

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 were not interested in providing power to these rural people. The reason being there was not enough profit for their stockholders. So area residents decided to organize and provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

A board of seven directors govern the cooperative. Directors are trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members and are elected at the annual meeting. The membership selects a director to serve in each of the seven director areas.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a member. Realized 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 this challenging experience, reside full-time in Areas 1, 2 or 5, and are interested, contact or stop by the cooperative office by March 1, 2022, and we can discuss the process.

Director Area 1: Portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Bakers Summit, Lafayetteville, Route 867 to Muley Lane, and Middle Ridge Road.

Director Area 2: Portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Hickory Bottom, Pulpit Road, Woodbury Pike, and Frosty Hollow.

Director Area 5: Portions of Hopewell, West Providence and Broad Top townships in Bedford County, including Plank Road to Tatesville, Route 26 north of Everett, the "beach" areas along the Raystown, and accounts along the western most part of Sherman Valley.

Opportunities also exist to serve on the Nominating or Credentials and Election committees. The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection, qualifications and expectations of directors and committee members. Cooperative bylaws outline the criteria for the director selection process. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee and Credentials and Election Committee for this year. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of qualifying nominations and post it at the cooperative office. The Credentials and Election Committee oversees the director election procedure.

Do not miss your chance to vote for the person you want to represent your area. Come to the 84th Annual Meeting of New Enterprise REC, Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the Southern Cove Power Reunion Grounds in New Enterprise. We will be posting more annual meeting news in future *Penn Lines* issues, on our Facebook page, and on the cooperative website, newenterpriserec.com. ☼

There is help paying your electric or heating fuel bill

THE LOW INCOME Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills. The program started in October 2021 and will end May 6, 2022.

To receive help:

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

Two grants are 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 \$500 to \$1,000. The grants are based on your household size, income and type of heating.

Crisis grants are for emergency situations, where you are in danger of losing

your heat. You can receive more than one crisis grant during the season. The maximum benefit amount is \$1,200.

Emergency situations are:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- ▶ Lack of fuel
- ▶ Termination of electric service
- ▶ Danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated

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

When you apply, you will need the

following information:

- ▶ Names of people in your household
- ▶ Dates of birth for all household members
- ▶ Social Security numbers for all household members
- ▶ Proof of income for all household members
- ▶ A recent heating bill

Youth Tour canceled for 2022

Normally, this is the time of year we start promoting the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, like 2020 and 2021, Youth Tour has been canceled for 2022.



Youth Tour will resume once conditions have improved.

Happy New Year

from:

Dave Bequeath, Curtis Brant, Merle Helsel, Robert Guyer
Tim Newman, Mark Swope & Leroy Walls,

2022

Wendy Conley, Zach Conley, Roman Dell, Kyler Fink,
Ron Houck, Bobbi McInay, Mark Morrison, Mark Replogle,
Mike Shawley, Brawna Sell, Ike Threadgill, Randy Walker

Beware of the ‘silent killer’ this winter

CARBON monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is created when common fuels, such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal, burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is often called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of detection technology, such as a CO alarm.

Installation tips:

- ▶ Install CO alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Interconnected CO alarms provide the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Also, CO alarms are not a substitute for smoke alarms. Install both types of alarms in your home.
- ▶ Purchase CO alarms from a reputable retailer that you trust.
- ▶ Choose alarms that bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for proper placement and installation height.

Maintenance tips:

- ▶ Test CO alarms at least once a month by pressing the “test” button.
- ▶ Replace CO alarm batteries at least once a year in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. If an alarm “chirps” or “beeps” to indicate low batteries, replace them immediately.
- ▶ Replace your CO alarms in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Alarm tips:

- ▶ Make sure that everyone in your family knows the difference between the sound of the CO alarms and the smoke alarms. They should also know the number to call for a CO emergency.
- ▶ If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move everyone in the home outside to get fresh air.
- ▶ Never ignore a sounding CO alarm.

Metering and data technician hired

CHANGE is happening at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). A new position has been created to handle metering in the ever-changing world of data information.

New Enterprise REC lineman Isaac “Ike” Threadgill will be taking on the new role of metering and data technician.

Before joining New Enterprise REC in July 2018, Ike worked in the oil and gas industry in Potter County.

Ike had always felt he was meant to do more here at the cooperative since he started. He wasn’t sure what he was meant to do so he waited. When the metering and data technician job became available, he knew. This role will allow him to get more involved in different aspects of the industry.

Even though Ike is young, he is looking ahead and hopes this will be



Isaac Threadgill

one stepping stone into his future career at New Enterprise REC. ❁

Pennsylvania sales tax exemption certificate

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is required by the state to charge sales tax on any meter not having a Pennsylvania sales tax blanket exemption certificate.

These certificates are mailed every three years. If we don’t receive your certificate, we are required to charge your account sales tax. In most cases, you shouldn’t be paying sales tax. Look at your bill to see if you are being charged sales tax.

The certificates will be sent at the end of February or first part of March. Not all members receive the certificates in the same year. We mail approximately 1,000 each year.

Here are a few reasons for being exempt:

- ▶ Primary residence
- ▶ Vacation home
- ▶ A vacant rental property that you do not plan on renting again
- ▶ The property is being used directly by you for manufacturing, mining, farming, or dairy or ship-building operations, which are performed as a business
- ▶ The property will be used for an organization or for institutional activities by a purchaser that is one of the following: a religious organization, a volunteer firefighter’s organization, a nonprofit educational organization or a charitable organization holding a charitable exemption number
- ▶ The property will be directly used by a purchaser for the production, delivery, or rendition of a public utility service and/or for the construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following Tariff of Rates: _____
PA P.U.C. No. _____
Supplement _____
- ▶ Other purpose (Example: personal garage, shed, etc.).

If you are exempt because of one of the reasons listed above, call New Enterprise REC immediately. We will get a new certificate out to you. As soon as you return it to the cooperative, we will remove the tax.

Remember: These certificates are sent out every three years. Each time you receive a sales tax exemption certificate, complete it and return it our office.

The power behind your power

EVERY DAY, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make happen.

New Enterprise REC is a part owner of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative based in Harrisburg that provides power for the 14 rural electric distribution cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We helped to create this second-tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by

electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use National Information Solutions Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workers' compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with other co-ops to create United Utility Supply. The power of this co-op allows us to have

quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

New Enterprise REC is also a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

New Enterprise REC is one of 838 distribution cooperatives serving an estimated 42 million people in 47 states. Each of these electric systems is governed by a board of directors, elected from the membership to set policy and procedures.

So while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible. 🌟

Important safety tips

Unfortunately, at times the power is off due to Mother Nature being in a nasty mood.

Should you experience a power outage, remember to follow these important safety tips:

- ▶ Be aware that using candles, portable heaters, gas appliances, and gasoline- or diesel-powered generators to light or heat your home may be dangerous. Portable heaters and burning candles that are left unattended, especially around children and pets, can create a fire hazard. In addition, portable heaters can produce deadly carbon monoxide (CO) and should never be operated indoors.
- ▶ Gasoline- or diesel-powered generators can also produce CO. Protect the generator from exposure to rain or snow, but DO NOT use the generator indoors or near any open windows or doorways.
- ▶ For heating purposes, use only equipment that is made for home heating. Use all types of heaters carefully and follow all directions for safe use. NEVER use a gas or charcoal grill to heat a building. This could cause a fire or dangerous carbon monoxide gas.
- ▶ Use only seasoned hardwood in wood stoves that heat your home. Do not use trash or cardboard boxes because these items burn unevenly and may contain toxins, which increase the risk of uncontrolled fires.

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