

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric  
Cooperative

*Photographed by Samantha Prasky*

## “WATTS” INSIDE

- 3 2025 Holiday Coloring Contest Winners
- 3 U\$X Credit Union Offer for Members
- 4 The Difference Safety Training Makes
- 5 Electrical Safety Programs for Kids
- 5 Employee Spotlight
- 6 Large Building Efficiency Tips
- 6 Apply for PREA Scholarships
- 7 Energy Explorers: Maze
- 8 Sourdough Bagels Recipe

## Return of the MAAC

**BY MATT BOSHAW**  
CEO & General Manager

It is time for the return of the MAAC! No, I am not referring to the 1996 hit by Mark Morrison of a similar name, “Return of the Mack.” I hope I didn’t get anyone’s hopes up. I am, instead, referring to Central Electric Cooperative’s Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC).

Historically, this committee of members has met quarterly over a two-year period with CEC staff. If my math is correct, that means a commitment of 8 evening meetings over a two-year period. Made up of members from throughout CEC’s service territory, the committee receives presentations on a wide range of topics from every department within the cooperative. The topics include, but are not limited to rates, outage management, safety, right-of-way clearance (tree trimming), professional development, cyber security, value added services, engineering, and operations. Additionally, I typically provide regular updates regarding issues

that are affecting the cooperative and its members.

MAAC meetings serve as more than just a vehicle for educating groups of members in greater detail about their cooperative. They also provide CEC and staff the opportunity for direct interaction with members in a small group setting, during which we can receive feedback on implemented initiatives.

The program has been successful over the years and member participants have provided exceptionally positive feedback regarding their participation. As with any program, we strive to continuously improve the MAAC experience. With 2026 marking the beginning of a new two-year cycle, we are considering changes to improve the program. For example, increasing the maximum number of participants would let more members have the chance to serve. We are also rethinking the length of the commitment based on recent feedback. Maybe a two-year commitment is more than some can reasonably manage. These are just a couple changes we are considering, but we don’t want to change for the sake of it. As I mentioned, this has been a

*Continued on page 2*

successful and well received program for many years. We want to maintain what is valued while collaborating with members to fit this program into many people’s already busy schedules.

Currently, there are a considerable number of issues facing the energy industry. The cooperative business model offers unique opportunities to navigate those issues and has never been more valuable than it is now. Engaging with our member-owners offers the most unique and impactful opportunity to ensure that we meet the needs of our membership as we face these challenges. The MAAC offers CEC staff a meaningful way to connect with members and building these relationships are essential to the cooperative’s health.

Former MAAC members have gone on to become a part of CEC’s Board of Directors. Many have maintained interaction on a regular basis with CEC staff, and all serve as ambassadors throughout the community representing the cooperative. I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you reach out to CEC and express your interest in participating in the return of the MAAC. Don’t call it a comeback (sorry, that is a different song reference) because the MAAC has been here for years. With your participation, it will continue for many more, offering significant input and value to both the cooperative and its members. Give us a call, get involved with your cooperative, and thank you for your continued support.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It’s also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



Learn more about the MAAC

## 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*
- Caitlin Kriebel** *Director of Human Resources*
- Fred E. Terwilliger** *Assistant General Manager/COO*

**Central Electric Cooperative**

# SAFETY CITY PROGRAM

CEC offers an electrical safety presentation for 3 or 4 grade students. Facilitators use a tabletop neighborhood display to show the benefits and dangers of electricity.

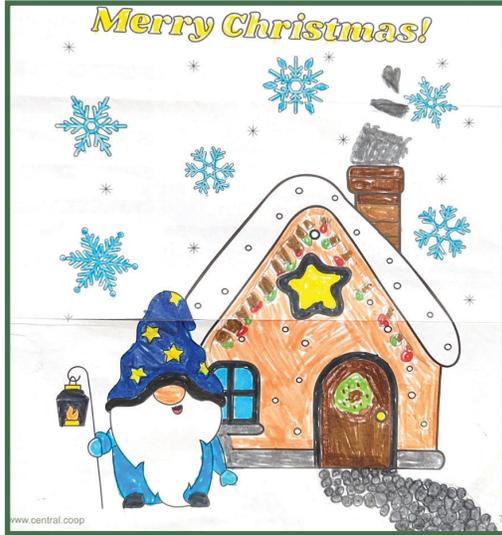
CONTACT CEC TO LEARN MORE OR TO SCHEDULE

