

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Apply for Youth Tour

Become a CEC  
Director

Stay Safe Around Your  
Fireplace

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# PowerLines

*Courtesy of Patti Betros*

## Doing Things on Purpose

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

I know that when you are reading this article it is February but for printing purposes I had to do it the first week of January. I mention this for two reasons; first to let you know why my articles aren’t always covering the news of the day and second to let you know why I’ll be talking a little about last year. The beginning of the year is a good time to be nostalgic about the past year (Auld Lang Syne) and a good time to plan for the upcoming year.

At your cooperative this process doesn’t involve singing and weight loss, although I could lose a few pounds. Here at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) we look at the past year to measure our progress, identify our strengths and learn from our mistakes. We look to the next year

and make plans to ensure we meet our members’ needs, on purpose. We are certainly appreciative when something good occurs through happenstance but we prefer positive results from proper planning and performance. To that end, CEC’s Board of Director’s and entire staff spent the latter half of 2010 building goals and a three-year strategic plan to meet those goals. Fortunately, I have inherited a well run organization with a dedicated, professional and hardworking group of employees determined to meet your needs. In other words, build on past efforts while making the necessary adjustments to reach our common goals. As you might imagine we all agreed on the improvement part but deciding on what offers the most value to our members is often debated. After all, we do have 25,000 members. Sure

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## ***Doing Things on Purpose/ From Page 1***

safe, reliable, cost-competitive service is easy to identify as something all our members will agree upon. But as members you expect more from your cooperative and, as I've mentioned before, so do we.

To that end we identified areas

cooperatives. Two representatives are selected to visit our nation's capitol, interact with law makers and learn about lawmaking processes. CEC has not participated in this program for many years but we believe this is the right time to become involved again. Other improvements are less visible but may use more resources with our

### **Fireplace Safety:**

1. Have your chimney inspected annually.
2. Do not burn trash in your fireplace.
3. Teach children about fire safety.
4. Keep decorations and flammables away from the fire.



upon which we believe our efforts and resources should focus. The areas include improving system reliability, cost control, member satisfaction and member education. Some additions are small but very visible such as the new addition in our newsletter "Safety MATTERS," by Matt Alderson, manager of safety and operational support. Safety is an underlying thread connecting every activity at CEC and we want to discuss it more frequently. We hope this section provides valuable, common sense tips that will help keep you safe. Also in this issue you will see reference to Youth Tour, a national cooperative program educating young people about electric

continued efforts to improve reliability.

Did you notice CEC returned capital credits in December in the form of a bill credit or check? If not, shame on us. We will continue to make an effort to inform you on what we are doing and how it fits with our goals. Change for change sake is in no one's best interest. If we discover that an initiative or our direction is not working we will use your feedback to help us make corrections. The bottom line is we are working proactively to keep CEC moving in the right direction. Someone once told me that the only constant in life is change. A deep thought for sure but in applying it practically, we are striving to manage changes and make the right steps — on purpose.

## CEC Now Offers Youth Tour to Local Students

CEC proudly announces an invitation for high school juniors to experience a trip of a lifetime. Youth Tour 2011 brings over 1,500 high school students from across America to Washington, D.C., from June 12–17 to experience our nation's capital, sight-see, meet legislators and learn about electric cooperatives. All expenses are paid by CEC.

We encourage interested students and parents to visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) or our Web site [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop), click on the Community tab and choose Youth Tour 2011.

Interested students are required to complete a Youth Tour application provided by your high school guidance counselors or at CEC's Web site. Our board of directors has restricted participation in Youth Tour to high school juniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of the cooperative. Deadline for Youth Tour applications is Feb. 14, 2011.

If you have questions regarding Youth Tour, please contact Ken Maleski at 1-800-521-0570, ext. 2172 or [kmaleski@central.coop](mailto:kmaleski@central.coop).

## Rate Caps, Deregulation and You

Much has been discussed in the local news about electric rate cap removal and rising electricity costs. So how does this affect you as a CEC member? Fortunately it affects you very little. Surrounding electric utilities have had their generation rates (the cost to produce the energy at a power plant) "capped" since 1999. That was the year that Pennsylvanians could shop for a better electric generation price. Because your cooperative is not under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) your generation rate has always been at market price.

CEC charges a generation rate of \$0.067 per kilowatt-hour (Price-to-Compare on your electric bill). If another supplier offers you a price lower than that, by all means choose what makes economic sense.

Unfortunately, no electric supplier has signed a contract to sell to our members. It might be so because our supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative in Harrisburg, Pa., has

worked hard to provide you with a competitive rate.

So if you receive information in the mail, or a phone call at dinner time soliciting your interest in switching to another generation supplier, contact us at 1-800-521-0570, ext. 2172 to find out if that company has a contract with your cooperative. Please be assured that when another supplier does so, we will post this information on our Web site at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) as well as in Power Lines. So let the phone ring ... and enjoy that second piece of pie!

### Save the Date!

This year's Annual Meeting is on Saturday, Aug. 27 at Whitehall Campgrounds. Check future Power Lines for more information.

