

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

## The cooperative difference

# 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

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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**



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

**EVERY** October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all types have celebrated “Cooperative Month.” During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That’s why those who receive electric service

from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors every June at our annual meeting. We also return margins (“profits”) to our members in the form of capital credits.

Here at New Enterprise Rural Electric, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our 3,600 members every day. But we don’t stop there. Because we’re a cooperative, we strive to do much more, to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it’s basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office. It could be finding a copy of *Penn Lines* in your mailbox every month, which keeps you informed about co-op business and goings-on in Pennsylvania. Or it’s getting the lights back on quicker after a weather event in our area.

Co-ops span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing and much more. There are more than 29,000 co-ops across the nation. And not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known co-ops like Sunkist, Ace Hardware and Land O’Lakes.

A recent study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that cooperatives generate more than \$652 billion in revenue and \$75 billion in income annually, and create more than 2 million jobs.

Cooperatives clearly matter to American society. With increasing concerns about our nation’s economy, co-ops show an uncommon loyalty and commitment to their communities. They create jobs, income and opportunity in their hometowns every day.

October is set aside to recognize the special nature and accomplishments of cooperative businesses. This year’s celebration focuses on the values all cooperatives share and how they matter now more than ever with so many changes taking place in the global marketplace.

Cooperatives live out their values every day. These values contribute to a set of organizing principles that help communities grow wherever they operate. At a time when so many investor-owned companies do not live up to their values, cooperatives represent the better business model when it comes to making social and economic change.

Cooperatives matter in our community. If you’re looking to do business with a business that has a sense of integrity, a concern for the environment and a willingness to help others, you can count on a cooperative to meet your needs.

New Enterprise Rural Electric is one of about 900 electric cooperatives that serve 42 million people in 47 states. Electric cooperatives were formed because investor-owned utilities would not invest in rural America. Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That’s what we celebrate each October.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local — living and working alongside those we serve.

That’s the cooperative difference. 

# The importance of generator safety

**ONE OF** the greatest conveniences of our modern life is electricity. Electricity flows through the overhead or underground wires just about all the time. We take for granted electric power will always be there when we need it. As much as we would like that to be true, there are times the power does go off.

Over the years, the portable electric generator has become more and more popular. Generators keep your food cold, help you milk your cows, or provide lighting and heat to your home. Generators improve the quality of life during an extended power outage.

For all the good generators do, they can also be deadly. Proper installation is required to prevent injuries or death. A licensed electrician should wire and connect home-use generators. Do not connect the generator directly into your home's electrical system through a receptacle outlet. Before using a portable generator, you must disconnect your home's electric wiring from the power grid. Otherwise, power from the generator can go out over the utility lines, endangering the lives of the linemen making the repairs.

Since generators are so popular, the industry is now manufacturing a "whisper" generator. These generators make relatively little or no noise. No loud noise while you are trying to sleep. That's great, right? Yes, it is great if your generator is installed correctly.

Recently, one of our sister cooperatives in Pennsylvania almost lost one of their linemen at a home that was running an incorrectly installed whisper generator after a storm had knocked the power out. The lineman and his crew followed every safety procedure. All was deemed safe to proceed with the restoration. When he reached around the utility pole, he came in contact with what was supposed to be a dead transformer and was severely hurt.

The crew soon discovered that the homeowner had hooked a portable whisper generator directly into the panel box, which then backfed onto the power lines. Not only was the generator not



**SAFETY FIRST:** Portable generators are helpful during an extended power outage, but they can be extremely dangerous if not used properly.

hooked up properly, there was no sound or other external sign to warn the linemen that a generator was running.

Fortunately, this lineman will make a full recovery. However, the accident should never have happened. There are very simple, yet important, guidelines to follow when installing any type of generator.

Below are a few suggestions for making your generator safe:

- ▶ Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before starting it up.
- ▶ Standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a licensed electrician. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system — use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator.
- ▶ Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators produce gases, including deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.
- ▶ Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- ▶ When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire should the tank overflow.
- ▶ There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- ▶ Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

For more safety information on the use of portable and standby generators and safety after a storm, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). 

