

# 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



### Driving 'thru' the 2021 annual meeting

By Mark Morrison

WHILE 2020 was an unprecedented year affecting all of our lives, it also presented opportunities for the cooperative that it may have never pursued. You may remember that our 2020 annual meeting was postponed due to COVID-19. This was the first time in the history of our cooperative that such regulations and restrictive measures prohibited us from meeting in the traditional format we were all used to.


As we followed guidance throughout 2020, it became evident that our 2021 annual meeting planning and execution would likely be impacted as well. The board discussed several options to ensure that we could hold an annual meeting in 2021 to conduct cooperative business for this year and “catch up” on the business that we were prohibited from conducting in 2020. The decision was made to hold our meeting using a drive-thru format, where members would not have to leave their vehicles, but could still vote and ask questions of directors and staff. This enabled everyone to comply with government rules limiting public gatherings for large groups.

Throughout the months of planning, staff and I were wondering what to expect on meeting day. As we went through our final preparations on the afternoon of June 10, our questions were answered with a line of cars forming a half an hour before our 4 p.m. start time. Members were able to listen to the executive report before being

registered at the first of three stations set up for the drive-thru. Cooperative staff registered each member and passed out the cooperative annual report, meeting survey, and election ballots for the director election. Members continued to the next station, where they handed in their ballots. At the final stop for the meeting, attendees were greeted by members of the board of directors. There, they could chat or ask questions of the board and receive an attendance gift.

Throughout the meeting, I couldn't help but notice how things were going at the three stations around the meeting grounds. Members, employees, and directors were really engaged and having a great time with the meeting format we had set up for this year. I think the Lord helped to lighten the mood and relieve some of our anxiety by blessing us with a very hard rain. It added some adversity to the meeting while at the same time creating a light mood as we pushed through the rain.

Member support of this year's annual meeting went beyond our expectations. We more than doubled our meeting attendance and voting members compared to prior years. The meeting surveys continue to come in, and your responses have been great.

Thank you all for a successful 2021 annual meeting of the members. As always, feel free to give us a call, or stop in and let us know how we are doing serving the membership. 

# Tips for a safe harvest

AGRICULTURE is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous — even deadly — when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ▶ Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- ▶ Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- ▶ If your equipment makes contact with an energized

or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- ▶ Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips. 🌱



## Co-op Connections Card

The Co-op Connection Card offers great savings. Just look at what some of the benefits are:

- ▶ 10% to 85% discounts on most prescriptions at more than 60,000 participating pharmacies. This includes nationwide and local independent pharmacies.
- ▶ 10% to 60% discounts on eyeglasses, contact lenses, eye exams and LASIK.
- ▶ 20% to 40% discounts on dental care, such as cleanings, X-rays, root canals, crowns and orthodontics.
- ▶ PLUS, additional savings on chiropractic visits, lab tests, imaging scans and hearing aids.
- ▶ Great discounts from businesses in your community, including dining, shopping, automotive and much more. Use the card to support store owners in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Big savings when you shop online.
- ▶ Printable coupons for groceries that update daily.



To find participating providers, go to [connections.coop/landing/323-landing.aspx](http://connections.coop/landing/323-landing.aspx). You can also use this link to shop online. Go to “Healthy Savings Discounts” and “Cashback Mall,” and download the shopping assistant to start earning cash back on purchases you make online.

If you lost your card or need a new card, please call the office at 814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177, extension 4612, or email Wendy at [wconley@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:wconley@newenterpriserec.com). 🌱

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Driving safety: distractions, auto accidents, downed power lines

THE POPULARITY of hand-held devices has increased incidents of distracted driving on the road. Activities like texting, talking on the phone, reading, and watching a video take a driver's attention away from the road and driving conditions. It is hazardous for the driver, passengers and bystanders.

Drivers should use extreme caution when traveling near road work or utility roadside work zones. Pay attention when you see "Work Ahead" signs or orange cones that signal work activity.

Focus on potential hazards when driving after a storm — stay away from downed power poles, lines and electrical equipment. Motorists should never drive over a downed line because snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.

When drivers are distracted, there is a risk of an accident with a power pole since they often line the sides of streets and highways. If you are involved in an auto accident with a power pole or you witness one, you must know the steps to take to keep yourself and others safe.