## Are You Interested in a CEC Director's Seat?

CEC's Board consists of eight directors. Each year two directors are elected from the cooperative membership, giving each elected director a four-year term. Director seats are divided among counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Forest and Venango counties are invited to petition for these two respective seats. To be eligible for director nomination, a member must be a permanent resident in the county of an aforementioned respective seat as well as meet other qualifications provided in the cooperative bylaws.

Members interested in receiving a qualifications list and petition should submit the following coupon no later than April 1, 2011. A list of qualifications along with a petition form will be mailed immediately. Interested members meeting the qualifications should then send a written request (including the interested member's full name, address, telephone number, county of residence and account number) along with a completed petition signed by 20 cooperative members, to the nominating committee at the address provided by May 1, 2011.

In accordance with its bylaws, the cooperative has a process to ensure petitioning members are qualified prior to becoming director nominees. Each year the cooperative board selects a nominating committee which is responsible for determining whether each

petitioner meets the qualifications. The committee reviews the petitions and schedules interviews with each prospective nominee. The committee then submits a list of the eligible candidates for placement on the ballots.

Nominee names, along with a photo and background information, are presented in the July issue of Power Lines. At this time cooperative members are invited to vote by mail or via Internet prior to the Annual Meeting. Members may also vote by paper ballot on the day of the meeting prior to the meeting's commencement. The final election results will be announced prior to adjournment.

**Your board of directors has appointed a nominating committee to review prospective candidates interested in running for CEC director. Committee members are:**

**Armstrong County**

Harvey W. Loose  
East Brady, Pa.

**Forest County**

Dennis Lamb  
Tionesta, Pa.

**Clarion County**

(Replacement  
Pending)

**Venango County**

Carl E. Gadsby  
Grove City, Pa.

**Butler County**

Donald F. Christy  
Saxonburg, Pa.

Joe Gibson  
Parker, Pa.

If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2011 to: Central Electric Cooperative, Nominating Committee, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329.

Please send me a qualification list and petition requirements for being a director nominee to Central Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

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By **Ken Maleski**  
Residential Analyst  
& Advisor

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Check it out!



## Low-Hanging Energy Savings

All of us want to save energy. But most of us do not have a bag full of money required to make a huge investment. Here are some low-cost and no-cost ways to assure energy savings. These will not cut your energy bill in half, but over a year the savings add up:

- Install compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). They use 1/5 the energy of regular bulbs (choose the 23-watt variety).
- Lower the water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Insulate your hot water lines in an unconditioned basement.

- Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month.
- Caulk and seal all leaks in your home (windy days help to find them).
- Wash laundry in cold water.
- Hang clothes in basement (if heated) in the winter.
- Clean refrigerator and deep freezer coils at least once a year.
- Install a programmable thermostat on your furnace.

# SAFETY

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## Fireplace Safety Tips

Fireplace safety is extremely important. The following safety tips are for both wood burning and gas fireplaces:

- Open the damper before starting a wood-burning fire.
- Keep chimney and roof top clear of debris.
- Use a chimney cap.
- Have your chimney inspected annually.
- Do not burn trash in your fireplace.



Matt Alderson  
Manager of Safety and  
Operational Support

- Do not use lighter fluid to start a fire, use long matches instead.
- Do not use charcoal in your fireplace to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep decorations and flammables away from the fire.
- Teach children about fire safety.
- Never leave a wood-burning fire unattended.

*Sources: Anne Clarke, expert author with Ezine Articles and Matt Alderson*

## Recipe of the Month

### Warm Winter Lemon Cake

#### Ingredients:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 (4 ounce) serving size boxes of instant lemon pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 1-1/4 cups water

#### Directions:

1. Mix 1 box yellow cake mix according to package directions.
2. Pour into a greased 9 X 13 inch cake pan. Set aside.
3. Pour milk and water into a large bowl and add instant lemon pudding mix.
4. With a wire whisk beat for 2 minutes. Pour over cake. (Place cake pan on cookie sheet to catch spills as it bubbles.)
5. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 55-60 minutes. Let set 20 minutes before serving. Top with raspberries or cool whip.

*Recipe submitted by Mary Ellen Edinger*

**All recipes submitted will automatically be entered in the 2011 Annual Meeting Recipe Contest.**

#### Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at [jbrison@central.coop](mailto:jbrison@central.coop) or mail to Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw  
*CEO and General Manager*

Lisa A. Hoover  
*Director of Consumer Services*

Dennis W. Beggs  
*Director of Finance*

Christina J. O'Donnell  
*Director of Communication and Marketing*

Stephanie Deal  
*Director of Human Resources and Administration*

Fred E. Terwilliger  
*Director of Engineering and Operations*

## Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

**Daniel G. Buchanan of Harrisville**

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

#### Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all CEC members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For a faster entry you may complete the survey online at [www.central.coop/quiz](http://www.central.coop/quiz).

**1. True or False:** CEC now offers Youth Tour to local high school sophomores.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** If you are interested in being a director nominee you must complete the coupon and return it by April 1, 2011.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** You should clean your refrigerator and deep freezer coils every five years.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Account No:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Central Electric Cooperative**

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