

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

## Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



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## We are Different

BY MATT BOSHAW  
CEO & General Manager

Last month I wrote about rate pressures and gave the news that we will be having a rate increase in 2026. By now, the details of that rate increase will have been announced. It is important that we are transparent about the factors that lead to having to raise our members' rates and how many of these challenges are the same as those experienced by our neighboring investor-owned utilities. Due to the similarities, it is easy to forget that CEC is different and demonstrably better than our investor-owned counterparts. I think it is crucial to point out how, despite the similarities, there are significant differences, and those differences offer value to our membership.

We are a private, not-for-profit distribution electric cooperative that is structured differently than an investor-owned utility. Why does this matter? Since we operate without a profit motive, we have no investors expecting a return on an investment, meaning all the revenue is reinvested into our system or returned to you, our member-owners, through our patronage capital rotation

program. Additionally, our structure and collaboration with our generation and transmission cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative (Allegheny), allows us to have less exposure to the volatility of the marketplace than our investor-owned neighbors. Allegheny owns a significant portion of our necessary generating resources and is therefore purchasing a smaller portion of our supply from the market.

You are members of the cooperative, not simply customers. While you are provided with electrical service and billed accordingly like a customer would be, that is where the similarity ends. As a member, you are an owner of your cooperative. You have equity in our system based on your usage over time and have direct impact on how we operate. Local governance is another significant advantage to a cooperative. We are directly governed by a member-elected Board of Directors made up of members. This local governance ensures the needs of the membership are met and decisions are made by those living in our communities.

We also offer value-added services that benefit the community. For example, each year we hold a First Responders

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Electrical Hazards Training during which we invite local first responders to learn about the potential electric hazards they may encounter on the job and how to remain safe. CEC's Safety City program is another provided service where we go to elementary schools throughout our service territory to educate kids about electrical safety. CEC also provides energy assistance programs that help our members pay their bills. During this period of no-state budget, a federal government shutdown, and uncertainty about government-funded energy assistance for low-income households, this service is especially valuable. CEC utilizes unclaimed patronage capital, known as escheats, to fund these programs and other valuable services without impacting our members' rates.

While less tangible than insulating members from some market pressures or the list of value-added services, another thing that sets us apart is our culture. Those of you that attended our Annual Meeting of the Members in August will notice that we begin that event with a prayer, the National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance. During these divisive and challenging times, these illustrations of cooperative members coming together for our common values represent what makes us different. Although I spent last month's article describing specific rate pressures that are common to all distribution electric companies, I hope this article illustrates how our differences mitigate the pressure and offer so much more than just customer service.

As this is my last article of 2025, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and to thank you for your continued support and participation with your cooperative.

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP

**Matthew P. Boshaw**

*CEO & General Manager*

**Chester Conti**

*Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO*

**Lisa A. Hoover**

*Director of Member Services*

**Christopher W. Kossman**

*Director of Information Technology*

**Fred E. Terwilliger**

*Assistant General Manager/COO*

## CEC Holiday Closures

**Dec. 24 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve**

**Dec. 25 for Christmas Day**  
(normal business hours resume Dec. 26)

**Dec. 31 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve**

**Jan. 1 for New Year's Day**  
(normal business hours resume Jan 2)

**A safe home  
is the best  
gift of all.**

**Stay merry,  
Stay mindful!**





## 2025 Photo Contest Winners

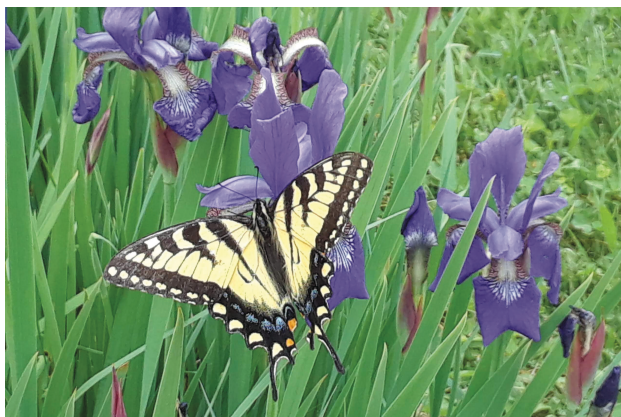
Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Photo Contest! After 1,993 online and paper (via the Power Lines newsletter) votes, our top three photographs have been selected. Congratulations to the following winners!



