

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

Leroy D. Walls
President

Timothy Newman
Vice President

David Bequeath
Secretary

Merle Helsel
Asst. Secretary

Curtis Brant
Treasurer

Robert Guyer
Mark Swope

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



Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

By Mark Morrison

OVER 80 years ago, many of our neighboring communities wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural residents. So, area residents decided to organize and New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

Your cooperative is governed by a seven-member board of directors who act as trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members. These directors are elected at the annual meeting.

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

There are three director areas 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. A vote of the members attending the annual meeting on June 11 will determine who serves on the board.

If you live full time in AREA 3, 6, or 7 and are interested, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. If you aren't sure in which area you are located, a detailed map is available at the office for review.

AREA 3 includes 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 Replogle School Road up to Teeter School Road. (Served by Merle Helsel since 2014)

AREA 6 includes portions of Broad Top Township in Bedford County including most of Wells Valley; Wells Township in Fulton County; and Wood Township in Huntingdon County, including Route 915 through Wells Tannery, to Enid, to New Granada and continuing to Waterfall. (Served by Timothy Newman since 2003)

AREA 7 includes portions of Clay Township in Huntingdon County, Taylor and Licking Creek townships in Fulton County including Route 655 from Saltillo through Waterfall and toward Hustontown, also southward past the turnpike toward Route 30. (Served by Curtis Brant since 2015)

Should being a director not 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 according to the bylaws. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in March. The committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office.

Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted.

Don't miss your chance to vote for the person you want to represent your area. Come to the 82nd annual meeting of New Enterprise REC on Thursday June 11, 2020, at the Northern Bedford County High School. 

Job Shadow Day

ON JAN. 31 in the spirit of Punxsutawney Phil, New Enterprise REC participated in the annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Lacy McClnay is an eighth-grader at Northern Bedford County Middle School. She is the daughter of David and Bobbi McClnay of Hopewell. Bobbi McClnay, who has worked at the co-op since November 2003, is a member



LISTENING CLOSELY: Eighth-grader Lacy McClnay listens closely as her mom, Bobbi McClnay, explains how to balance the cash drawer.

service representative and benefit administrator.

Lacy helped her mom balance the cash drawer and balance the checkbook. Lacy spent most of her day in our work room. Wendy Conley, member service representative, had Lacy fold Sales Tax Exemption Certificates using the folding machine. Once the certificates were folded, Lacy stuffed the envelopes and ran them through the postage machine. This isn't the most exciting job, but Lacy completed her work with no problem.

At the end of the day Lacy noted, "The job seemed very confusing at times, but was pretty fun and cool. Getting a large mailing ready was one job I won't want to do again, but working in the office would be fun."

Aaron Shawley, son of Mike and Staci Shawley of New Enterprise, attends Northern Bedford County Middle School where he is an eighth-grader. Mike Shawley is our outside operations manager and has worked at the co-op since October 2017. Aaron said he was glad he was given the opportunity to job shadow his dad, especially

riding in the bucket of a bucket truck where he got a bird's-eye view of New Enterprise. He also watched lineworker Ike Threadgill climb a pole and replace a piece of equipment and learned about lineworkers' safety gear. He also learned how electricity is generated and what it takes to get it to his home.

At the end of the day Aaron commented, "It was fun, educational, and I got to get out of school!"

What is Job Shadow Day?

Job Shadow Day is a nationwide effort to introduce young people to the world of work by giving them an up-close look at the workplace.

Many middle school and high school kids haven't had the opportunity to explore various career options firsthand by visiting a workplace. In 1996, the first local Job Shadow Day was conducted in Boston. In 1997, the National Job Shadow Coalition was formed to encourage participation in a shadowing initiative across the United States. The goal was to help young people explore firsthand the skills and education needed to succeed in today's and future job markets, and to encourage the



WATCHING CLOSELY: The highlight of Aaron Shawley's Job Shadow Day experience is a ride in the bucket truck.

development of relationships between students and caring adults.

Job shadowing enhances students' career awareness and career planning. It provides the business community with an opportunity to invest in the future by helping youth explore careers and see the value of education. ☀

WHY DOES MY POWER GO OUT?

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible. Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control.

Here are the main reasons the power goes out:

1. **STORMS** — Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong, high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.
2. **TREES AND VEGETATION** — Branches, limbs, or trunks can fall on lines and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines, or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.
3. **ANIMALS** — It is estimated that 11% of all outages are caused by our furry friend, the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and seagulls can interfere with service, too. Where possible, we put non-harmful devices on our equipment and lines to make it less comfortable for animals to perch, rest or make a nest. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe for the bird as long as it touches the line and nothing else.
4. **ACCIDENTS** — Cars, trucks and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.

5. PUBLIC DAMAGE — Unsafe digging, equipment, line damage, vandalism or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.

6. OVERLOAD — This happens where demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing

blackouts or brownouts.

7. EQUIPMENT — We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions.

We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens. Please contact New Enterprise REC with questions

about outages or to learn more about the steps we take to provide reliable service. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. 



Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
-  Cash and credit cards
-  Emergency numbers
-  Important documents (in a waterproof container)
-  Toys, books & games
-  Baby supplies
-  Pet supplies

Disconnection to resume

During the winter months, New Enterprise REC doesn't disconnect accounts for non-payment.

Disconnection for non-payment will begin again on April 1, 2020. A disconnection message will be printed on the bills received in March, plus an additional disconnect notice will be sent within a week of your billing statement.

