

FROM THE 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

**NEARLY** 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.

So, 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 territory now served by New Enterprise REC is divided into seven director areas. Each area is nearly equal in the number of consumer-members, and is represented by a director selected by the membership.

The seven members on the board of directors act as trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members and ensure your cooperative is operating in your best interest. Today, the election of directors is still a very important part of every annual meeting.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative. As long as you are a member, you have a say in how this utility operates.

New Enterprise REC doesn't have stockholders who are interested in lining their own pockets. The cooperative's main concern is providing reliable elec-

tric service at the lowest cost possible.

The director area up for re-election this year is **AREA 4**. It has been represented by Leroy Walls since 2000. **AREA 4** can be described as Liberty Township and a portion of Hopewell Township in Bedford County including Pinchot Road, Ravers Gap Road, Raven Run Road, Sugar Camp Road, Marble City, Yellow Creek area, Jacks Corner, along with the northern ends of Plank Road and Polecat Hollow Road.

If you live full time in this area 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.

If being a director doesn't appeal to you, you still have an important role in the operation of the cooperative. You can nominate and vote for other consumer-members for a director position.

The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. There are certain time frames throughout the procedure that must be followed. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in March. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office by April 28. 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. 

## 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.
- ▶ 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 order 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

## Payment methods

As a convenience to the consumer-member, New Enterprise Rural Electric offers several different payment methods.

- ▶ Stop in and pay at the co-op office located in New Enterprise. We have a night deposit box located beside the front entrance doors if it is after business hours. Envelopes are provided there if you need one.
- ▶ By mail. Please allow time for mail delivery as we are not responsible for delays in the mail system.
- ▶ Auto Pay is New Enterprise REC's automatic draft program. With Auto Pay, your monthly bill is deducted from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit/debit card on the 20th of each month.
- ▶ On our website ([www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com)). Pay by credit/debit card or by check at no additional charge.
- ▶ By phone with credit/debit card or checking account at no additional charge. Here is a recap of payment percentile of 2011:
  - ▶ 58 percent received via postal mail
  - ▶ 15 percent received by internet or phone
  - ▶ 11 percent received by Auto Pay
  - ▶ 11 percent received in person at the office
  - ▶ 5 percent received through the night deposit.

If you are interested in setting your account(s) up with the Auto Pay program, please call Wendy at extension 230 or indicate the change on the reverse side of your payment stub. 

### Co-op calendar

March 28 – Payments and meter readings are due.

*No service load limiters will be installed in March. However, on April 4 we will disconnect accounts with past due balances. The last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna is April 2 (you may reach Brawna at extension 224).*

# A year of saving

Did you get cabin fever this winter? Spend time making your home more energy efficient and start saving for your summer vacation.

You can trim your electric bill all year long by taking a few simple steps. Here's a list of New Enterprise Rural Electric's recommendations for year-round energy and money savings:

**January:** Lowering your thermostat just a few degrees during winter months can save as much as \$85 per year. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

**February:** Adjust your water heater. Turning down the temperature gauge to below 120 degrees Fahrenheit can heat up your savings.

**March:** Stop air from escaping your home and money from escaping your wallet. Head down to your home's basement and seal those leaky ducts.

**April:** A little caulk can go a long way. Air leaks in your home add up. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside could save more than \$200 a year.

**May:** Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring cleaning to-do list. Throw out expired items, clean the refrigerator inside and out, and check the temperature gauge. For maximum operating efficiency, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

**June:** When was the last time you changed a filter? Replacing furnace and air conditioner filters regularly can have a big impact on a home's energy use. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, forcing it to work harder on hot summer days.

**July:** Your home's cooling costs can skyrocket — right along with the temperature outside — during summer months. Keeping your thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit can save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

**August:** Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices like computers, monitors, printers, TV and cable boxes, DVD players, and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.

**September:** Be a "fan-atic." While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On a milder day, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioning. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

**October:** Get ready for winter by insulating your attic. Adding 9 or more inches of insulation could save you more than \$150 a year.

