

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

## Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



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### Never Done

BY MATT BOSHAW  
CEO & General Manager

I have recently been reminded of the old saying that good work leads to more work. It fits amazingly well with our philosophy of continuous incremental improvement here at CEC. The overarching idea is that nothing is perfect, but, as we strive for perfection, we get better and better. For many, this can be frustrating as we are never truly done. For those that enjoy the work and the satisfaction that comes from doing it, this approach can be extremely rewarding. In addition to the value of hard work, this incremental approach affords us the opportunity to recognize, enjoy, and possibly even celebrate our improvements along the way.

The value of this approach is particularly important in our current environment. This is a time of great change, uncertainty, and challenges in the distribution electricity business. While that can appear daunting, I would argue that this is perhaps the most exciting time to work in this field. It provides us with opportunities for improvement that we would never consider. Necessity is the mother of invention after all. Our approach allows us to be remarkably nimble in response to rapidly changing circumstances.

Currently, and in recent years, we have been faced with circumstances that have led to increased costs from our power supplier coupled with significant strain on the capacity of the grid as a whole. Additionally, we have seen a shortage and an increase in the cost of materials critical to our local infrastructure. Inflationary concerns have added to these issues, pushing costs higher. In the face of these challenges, we could simply have decided to pass those costs entirely on to our members as is often the case with the investor-owned utilities around us. Instead, we chose to find ways to continuously improve and, in true cooperative fashion, collaborate with other cooperatives to identify the best way forward that would be least impactful to our members. As was put to music in a recent Disney film, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, we go together.” We always choose to go far together.

By embracing collaboration and gathering the best ideas from each of our counterparts, our focus has not been on striving to maintain a share price or dividend for shareholders. Instead, we prioritize providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to our member owners, and it is proving to be effective. We have been able to insulate cooperative members across Pennsylvania and New

*Continued on page 2*



Jersey from the extremes of the generation marketplace. This has been achieved by working together and finding the best mix of resource ownership and market purchases for our generation supply. We have mitigated supply chain and inflationary concerns by increasing inventory levels prior to cost hikes thus ensuring availability and lesser costs. To improve our reliability, we have reclaimed our rights-of-way and have decreased the trimming cycle rotation by about 35 percent. This has resulted in fewer tree-related outages and ultimately a decrease in annual trimming costs. We have begun several new initiatives designed to further mitigate outage risks. They include the utilization of covered wire in areas more prone to wildlife by the lines, the replacement of failing underground cable the conversion of selected overhead locations to underground, and a system-wide coordination study to ensure our system is functioning optimally.

This illustrates just a few of the impactful initiatives that our team is working on to improve your service. The results are tangible in the form of fewer and shorter outages despite volatile weather patterns, rates equal to or lower than surrounding investor-owned utilities despite having fewer members per mile over which to spread the costs, and a shorter rotation of patronage capital, returning your money to you sooner. As you can see, with your continued support we have come far together. We will continue to continuously improve and go further together, and we will never be done.

