

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814  
814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177

FAX: 814-766-3319

Website: [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com)

## 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



## Make your voice heard

By Mark Morrison

THERE'S an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

### Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For



example, New Enterprise REC board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

### Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. New Enterprise REC board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure that we are in sync with the community that we serve.

*(continues on page 12d)*

# Out with the old and in with the new

YOU HAVE probably heard the old saying “Nothing lasts forever.” That saying also applies to the poles and wires that carry electricity to your homes. This summer, the line crew at New Enterprise REC completed a line rebuild project in the Waterfall Hill Development located off State Route 655 near Three Springs, Pa.

Operations personnel periodically evaluate the conditions of the cooperative’s lines to maintain the highest

standards of service reliability and safety for their members. They look for poles that are old and deteriorating, possible clearance issues because the poles may not be tall enough, and the condition of the wire.

There may be spans of wire that have been spliced back together many times over the years because of storm damage. After being inspected, it was determined the line that feeds the Waterfall Hill Development met all the criteria for replacement.

Outside Operations Manager Mike Shawley reports, “The crew replaced 37 poles and installed 1.6 miles of new wire. Anytime we do a line rebuild project, we look for ways to improve accessibility. Nothing prolongs an outage more than when you can’t get equipment in to fix the problem, and you have to carry tools and material in to do the repairs by hand.”

On any line rebuild project, working with property owners is a big part of the job, and the owners are a factor in how the project will turn out in the end.

Regarding this project, Shawley says, “We worked with several property owners to eliminate two sections of line that passed through inaccessible areas and relocate them to along a road



**PROJECT COMPLETED:** This section on Waterfall Hill is completed and ready for years of reliable service.

and a driveway. We were very appreciative for the cooperation of all the property owners throughout the project. It certainly makes our job easier.”

As you can tell, this project was not an easy task. It took hours of hard work for everyone involved. New Enterprise REC is always thankful for the cooperation of everyone involved to complete any important line rebuild project throughout its service territory. 🌞



**THROUGH THE TREES:** An old power line runs through a group of pine trees to feed one of the homes in the development.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



### Have you ever wondered ...

Have you ever wondered why we have Osmose crews digging around our poles? Osmose employees dig around electric poles to make sure they are not rotting off below ground level or at surface level. Poles are “sounded” with a hammer to detect internal decay. If the pole shows signs of internal decay, it is bored to determine the location and extent of decay. If a pole goes unchecked, it could collapse and cause an outage, or if a lineworker is climbing the pole, it could collapse while he is on it, causing serious injuries. The cooperative takes pride in serving our members reliably and affordably. Making sure the poles have as long of a lifespan as possible is one way we keep costs down for our members.

# Life with no lights – Leta Feight

By Bethany Shawley

MOST of us have always had electricity; it has always been a staple in our lives. We can't imagine going to turn the light on and there being no switch. We wouldn't know where to begin if we didn't have our everyday electrical appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, microwaves, refrigerators, televisions, etc. I know in my house when the power is out for more than 10 minutes, my brother and I start complaining and asking when it will come back on. It's the same reaction when any modern appliance isn't working right. We've become so dependent on electricity that the thought of going without it makes us question how we would get by. How would we stay cool without air conditioning? How would we

*“I remember Mom would tell us to just use the lights where we were sitting because maybe she thought you had to save the electricity because you only had so much.”*

bathe without running water? How would we entertain ourselves without television or internet access? These are questions that never crossed 93-year-old Leta Feight's mind when she was a young teenager in the 1940s.

## Before electricity

Feight, who has lived in the Waterfall area her entire life, remembers life without electricity well.

The wind chimes danced in the wind as I entered her childhood home on a cool, windy July afternoon to talk with her. The house had been rebuilt in 1930 after it was damaged in a fire in 1929. As I sat down in her

kitchen to talk with her, I noticed an old kerosene lamp on the window sill. Cleaning this lamp, along with many others, was part of her weekly chores when she lived without electricity many years ago.

“I remember each Saturday, part of my duty was to wash the lamps and fill the lights,” she recalls.

When she says “fill the lights,” she means put kerosene in the lamps that were the family's only light source before they got electricity.

Feight also lived for many years without indoor plumbing. She points out the window to a spot near the barn and tells me that's where the outhouse was. The family continued to live without indoor plumbing for about 10 years after they got electricity. By that time, it was the early 1950s and she was living in the house with her husband. Before they had electricity, her family used a cold stream that flowed through their basement in the place of a refrigerator.

“We had a trough in the basement where water ran constantly, and that's where my mother kept the cold items,” she recalls.

As a youngster, Feight liked to listen to the radio. She remembers the KDKA station from Pittsburgh where the family would listen to the world news and follow the politics in the country, but she preferred the country music and talk shows that played on the radio. The family also had phone service before electricity. The only phone in the house, which hung on the wall, is still stored in the attic.