**First Place:** “Somewhere,” Carol Kruth of Saxonburg



**Second Place:** “Picture Perfect!,”  
Kathy Palla of Chicora



**Third Place:** “Summer Beauty,”  
Larry Gifford of Boyers

## Last Call for the CEC Christmas Lights Contest!

Decorate your home and you could win the CEC Christmas Lights Contest! First place, also known as the Griswold Award, will receive a \$500 bill credit and \$500 donation to a charity of your choice. Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit, and third place a \$100 bill credit.

The contest is open to both residential and commercial CEC members. Enter on CEC’s website and attach a photo or video of the display before Dec. 7. Voting is open to all and will take place on CEC’s website until Dec. 19. The winners will be announced on CEC’s website on Dec. 22.

**Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) for contest details!**



# Be Prepared for Winter Storms

by The Safety and Loss Control Administrator

**W**hen winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm.

While winter storm severity varies across the country, Pennsylvania residents are often affected by extreme winter weather at some point. CEC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

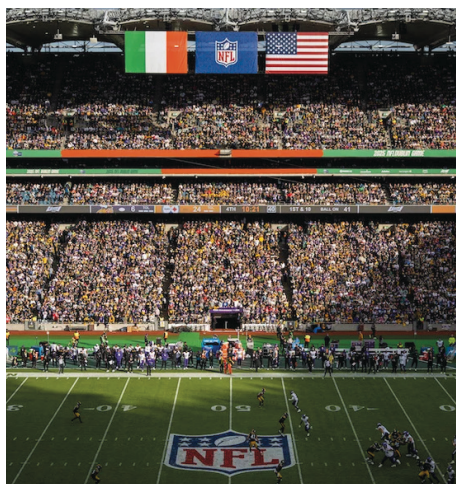
Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

**1. Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline, propane, or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

**2. Stay fed** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

**3. Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 800-282-8610 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Central Electric Cooperative is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit [www.central.coop/winter-weather-safety-tips](http://www.central.coop/winter-weather-safety-tips).



**Role:** Director of Member Services  
**Employee Since:** 1991

## Employee Spotlight: Lisa Hoover



**What do you do at CEC?** I am the Director of the Member Services department.



**What is something you're most proud of?** There are two things: My beautiful, successful daughter Jessica and being the first person in my family to get a 4-year college degree.



**What is one thing on your bucket list?** Go to every NFL stadium in the country to watch a football game. It would be a bonus if Steelers were playing but if not, it would still count.



**What was your first job?** I was a lifeguard at the city pool when I was 16 years old.



**What was the most memorable trip you've been on?** I recently traveled to Dublin, Ireland to watch the Steelers take on the Vikings. The locals were incredibly welcoming, and the city was full of life.





## CEC Employees Give Back

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

**S**trong communities are built by the people who live within them and at Central Electric Cooperative, we're proud to support the communities we serve. Since this time of year is well known as the season of giving, we'd like to highlight some of the ways individual CEC employees gave back this year.

Shannon B., Billing/Payment Coordinator: *"My husband and I go to a Holiday House Tour event that benefits Toys for Tots. We set up a table there and sell my handmade silverware ornaments then, donate all profits to Toys for Tots as well. We've been going for 4 years now."*

Katrina K., Executive Assistant: *"This year, I volunteered at 'Katie's Kitchen,' serving meals to individuals throughout Butler County. I've assisted with preparing items for 'Bundle Up Butler,' supporting local families in need, and dedicated time to the 'Reach and Rise Mentoring Program' at the YMCA, providing guidance and support to youth throughout the year."*

Josh W., GIS/Engineering Analyst: *"I got my Sawyer Chainsaw Certification through the North Country Trail Association which allowed me to participate in a trail clearing weekend at Kinzua Dam. I also have been helping with ongoing efforts to build a bike trail between*



*Foxburg and Emlenton as part of the Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County (ART in CC)."*

Kayla C., Human Resource Administrator: *"I volunteered at Perry Township Community Days the past 3 years and served as a dog handler for youth pheasant hunts in conjunction with Pheasants Forever for 2 years."*

Megan M., Purchaser and Warehouse Supervisor: *"I've been involved with my church's youth group doing community outreach programs. Each year, we organize mission trips. Some local, like last year's in Cincinnati, Ohio, and others farther away, like the one year in Puerto Rico. Throughout 2025, we also supported local elderly residents by helping with things like yard work: raking leaves, trimming trees, and garden cleanup, that kind of work. For younger children in the community, we planned and hosted events like Easter egg hunts and other family-friendly activities. I've been doing this for 5 years."*

"Concern for Community" is one of the seven principles that co-ops follow, including your local electric cooperative. In 2025, CEC encouraged employees to participate in several initiatives such as Angels for Christmas, providing gifts for local children in need, a Back to School Hygiene Drive (pictured left), and a Winter Warm-Up Drive. It is because of CEC employees' participation and their financial contributions we can make a meaningful impact on the community.