**November:** As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.

**December:** Put a new Energy Star-rated appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading appliances like washing machines to Energy Star-rated models can save up to \$140 per year.

For more information, check out TogetherWeSave.com, an online portal to energy savings tips that uses real dollar savings projections — based on your individual electric rate and climate zone — to motivate small changes in behavior that add up to big savings.

Once you arrive at the site, enter your ZIP code to be redirected to New Enterprise Rural Electric's customized section. You can watch videos that provide detailed instructions about energy savings practices, add up your potential savings with a Virtual Home Tour, and much more. ☀

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## New employee

Please welcome aboard a new outside employee, Zachary Conley. He was hired in September as an apprentice lineman. He resides in Hopewell with his wife, Tera.



Zachary Conley

### Tip of the month

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow — a higher R-value means more effective insulation.

Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

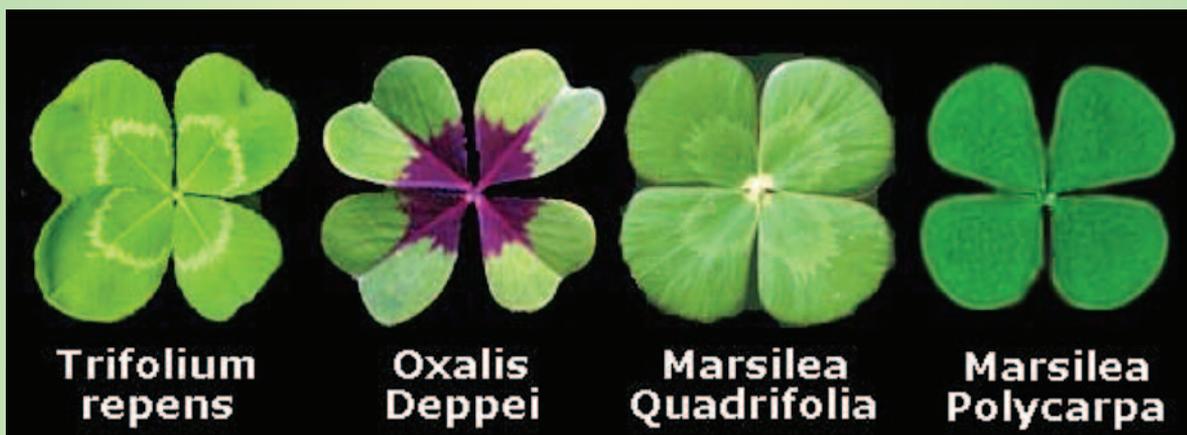
Source: U.S. Department of Energy



# KIDZCORNER

## Four-leaf clovers & shamrocks

The four-leaf clovers come from the White Clover plant, also known as trifolium repens. Finding a four-leaf clover is a rare occurrence and an omen of good luck. A good way of detecting a true four-leaf clover is that one of the clover leaves is smaller than the others. Each of the leaves symbolizes faith, hope, love and luck. Legend states that Eve carried a four-leaf clover from the Garden of Eden.



The true four-leaf clover, the trifolium repens, is on the left, as you can tell by the one smaller leaf.

The shamrock also is from the same plant as the four-leaf clover, trifolium repens. The difference is that a shamrock only has three leaves. The word shamrock comes from the Irish word “seamrog” meaning little clover. In Irish tradition, the shamrock, or three-leaf clover, represents the Holy Trinity – one leaf for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Spirit. When a shamrock is found with the fourth leaf, it represents God’s grace. Saint Patrick used the plant to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Shamrocks have been considered by the Irish as good-luck symbols since earliest times, and this superstition has persisted in modern times among people of many nationalities.

Check out [www.fourleafclover.com](http://www.fourleafclover.com) for more facts and gift ideas about four-leaf clovers and shamrocks!

### Unscramble the words below about St. Patrick’s Day:

ERENG \_\_\_\_\_ CKUL \_\_\_\_\_ WIBAORN \_\_\_\_\_  
 HKACSORM \_\_\_\_\_ OVERLC \_\_\_\_\_ HIIRS \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: green, luck, rainbow, shamrock, clover, Irish