

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

## Powering our communities

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**THERE IS** not a more exciting time of year than the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. As a child, I remember taking a piece of candy from the Advent calendar each night, the anticipation building as we counted down the days to Dec. 25.

While the holiday season is full of excitement, we sometimes miss the magic

as we juggle shopping lists, parties and wrapping up work projects before the end of the year. These tasks can add stress — not joy — to the holiday season. However, back up in time a bit and envision what excitement might have been in the air 75 years ago in our Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon county areas with the possibility of having electricity.

The cooperative founders first met on Nov. 28, 1938. The goal of the meeting was “to power our communities and empower members to improve their quality of life by providing electricity to those who had none.” Just imagine the joy and excitement of that possibility for these rural residents.

Historical information indicates the cooperative acquired 40 miles of community-owned lines and built two miles of new line during the first year, allowing 339 members to receive electric service. A note in the financial report stated: “Estimated prospects for service ... 40. We appreciate the splendid Cooperation given your Cooperative in extending this service. New consumers are being added daily and every effort will be made to extend the service as fast as weather conditions will permit.”

By the end of the second full year — 1940, there were 593 members receiving electric service. Records indicate: “There

are still many more requests for service which we shall extend as soon as possible.” The joy and excitement must have continued year-round.

A five-year setback to the excitement would soon occur as indicated by a startling statement from 1942: “We are sorry that service cannot be extended to all the customers. The War Production Board priority system of preference rating to buy material and equipment made it impossible for us to make extension.”

During this wartime period, the material, equipment and labor were not available to extend the power lines to members who finally had the cooperative ready to do it. It must have been disappointing for those who were expecting it.

Perhaps there was a glimmer of light during the five-year war period for many families as they knew power would eventually come to their home, too. There had to be an enormous amount of joy and happiness these families experienced when the lights were turned on for the first time, and the quality of everyone’s life improved in an instant.

As our 75th anniversary year ends, we can look with pride at the daily efforts your cooperative puts forth to provide affordable and reliable power. For the most part, we all take the electric service for granted, but it doesn’t hurt to stop and realize it wasn’t always the case. The founders of this organization set a goal to power our communities, which in turn improved the quality of life when this country was going through rough times.

It warms my heart to see the abundance of joy and happiness in this time of the year. Seventy-five years ago, one of the biggest drivers of this joy and happiness must have been to know power was on the way to our communities. Happy holidays! 

# Kids today

BY BRAWNA L. SELL

I WISH I had a dollar for every time I have heard someone complain about “kids today.” I hear people say, “Kids today have bad attitudes. They expect everything to be handed to them. Kids want everything easy. Kids have no self-discipline. Kids think they are entitled to everything. Kids today don’t want to work for anything. Kids today have a terrible ‘work ethic,’ etc.”

We all know someone who has said this, or we may have said it ourselves at times. The problem with these statements is they are not true of all “young” people. There are many, many kids with good attitudes who work hard for what they have, are disciplined and help other people who may need a helping hand.

Students from Forbes Road, Northern Bedford and Tussey Mountain are good example of young people working to help others.

Tussey Mountain students collect pop tabs for the Shriners each year. The money received from recycling the tabs is used to buy medical and non-medical items for the Shriners Hospitals for Children. It takes 1,640 tabs to equal a pound.

During the Christmas season, students assist in a gift drive for foster children of the Huntingdon County Children and Youth Agency. They have been doing this project for the past five years.

Humans are not the only ones that need help. The Tussey Mountain Class of 2013 donated \$800 to the Bedford County Humane Society. The Humane Society receives no government funding. It operates on the donations from individuals and corporate supporters, and

*Don't let yourself consider others as examples. Always make your deeds such that you should be an example to others.*



**KIDS VOLUNTEER, TOO:** One of the most important sources of volunteers is students.

provides services for more than 1,000 animals each year.

A canned food drive was held this year to support a need in the community.

Northern Bedford County High School has many ongoing programs.

Angels Among Us has officially been a part of the school’s health curriculum for 13 years. The focus of this group is to see to the basic needs of the student body with special emphasis on the elementary students (called “Angels”).

Starting around Thanksgiving, the 10th-grade health class begins getting ready for the Christmas season by sorting clothing donations. Excitement builds as the students look forward to the elementary student who will become their Angel.

Before an Angel’s name can be given to the high school students, parents must be contacted for permission. Information is collected regarding the needs of each child.

Once permission is given and infor-

mation is collected, the health class students get busy putting together the package for their elementary student Angel. Packages usually include new or gently used shoes, boots, coats, and other types of clothing. Local churches and loyal donors support the Angels by donating money and clothing.

Melanie Bowser, project adviser, says, “We buy what we need after making good use of the donated clothing. We try to make sure the basic needs of the students are met. The organization has helped families with electric bills, heating fuel needs and food. We also have purchased glasses for children who could not afford them.

