

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.

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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
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

2024 Annual Meeting Message



LEROY WALLS
BOARD
PRESIDENT



MARK MORRISON
GENERAL
MANAGER/CEO

YOUR RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD is determined to deliver safe, reliable and competitively priced electric service to the members. This year, we are asking management to focus on maintenance to ensure a robust distribution system, capital improvements to the substations and efficiencies in system operation.

Future power supply is very important to the cooperative, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny). As you may recall, PREA and Allegheny are based in Harrisburg. Allegheny serves as our wholesale energy supplier, and PREA is our member services and legislative cooperative, giving us a voice in government policy that affects the energy industry. Locally, Tim Newman, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) board vice president, serves on the Allegheny board, and Leroy Walls, New Enterprise REC board president, serves as chairman of the PREA board. These two director positions give New Enterprise REC a voice in power supply and legislative efforts that impact our power supply here at home.

We do not have to tell any of you that 2023 was a financially straining year. Our wholesale power costs increased 30%. Inflationary price increases for poles, conductor and line material also added to the pinch we are all feeling right now. Despite rising costs and supply chain challenges, the cooperative was able to remain on schedule with our systemwide pole replacement program and right-of-way maintenance plan. We also built new line to provide electric service to new members joining the system.

In 2022, we energized our new Waterfall substation. The rebuild increased capacity for future growth and added reliability for members served by that substation. Our next capital project is a scheduled rebuild of our Waterside substation. The wooden station was built decades ago. It will be replaced with a steel structure and will feature new switching and voltage control equipment that will provide reliable service and added capacity for future load growth for all members served by that substation.

The cooperative has also been working to complete our systemwide meter upgrade plan, including a new communication platform. In the past, the cooperative was reactive to outages and safety concerns. The new meters will communicate “alarms” to the office and alert us when a meter loses power. With this technology, the cooperative will often know about a power outage before a member calls it in. This allows us to quickly mobilize crews and decrease outage time for the membership. The new meters, however, do not change the need for members to call in outages. Please continue to notify us as you have done in the past.

Another alarm we have set on the metering equipment is temperature. As meter cabinets age, components sometimes breakdown, which can increase the temperature at the meter connection point. In some cases, this information has allowed us to proactively contact the member before an outage or damage occurs.

We take pride in our local electric cooperative, serving our members with safe, reliable, and competitively priced electric service, and we are thankful you are a consumer-member. The cooperative will continue to honor the tradition of serving our neighbors as it has done for more than 85 years. Feel free to stop in or give us a call at 814-766-3221 and let us know how we are doing. 📞

LEROY WALLS
BOARD PRESIDENT

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Jill's Glass Creations: Crafting Beauty, Spreading Joy

BOBBI & CLAY MCILNAY

JILL FREDERICK OF NEW ENTERPRISE has a remarkable talent for working with glass.

She and her husband have been members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative since 1992 and teach at Northern Bedford High School. Around 2001, Jill discovered her passion for making stained glass pieces. It all started with a Christmas gift from her mother-in-law — a certificate for stained glass lessons with Jack Baker. Her first piece was a 6-by-6-inch panel. With Jack's guidance and later Jeff Petrosky at Geistown Glass, Jill learned the art in just six weeks.

Specializing in the Tiffany copper foil technique (more on that in a bit), Jill's favorite pieces include a chicken-themed piece and one featuring a Marine Corps emblem, which she created for her son when he was going through the Crucible, a culminating event recruits must complete to earn the title of United States Marine. During the Crucible, recruits face numerous physical and

mental challenges over 54 hours, testing their endurance, teamwork, and determination. It's a defining experience that marks the transition from recruit to Marine, instilling core values such as honor, courage and commitment.

A labor of love

Crafting stained glass involves six meticulous phases for Jill. In the design phase, Jill starts by coloring with crayons or using patterns, which she can either buy or find online. Next, she spends an hour or two cutting out all the glass pieces. Then comes grinding: This phase takes the longest, ensuring each piece is smoothed down to perfection.

Now comes the Tiffany copper foiling, where she carefully applies copper foil to all the pieces. Next, Jill solders the pieces together, using a combination of lead and tin — with a melting point of about 340 degrees Fahrenheit — to form a strong bond. Finally, she cleans the finished piece to remove any excess flux or debris.



GLASS BEAUTY: Jill Frederick uses the Tiffany copper foil technique to create her art. Below are two finished examples. Frederick is a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative and owner of Jill's Glass Creations.

When it comes to creating artwork like Jill's, even a small piece can take about 12 hours to complete. But Jill comes from a creative family — her mother quilted and her sister loves scrapbooking — and infuses each piece with emotion. And even after all that hard work, she donates half of the proceeds from the sale of her creations to charity.

Jill dreams of teaching stained-glass classes after retirement, inspiring others to explore their creativity. In a busy world, Jill Frederick's glass creations bring light and joy to those who see them. To follow Jill and see her stained-glass masterpieces, connect with her on Facebook at Jill's Glass Creations. 📌



START TO FINISH: Above, a crayon sketch of a rooster goes from the design phase — the first of six for making stained-glass artwork — to the finished piece, below, by Jill Frederick.



OORAH: Jill Frederick created this stained-glass U.S. Marine Corps emblem for her son while he was in basic training.



Doing the Electric Shift

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT IS July already? Well, it's time again for the "Electric Shift." As in the past, we need your help to keep power costs as low as possible.

For those of you unfamiliar with the phrase, the "Electric Shift" is easy to do and, with a little practice, allows you to use electricity more wisely. During the hot, humid days of summer, electricity use tends to increase significantly. This greater demand also leads to higher generation costs. Our future power costs, in fact, are partially based on how much power we buy on those hot, sticky weekdays between 1 and 7 p.m. when electric use is at its peak.

On weekdays — or a series of weekdays — when temperatures rise to around 90 degrees with high humidity, "Electric Shift" messages will be broadcast on WSKE-FM 104.3 and 1040 AM. You'll also hear these messages on WJAC-TV 6 (Johnstown) during weather segments of the noon news. In addition, a scrolling message will be placed on newenterpriserec.com during peak hours.

You may be thinking, "How can I help?" Here are a

few steps you can take to help prevent future power cost increases:

- ▶ Set your air conditioners to 78 degrees or use fans instead.
- ▶ Close your curtains and blinds to keep things cooler inside your home.
- ▶ Operate washers, dryers, dishwashers and other major appliances early in the morning or late in the evening.
- ▶ Minimize the number of times you open your refrigerator or freezer.
- ▶ Cook with an outdoor grill or a microwave oven.
- ▶ Turn off nonessential lights.
- ▶ Run pool pumps at night.

If only a few members did the "Electric Shift," it wouldn't make much of a difference, but working together, we can have a huge impact on future power costs.

So do your part by doing the "Electric Shift" from 1 to 7 p.m. June 1 to Sept. 30 on hot, humid days. Thank you for making a few changes to help save on future power costs. 🌱

