

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

## Central Electric Cooperative

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

Photographed by Jean Simcic

### “WATTS” INSIDE

- 3 2025 Director Candidates
- 4 Extreme Heat Safety
- 4 Employee Spotlight
- 5 2025 Annual Business Meeting
- 6 Saving Money in Extreme Heat
- 6 Photo Contest Voting
- 7 Energy Explorers
- 8 Italian Cream Cake Recipe

## Proactive Planning Lessens Blow of Rising Prices

BY MATT BOSHAW  
CEO & General Manager

Proper planning prevents poor performance. I left out a more colorful “P” word that my old football coaches always included, but you get the idea, hope is not a plan. This month I was provided a basis for my article from our Statewide Association (PREA). Since all cooperatives in the PREA benefit from the planning efforts of the same generation and transmission cooperative, it made sense to share the same information with cooperative members across Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Let’s face it: We are a power-hungry generation.

And while we’re talking on our smartphones, asking human-like computers for advice and puttering around the yard with electric lawn mowers and weed eaters, dark clouds are gathering over the grid.

Will we have enough energy to power our ever-growing needs? Some experts don’t think so.

They point to our voracious appetites for all kinds of watts – kilowatts, megawatts, you name it – and to head-scratching energy policies that are driving traditional resources, like coal and natural gas plants, off the grid faster than new resources can come on-line.

While steps are being taken to address the imbalance at state and national levels, some damage has already been done, resulting in higher costs to deliver electricity. Lots of factors are at play, but for members wondering what this means for their household budgets, it is important to understand PJM Interconnection, its recent capacity auction, and the anticipated impact on our rates.

PJM oversees the multi-state power grid that Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is plugged into and coordinates the flow of electricity from generators to local utilities like ours. It also operates wholesale markets and plans for future grid needs. Each year, PJM hosts a capacity auction to ensure it has enough electricity to meet peak demand in the future.

Recently, in reaction to increased demand and tightened supply, capacity market prices didn’t just increase, they

*Continued on page 2*



skyrocketed – by more than 800% for the 2025-2026 delivery year. And for consumers across the grid, that signals one thing: potentially higher electric bills.

Fortunately, CEC gets its wholesale power from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), which we own and operate along with 13 other rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and 1 in New Jersey. Over the decades, the Allegheny board — overseen by directors from each of these 14 cooperatives — has made forward-thinking investments in energy resources including nuclear and hydropower. Today, these investments provide nearly 67% of the electricity we distribute to our members.

These assets are important because they shield us – and you – from the energy market’s volatility, including the extremes in capacity pricing that we’ve seen and will likely continue to see. Neighboring investor-owned utilities buy 100% of their energy on the open energy market, making them and their rates vulnerable to that volatility. Our exposure, however, is limited because our supplier, Allegheny, only needs to buy about one-third – or around 33% – of our energy needs from outside sources. And with long-term power-purchase contracts in place to further manage risk, we’ve set the stage for additional price stability.

As a result, Allegheny offers some of the lowest, least-volatile generation rates in the PJM region and that is not going to change when the 2026 numbers are set later this year. Further, Allegheny continues to find ways to reduce costs and maintain stability. It recently secured millions in federal grant funding to boost its supply of affordable, carbon-free energy and add to its nuclear resources. That funding will help stabilize overall energy costs for consumers.

At CEC, rising costs are never taken lightly, and rate increases are only considered as a last resort. As a matter of fact, we have not had a rate increase since January of 2023, and we are closely monitoring costs and expenses

in an effort to keep rates fixed throughout 2025. Our board of directors is made up of cooperative members just like you, so they understand the impact that rate changes have on local families and the rural communities they serve. That’s why we will continue to work with partners, like Allegheny, to keep the safe delivery of electricity as affordable as possible.



**Central Electric Cooperative**

# 88TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Attendees can expect official election results, remarks from our CEO and General Manager, a Q&A session, and educational information.

**AUGUST 6**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**ACV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

800-521-0570 | [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

<b>Matthew P. Boshaw</b>	<i>CEO &amp; General Manager</i>
<b>Chester Conti</b>	<i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i>
<b>Lisa A. Hoover</b>	<i>Director of Member Services</i>
<b>Christopher W. Kossman</b>	<i>Director of Information Technology</i>
<b>Fred E. Terwilliger</b>	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

# 2025 Director Candidates



## **Venango County: Dana Kellogg of Cranberry**

Mr. Kellogg, an Air Force Veteran, has been a CEC Member since 2004. He is currently employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the Operations Manager for the facility in Polk, PA. One of his responsibilities includes managing the electrical safety program. While serving in the Air Force, Mr. Kellogg completed numerous courses in electrical safety. He is a member of the Veterans Administration and a Desert Storm Veteran.