## The year is 1938

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on Nov. 18, 2013. As we approach our anniversary, let's step back in time to the year of 1938:

- ▶ Franklin Roosevelt establishes March of Dimes to fight polio
- ▶ General Motors begins mass production of the diesel engine
- ▶ The Honeymoon Bridge over Niagara Falls collapses due to an ice jam
- ▶ Action Comics debuts the first appearance of Superman
- ▶ Teflon is invented
- ▶ A meteorite weighing more than 500 tons falls in the vicinity of Chicora in Butler County, Pennsylvania
- ▶ "A Tisket A Tasket," recorded by Ella Fitzgerald, hits No. 1
- ▶ Federal minimum wage law guarantees workers 40 cents per hour
- ▶ Lou Gehrig's last grand slam hit was against Philadelphia Phillies
- ▶ "Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs" film is released
- ▶ "War of the Worlds" airs, causing panic as listeners believe aliens have landed
- ▶ Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Crystal Bird Fauset becomes the first African-American woman to serve in a state legislature
- ▶ Seabiscuit – often called the people's champion – races against Triple Crown winner War Admiral in the Pimlico Special in Baltimore, Md., and wins the match race. It is estimated over 40 million listened to the match on the radio. War Admiral was the favorite at 1-4 with most bookmakers
- ▶ German Nazis launch a campaign of terror against Jewish people, their homes and businesses in Germany and Austria.
- ▶ The Federal National Mortgage Association, commonly known as Fannie Mae, is founded as part of the New Deal

### Check out these prices in 1938

- ▶ New home – \$3,900
- ▶ Average annual wage – \$1,730
- ▶ Gallon of gas – 10 cents
- ▶ Average new car price – \$765
- ▶ Single-vision glasses – \$3.85
- ▶ Emerson bedroom radio – \$9.95
- ▶ Bread – 9 cents a loaf
- ▶ Gallon of milk – 50 cents



### October calendar

**OCT. 24** - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (last day to make payment arrangements is Oct. 22 by calling Brawna at extension 224)

**OCT. 28** - Payments due

## How Electric Co-ops Energized Rural America



**1844** Cooperative principles established in Rochdale, England.

**1909** Country Life Commission recommends creation of electric cooperatives to power rural areas.

**1935**  President Franklin D. Roosevelt creates federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) by executive order.

**1936** 2,000 miles of electric lines under construction by electric co-ops.

**1937** 53,000 total miles of co-op lines constructed.

**1940** 180,000 miles of rural lines built with another 80,000 under way.

**1941** One million farms have power.

**1942** National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) formed to represent co-op interests nationally.

**1949** Roughly 184,000 miles of rural line constructed this year alone.

**1950** Willie Wiredhand, a mascot for electric co-ops, debuts; named after the hired hand electricity gave to farmers. 

**1962** Electric co-ops serve 5 million Americans; NRECA joins U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to bring electricity to developing nations.

**1969**  Apollo 11 mission; 500 million people around the world tune in to watch astronaut Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon.

**1994** REA renamed Rural Utilities Service.

**1998** Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives debut, providing a co-op "brand ID" and marketing options.  The power of human connections.®

**2009** NRECA/USAID partnership connects more than 100 million people to electricity in 42 nations.

**2010** 75 years after creation of REA, 900-plus co-ops in 47 states serve 17 million homes and businesses.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

# KIDZCORNER

You will be the hit of the party with these Halloween party games....

## The 'Name Game'

This is a warm-up, "get-to-know-you game" for kids through adults.

All you need is:

- ➔ 3-inch-by-5-inch cards
- ➔ Marking pen (medium or wide point)
- ➔ Safety pins



Before the party, neatly print the name of a person or character associated with Halloween onto a 3-inch-by-5-inch card.

Use a different name on each card.

Make up enough cards for **more than** each person invited to the party, especially for kids. This can be such a fun game that party participants often want to play it more than once.

As guests arrive, use a safety pin to put one card on each guest's back. Do not tell them whose name is on the card.

**GAME OBJECTIVE:** To guess who "you" are (the name on your back).

### RULES:

1. You can ask only one question of a guest, before moving to another guest to ask a question.
2. Only "Yes" and "No" answers can be given.
3. Laughing, facial expressions, etc. are certainly allowed.
4. Look for questions that will quickly narrow the quest, such as:
  - a. Am I a male (or female)?
  - b. Am I a real person (versus fictional character)?
5. If a guest guesses too quickly, give him or her another name tag.

## Pumpkin Penny Pitch:

Object of game: To pitch a penny into a pumpkin.

### PREPARATION:

1. Method 1: Carve out a pumpkin (or two or three) and line the inside with plastic wrap or aluminum foil.
2. Make the top opening big.
3. Method: 2: Use several small plastic pumpkins (this will be less messy)

### PLAYING THE GAME:

1. Place the pumpkins a couple feet away.
2. Give each player 10 to 20 pennies.
3. Every time a penny goes into the pumpkin, a piece of candy is won.