800-521-0570 | WWW.CENTRAL.COOP

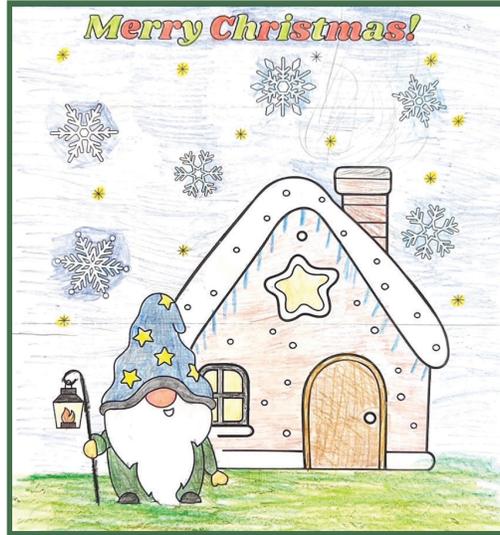
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# 2025 Holiday Coloring Contest Winners

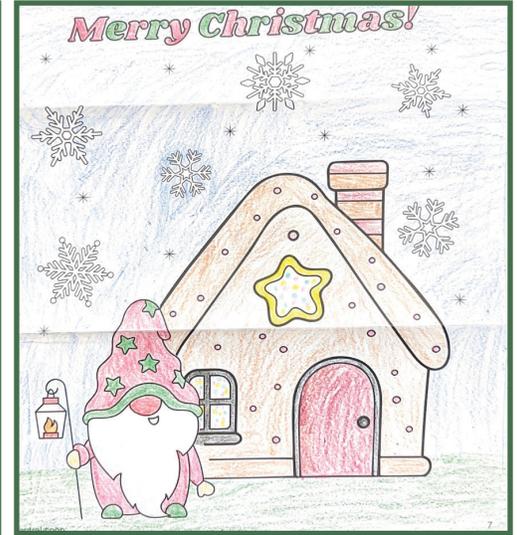
CEC would like to thank the 19 children who participated in the Holiday Coloring Contest! Members submitted coloring pages, done by their children and grandchildren, from our December issue of Power Lines. There were three age categories including 5-7, 8-10, and 11-12 years old. Congratulations to the following winners!



Claire Davis - age 5



Evlyn R. Webb - age 9



Katie Clever - age 12

# YOU

*have the opportunity to experience the Credit Union Difference!*

- FREE Checking Account
- Checking with Interest
- 90,000 FREE ATMs nationwide
- Direct Deposit/Payroll Deduction
- FREE VISA® Debit/ATM Card
- FREE Online Banking
- FREE Online Bill Pay
- FREE Mobile Banking w/Remote Deposit
- FREE E-Statements available
- FREE CardTrac®
- New/Used Vehicle Loans
- Home Equity Loans
- Home Equity Lines of Credit
- VISA® credit cards
- Personal Loans
- Secured Loans
- 1st Mortgages
- Youth Accounts
- Private Student Loan Program
- Share Savings Account
- Christmas Club Account
- Share Certificates
- IRAs

*And so much more!*

Receive

**\$300**

when you open a **USX FCU Checking Account.\*** with qualifying **Direct Deposit**

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer, may be discontinued at any time. Contact Credit Union for full details. Exp. 5-31-26

Receive

**\$25**

when you open a **Youth Savings at USX FCU.\***

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer, may be discontinued at any time. Contact Credit Union for full details. Exp. 5-31-26

**VISA Credit Cards**

as low as **9.90%** APR\*

**No annual fee, cash advance or balance transfer fees. With 1% bonus points on all purchases.**  
\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Not all will qualify. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer, may be discontinued at any time. Contact Credit Union for full details. Exp. 5-31-26



New credit union members can open your account online! Simply scan the QR code to get started!