Giving back and staying connected to our neighbors is part of what makes our communities strong. We encourage you to lend a hand wherever you can and wish you a wonderful holiday season!

## Highschool Juniors: Apply for a Free Trip to Washington, D.C!

High school juniors can join students from across the country for a FREE, all-expenses-paid leadership experience in Washington, D.C., sponsored by CEC. From June 15–20, 2026, selected Youth Tour students will explore the nation's capital, visiting iconic museums, monuments, and memorials. You'll dive into U.S. history, discover how democracy

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works, and connect with peers from all over the country.

This exciting and educational trip also offers resume-boosting activities and leadership development opportunities that will set you apart. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) to learn more and apply today!





## Energy Star Gift Giving

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Let's be honest, holiday shopping can become overwhelming, but I'm here to offer advice to make the process easier. If you're looking for a gift that can make a difference, ENERGY STAR certified products may be for you. This holiday season, try choosing something energy smart and thoughtful that brings savings into your loved ones' homes. Whether you are shopping for an appliance, a tablet or a smart thermostat, choosing one with ENERGY STAR certification is a simple way to make a meaningful impact.

What makes a gift with ENERGY STAR certification so valuable?

- Lower energy without sacrificing performance
- Save on energy usage
- Help the environment, one step at a time

The ENERGY STAR website makes it easy to browse and find items with the latest features that save energy. In their words, "It's a gift that does a world of good for your loved ones and the planet," and we couldn't have said it better ourselves.

While you are out holiday shopping for electronics or appliances, be sure to check if it has earned ENERGY STAR certification and let's make energy efficiency part of your holiday checklist this year. For more information, please visit [www.energystar.gov/products/holiday](http://www.energystar.gov/products/holiday) or scan the QR code below.

## Our Promise to You

As the demand for electricity continues to grow, our commitment to providing you with reliable power remains steadfast. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to:

- Advocating for energy policies that support our local communities.
- Leveraging innovative technologies to strengthen our grid.
- Listening to your feedback to enhance co-op programs and services.



## 2026 CEC Line Clearing

The leading cause of outages are trees that grow into or fall on power lines. Damage can happen suddenly during storms or gradually as branches crowd or rub against the lines.

Starting January 1, 2026, line clearing crews will work in the areas surrounding the Nectarine, Bullion, Sandy Creek, and Saxonburg substations. CEC will update members throughout 2026 as crews continue to work throughout the service territory.

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CEC utilizes Asplundh, Tree Smiths Utility Arborists, Davey Tree Service, Penn Lines, and O'Connell Electric to carry out trimming services. Members may encounter contracted crews. All contractors carry company issued identification.

Central Electric Cooperative respects property owners' rights and will complete the work as quickly and professionally as possible. If you have any questions, please contact CEC at 800-521-0570.



## Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter the CEC Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline to submit your coloring page is Jan. 9, 2026. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5-12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. Winners will be announced on our website in January 2026 and in the March newsletter. Mail entries to Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

# *Merry Christmas!*





From the Kitchen of:

Arla Cope



## RECIPE: **FAST FIXIN' CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE**

### INGREDIENTS:

1 box of Devil's Food Cake mix

1/4 c. oil

2 eggs

1 1/4 c. water

3.4 oz. box of chocolate instant pudding mix

1 c. chocolate chips

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Pour oil into 13x9 pan and tilt the pan until bottom is covered in oil.

2. Combine the rest of the ingredients in bowl. Then scrape the sides and spread batter evenly in pan. Bake for 35-45 min; until toothpick comes out clean.

3. Let cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cut and serve directly from pan and enjoy!

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049



**Central Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Your Board of Directors

**From left (back row):** Kenneth Durrett, Vice President, Butler County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Robert Smith, Butler County; Jody Weaver, President, Clarion County; **(front)** Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Dana Kellogg, Venango County; Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.



[central.coop/meet-your-directors](http://central.coop/meet-your-directors)

**MISSION:** CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049

Member Services: 800-521-0570

Outages: 800-282-8610

**Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**ON THE GO AND  
IN CONTROL.**

### MANAGE

your account

### REPORT

service issues

### VIEW AND PAY

your bill

### RECEIVE

key notices

### MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your  
hand and online.*



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stay up to date on CEC news.