**PLUG  
INTO  
SAFETY**



**Electrical Safety Month**

*Electricity and safety always mix.*

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Matthew P. Boshaw**

*CEO & General Manager*

**Chester Conti**

*Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO*

**Lisa A. Hoover**

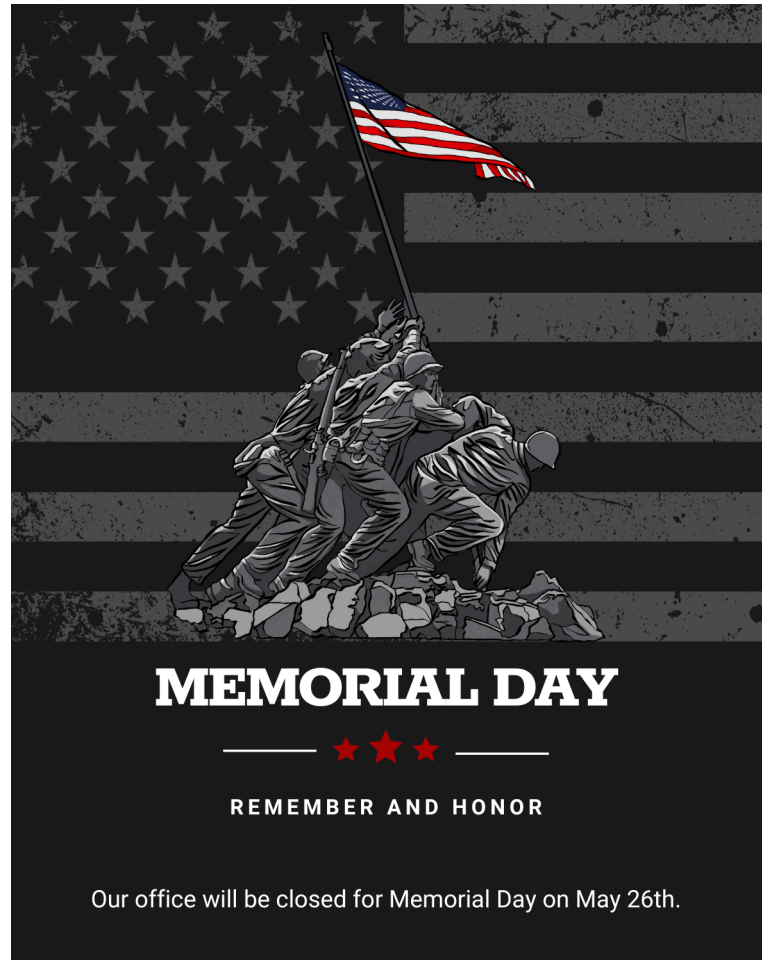
*Director of Member Services*

**Christopher W. Kossman**

*Director of Information Technology*

**Fred E. Terwilliger**

*Assistant General Manager/COO*



Central Electric Cooperative

**2025 CEC MEMBER  
APPRECIATION  
EVENT**

**Friday  
June 13, 2025  
3-7p.m.**

**Central Electric  
Cooperative**  
716 Route 368  
Parker, PA 16049

# Save the Date for CEC's Member Appreciation Event!

## June 13, 2025

CEC is excited to invite members to the second annual Member Appreciation Event. This event will take place at CEC's headquarters on Friday, June 13, 2025 from 3-7 p.m. This will be an open-house-style event where members can come and go at a time that is convenient for them. The event will include educational information, entertainment, children's activities, giveaways and bill credits, opportunities to meet CEC staff and the board of directors, and refreshments.

### Activities

This event will include many activities for the whole family. Children's activities include bucket truck rides, giveaways, face painting, photo-ops, and electrical safety information. Members will have the opportunity to see bucket trucks and other fleet equipment, learn about electric vehicles, watch our linemen give pole climbing, pole setting and hot line demonstrations, and learn about the various programs CEC offers its members.

Our linemen will give four, 45-minute demonstrations throughout the evening. The presentations will begin at 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

### Entertainment

Entertainment will include a band and car show throughout the event. Members are invited to join our car show. Each car show participant will receive a dash plaque. Members who would like to participate in the

car show must register and complete a waiver. Members should register and obtain a waiver by calling the office at 800-521-0570.

### Arrival & Parking

When arriving for the Member Appreciation Event, members will be directed behind the co-op on Perryville Road. Traffic control and yard signs will direct members to park. This will limit traffic buildup on Route 368. Members will then be directed to the parking lot behind CEC's office building. Transportation will be available for any members who may have trouble getting from their car to the building.

Members will then enter through the second floor tunnel once parked. Once inside the building, members will be asked to register for the event. Members will be given a registration prize and have the opportunity to receive additional prizes throughout the event. Members will also receive a map of the building and a list of activities in each area.

### Refreshments

Food and refreshments will be available. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. Mobile Meadows, a dessert food truck, will also be present and provide frozen custard and yogurt during the event. Children's snacks will also be available.