**8 LOCATIONS:** Including 2 conveniently located

**Sarver**

479 N Pike Rd  
Sarver PA 16055

**Cranberry**

1293 Freedom Rd  
Cranberry Twp PA 16066

**USX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION.**

**www.usxfcu.org**  
**1-888-219-3159**



# The Difference Safety Training Makes

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

**E**lectrical contact injuries occur when an electrical current passes through the body, potentially causing severe damage, burns, or even death. This reality is why safety needs to be top of mind for all employees because even with a familiar job, routine can make it easy to overlook risks. Sometimes it takes listening to the perspective of the people involved in real incidents to emphasize the importance of awareness to prevent a tragedy.

In January 2022, journeyman lineman Branden Bauer was working for United Electric Cooperative on a system improvement project. He'd done jobs just like it plenty of times in his 10 years of experience. While navigating a tricky section of line, he mistook a live wire as a neutral wire and made contact, causing him to pass-out on the live power line. This incident caused him life-changing injuries, but if it weren't for Branden's crew by his side, his story could've had a different ending. He shares how they did everything right to save his life immediately after he made contact. The apprentice on the crew called 911 and drove out to the main road to meet them. Two journeymen grabbed the AED machine from their truck and called Mayday over the radio to alert other crews in the area. His chief took over the truck to move Branden's bucket away from the wire. They say Branden had been on that wire for approximately 45 seconds. Once on the ground, his crew administered the AED and waited until the ambulance and helicopter arrived.

In just one moment, the day changed drastically when he made electrical contact. Branden was left to face severe consequences with amputations to both his arms, a long recovery period, and not to mention the emotional and family impacts. Yet the strength he shows by sharing his story across the country demonstrates the importance of proper training and knowledge for lineman safety.

The best way we can honor experiences like Branden Bauer's is to learn from them. At CEC, we are dedicated to training linemen so stories like this remain rare. Safety is reinforced through ongoing, hands-on training designed to prepare crews to recognize hazards and respond effectively in emergencies. CEC provides annual Pole Top and Bucket Rescue training for linemen to learn and review how to rescue a conscious or unconscious person



Branden Bauer with his wife, Katelyn, and their daughters, Addilyn (left) and Harper. (Photo By: Denny Gainer/NRECA)

from a pole due to illness, severe injury, or electrical contact. It also covers Mayday procedures and how to rescue themselves from the bucket. There is required CPR/First Aid Training, Hazard Recognition, On the Job training and much more that our linemen use to protect themselves and one another when the seconds matter most.

Branden's story serves as a powerful reminder that safety isn't optional. Instead, it is the required responsibility of every worker, on every task, every single time. By committing to constant awareness, purposeful training, and personal responsibility, future incidents can become far less common and lessons that came at such a high cost are never forgotten.

## Sources:

*Electrical Shock (Electrical Injury) First Aid*

<https://www.electric.coop/along-those-lines-lineworker-safety-branden-bauer>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOTBsLDErSw>



## Electrical Safety Program for Kids

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

For over 35 years, CEC staff have visited local elementary schools to teach kids about electrical safety through our Safety City program. Using a portable tabletop display that includes buildings, power lines, and moving props, this demonstration shows how electricity works, along with its benefits and potential dangers.

Although we rely on electricity daily, it is easy to take for granted. In familiar places, like your yard or your car, it is even easier to not think twice about it. Safety City helps kids recognize real-life hazards by comparing the miniature neighborhood with what they might come across in their own environment. Making a clear visual connection through this interactive display can help them better understand how to stay safe when around electricity.

Accompanied by CEC staff facilitators, the demonstration travels to schools, scout groups, and other organizations throughout the year. Many teachers choose to align an electricity-related lesson plan with Safety City to increase the children’s interest. An elementary school teacher from last year said, “The students really enjoyed your presentation. I think they learned a lot and had shared so many comments about their excitement!” Another local teacher shared similar feedback about Safety City. A

substitute teacher from Clarion Area School District said, “I was impressed with how engaged the kids were. The presenters did an amazing job!”

During the Summer, CEC also receives requests to set up the display at local fairs and community events. A coordinator from Butler’s *Kids Day America* event reached out and said, “We were happy to hear Central Electric was attending this year’s event. I’m sure it was exciting for the families to experience.”

CEC is committed to creating a lasting, positive impact within the community. Safety City is a part of that mission, equipping children with the knowledge they need to respond to dangerous situations and help others stay safe too. Electricity is beneficial to many, but it can still be hazardous to anyone who does not know the right safety practices. If you are interested in scheduling please fill out a form on our website at [www.central.coop/safety-city](http://www.central.coop/safety-city) or give me a call at 800-521-0570.



