

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

# Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

## New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
P.O. Box 75  
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075  
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177  
FAX 814/766-3319  
Website:  
www.newenterpriserec.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**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

**MORE THAN** 75 years ago, local residents wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural people because rural customers didn't provide enough profits for stockholders. Area residents organized to provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

The membership selects a director to serve in each of the seven nearly equal director areas. Board members elected at the cooperative's annual meeting act as trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a member. Any profits are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

There are three director area positions open for election at this year's annual meeting. If you are interested in a seat on your co-op board and meet the qualifications, you could be eligible for nomination in your area. A vote of the members attending the annual meeting on June 17 will determine who serves on the board for the three-year terms.

If you are a fulltime resident in **Areas 3, 6 or 7**, and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. Not sure which area you are located in? A detailed map is available at the office for your review.


**Area 3** can be generally described as a portion of South Woodbury Township

in Bedford County, including North Road, Mountain View Drive, Loysburg area, Texas Corner, Salemville, New Enterprise area, Guyer Corner, Muley Lane, Furry's Orchard Road and a portion of Replogle School Road. (Served by Ellis J. Sollenberger since 1983)

**Area 6** can be described as portions of Broad Top Township in Bedford County, including most of Wells Valley, Wells Township in Fulton County and Wood Township in Huntingdon County. This includes Wells Tannery/Enid/New Granada and ends near Waterfall. (Served by Timothy R. Newman since 2003)

**Area 7** can be described as portions of Clay Township in Huntingdon County and Taylor/Licking Creek townships in Fulton County. This includes the area along Route 655 from Saltillo through Waterfall and toward Hustontown. Also included is the Sideling Hill Turnpike Area, Little Egypt and southward toward Route 30. (Served by Dean L. Brant since 1986)

The cooperative's bylaws outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. The board of directors selects a Nominating Committee that prepares a list of nominations that is posted at the cooperative office by May 3, 2014. Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted. Consumer-members attending the New Enterprise REC Annual Meeting may make additional nominations from the floor.

If you are interested in serving on the New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, contact Rick L. Eichelberger, general manager/CEO, and the required documentation will be distributed and forwarded to the Nominating Committee. 

## Important information for past due accounts

- ▶ When our employees come to your home or business to collect a past due balance, the total past due balance plus the \$125 collection fee will need to be paid to prevent disconnection or limitation. Payment can be made with cash, money order or debit/credit card. **No** checks will be accepted.
- ▶ **No** checks will be accepted in the night deposit on the night before the disconnect/service load limiter date. Should a check be put in the night deposit, your account will be subject to disconnection/limitation.
- ▶ Payment agreements cannot be made the business day prior to the disconnection/limitation date or the actual disconnection/limitation date.
- ▶ Payment agreements must be on the cooperative form and signed by all names listed on the membership papers.
- ▶ Payment arrangements can be made by calling Brawna at extension 224 or by emailing her at [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com).
- ▶ You do not have to have a disconnection/limitation notice to make a payment agreement. If you are unable to make one month's payment, call Brawna right away and set up an agreement. It will be much easier for you to get your account paid in full.
- ▶ Once an agreement is made, the payments must be paid as stated or disconnection/limitation will occur.
- ▶ If you have two broken payment agreements, you will no longer be able to make an agreement. The full past due balance will need to be paid before the disconnect/service load limiter date.
- ▶ Should your meter be disconnected or limited, you will need to pay the total bill, including charges to the point of disconnection/limitation, plus additional fees. Payment must be in cash, money order or debit/credit card. From 3:30 to 7 p.m., we will reconnect or remove a limiter, but the reconnect fee increases. Also during this time period, only cash or money orders can be accepted.
- ▶ When an account is up for disconnection or limitation and owes \$750 or more, a credit rating report will be run. A deposit may be charged or increased depending on the results of the report. The cooperative can also increase the security deposit amount after looking at the member's history.

### DELINQUENT FEES

Collection Fee	\$125
Disconnect or Service Load Limiter Installation Fee	\$75
Reconnect or Service Load Limiter Removal Fee	\$75
Reconnect or Service Load Limiter Removal Fee between 3:30 and 7 p.m.	\$150

## Where to begin when establishing a new account

- ▶ Call the office or stop by the office.
- ▶ A credit check will be run. Credit checks only take a few minutes to complete. They can be performed over the phone.
- ▶ Depending on the results of the credit check, a security deposit may be charged.
- ▶ The dollar amount of the security deposit ranges from \$0 to \$250.
  - If you have good credit, you will not need to pay a security deposit.
  - Should your credit be average, the deposit is \$125.
  - For those that have below-average credit, a \$250 deposit is required.
  - *The security deposit is refundable.* The fee is returned on your electric bill after 12 consecutive months of payments in full. A deposit will also be returned on a final bill if 12 consecutive payments haven't been made.
- ▶ The security deposit and the \$5 membership fee must be paid in full before opening a new account.
- ▶ Should a person owe a balance from a previous account, this amount needs to be paid in addition to the membership and deposit.
- ▶ The security deposit can be paid via phone by MasterCard or Visa (credit or debit card). Once the applicable fees are paid, the account can be established.
- ▶ Membership papers must be completed. If you are calling in, allow enough time for the membership forms to be completed and returned to the account. If at all possible, coming into the office is the best way to establish a new account. All adults living in the home should come so they can be on the membership papers.
- ▶ Many people have a single membership account, but another person lives in the home. When this happens, the person not listed on the membership papers can't get any information regarding the account, so it is best to put both names on the membership papers.