In accidents with power poles, it is likely the pole and power lines will sag or may fall on your car or nearby, which would energize the area around your car with electricity. If you step out

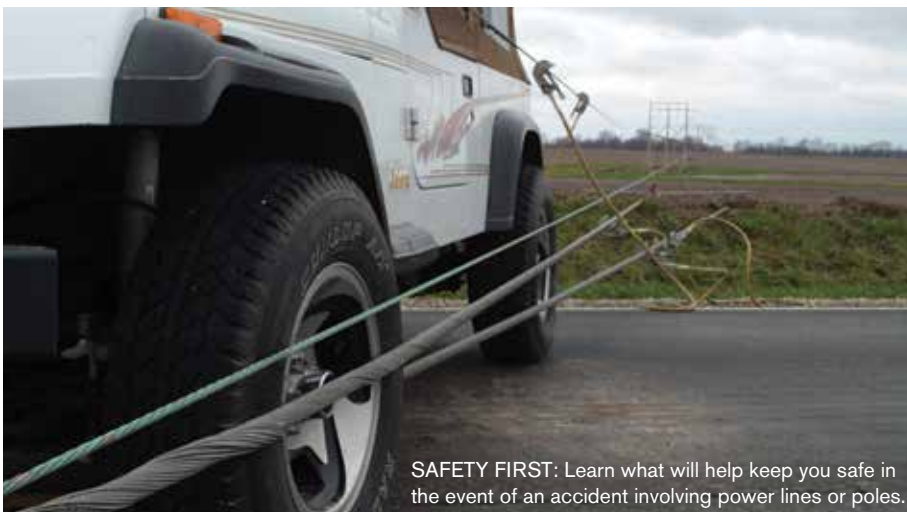
of the car, your body will become the path to the ground for the electricity, which could be deadly. The safest place is nearly always inside the car.

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs they are live. However, they are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in an accident with a power pole. Call 9-1-1 for help and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away.

Stay inside the vehicle unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire, which rarely happens. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground simultaneously. Then hop away with your feet together. That way, there will not be a voltage difference between your feet to give electricity the chance to flow through your body, which could be deadly. Do not get out unless you must.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you could put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is call 9-1-1, stay far away and warn others to stay away from the accident. ⚡



**SAFETY FIRST:** Learn what will help keep you safe in the event of an accident involving power lines or poles.



## BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



### ■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



### ■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



### ■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.



# Smart management. Smart life. SmartHub.

LIFE IS FAST, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Paying your New Enterprise REC bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your New Enterprise REC account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your use, contact customer service, and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks ... or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with your bill from the previous month or even the previous summer if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll also be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a few clicks.

You'll also be able to see important New Enterprise REC notices with SmartHub. You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. You'll even be able to set use thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more than you'd like and take steps to keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

Access SmartHub by visiting New Enterprise REC or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your New Enterprise REC account simply, quickly, and easily with SmartHub.

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub. 



## Going away for the winter?

**New Enterprise REC offers members who will be away from home for an extended period – including “snowbirds” who migrate to warmer climates for the winter – two convenient and timely ways to receive their electric bills while they are gone.**

### Online billing

**New Enterprise REC's SmartHub program gives members the ability to pay their electric bills electronically, either online or through the SmartHub mobile app, which is available for smartphones and tablets.**

**With SmartHub, members receive an email notification when a new bill is generated. They can then pay their bill electronically using a checking account, MasterCard, Visa or Discover card.**

**SmartHub participants also have access to their account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**To sign up, visit New Enterprise's website, [newenterprise.com](http://newenterprise.com), and click on the SmartHub icon on our homepage.**

### Seasonal Address Program

**The co-op also offers a Seasonal Address Program that allows members to receive their electric bills at an alternate mailing address while they are away. It's easy to sign up for the program. Just call our office at 814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177 and provide your alternate address, along with the dates you expect to be away.**

**During this period, your correspondence from New Enterprise REC will be mailed directly to the seasonal address, eliminating the need for the postal service to forward it to you.**

**For more information, call or stop by the office. We are open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**