## **Venango County: Debra Erhart of Venus**

Mrs. Ehrhart has been a CEC member since 2006. After owning and operating her own business for 20 years, she retired from Matric Limited where she spent 18 years of service as a Quality Assurance Engineer. Mrs. Ehrhart has numerous certifications including Electronic Technician and NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Arc Flash. She is a member of CEC's 2024-2025 Member Aware Advisory Committee and the Clarion County Garden Club. Her goal as a board member would be to promote and support CEC ownership generation and to keep member rates as low as possible.



## **Venango County: Lisa Groner of Cranberry**

Lisa Groner has been a CEC Member since 1981. With degrees in Communications, Business and Computer Science, she started at CS Technologies Plus, a leading IT provider in Seneca, in 1983 and bought the company in 2005. She is currently the President/CEO. She was instrumental in bringing dial-up Internet services to multiple counties in NW PA. She is deeply involved in community leadership, serving on multiple boards/committees, including the Venango Chamber of Commerce, Cranberry Festival, Venango Training and Development Center, Cranberry Township Economic Development Committee, Junior Achievement, and the UPMC Hospital Foundation. Lisa and her husband, John, reside in Cranberry and have 4 children.



## **Venango County: Richard Kralj of Emlenton**

Mr. Kralj has been a CEC member since 2000. He currently works for Penn State University as the Senior Extension Educator in the College of Agriculture within the Extension Department. He is in his 25th year of service at the University. He holds a master's degree and is a member of the Pennsylvania State Grange, Local Chapter #1705 Scrubgrass Grange.



## **Venango County: Travis Crate of Venus**

Mr. Crate has been a CEC member since 1998. He is currently employed at the Venango Technology Center, where he has 27 years of service, teaching welding to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. Mr. Crate also works at the Community College of Allegheny County. He is working on his Cooperative Education Degree and holds degrees from Clarion University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a Pinegrove Township Supervisor, a Mayfest Association Organizer and has served on the Cranberry School Board of Directors. He and his wife of 30 years, Julie, have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. He has lived in Venango County for the majority of his life except for when his wife served in the U.S. Air Force in North Carolina.



# Extreme Heat Safety

by Grant Potsubay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control

Pennsylvania summers can be intense, but that doesn't stop people from braving the outdoors. For many, it's the perfect season for yard work, family gatherings, picnics, and hiking trips. However, with all the excitement, the dangers of extreme heat can sometimes be overlooked. To help you stay cool and safe, below is a handy guide with essential extreme heat survival tips!

## Beat the Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**STAY INFORMED:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.



**STAY COOL:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours.



**STAY HYDRATED/DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Drink fluids regularly, regardless of activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.



**DON'T** leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.



**DO** check on elderly friends and neighbors.



**Role:** Executive Assistant  
**Employee Since:** March 2025

## Employee Spotlight: Katrina Konieczny



**What do you do at CEC?** Executive Assistant



**What is one thing about yourself most people may not know?** I've gone skydiving. It was an incredible experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone. The adrenaline rush and view from up there was unforgettable.



**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** I really enjoy spending time in nature. Fishing is one of my favorite pastimes because it allows me to relax and enjoy the tranquility of being on the water. I also enjoy golfing, which is a fun way to challenge myself and enjoy the outdoors with friends.



**What is your least favorite food?** Olives. I've tried to like them, but there is something about the taste and texture that doesn't sit well with me.



**What is something you're most proud of?** My mother. Her strength, kindness, and resilience inspire me every day. She's been a constant source of support and encouragement, always believing in me and teaching me the importance of perseverance and compassion.

# 2025 Annual Business Meeting

CEC's 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Aug. 6 at Allegheny-Clarion Valley Elementary School in Foxburg, PA. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

This year's meeting will closely resemble last year's, taking place once again in the elementary school's air-conditioned cafeteria.

Attendees of the Annual Business Meeting can look forward to official board election results, remarks from our CEO and General Manager, a question-and-answer session, and educational information.

Light refreshments will be available. Please note that the educational center will be open from 5- 6 p.m.

**Members who attend the Annual Business Meeting will receive a bill credit. Additionally, attendees will be entered to win Visa gift cards!**

If you have any questions you would like addressed at the business meeting, please share your question by mailing in the below ticket or by filling it out on our website on the Annual Business Meeting page.

We look forward to seeing you on August 6 at the 88th Annual Business Meeting!



President Robert Smith speaking at CEC's 87th Annual Business Meeting on Aug. 8, 2024.

## Submit a Question to be Addressed at the Annual Business Meeting

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_



## Saving Money in the Extreme Heat

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Summertime can have extreme temperatures, which, like the cold of winter, can cause your energy usage to rise. We have talked about how to save in the winter, but let's switch gears and talk about how to save in the summer. Keeping your windows shut and blinds or curtains closed helps keep direct sunlight from heating up the inside of your home. Checking for air leaks around your windows and doors is important since these gaps can cause significant energy loss, accounting for up to 40% of the energy needed to heat and cool a home. If you do find a leak, be sure to correct the problem as soon as possible.

If you have air conditioning when there is extreme heat, your air conditioner is working even harder to try and keep up. Setting your thermostat as high as possible while maintaining it to stay comfortable is going to help reduce energy consumption. A smart thermostat can help too as it is used to set a schedule or adjust the temperature when no one is home or sleeping. Ceiling fans can also be a huge help to keep air flowing and pushing the cooler air back down. Remember ceiling fans are useful when you are in the room but be sure to shut them off when you leave the room.

If you've ever seen CEC's tabletop lightbulb display, you've seen the difference in light bulb types, the usage and even felt the heat some bulbs produce. Replacing

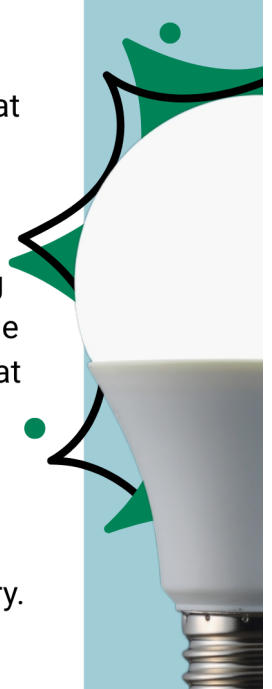
old incandescent bulbs with LED lights not only helps eliminate the unwanted heat being produced but saves energy. Old incandescent bulbs can reach up to 200 degrees, while an LED bulb stays below 90 degrees.

This summer, remember, small changes in your habits or in your home could have a big impact on your energy use.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day, when outdoor temperatures are highest, and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

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



## Photo Contest Voting

Don't forget to vote for your favorite photos for the 2025 Photo Contest! The top three winners will receive a prize: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place.

**Members can vote for their favorite photos on our website from now until July 25.** Then voting begins for the top three photos from August 1 and end October 17. Members will also have the opportunity to vote for the top three photos using a ballot in the September issue of this newsletter.

Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in future publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October.





# WATER SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Outdoor water activities and electricity never mix because water is a powerful conductor of electricity. When electrical devices or cords come into contact with water—like at a pool, lake or beach—it can cause serious electric shocks. Keep all electrical items far away from water and always follow safety rules when you're outside near water.

**Read the sentences below, then unscramble the bolded letters to complete the safety tips.**



1. Never touch electrical **csevi**ed, switches or plugs when your hands are wet.
2. Always place **lacertcei**l items like radios, speakers or lights at least 10 feet away from the water's edge.
3. After using outdoor electronics, **ngul**up them and store them away from water to prevent accidents.
4. Keep extension **dsroc** far away from water sources to prevent tripping hazards.
5. Always pay attention to "no **wmsini**ng" signs, whether at the pool, beach or lake.

Answer Key

1) devices 2) electrical 3) unplugged 4) cords 5) swimming

From the Kitchen of:  
Sarah Perrine



## RECIPE: ITALIAN CREAM CAKE

### INGREDIENTS:

1 c. buttermilk	2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda	1/2 c. vegetable oil
2 c. white sugar	8 oz. cream cheese, softened
4 eggs, seperated	1-2 c. pecans (to taste)
1 c. butter, softened	1-2 c. coconut flakes (to taste)
2 tsp. vanilla extract	4 c. powdered sugar
1/2 c. shortening	

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cake:** Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease three 9-inch round cake pans.
- In a bowl, combine baking soda and buttermilk.
- In a separate bowl (or stand mixer), cream sugar, 1/2 c. butter, oil, and shortening. Add egg yolks one at a time, beating well in between. Mix buttermilk mixture alternately with flour into creamed mixture. Stir in 1 tsp. vanilla.
- Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold a third of the whites into the batter. Fold in remaining whites. Stir in coconut and pecans. Pour batter into pans and bake for 25-30 minutes or until cakes pass the toothpick test. Cool cakes
- Frosting:** Beat together cream cheese, 1/2 c. butter, and 1 tsp. vanilla. Blend in powdered sugar. Stir in chopped pecans. Assemble with frosting between layers and then cover entire cake. 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, Butler County; Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Jody Weaver, Vice President, Clarion County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; (front) Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong 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.*



**Missed an issue?**

**Catch up at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)**

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