**Role:** Field Service Representative  
**Employee Since:** September 2015

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

## Employee Spotlight: Adam Crawford



**What was your first job?** Hunting preserve outfitter/guide in New York.



**What is one thing on your bucket list?** Sky diving.



**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** Archery hunting & 3D shoots. Side by side rides. I also coach a travel softball league.



**What is something you can't live without?** Coffee.



**Do you have any pets?** I have 1 black lab named Porter and 2 cats names Henry and Tinkerbell.



## Large Building Efficiency Tips

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

While my articles usually focus on efficiency tips for residential usage, it's important not to forget about managing large buildings' energy usage too. Through my work at Central Electric Cooperative, I've had the chance to present many Safety City programs in local schools. These visits often make me think about the different ways large buildings can lower their energy use. Some of the key areas to focus on include the HVAC system, lighting, window and door leaks and plug loads. These topics might sound familiar from our residential discussions, but when it comes to large buildings, there are many similarities just on a greater scale.

HVAC systems are the largest energy user in many facilities and keeping these systems running efficiently can be a major influence on their electric bill. One way to prevent higher bills is to understand how larger HVAC units can be customized to run more efficiently. Sensors can adjust the settings based on the amount of people present, the time of day, or zoning area. In larger facilities, these sensors often feed into a central Building Automation System (BAS), essentially a "central brain" that monitors the entire property in real-time. This offers a level of precision and control that goes far beyond a standard home thermostat.

Lighting costs can easily increase if efficient choices are overlooked. Large buildings often have a lot of

overhead lighting. Choosing LED bulbs has the potential to reduce lighting consumption by 80% or more. Having motion activated lights can also help reduce the usage.

Developing a consistent maintenance schedule lowers the likelihood of repairs caused by long-term equipment neglect. Keeping your equipment maintained allows it to be more efficient and last longer. Adding items to the schedule like checking for leaks in windows, outlets, or doors can be beneficial to keep all heat or cool air in, depending on the time of year.

In the end, efficiency is efficiency, regardless of the square footage. While the systems in a school or office building are more complex than a home thermostat, the goal is identical: eliminate waste. Through smart sensors, LED transitions, and rigorous maintenance, large buildings can see a massive impact on their bottom line. It's a big-picture approach that yields even bigger results.



## APPLY NOW FOR 2026 PREA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Scholarship Trust Fund in Memory of William F. Matson is offering scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members or employees of Pennsylvania electric cooperatives. At least five, \$1,000 one-time scholarships will be awarded.

The Jody Loudenslager Scholarship is available to any college-bound or current college student who participated in the PREA Youth Tour program.

### Requirements for both scholarships:

1. Applicants must provide necessary aptitude test scores, transcripts, and financial aid information.
2. All applications and documentation must be emailed to [stephanie\\_okuniewski@prea.com](mailto:stephanie_okuniewski@prea.com) by May 4, 2026.
3. Complete the application at [www.prea.com](http://www.prea.com)

# Help the Lineworker Spring into Action

Did you know March 20 is the first day of spring? This time of year marks new beginnings and fresh blooms, but it can also bring powerful storms that interrupt electric service.



Help the lineworker find his way through the maze to the bucket truck so he can restore power.



From the Kitchen of:  
Bobbi Bradley

RECIPE: **SOURDOUGH BAGELS**

Send your own recipe to:

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

INGREDIENTS:

100g. sourdough starter (active or discard)

255g. water (filtered)

40g. raw honey

10g. sea salt

500g. bread flour



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix all ingredients together and knead, either by hand or with a mixer, until dough passes windowpane test (about 6-8 min.).
2. Cover and proof at room temperature until it doubles in size (about 30 min.).
3. Divide dough into 6-8 sections, depending on how big you'd like your bagels.
4. Preheat oven to 425°F.
5. Boil bagels 1 min. per side in water and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Add desired toppings (everything but the bagel seasoning, sesame seeds, cheddar cheese, salt, etc.)
6. Bake for 20-25 min. until golden brown, cool, and enjoy!



**Central Electric Cooperative**



**Your Board of Directors**

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



**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.

