

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative



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Take the LIHEAP

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

While some urban areas like Erie and Philadelphia have higher poverty rates, a significant portion of persistent poverty municipalities (around 58%) are rural, according to the Center for Rural PA. This fact is important to those who live in rural Pennsylvania, but it is of particular importance to those of us that provide the essential service of electricity to the rural areas.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. LIHEAP provides federally funded assistance to reduce the costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and minor energy-related home repairs. This program has been a great help to families in our communities since Congress created it in 1981. Unofficially, the program started back in the seventies because of the oil embargo and the resulting spike in energy prices.

Every year, I report on the number of Central Electric families that benefit from LIHEAP funding. LIHEAP

provided funding to 367 CEC members in 2024 in the amount of \$215,928. Given that our service territory includes a significant number of the persistent poverty municipalities as described above, this assistance is vital to our membership. CEC augments this assistance with unclaimed property or escheats, and we can further assist those in need at no cost to our membership. We offer this additional assistance because your member elected Board of Directors recognizes the importance of helping ourselves rather than being entirely dependent on a government program for assistance.

Nearly every year since its inception, funding for this extremely important program has been challenged during budget debates in Congress. I think it is important that these debates happen to ensure the continued relevance and value of LIHEAP, or any assistance program, and to make sure the money is distributed efficiently and without misuse. With that said, as I have described, this program remains relevant, effective, and valuable to rural areas throughout the country.

LIHEAP funding has already been processed for 2025, providing support to

Continued on page 2

members receiving assistance while also benefiting our entire membership by mitigating potential additional costs from debt that would otherwise be written off through the collections process. Funding for LIHEAP in 2026, and in the future, is again being challenged. The entire staff associated with the program in Washington, D.C. has been let go and funding for 2026 has been removed from initial budget discussions. NRECA, our national cooperative association, has engaged Congressional leaders and the appropriate leaders within the President's administration to begin communicating the importance of this program and its influence on rural America, cooperatives, and our members. Our not-for-profit business model, the fact that we provide an essential service to rural Americans, and our programs that augment LIHEAP provide NRECA with strong arguments to support the continuation of the program. The decision ultimately resides with our lawmakers and there is a lot of work to be done to educate them regarding this program's significance to rural Americans.

As with anything this critical, it will take all of us to demonstrate the value of the program. NRECA, our statewide association (PREA), and cooperative staff across the country will continue to advocate on your behalf. I encourage you to take any opportunity to add your voice to the discussion. If you are unsure how to get involved, I can offer several suggestions. America's Electric Cooperatives PAC offers the opportunity for you to participate directly with our associations in support of cooperative issues. You can join the PAC simply by reaching out to us here at CEC. You could also visit www.vote.coop or the Co-ops Vote program's Facebook page. Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program designed to enhance the political strength of electric cooperatives as well as educate and engage cooperative members. My last suggestion would be to talk to your local political leaders directly. Rural residents tend to have existing relationships with their local elected officials and are the foundation of the grassroots efforts of the cooperatives. Letting your

local leaders know about LIHEAP and other issues important to the cooperatives directly can go a long way towards helping them understand the significance of the issue.

Now, take the LIHEAP and join us in supporting this and other issues important to cooperatives and the communities we serve.



CO-OPS VOTE
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE POWERED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS, LIKE YOU.

HELP PROTECT THEM TODAY.

VISIT WWW.VOTE.COOP

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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



Central Electric Cooperative

BEAT THE PEAK!

When you hear it's a peak day, reduce electric use to keep demand and prices low.

- ⚠ Sign up for emails on our website
- ⚠ Listen to local radio stations
- ⚠ Monitor the peak meter on our website

Learn More:

www.central.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2025 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the Good Neighbor Scholarship! CEC awarded 10 scholarships of \$3,000 to members, or member's children, who will further their education in 2025. For more information on this program, please visit www.central.coop.



**Kaylee
Baker**

Keystone High
School



**Max
Formaini**

Armstrong High
School



**Eden
Criado**

Franklin Area High
School



**Jessica
Cornell**

Butler Senior High
School



**Riley
Brophy**

Franklin Area High
School



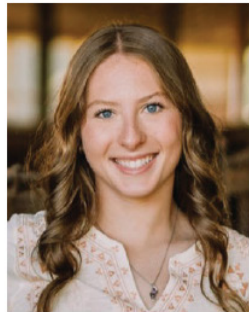
**Taylor
Dailey**

PennWest Edinboro
University



**Abigail
Boland**

Franklin Area High
School



**Avah
Burke**

Penn State
University



**Bella
Terman**

Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine



**Kendell
Findlay**

Slippery Rock
University

Students Selected for Youth Tour

We are excited to announce three local high school juniors were selected to attend the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.!

Aliya Fulkerson of A-C Valley School District, Arabella Savannah of Slippery Rock Area High School, and Nadia McLean of Moniteau School District, will join students from across the nation to explore the nation's capital. They will meet with legislatures, tour museums and monuments, visit the National Zoo and much more, while learning about electric cooperatives, U.S. government and history.