We hope you can join us for this event! We are excited to provide a behind the scenes look at everything we do at CEC and show our appreciation for our members.

**If you would like to attend the Member Appreciation Event, please RSVP by filling out the form on our website or call 800-521-0570.**

CEC invites you to submit your best photo for our 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.

The photo can be of anything! Members must submit their photo before June 6. Members will vote for the top five photos from June 13 to July 25. Then voting will begin for the top three photos from Aug. 1 to Oct. 17.

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members may also vote for the top three photos using a ballot in the Sept. issue of this newsletter. Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October. Visit our website for details about rules and to enter!

# 2025 PHOTO CONTEST

*By submitting a photo to this contest, you grant CEC permission to use the image in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website, without payment. However, photo credit will be given. CEC reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or offensive.*





## Electrical Safety Month's Meaning at CEC

*by Grant Potsubay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control*

May is recognized as National Electrical Safety Month. Although maintaining a strong safety culture both at home and in the workplace is an all-year endeavor, May is a time to further raise awareness about electrical safety. Some will set aside a day, a week, or even the better part of the month to recognize the importance of electrical safety and how it plays such a crucial role in both CEC's and members' lives. One of the major talking points you may hear mentioned during this month is the idea of a safety culture.

At CEC, many of our employees are exposed to electrical hazards daily. To combat this, many employers follow a mission and vision statement involving safety culture. These statements provide a foundation for the organization's culture and shape the core values by which it operates. CEC's mission statement reads, "Central Electric Cooperative safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve." By definition, mission statements provide all employees with a common goal that they each share a part in achieving.

CEC's vision statement emphasizes the core values that are incorporated into everyday tasks and responsibilities. CEC's vision states, "As the cooperative looks toward the future, we will focus on improvement in all areas with a dedicated focus on safety, reliability, cost, service, and culture." Each value plays an important role in the overall success of the co-op's mission.

It is not by coincidence that safety is mentioned at the beginning of CEC's core statements. Whether you are reading its purpose, mission or vision statements, it is evident that safety is held in the highest regard and prioritized above all else.

At CEC, safety is everyone's responsibility, and it involves a strong team mentality from all departments, not just one person. Everyone holds the responsibility to work safely and operate proactively towards hazard identification and mitigation. The goal for all employees is to go home to their loved ones every day. The success of our safety program depends on every employee's commitment to learning and working together to achieve collective goals. The impact of an effective and successful safety program becomes clear when you speak with anyone at the cooperative. What they have to say reflects the hard work and dedication that go into maintaining safe working environments.

Safety isn't just a practice; it's a personal commitment to protecting what matters most. In honor of Electrical Safety Month, take a moment to think about what safety truly means to you both at home and work. Many people have a reason why they work safely. Don't let anything or anyone compromise your passion and desire to go home to what you love!



**Role:** Communication Representative

**Employee Since:** August 2024

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

## Employee Spotlight: Izzy Cellucci



**What do you do at CEC?** Help coordinate internal/external communications, advertising, events, photography and I am this newsletter's editor. :-)



**What is one thing on your bucket list?** Go on a cross-country trip in the U.S. Specifically to meet new people and see sights out West -- Utah, Nevada, California etc.



**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** I love being outdoors. Especially hiking, camping, or kayaking. ALSO, listening to/making/finding music.



**What is your favorite family tradition?** We host a 7 fish(es) dinner on Christmas Eve, carrying on my grandparents' tradition.



**What is something you've always wanted to try?** Sky diving.

# Linemen Then & Now Pt. 2

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

Working as a lineman is a job unlike any other. You have to be resilient, adaptable, and expect the unexpected. These are the qualities that push many to embrace the job's challenges. Will, a CEC employee who had been a lineman for 8 years shares, "I don't know why, but I enjoyed being out in the middle of a thunderstorm with the wind and rain." Welcome to the second part of the educational, and personal, linemen series for Faces, Places, and Voices! Last month's article set the focus on Jack, a lineman who has been with CEC for nearly 40 years. Jumping forward from the 90s, we can gain the perspective of our lineman Will and of our lineman just shy of 3 years' experience, Josh.

There were always parts of the job that Will enjoyed, like the crew's company, or working outside, but admits that other factors, such as long hours, were never easy. He notes that during outages, linemen work much more structured hours compared to 15 years ago. "The old way had no limit of how many hours you could work. Usually it'd be a day, a night, a day, before you came in to go home," says Will, "Now, during a big outage, you work 16 hours a day, but no more than 24 hours in 32 hours." Meal breaks could also be limited. Will shares how they took the idea of an older lineman to keep a microwave in their truck for quick meals when they didn't have the time to head out for food. While these revisions offer a little more structure than in earlier days, the demands of the job still push linemen to their limits. Many have had to miss holidays, anniversaries, and other celebrations due to their demanding schedule.

Many CEC members likely remember the impact Winter Storm Avery had in November 2018, which left a trail of outages in the Northeastern United States. Between the ice and snow accumulation, most of CEC's service territory was out. Will recalls the long hours and how Pennsylvania cooperatives banded together during this crisis. "There were over 100 people working to get the power back on within our territory including journeymen linemen, tree crews, other co-ops' workers, and more," he shares. To put it in perspective, Central Electric Cooperative currently has a team of 23 linemen covering the 7-county service territory.



Long hours have their own challenges, but it's the critical focus on safety that truly defines the role of a lineman. As you can imagine, line workers closely follow a set of safety protocols every day. As Will puts it, "You gotta check your PPE every day and check the safety of a situation before starting anything." Making sure an area is safe has a variety of meanings, but there's one rule all linemen must agree upon: "Open, test, ground," are words to live by." Opening the line means disconnecting the circuit, testing it involves checking the circuit for voltage, and grounding refers to connecting the ground wire, a conductor, to the ground to direct the excess electricity underground. Checking the safety of the situation also involves being aware of your surroundings and communicating with your crew. A more recent CEC strategy that is closely followed is "speak up, listen up." This means an individual should never complete tasks on the job if they are unsure or have questions about the safety of a situation.



For linemen, making sure their PPE is in perfect condition has been non-negotiable for generations. When asked about the most important safety protocols they follow, Josh, one of CEC's newest linemen, explains the importance of inspecting his rubber-insulated gloves and sleeves for any sign of holes or abrasions. Linemen must also always wear the proper clothing to keep them safe. In 2014, OSHA finalized a rule that requires linemen to wear Flame-Resistant (FR) Clothing to protect them from flames and electric arcs. However, as our lineman Josh points out, "FR is hot and heavy and makes Summer a not fun time of year." PPE has come a long way in the past 50 years and continues to evolve, with improvements being made every day.

Linemen now are not the linemen then due to the modern changes that have shaped the industry. However, some things never change. A perspective that is often shared amongst CEC's linemen is their pride in putting people's power back on. They remind us that while technology and safety may evolve, the roots of the profession, and the drive to keep communities' lights on will remain timeless.

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**Advice for incoming linemen entering the industry:** Will says, "Pay attention, listen to the older people, and keep your ears open."





## Electrical Safety Month in Your Home

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

I don't know about you, but I like to celebrate! This month at the cooperative, we are celebrating Electrical Safety Month. Ok, ok, I know this may not seem like the most exciting thing to celebrate to you, but it is incredibly important. It's a reminder to keep your home safe, so that your appliances and equipment run efficiently, which overall could help save you money on your monthly electric bill.

I'm going to share some insight with you about how to do this step-by-step, starting with 2 larger appliances, furnaces and air conditioners. It is recommended you change your furnace's filter every 1 to 3 months if it is a 1-inch filter, and every 6 to 9 months if it is a 4-inch filter. Keep in mind if you have pets, you should change the filter more often as it can get clogged quicker, affecting both air quality and energy efficiency. Air conditioning filters should also be changed every 1 to 3 months along with keeping a 2–3-foot clearance around the unit. Performing regular maintenance not only helps the units run efficiently, but also ensures you are familiar with your unit to notice a change in it. Installing and maintaining carbon monoxide detectors is another safety measure that is simple yet important when trying to keep you and your family safe.

