# **COOPERATIVE** (ONNECTION

## New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

#### NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

3596 Brumbaugh Road New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814 814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177 FAX: 814-766-3319 Website: www.newenterpriserec.com

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Leroy D. Walls President Timothy Newman Vice President David Bequeath Secretary Merle Helsel Asst. Secretary Curtis Brant Treasurer Brian McCoy Mark Swope

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS 814-766-3221 1-800-270-3177

Leadership Outside the Box



**NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC)** is governed by a seven-member board of directors. The board is elected by and represents the membership and is responsible for the strategic direction of the cooperative. Each board member also participates in educational development to broaden their knowledge base of our industry.

While we serve our members locally with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service, our knowledge also has to reach far and wide across the industry. Power grid management,

MORRISON

power supply contracts, legislative impacts, interconnection, generation sources, energy transmission and power capacity are some of the important components influencing the supply of energy to all cooperative members.

Over the past few months, the board has been working closely with its trusted partners, the leaders and staff of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). Allegheny, a generation and transmission cooperative, is our wholesale energy supplier, and PREA is our legislative, regulatory, and member-service organization.

Located in Harrisburg, each organization is governed by a board of directors made up of members from the 13 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey. Two of our own directors — President Leroy Walls and Vice President Tim Newman — play a role on these boards. Leroy is chairman of the PREA board, and Tim is a director of the Allegheny board.

Though based in Harrisburg, these organizations support our day-to-day operations and member-focused mission with information and education.

In late 2023, PREA/Allegheny President & CEO Steve Brame visited our cooperative to meet with the board and share the organizations' strategic goals. He also discussed his vision for cooperative engagement moving into 2024. Recently, New Enterprise REC hosted PREA/Allegheny for a system/facilities tour. The visit was a success, and the PREA/Allegheny staff members shared their appreciation. During the trip, they met with our employees and toured our facilities and distribution system, which winds through our rural landscape.

Todd Salade, PREA/Allegheny vice president - power supply & engineering,

also visited the cooperative to explain his responsibilities. Todd presented a program to the board about power supply and how it is managed during various times of the power-demand cycle. He also shared components of power contracts and processes of power purchases for the cooperatives.

Another visitor was Matt Leonard, PREA/Allegheny



**ROOTED IN COMMUNITY:** PREA/Allegheny President & CEO Steve Brame, standing, shares his vision for cooperative engagement with the New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

Continued on page 16B

### From the General Manager/CEO

Continued from page 16A

manager, government & regulatory affairs, who shared regulatory and policy issues impacting cooperatives in Pennsylvania. The board also pressed Matt on the current political climate, current energy policy and other legislative items that impact our cooperative.

I would like to personally thank Steve, Todd and Matt for being available to travel to New Enterprise. Each of them provided a valuable educational experience for our board. PREA and Allegheny are important partners of our cooperative, and together we can do more to benefit all cooperative members.

MARK MORRISON GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



**REGULATORY RIGORS:** Members of the New Enterprise REC board hear a report on regulatory and policy proposals that may impact cooperatives from Matt Leonard, fourth from left, PREA/Allegheny manager, government & regulatory affairs.



**POWERFUL INSIGHT:** Todd Sallade, standing, PREA/Allegheny vice president – power supply & engineering, shares a presentation on power supply and how it is managed with our board.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



## Thank a Lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

**ELECTRIC LINEWORKERS PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL** service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and then apprentice under the careful eye of seasoned journeyman lineworkers.

Electric lineworkers accounted for approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees work for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

### Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 50 pounds.

According to the BLS, electric lineworkers typically:

- ▶ Install power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- ▶ Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- ► Identify and replace defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary, too. Workers also use specialized safety equipment to avoid accidents when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, lineworkers restore service as safely and efficiently as possible. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority. On National Lineworker Appreciation Day, April 8, take a moment to thank a lineworker for all they do.



THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative proudly recognizes its team of dedicated lineworkers. Shown, from left, are: Mason Detterline, Roman Dell, Zac Conley, Conner Kagarise, Kyler Fink, Mark Replogle and Randy Walker.

## **Plan Ahead and Call Before You Dig**

**DIGGING WITHOUT LOCATING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES** could leave your neighborhood in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damage and even cause severe electrical shock. This is true for all projects, small and large. So to help everyone stay safe, we encourage members to call 811, the free national underground utility locating service, before you dig.

When calling 811, you will be routed to a local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will

## CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages or cause severe electrical shock.







be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to visit the site and mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are universal colors of paint and flags used to mark underground utilities. They include:

Red — electric

 $Orange-communications, telephone/cable \, {\rm TV}$ 

Blue — potable water

Green — sewer/drainage

Yellow — gas/petroleum pipeline

Purple — reclaimed water

White -- premarked site of intended excavation

Even if you've previously had utilities located by calling 811, you should continue to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and you want to be certain of their location before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

Keep in mind, however, that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. Therefore, if you have any, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems and gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start, so be be sure to wear proper protective gear.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit call811.com and SafeElectricity.org. 2

