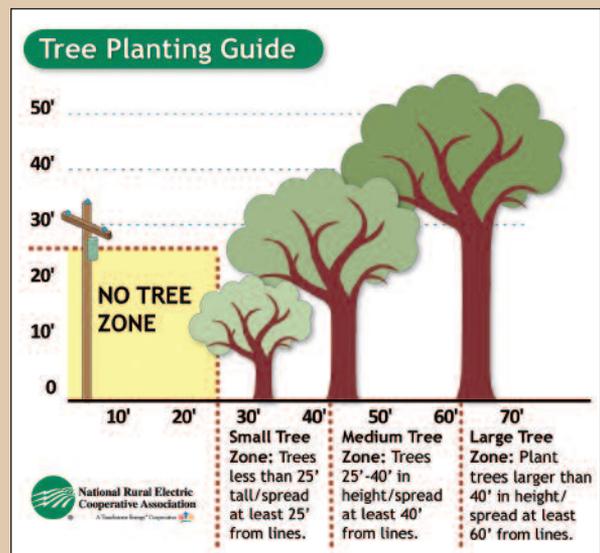
Avoid planting trees near underground power lines. If there are underground power lines on your property, be sure to call the "Call Before You Dig" number (811).

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 feel keeping our rights-of-way clear is very important. 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.



2015 Youth Tour

NEW ENTERPRISE REC is pleased to announce three high school juniors will be representing the co-op this June during the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They will be among 1,600 rural electric cooperative high school juniors from across the nation attending this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Jeffrey C. (JC) Norris II is a junior at Northern Bedford County High School. His parents are Jeffrey and Carol Norris of Hopewell. During his time at Northern Bedford County High School, JC has been active in FFA, soccer, the Science Bowl and the Scholastic Scrimmage. He enjoys tractor pulling, and showing and raising livestock.



JC Norris II

When asked the contributions JC

makes to our community, one of his teachers replied, "JC volunteers through the Bedford County Fair on the Goat Committee and fundraised for the South Woodbury Township Veterans Wall. JC is also an excellent role model for younger students."

A career as an ag engineer is in JC's future.

Morgan Spiker, the daughter of Kevin and Lori Spiker of Hopewell, attends Northern Bedford County High School. She has participated in FBLA, Angels Among Us, High Honor Roll, and track and field.



Morgan Spiker

Outside of school, she is active in her youth group, Straight Ahead.

After high school, Morgan plans to pursue a career in government and law. A few words used to describe Morgan are: mature for her age, kindhearted, respectful and trustworthy. Morgan has

participated in community outreach programs where she helps those less fortunate. She is a positive encouragement to anyone around her.

Amber Rettburg attends Northern Bedford County High School. She is the daughter of Jay and Tammy Rettburg of Woodbury. Her school activities include marching band and concert, district band, regional band and the musical, "South Pacific." Amber's career goal is in elementary education.



Amber Rettburg

When she is not in school, you may find Amber doing work in the community to help or serve others in need. She is active in her church, youth group and youth ministry team. One of Amber's teachers remarks, "She is caring and compassionate. She also is a leader by example and by invitation. She is an organized section leader." ☀

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, it is wise to keep outlets covered with plastic covers. 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.