Feight talks about being raised in a rural household in the 1940s.

“There were nine in our family, but we always had plenty to eat, a lot of love... we were taught work ethics and responsibility at an early age, and we were brought up to work together,” she says.

## Getting the news

When cooperatives were just getting



BACK IN THE DAY: As a young teenager, Leta Feight cleaned and filled many of these lamps.

organized, groups of people would meet in areas that were interested in getting electricity. Many of those evolved into the local cooperatives we have today. The government would loan these cooperatives money to get started. They would hire contractors and secure right-of-way easements. Then they sent the crews out to get the route lined up. The family who would be getting electric service either found out through the contractors or the mail.

As Feight glances out the window, she focuses on the poles across the street facing the house. I ask if she remembers the line crew coming through and putting the original poles in.

“I remember a little bit,” she says. “It was hot, and we were sitting on the porch, and they didn't work as they do now. They didn't have the equipment so things were done by hand.”

Feight's family got electricity in 1942 when she was 14 or 15 years old. Everyone was thrilled, and Feight was especially excited that she would

*(continues on page 12d)*

## LIFE WITH NO LIGHTS

(continued from page 12c)

no longer have to clean and fill those old lamps.

### After electricity

When all the hard work was done, and the lights were ready to be turned on, the whole family was excited. Feight remembers the first time she turned the lights on that the room looked so much brighter than before. The house had no outlets on the walls for a while, but the family was just thankful for the electricity. Getting outlets didn't cross their minds for a while. They would plug things in at the ceiling after unscrewing the lightbulb.

"It wasn't long until mom got a sweeper, and we had to plug it in up at the lightbulb," she recalls.

The sweeper was the first electrical appliance the family purchased, but what they really wanted was a refrigerator. Feight considers not having a refrigerator as being one of the biggest challenges the family faced because having only the stream to keep food cold was not easy.

"I had three brothers in the war, and each month one sent home \$20 for my mother to get a refrigerator," she says.

Electricity was new to them, and it took a while to understand how it worked.

"I remember Mom would tell us to just use the lights where we were sitting because maybe she thought you had to save the electricity because you only had so much," Feight says with a laugh.

She thinks the best thing that electricity provided was the ability for people to get out more. When more and more people got electricity, everyone could spend less time doing work at home, and it became easier to get together with friends over the weekend. Feight says there isn't a thing she misses from the days before electricity, and she encourages younger generations to be thankful for what they have.

Her message to young people is, "Appreciate what you have, and don't take anything for granted." 🌞

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

(continued from page 12a)

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates

your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot, and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org). You can also check out [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) for voter information. Check out the candidates to learn more about them. This way you can make an informed decision on the candidates you support. 🌞

## The life of a lineworker

By Bethany Shawley and Ella Gable

Many people who aspire to be a lineworker are curious about the workload and potential risks. There is never a slow day if you're a lineworker because there are 170 million wood poles and 9 million miles of wire in service across the United States with only about 115,000 lineworkers. In a 10-hour workday, one line crew can replace about four poles, and these poles need to be replaced about every 40 years. Utility work is one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in America; however, there are many ways to prevent injury on the job.

- ▶ Lineworkers work in teams because they all must look out for each other throughout the workday. Lineworkers also wear safety equipment when they are working on live wires.
- ▶ When working with a live wire, they wear a helmet, rubber gloves, and special shoes and sleeves that help to protect them. The buckets in the bucket truck are also insulated with fiberglass.
- ▶ If possible, lineworkers turn the power off while they are working on a line. Also, as a safety precaution, lineworkers inspect their trucks every month to prevent accidents.
- ▶ Lineworkers also work in every type of weather – rain, snow, wind, and extreme heat and cold – in an effort to keep your power on.
- ▶ Being a lineworker is also a very physically demanding job, so it requires someone to be in good shape.

Society needs lineworkers because we need electricity to power our houses. If they didn't do their job, then the rest of the world couldn't do their jobs either.



AT WORK: As a lineworker, you have many responsibilities.

- ▶ The most common duties of a lineworker are to maintain, install and repair high-powered electrical lines. They also dig trenches to install underground lines, climb poles to repair overhead lines, and may inspect power lines for repairs or replacement.
- ▶ These duties include the use of ropes, knots, and lifting equipment, such as a bucket truck and digger truck.
- ▶ A lineworker should have good problem-solving skills and should be good at working with a team and also independently.
- ▶ A high school diploma is required to become a lineworker. A one-year certificate in electrical repair or electronics could be helpful to those seeking to work as a lineworker. To become a lineworker, you may also have to be trained through an academy or do on-the-job training. Some employers may require that you obtain an electrical license.

Being a lineworker is no easy task, but in the end, it is an extremely important job, and nobody would have electricity without them. So, if you are thinking about becoming a lineworker, please consider the information in this article before you make your choice. Always remember no matter how tough the job is, you are making a difference.