Aliya Fulkerson



Arabella Savannah



Nadia McLean





Storm Response Safety

by Grant Potsubay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control

As Spring ends and Summer returns, another danger approaches the members of Central Electric Cooperative: Summer Storms. Summer storms consist of violent weather that can produce strong winds, heavy rain, lightning, thunder, and hail, with the potential to cause widespread outages. At CEC, our biggest concern when an outage occurs is how fast our members' power can be safely restored.

When major storms leave an impact, extended outages can be expected. Power restoration efforts start with an effective plan. When our linemen jump into action, they are trained to know the procedures needed to keep them safe. Before going anywhere, they must make sure they have their PPE, or Personal Protective Equipment, and inspect it for damage. The restoration plan is now in motion. Crews will be dispatched to start repairing power lines and equipment, prioritizing efforts to restore electricity to the largest number of members as quickly as possible. In the field, they must assess potential dangers of their situation, recognize how to operate safely, and actively communicate with each other the entire time. CEC linemen typically begin their repairs at the larger distribution lines that serve a greater number of homes and businesses. Then, crews work on smaller lines, called taps, which deliver power to transformers. Next, they prioritize repairing individual service lines that run between transformers and homes.

To act as soon as possible in the event of an outage, CEC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand at all times. A proactive approach to system maintenance, such as conducting pole inspections, also helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you may also see contracted crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation in our rights-of-way. Nature can be unpredictable, but you can rest assured knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power swiftly and safely.



Role: Field Services Representative
Employee Since: June 2008

www.central.coop

Employee Spotlight: Chris Robinson



What is a fun fact about yourself most people may not know? I run 5k's monthly.



What is something you're most proud of? My two boys.



What is something you can't live without? Music.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? Fly a plane (become a pilot).



What's the most memorable trip you've ever been on? Zion National Park.


2025 Annual Business Meeting

CEC's 88th Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Aug. 6th at Allegheny-Clarion Valley Elementary School in Foxburg, PA. Doors will be open at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:00 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 ticket below or by filling out the webform on our website under the Annual Business Meeting page. More details to come.

Save the Date!!

Tu	Wed	Thu
	 ANNUAL MEETING	

Mark your calendars! Join us for our 2025 Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for details!

Submit a Question to be Addressed at the Annual Business Meeting

Name: _____ CEC Account Number: _____
 Email: _____
 Question: _____

Tellers Needed for Board of Directors Election

The cooperative's Board of Directors is seeking CEC members to serve as tellers for the annual election on Aug. 6. The committee tabulates director election ballots that are received by our Judge of Elections prior to the meeting. Tellers must arrive by 4 p.m. If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held by our Judge of Elections. If there are no volunteers, the cooperative directors will appoint needed tellers.

2025 Tellers Committee

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Account No: _____ Phone No: _____ Country: _____

Return coupon by 7/14/2025 to: Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker Pa, 16049



Peak Alerts & Why They're Important

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Let's talk about peak usage and alerts, and the "What, Why and How?" that goes into each of them. CEC already knows our members are smart and make choices to help conserve energy and save money. One thing we don't always mention is how paying attention to the time of day is also important when it comes to energy usage, and we want to make sure you know why.

What?

What is "peak usage?" When it comes to electricity it is as simple as it sounds; it is when the demand for electricity is at its highest point in the day. This typically occurs during the summer months, June through September, between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

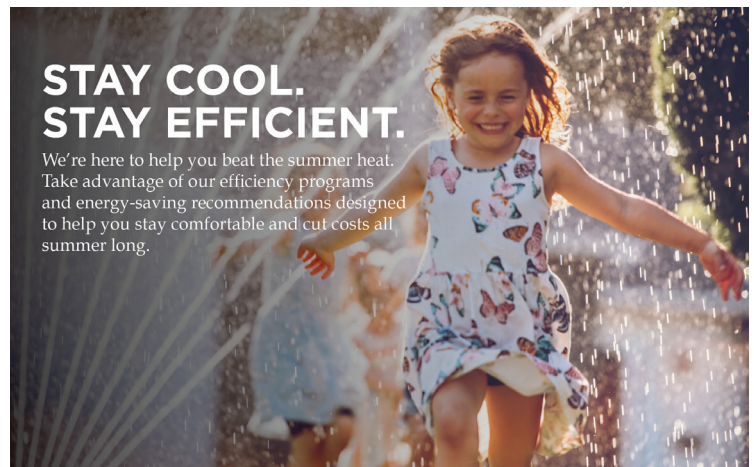
What are "peak alerts?" A peak alert is simply an email CEC sends the morning of an expected peak day. We also have a Peak Alert Meter on our website's homepage which shows normal, warning and critical levels of energy demand for the day. We do this so you can plan to conserve energy however possible.

Why?