“The most rewarding part of this program is watching and listening to the students in the health program. For some, it is the first time they have been asked to give of their time and effort to help someone else. Since the students vote on what we will spend our funds

for, the students engage in discussions about real-life topics such as unemployment, parenting and setting priorities. For many, they have a new appreciation for what they have taken for granted in their lives up until this point. I really feel that the students get more out of the program than the recipients. Without community support, this program could not exist. I want to thank everyone who has supported us and allowed us to continue this program year after year.”

The high school Student Council also works closely with the American Red Cross and hosts a blood drive at the school three times a year.

Fundraisers help raise money for specific individuals or purposes. Last year, students passed containers throughout the bleachers at football games to raise money for Leevi Steele's family. This year, a spaghetti dinner is planned to donate money to a yet-unnamed cause.

High school National Honor Society students staff the Woodbury Food Bank each month on pick-up days. In years past, students participated and raised donations for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. Since the Daffodil Days program has been discontinued, the National Honor Society will be picking a new "cause" to help.

Sixth-grade teacher Garry Black created the middle school Dance-a-Thon a few years ago, modeled after Penn State University's THON. The dance raises money for the American Cancer Society and local families. In March, an all-night dance is held where teams of students

are sponsored to be on the dance floor for a set amount of hours. Not only is this event fun, it is also a very good community service project for the students. Black looks for ways for the Dance-A-Thon to benefit our community. Northern Bedford County students have been dancing to raise money for five years. Over \$75,000 has been raised.

Each spring, Ken Dilbert and the automotive students organize a "Cruise-in" car show. Chicken barbeque is avail-

*Remember, making one person smile can change the world — not necessarily the whole world, but their world.*

able along with many varieties of cars and trucks. All proceeds from this function go to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital.

Throughout the year, Dilbert takes his students to the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. Not only do the residents of the home benefit from these visits, but the students enjoy them as well.

Students in the building trades donate their time and talents to help with renovations and repairs for school district families who cannot afford them. Angels Among Us covered most of the expenses for supplies. These students helped extensively with the repairs to the elementary school's Panther Paradise Playground.

Northern Bedford Elementary School students honor our veterans on Veterans Day. For many years, veterans have been invited and recognized at the school's Veterans Day assemblies. Along with this, a new tradition has been started. At the assemblies, the students are asked to make a holiday card or decorate/write in a purchased card. These cards are collected the first part of December. The fifth-grade chorus performs a concert for the veterans at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. The cards are taken to the home and shared with the men and women. The students honor those veterans who are able-bodied and the ones who are residents at the VA home.

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students are in charge of the Thanksgiving food drive. A list of people who could use food for Thanksgiving is provided by Angels Among Us. The families live in the Northern Bedford County School District. Most of them have children attending Northern Bedford County schools.

Forbes Road's Student Council does a mitten and hat tree. The tree is filled with mittens and hats purchased by the members, students or staff. The winter items are given to families in the district to keep them warm during the cold winter. Christmas dinner is provided with help from monetary and food donations made by the Red Bird students and staff.

So the next time you hear someone say that young people just don't amount to anything, these days let them know there are many great young people out there working to help others. 🌟



## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (also known as LIHEAP) is a grant program that helps low-income families pay their heating and utility bills. This program opened on Nov. 4, 2013, for cash grants. Crisis grants begin Jan. 2, 2014. You may apply for cash or crisis grants, or both. Listed below are the details of the grants.

- ▶ **Cash Grants:** This grant will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. You do not have to be out of fuel or have a disconnection notice to apply for the cash grant.
- ▶ **Regular Crisis Grant:** This grant will also be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. However, you have to have an *emergency situation*, and 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, danger of being without fuel. Please note that the regular crisis grant does not open until Jan. 2, 2014.

You must meet the income guidelines in the chart at right to qualify for LIHEAP.

To apply, you will need:

- ▶ 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
- ▶ A recent heating bill

Please contact your local assistance office for an application.

The Bedford County Assistance Office can be reached at 814-623-6127 or toll-free at 800-542-8584.

The Fulton County Assistance Office can be reached at 717-485-3151 or toll-free at 800-222-8563.

The Huntingdon County Assistance Office can be reached at 814-643-1170 or toll-free at 800-237-7674 ☀

### INCOME GUIDELINES 2013- 2014 LIHEAP (For Homeowners and Renters)

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415
8	\$59,445
9	\$65,475
10	\$71,505

Each additional person \$6,030.



# It's that time of year again!



Trying to find that perfect gift? Wanting to avoid last-minute shopping, the crowds of people, the chance the person will return your gift for something different? Then call New Enterprise REC for a gift certificate. They come in all different values, and any person would greatly appreciate the gift. You may either clip the coupon and mail it in with your payment, or call us and pay over the phone with a check, Visa, or MasterCard.

## 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 Smith Family, Joe & Betty, etc.)

(Please circle one)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser