

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



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## Revisiting Net-Metering

**BY MATT BOSHAW**  
CEO & General Manager

A recent increase in conversation regarding net-metering led me to dust off and update an article first printed in November of 2022 in order to clarify Central Electric Cooperative’s (CEC’s) approach to the program. Net-metering is the manner in which CEC accommodates the interconnection to the distribution grid of qualifying renewable facilities, typically solar, by individual homes or businesses.

As an electric cooperative, CEC is not included in the law that requires electric distribution utilities to accommodate net-metering but we, and all the cooperatives in Pennsylvania, have policies that allow our members to participate should they choose to. CEC created its policy in 2006. Our policy limits the size of the facility that is interconnected to reflect the intent of net-metering, to reduce the generation supply required and to offset the member’s usage. For several years, no one availed themselves of the

process and then a few early adopters installed systems. When government subsidy became available to those interested in installing systems, we began to see a greater take rate but up until a few years ago we still had very few participants. Throughout the last few years, we have seen significant growth in the number of interconnected systems and we are up to about 100 now.

In addition to the increase in the number of members participating, the size of the system installed has generally increased as well, a significant departure from the intent of the net-metering law. As enacted, the net-metering law was intended to provide individuals the opportunity to utilize qualifying renewable facilities to offset their own electric usage. The allowance to sell power back to the energy provider was only intended to accommodate the variable nature of both the generation and usage of the power because they rarely match exactly. It was never the intent for individual adopters to become independent power producers that are required to serve load with their

*Continued on page 2*



individual generating systems. One hundred is still not a substantial percentage of our 25,500 accounts, but the increased growth and size of the systems required our attention.

This growth has required CEC to change our net-metering policy and practices to ensure all members are treated fairly. The time and administration associated with the growing demand creates cost and schedule impacts for our members. Additionally, accounts that have net-metering facilities are directly subsidized by those that do not. This is an important point that is not always immediately apparent.

Our residential rate is broken into three parts, a basic charge, a distribution energy charge, and a generation and transmission (G&T) energy charge. The two distribution components are intended to cover the cost of the distribution system and those costs exist whether a member uses power from our system or not. You can think of it as the cost of having the system connected to your home or business. The generation costs, the G of the G&T, are only there when members use power, and we must pay for the energy. So, in cases where members remain connected to the system but use no electricity, they are not covering the portion of the distribution system costs associated with their access. As those costs exist whether power is used or not, the remainder of our membership is covering those costs. This subsidy is mitigated somewhat by the fixed base charge, but it does not cover the total expense. This problem tends to impact lower income members to a greater extent as thus far they have been least able to install interconnected facilities.

As you might expect states that are more conducive to solar generation are further along this path than Pennsylvania. They have identified the need for net-metering members to pay the necessary costs associated with the distribution system availability and have changed legislation to allow net-metering to be altered so that the costs they are offsetting or avoiding are

the costs that they will not pay. CEC changed our policies and practices regarding net-metering as of January 2024 to more accurately reimburse net-metering members for the avoided cost of the power they push into the system, thus mitigating the subsidy that all those members without net-metering facilities have been paying. The recent conversation on the subject has revolved around the amount per kWh paid to the participating members. That amount is provided to us by our generation and transmission supplier and changes each year. The amount has changed every year and matches what is referred to as the load following contract as this is the last energy purchased by and from our G&T and most accurately reflects the avoided cost.

As a distribution cooperative, we are generation agnostic in that we are happy to accommodate a member's desire to generate their own resource. But as more members avail themselves of that option, we are obligated to revise our rate making to make sure those choices do not harm the remainder of our membership.

You have likely been reading and hearing a lot about large solar installations or "solar farms" being discussed in our area. I think it is important to note that these are not net-metering facilities and do not have the impact on our membership associated with net-metered facilities. These are considered independent power producers and simply access the larger grid through our system. This article discusses this issue at a high level and does not get into the details of individual circumstances, so, if you have questions, please let us know and we will make sure you have the information you need.

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**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*



**Central Electric Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**87th Annual Business Meeting**

**AC Valley Elementary School**  
**Thursday, August 8**  
**6:00 p.m.**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## 2024 Director Candidates



### **Butler County: Kenneth Durrett,** Incumbent Nominee, Butler

Mr. Durrett has been a CEC member since 1996 and has served on the board of directors since 2009. He has earned his Board Leadership Certificate through NRECA. He has over 35 years of business experience and has held senior level finance and executive positions (VP Finance, CFO and President) within multiple companies.

Mr. Durrett is currently working with small to mid-size businesses, helping them grow revenues, improve profitability, obtain financing, and achieve other business objectives. He began his career working for Price Waterhouse (now PwC) and is a CPA. Mr. Durrett is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is also active in his community and church.



### **Clarion County: Rick Weaver,** Incumbent Nominee, Knox

Mr. Weaver has been a CEC member since 1978, and has served on the board of directors since 1988.

He serves as CEC's representative on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative Board and has earned the Director Gold Credentials Certificate.

During his career, Mr. Weaver owned and operated Weaver Excavating and Sewage Systems. Currently, he is enjoying retirement.

He and his lovely wife Ruth Ann have been married for 46 years. They have two daughters and seven grandchildren and are members of the Grace Church in Ninevah.

## Photo Contest Voting

Don't forget to vote for your favorite photos for the 2024 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 26.** Then voting begins for the top three photos from Aug. 2 to Oct. 18. 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.





## Event Safety

by Kayla Clark, Training & Events Coordinator

**C**oordinating an event involves a wide range of planning to make the day successful. The main components of planning an event include goals and purpose for the event, activities, facilities, and setup. However, one of the most important factors to consider is event safety for both the facilitators and attendees.

When we plan an event at CEC, we take the safety of our employees and all visitors seriously. To prepare for an event, we begin by analyzing all areas that will be used for the event or could possibly be utilized for the event. During the analysis process, we can identify and evaluate any potential hazards. We remove or barricade hazardous areas and mark step hazards. We also have an elevator and several ramps on the property for handicap accessibility. When expecting a crowd, we display a generous amount of signage and have parking attendants to ensure your arrival is smooth. By following proper safety measures and protocols, we can do our best to

prevent harm to others.

Along with trying to avoid any incidents, we also plan for other emergencies. All exits are made visible with signage and made clear of any obstruction in the case of an evacuation. Fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and AEDS are placed throughout the building in an easily accessible location. Upon the start of an event, attendees are notified of where these life-saving devices are located.

While event safety is a major part of the event coordinator's duties, we also need to be mindful of our safety and the safety of others when attending any event. Before traveling to the event, it is a good practice to look at the map and be prepared for your trip. Pre-planning your route, where to park when you arrive, and your departure will make for smoother transportation. Be sure to remain alert after exiting your vehicle in the parking lot. As you enter the venue, it is helpful to determine where all of the exits are and if you notice anything medical-related, such as a first aid tent or ambulance.

By taking precautions and being aware of your surroundings, you can be proactive when it comes to preventing an incident or knowing what to do in the case of an emergency. These small mental notes can have a huge impact on the safety of yourself and others!



**Role:** Senior Accountant II  
**Employee Since:** March 2002

## Employee Spotlight: Kris Martin



**What do you do at CEC?** I am responsible for the general ledger. I make sure all modules are in balance with one another, close them out and produce financial statements.



**Why did you chose a career in accounting?** As a teen mom, everyone preaches to you about responsibility. Only two things in life are certain — death and taxes. I have also done time in public accounting and at a private company.



**Describe a unique experience you've had while working at CEC.** We had a bad storm when I did payroll and I had to work with FEMA for reimbursement. Only time and materials used in certain areas qualified as disaster and I had to separate it all out.



**What are you most proud of?** My daughter. She has a PhD in political science and is a tenured professor.



**What is the most memorable trip you've ever been on?** We went to Sturgis Bike Week last year. I saw Mount Rushmore, and visited Crazy Horse and Deadwood. Do not pet the fluffy cows.



# You're invited to the 2024 CEC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday  
August 8  
2024

**Allegheny-Clarion Valley  
Elementary School**

776 PA-58  
Foxburg, PA 16036

**C**EC's 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Aug. 8 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.

The meeting will look very similar to last year's meeting except it will be held at the elementary school instead of the high school. The elementary school is located on the same road as the high school and is the first building closest to the road. The meeting will be held in the elementary school's air-conditioned cafeteria.

Attendees of the Annual Business Meeting can expect official election results, remarks from our CEO and General Manager, Matt Boshaw, a question-and-answer

session, and educational information. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. This will be a traditional business meeting and is not intended for children.

**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 out the webform on our website under the Annual Business Meeting page.

We look forward to seeing you at the 87th Annual Business Meeting!



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

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

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

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

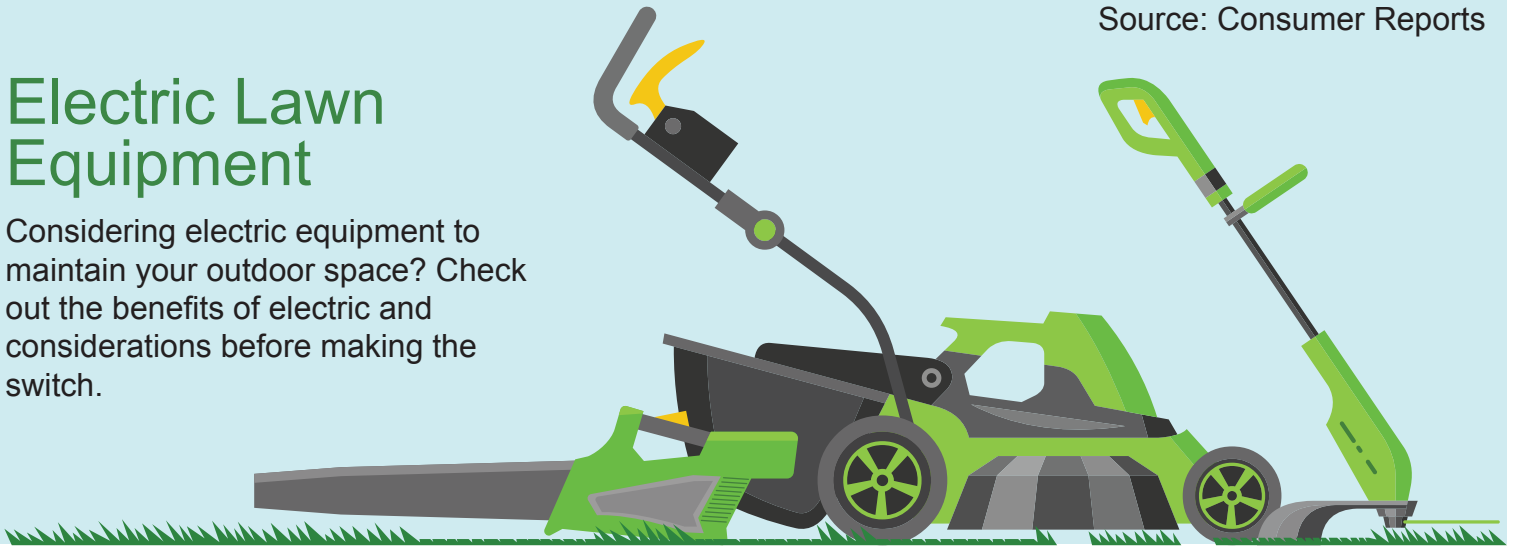
Question: \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more space, please submit through [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or include additional sheets.

## Electric Lawn Equipment

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.

Source: Consumer Reports



### Benefits of Electric Equipment

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

### Considerations Before Going Electric

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
- Electric equipment is pricier up front



## Hosting Events & How to Conserve Energy

by *Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist*

**W**e made it! My favorite time of year is finally here. Picnics, boating, going swimming, being outside — all the best things. Now, what do those events have to do with conserving energy?

The easiest way to conserve energy when hosting an event during the summer is to have the event outdoors or in the evening. To make sure your guests are comfortable, I would recommend having tents, large umbrellas or using nearby trees for shade if it is during the day. Hosting an event outdoors will eliminate the lights that would be if the event was held indoors. Additionally, having a large group of people indoors causes the temperature in your house to go up, which in turns makes your air conditioning run more. If you do host your event

indoors, be sure to turn your thermostat up during that time to prevent your air conditioning from turning on so often. Speaking of air conditioning, did you remember to change your filter, or have it serviced to help it run more efficiently?

Being outdoors probably means you will also be grilling or cooking outdoors. Cooking outdoors keeps you from using your oven and ultimately heating your house. This is another great way to reduce how often your air conditioning turns on. Crockpots are also a good alternative if you are making some hot dishes.

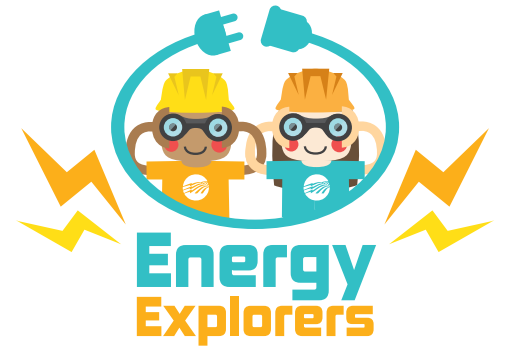
I know you will also be keeping some things cold before the event. Be sure to space out your items in your refrigerator to help it run efficiently. You could also have a few coolers with ice for drinks to remain cold and to keep your guests hydrated. This would eliminate some foot traffic in and out of the house as well.

Enjoy the warmer weather, the summer activities and the outdoor events while keeping your electricity bill lower by being diligent and smart!

# WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.

*Psst! Check your work in the answer key.*



1. When possible, use \_\_\_\_\_ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
2. If you hear \_\_\_\_\_ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
3. Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
4. All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Never handle electrical devices if you are \_\_\_\_\_ from swimming or other water activities.

## WORD BANK

thunder

wet

battery

dry

electrical



Answer Key: 1) battery 2) thunder 3) electrical 4) dry 5) wet

From the Kitchen of:  
**Florence Davis**



RECIPE: **STRAWBERRY PIE**

INGREDIENTS:

1 pint and 1 cup of strawberries

2 tablespoons of sugar

Pie crust

8-ounce package of cream cheese

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1/2 cup, 1 tablespoon sugar

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bake pie crust as instructed. Combine 1 pint strawberries with 2 tablespoons of sugar and set aside. Mix 1 tablespoon of sugar with cream cheese. Pour cream cheese mixture in bottom of pie crust, then add strawberries. Make sauce with 1 cup of ground strawberries. Stir in 1/2 cup of sugar, 1 tablespoon of cornstarch on the stove and heat until thick. Remove from stove and let cool. Place sauce on berries.



**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.*



**Central Electric Cooperative**

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**Your Board of Directors**

**From left (back row):** Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Vice President, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; and Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.



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

**Newsletter Editor: Nikki Staley**

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**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.