Next up, let's talk about your hot water heater. Did you know that it only takes 5 seconds to receive a burn from 140-degree water? 5 seconds! It is recommended to keep your water heater set at 120 degrees. Setting it to around 120 degrees can help save energy and money while keeping you safe too! You should flush your water heater once a year to prevent sediment from building up as well. This also helps it run efficiently. Lastly, we have a few quick tips for smaller items with simple steps to stay safe and keep your energy consumption lower.

- Use surge protectors indoors & outdoors for electronics.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords for damage, cracks, or loose wires.

While there may be some work involved in this celebration, it makes it worth it in the end when you and your family are safe. Happy Electrical Safety Month!



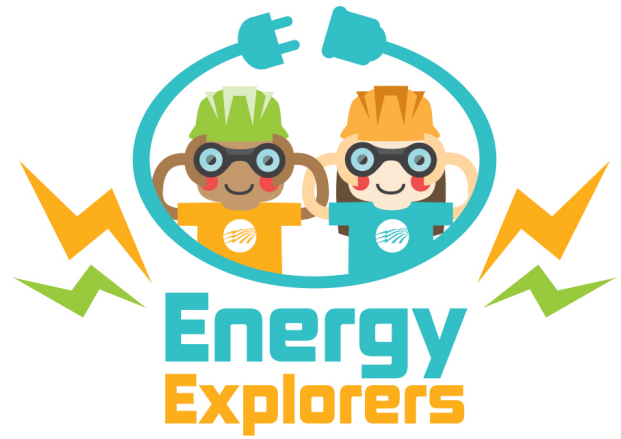
**STAY IN THE KNOW:** It's important to know when to replace both your air conditioner and furnace filters. The old A.C. filter (below) shows it's time for a new one. For more information about home energy conservation visit [central.coop/conservation-education](http://central.coop/conservation-education).



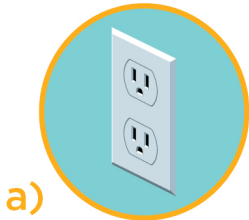
# CAN YOU SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD?

Electricity is essential for everyday life, but when combined with seemingly harmless items or elements, it can create a hazardous situation. View the grouped items below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create a potential electrical hazard.

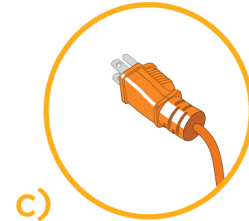
Check your work in the answer key below.



1.



2.



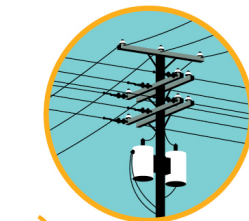
3.



4.



5.



Answer Key  
1. a&b 2. a&c 3. b&c 4. a&c 5. b&c

From the Kitchen of:  
**Chester Conti**



## RECIPE: **CARROT CAKE**

### INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 c. salad oil	1 tsp. baking powder
4 eggs	2 tsp. cinnamon
2 c. sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
2 c. carrots, grated	1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. nuts, chopped	1 Tbs. vanilla
1 c. crushed pineapple	4 oz. cream cheese
2 1/2 c. flour	1/2 box powder sugar

### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### Cake:

Heat oven to 325° (if using three round pans) or 350° for a 9 x 13 pan. Beat oil, eggs, and sugar in a large bowl. Stir in carrots, pineapples, nuts, and dry ingredients. Pour into pan(s) and bake for 45 - 50 minutes, or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

#### Frosting:

Combine vanilla, cream cheese, and powdered sugar. Spread on cooled 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**

**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

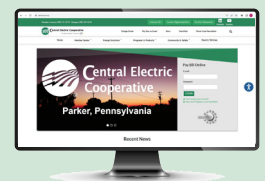
### RECEIVE

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.