Why are we concerned about peak usage? Electricity is the only utility that is produced at the same time as it is used. It is important for power companies to be prepared for the use that is going to be needed at any given point. During times of extreme temperatures, and high demand, it is important to try limiting usage to prevent overloading the electric grid.

How?

How you can do your part is by being aware of peak times throughout the year and during different hours of the day, letting you make a conscious effort to conserve energy. How do you get notified of peak times? You can do so by signing up for Beat the Peak Alerts on our website or calling into our office. We hope to hear from you so we can Beat the Peak together!



Budget Billing

Surprises are nice, unless they are bills. Budget billing can eliminate the unknown by creating a specific payment amount each month for electric service. Both members who heat with electricity in the winter or use air conditioning in the summer are excellent candidates.

To get the most benefit from budget billing, spring and summer are the best times to join. Accounts must be paid in full, and you must have had service for at least 12 months. The monthly payment amount is based on your average usage over the previous 12 months.



The budget year runs from May to April of the following year. April is what CEC considers a budget catch-up month, as it is the last month of the budget year. If you have paid for more electric than you have used, a credit would be applied to the next budget season or refunded at your request. If you have used more electricity than you have paid for, you would be responsible for the difference, to be included on your April bill.

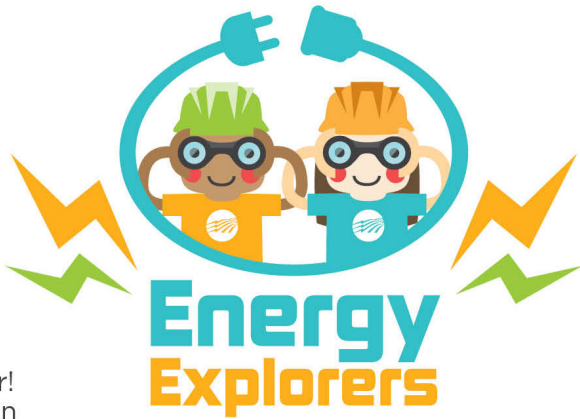
If you are interested in budget billing, contact a member services representative at 1-800-521-0570 or sign up via the SmartHub app.



SOLAR ENERGY WORD SEARCH

Did you know solar panels turn sunlight into electricity? When the sun shines on the panels, tiny particles of light hit cells on the panels to create a flow of energy, like magic sunlight turning into power! The electricity then travels across power lines and can be used to light up homes, charge gadgets and more.

Can you find all the words associated with solar energy in the puzzle below?



WORD BANK

- Solar

Panel

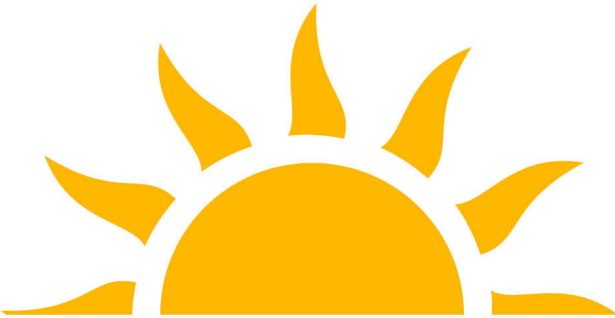
Renewable

Energy
- Sunlight

Efficiency

Installation

Rooftop



R	W	Y	Z	U	N	M	J	Z	E	S	Z	E	V	A
T	A	N	G	C	J	I	S	L	I	B	A	F	I	V
S	N	L	Y	U	S	K	B	R	U	Y	Z	F	P	D
W	U	S	O	P	I	A	M	K	K	B	E	I	V	K
P	P	N	G	S	W	E	N	E	R	G	Y	C	O	R
F	O	W	L	E	X	H	Q	Q	V	U	I	I	G	S
X	P	T	N	I	R	Q	V	N	T	J	D	E	A	U
B	A	E	F	L	G	O	S	P	Q	P	T	N	H	Q
W	R	X	D	O	E	H	D	I	Z	X	P	C	X	Z
L	L	X	N	I	O	J	T	L	D	N	L	Y	H	Z
K	O	Y	E	Z	F	R	K	Z	D	Q	E	B	M	V
C	N	O	I	T	A	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	H	B
L	G	P	F	K	Y	L	P	G	E	Z	A	I	E	W
I	W	C	N	Q	O	N	Y	Z	Q	Q	P	V	W	Q
G	L	Y	J	L	L	H	O	X	F	C	H	P	K	K

From the Kitchen of:
Marie Cherreson



RECIPE: **PARMESAN BAKED POTATOES**

INGREDIENTS:

6-7 Tbsp. butter, melted

1 c. grated parmesan cheese

8 medium unpeeled red potatoes, halved lengthwise

salt & pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

Pour butter into 9x13 baking pan. Sprinkle parmesan cheese over butter.

Place potatoes with cut sides down onto cheese. Add seasonings on top. Bake uncovered, at 400° for 40-45 minutes or until fork tender.

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

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

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**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

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