### Co-op calendar

March 31 – Regular payments are due

April 2 – Disconnect accounts with past due balances (last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna is March 31 to avoid disconnection; Brawna's extension is 224)

## Dining in the dark

### FOOD SAFETY TIPS DURING A POWER OUTAGE

BY B. DENISE HAWKINS

Storm-induced power outages can take you by surprise. If you've lost power and have a refrigerator full of food, make sure time and temperatures are on your side.

If your home's power is interrupted for two hours or less, losing perishable foods shouldn't be a concern. When an outage is prolonged, it's time to decide when to save and when to toss food away.

A digital quick-response thermometer can be one of the most useful tools you can wield in your battle to preserve food. The gadget checks the internal temperature of food, ensuring items are cold enough to eat safely.

Use these food safety tips to help you minimize food loss and reduce the risk of foodborne illness:

#### REFRIGERATED FOOD

- ▶ Keep refrigerator doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours.
- ▶ If food (especially meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) has been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours, or has an unusual odor, texture, or color, get rid of it. Remember the American Red Cross food safety rule: "When in doubt, throw it out."
- ▶ Never taste food to determine its safety or rely on appearance or odor.
- ▶ Use perishable foods first, then frozen food.
- ▶ To keep perishable food cold, place it in a refrigerator or cooler and cover with ice.

#### FROZEN FOOD

- ▶ A full freezer stays colder longer. Freeze containers of water to help keep food cold in the freezer. If your water supply runs out, melting ice can supply drinking water.
- ▶ If you keep the door closed, a full freezer keeps the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).
- ▶ If food in the freezer is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, is partially thawed, and has ice crystals on it, you can safely refreeze it.
- ▶ Always discard frozen or perishable food items that have come into contact with raw meat juices.

Find more tips at [www.FoodSafety.gov](http://www.FoodSafety.gov).



## Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out?  
Store these  
items at home in  
case of an outage.



**Water**  
Three-day supply,  
one gallon per  
person per day.



**Tools**  
Flashlight and  
extra batteries,  
can opener,  
wind-up radio.



**Food**  
Three-day supply  
of non-perishable,  
high-energy food.



**First Aid, Medicine**  
First aid supplies,  
hand sanitizer,  
and at least a  
week's supply of  
medications for the family.

**Documents**  
Include copies of passports,  
birth certificates, and  
insurance policies.



**Learn more at**  
**[www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)**

*Source: American Red Cross, Federal  
Emergency Management Agency*

Heating and Cooling Tips:



**Right Size, Right System**

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor, and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

**Right Questions**

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?

**Right Contractor**

- Only a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified contractor should install your heating and cooling system.
- Your contractor should use computer software to calculate the size of system your home needs.

**Right Size**

- Systems that are too large are:
  - more expensive to install
  - break down more often
  - operate inefficiently.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy.

Need more information?  
Visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Sources: [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov),  
Cooperative Research Network

**Give blood, save lives during National Red Cross Month**

Are you ready to save three lives? Join your community as we celebrate the American Red Cross in March.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt began the tradition in 1943, proclaiming March as the month to recognize the work of the American Red Cross. The national organization began during World War II as a blood donor service. The president called on the public to help by giving blood, volunteering time or donating money. Seventy-one years later, every U.S. president has echoed the proclamation.

The Red Cross collects 6.3 million units of blood a year from roughly 3.7 million blood donors. The group provides 40 percent of the nation's blood supply. Donors – called everyday heroes by the American Red Cross – may save up to three lives with each donation.

"It's a small thing to do, and it means a lot to a family in need," emphasizes Wendy Conley, New Enterprise REC member service representative and a blood donor. "It is a very selfless thing to do for others. You never know – the family you are helping could be your neighbor, friend or even relative."

Becoming a hero only takes about an hour from the time you arrive at the donation site until the time you leave. The donation process is also simple and relatively painless.

**PREPARE TO DONATE**

- ▶ Eat a healthy meal that includes iron-rich foods. Avoid fatty foods; they can affect a blood test that you will be given to determine whether you are eligible to donate.
- ▶ Drink an extra 16 ounces of water or other non-alcoholic fluids before the donation.
- ▶ Bring identification such as a donor card, driver's license, or other form of identification.
- ▶ Wear clothing with sleeves you can raise above the elbow.

**DONATION PROCESS**

- ▶ Register at the donation site and complete a brief confidential health history.
- ▶ Staff will check your temperature, pulse and blood pressure before drawing blood to determine your blood type.
- ▶ Staff will draw blood for the donation and place a bandage over the spot when the needle is removed.

**AFTER YOUR DONATION**

- ▶ Drink extra water or other non-alcoholic fluids for the next 24 hours.
- ▶ Keep the bandage on for the next several hours.
- ▶ Avoid heavy lifting or strenuous exercise for the rest of the day.
- ▶ If you feel dizzy or light-headed, sit or lie down until you feel better.
- ▶ Call the American Red Cross Donor Hotline 866-236-3276 with additional questions or health concerns following your donation.

Source: American Red Cross