

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



# Prepare for potential winter outages

By Rick L. Eichelberger

WINTER can be a peaceful time of year. The beauty of the fluffy snow turns the grayness of the season into a beautiful winter wonderland. But this same snow can be an electric cooperative's worst nightmare. The snow isn't always fluffy and light; it can be heavy and wet, and the wind can howl.

The weight of the snow and ice can bring electric lines down, and the wind can blow the wires together and cause power outages.

Unfortunately, this is just a part of living in rural Pennsylvania, but you can be prepared for these outages. Don't enter the winter season without some thought about what may be helpful or necessary during an outage.

Go through your home and see what you use daily. Look for items you can't do without during a short or extended outage. What are the necessities?

The days are shorter and lighting is needed. Be sure to have a dependable flashlight, battery-powered lanterns and extra batteries. Avoid using candles, kerosene lanterns or anything with an open flame.

If you depend on a well for your water, fill bathtubs or other large containers for household use, like flushing toilets. Fill clean pitchers or jugs for drinking water. If you have animals, you may want to purchase a generator to run the well and other electrical appliances. Contact the co-op when you decide to add a generator to be sure it is installed properly.

Food is a must! Keep some non-perishable foods that don't require cook-

ing on hand. Foods like canned fruit, powdered milk, peanut butter, bread and crackers are easy to keep. Remember, you will need a manual can opener for the canned food items.

If you have room, fill plastic containers (such as rinsed-out milk jugs) with water before the outage and put them in your refrigerator and freezer. The jugs take the space of air that warms quickly and provide cooling.

Have extra blankets, sleeping bags and clothes, including hats and gloves. If you have a fireplace or wood burner, keep your wood pile well supplied. Be extremely careful when using alternate heating sources. Some are not approved for indoor use and could be a fire or carbon monoxide hazard. Make sure your fire extinguisher is charged and ready to use.

A portable AM/FM radio with extra batteries for local information and a NOAA Weather Radio for weather warnings are great sources of information, whether there is an outage or not.

Are you on life support and depend on medicines that require cooling? Have an emergency plan in place for outages. This may include backup power, extra medical supplies, a first aid kit and prescriptions, or another place to stay until the outage is over.

Our goal at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is to keep the lights on all the time for your convenience and safety. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't always see things our way. So be prepared for those outages that happen every now and then. 

## LIHEAP opens Nov. 1

THE 2016-2017 energy assistance or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opened Nov. 1. Participants do not have to be on public assistance, and both homeowners and renters can apply (see income guidelines below).

There are two LIHEAP plans available. One is the crisis grant. This grant is available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. Emergency situations include: broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced; lack of fuel; termination of utility service; or the danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated. The other grant is a cash grant, which does not require you to be past due on your billing.

If you are having trouble paying your electric bill, we encourage you to apply for these funds. To do that:

- ▶ Apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).
- ▶ Request an application by calling the Statewide LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-451-5886.
- ▶ Pick up an application at your local County Assistance Office or the co-op office.

For more information, visit [www.dhs.state.us](http://www.dhs.state.us) or call your County Assistance Office at the numbers listed below:  
 Bedford County 814-623-6127 or toll-free at 800-542-8584  
 Fulton County 717-485-3151 or toll-free at 800-222-8563  
 Huntingdon County 814-643-1170 or toll-free at 800-237-7674

- When you are applying, you will need the following:
- ▶ 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/electric bill.
- Below are the income guidelines for your household. If you fall within these numbers, you may qualify for a LIHEAP grant.

### Income Guidelines 2016-2017 LIHEAP

(For Homeowners and Renters)

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$17,820
2	\$24,030
3	\$30,240
4	\$36,450
5	\$42,660
6	\$48,870
7	\$55,095
8	\$61,335
9	\$67,575
10	\$73,817

For each additional person add \$6240.

## Buy American-made this 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 — electric gift certificates. New Enterprise REC has gift certificates available year-round but Christmas is the most popular 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 piece of 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

# Food drive underway

Last month, General Manager/CEO Rick L. Eichelberger wrote about one of the seven cooperative principles — concern for community. So from now until the end of the year, New Enterprise REC will be collecting food and paper products to fill the truck. Some suggestions for items to donate include: canned meats and stews, soup, peanut butter, pasta, rice, baby products, or health and beauty products.



## SIGN UP FOR THE FAMILY IN NEED FUND

The FAMILY IN NEED FUND is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. The Center for Community Action determines eligibility for the FAMILY IN NEED FUND money. Your contribution to this worthwhile program assists ONLY New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members. Members volunteering for this program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra few cents going to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. This tax-deductible donation will amount to less than \$1 a month. The billing statement you receive in January will have the total

amount of contributions for the previous year. This can be used when filing your income tax return.

To join the FAMILY IN NEED FUND, just complete and send in the coupon below (please mark the appropriate box).

Should you not want to have your monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, but would like to contribute a lump sum amount, complete all the areas listed below except the Account Number(s) area. Also mark the appropriate box.

Please do not return the coupon if you do not wish to participate.

### FAMILY IN NEED FUND NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP

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YES, I wish to participate in the “rounding up” program for New Enterprise REC’s FAMILY IN NEED FUND. I understand my monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar with the extra cents going to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. This will be effective with the next billing.

No, I do not wish to have my monthly electric bills rounded up, but enclosed is a lump sum donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This is a one-time donation. (When making a lump sum donation, please mark FAMILY IN NEED FUND on the check.)

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(as printed on bill) (list all accounts you wish to be rounded up)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: NEW ENTERPRISE REC

*Thank you for participating.*

# KIDZcorner



## Attention high school juniors



**ARE YOU** a high school junior from Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon or Tussey Mountain schools? Are your parents or legal guardians consumer-members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC)? If your answers are “yes” to both of these questions, you have fulfilled all of the qualifications for the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

New Enterprise REC, along with rural electric cooperatives from all across the country, sends students on this trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital – Washington, D.C. The dates for this all-expenses-paid adventure are June 11 – 16, 2017.

### SO WHAT IS THE RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR?

The Youth Tour provides high school juniors with an outstanding opportunity to learn about democracy and leadership in Washington, D.C. You will learn first-hand about politics, community development and today's social issues while touring historical sites. You will also have an All-States Dinner and Dance, a boat ride down the Potomac River, and a night at the theater.

### A LITTLE HISTORY

Over 50 years ago, then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The senator and future president declared, “If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

What started out as a few young people working during the summer in Johnson's office is now an event that brings more than 1,700 high school students from across the United States to Washington, D.C.

### SUPPORT OF NEW ENTERPRISE REC DIRECTORS

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.

Still not sure if this trip is for you? Why not check out the Youth Tour website at [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) where you can view student, parent, educator and alumni sections? You can also go to the Youth to Washington's Facebook page.

If you are interested in this great trip, contact Brawna at the cooperative's office at extension 4602 or by email at [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com). Information will be sent to each school's guidance counselor and will be added to our website in December.

## New Enterprise REC urges safe hunting

AS HUNTING season approaches, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and other electrical equipment are not on the Pennsylvania hunting season list.

New Enterprise REC encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Across the country, thousands of dollars are spent every year repairing equipment and lines that have been struck by a stray bullet. Not only it is costing you, our members, but it can cause hazards.

New Enterprise REC recognizes the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify

the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group, and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

Here are some tips to enjoy the great outdoors while being safe:

- ▶ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- ▶ Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

- ▶ Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- ▶ Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ▶ Do not shoot at or near birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction — and is a serious hazard. ⚡