Do not delay calling Brawna at extension 4602 at the office should you not be able to pay the full total due before April 1. It is best to call as soon as you get the billing statement or the disconnect notice.

A signed written agreement needs to be in place on or before March 30.

Should you be having trouble paying your bill, you may wish to call your County Energy Assistance Office. They are scheduled to remain open until April 10, 2020.

Below are the County Energy Assistance Office telephone numbers:

- Bedford County Energy Assistance — 814-623-6127 or 800-542-8584**
- Fulton County Energy Assistance — 717-485-3151 or 800-222-8563**
- Huntingdon County Energy Assistance — 814-643-1170 or 800-237-7674**

LIHEAP helps pay electric or heating fuel bills

THE Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills.

To receive help:

- ▶ You don't have to be on public assistance,
- ▶ You don't need to have an unpaid bill, and
- ▶ You don't have to own your home.

There are two types of grants available: cash and crisis. Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. This is a one-time payment that is sent directly to the utility or fuel provider. Cash grants range from \$200 - \$1,000. The grants are based on your household size, income and type of heating.

Crisis grants are for an emergency situation where you are in danger of losing your heat. You can receive more than one crisis grant during the sea-

son. The maximum benefit amount is \$600. Emergency situations would be:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be repaired or replaced,
- ▶ Lack of heating fuel,
- ▶ Electric service has been disconnected, or
- ▶ Danger of being without heating fuel or of having the electric service disconnected.

To apply for this program, go to compass.state.pa.us or call your county assistance office:

- Bedford County — 800-542-8584 or 814-623-6127**
- Fulton County — 800-222-8563 or 717-485-3151**
- Huntingdon County — 800-237-7674 or 814-643-1170**

You will need the following information available when you apply:

- ▶ Names, birth dates, Social Security number and proof of income for all people in the household
 - ▶ A copy of a recent heating bill
 - ▶ A copy of a disconnection notice
- The LIHEAP household income guidelines are:

Household Size	Household Income
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
5	\$45,255
6	\$51,885
7	\$58,515
8	\$65,145
9	\$71,775
10	\$78,405

Each additional person, add \$6,630

Make safety ‘Priority 1’ when doing home improvement and repair projects

MORE people are doing their own remodeling, repairs, maintenance, landscaping, and construction projects inside and outside the home. Safe Electricity urges all do-it-yourselfers to take precautions, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines.

Make sure outdoor outlets have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. It's also a good idea to have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry.

Safety tips to remember include:

- ▶ Look up and around you. Always know of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- ▶ Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your

house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines — leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

- ▶ If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call the national underground utility locator at 8-1-1 before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.
- ▶ Always check the condition of cords and power tools before using them. Repair or replace worn or damaged cords and tools.
- ▶ Electricity + water = danger. If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when



you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

Make certain home electrical systems and wiring are adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions, or remodeling projects. An older home may be inadequately wired for today's electricity consumption, putting your family at risk for fire and electrical shock. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry and add outlets for appliances and electronics — this is not a job for casual do-it-yourselfers! ⚡

Has your appliance become a hazard?

Safety and environmental considerations must be taken into account when disposing of old electrical household appliances.

Computers, televisions, stereos, refrigerators, water heaters and many other smaller electrical appliances are wonderful life-enhancing conveniences. But when the time comes to replace and dispose of them, they can become a dangerous nuisance and hazard if not discarded properly.

Unfortunately, many second-hand unsafe appliances wind up in other people's homes as electrical shock or fire hazards, or illegally dumped in ditches, back alleys, vacant lots, or other places where they become serious safety and environmental hazards.

Safe Electricity warns people to never attempt to use a malfunctioning or previously discarded electric appliance, and to beware of old appliances sold in flea markets and garage sales. Such appliances may pose a fire or electrocution hazard, and may be no "bargain" in the long run.

Managing the safe disposal of the vast amount of electrical appliances that wear out, become obsolete or damaged can be a challenge, but there are safe disposal alternatives.

Take advantage of local recycling opportunities. Before throwing away electronics, check on programs that collect and repair unwanted phones and computers for contribution to charitable organizations and schools.

Many communities sponsor collection events that accept electronic appliances. However, be aware that stringent state and federal laws now



govern the disposal of many electrical appliances. Most electronics have parts that contain hazardous materials, such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, PCBs and Freon. In most states, landfills can no longer accept certain appliances unless banned materials and components are first removed.

Safe Electricity offers these guidelines for safe appliance disposal:

- ▶ Have a qualified professional remove Freon, PCBs and mercury switches from old appliances. For assistance, contact your local public works department or appliance service provider.
- ▶ After removal of unsafe materials and components, arrange to have the old appliance taken to a scrap yard where the metal can be salvaged for recycling. High steel prices have made old appliances attractive to scrap dealers.
- ▶ Never leave or store an unused or damaged appliance in an open, unsecured area. Discarded appliances are a safety hazard, especially for children. In addition, discarded appliances may provide shelter or a breeding place for vermin.
- ▶ Before disposal, remove electrical cords from damaged items so they cannot be reused by someone else.
- ▶ If larger household items, such as washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators, need to be replaced, have the dealer remove the old appliance.

Don't keep old, inefficient appliances that are costly to operate and will pose a future disposal problem. Replace old, worn appliances with new, high-efficiency models, but make certain that all new electrical equipment you purchase is safety-tested and bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.