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Kenneth Durrett
Robert Smith
Jody Weaver
Richard Weaver



Photo from Unsplash

Remarks from the Annual Meeting

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

The format of our 84th Annual Meeting was impacted for the second year by the ongoing global pandemic — resulting in our member’s participation being limited. With that in mind, I wanted to share a portion of the remarks I made at the meeting.

2020 was a year unlike any we have seen in 100 years. The circumstances provided unprecedented challenges, but, I believe, it also provided opportunities to rise to the occasion. I feel it is important to acknowledge and thank those who rose to those challenges and provided a successful year for our membership in 2020.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for providing the input and support needed for us to work on their behalf to be successful. The board provided guidance and approved the resources needed to keep our employee group whole

during the pandemic, which allowed us to perform our responsibilities without interruption.

Additionally, I need to thank and recognize our dedicated employees. Their ability to adapt and realign resources and efforts during an emergency is fundamental in what we do. In recognizing our employees, I believe I would be remiss if I did not recognize our families. Without their patience and support, the efforts of our employees would have been impossible.

Lastly, I cannot thank our members enough for their patience and willingness to work with us. The cooperative attitude was never more evident.

Our strategic plan provided necessary flexibility, direction and priority to allow us to adapt to changes with positive results.

Despite the obvious distractions caused by operational restrictions,

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Power Lines

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Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) had only one minor incident which resulted in lost time from work. We were able to continue our mandatory safety compliance trainings, often virtually, and our crew observation program. Crews were active participants in the observations and were provided with constructive feedback regarding best safety practices.

The continued improvement of the reliability of the system was given priority. By continually changing our protocols, we were able to maintain our workforce availability and, after an initial shutdown, were able to address required new installations and maintenance.

Our right-of-way clearance efforts were able to continue, clearing approximately 300 miles in the year. We also maintained pole inspection efforts, inspecting 6,069 poles and replacing 101 poles identified as needing replacement.

Just prior to the pandemic, CEC transitioned our dispatch function from individual, local contractors to CRC, a nationwide cooperative providing dispatch services to hundreds of cooperatives. The coincidental timing of the implementation with the pandemic proved exceptionally valuable.

CEC followed guidelines from the state regarding extending the disconnection moratorium and suspension of penalty fees. This led to a concerning increase in our accounts receivable. But this issue has been addressed and entirely reversed in 2021, leading to no adverse financial impact

on the cooperative.

We were able to recognize a margin of \$3,918,433. The margin produced a Times Interest Earned Ratio of 3.05 and a Debt Service Coverage of 2.12. Both are well above those required by our lenders.

This strong financial position allowed CEC to return \$1,624,338 to our members in the form of a Capital Credit retirement in April 2021. This retirement decreased our rotation of patronage capital to 21 years — thereby meeting another financial goal.

CEC is committed to the regular retirement of patronage capital to our members and we are among the leaders nationally in that effort. Our current economic outlook indicates no need for a rate increase in 2021 and, at this point, we have no plans for one in 2022.

Our efforts to expand electronic bill payment proved very valuable. In 2020, 58 percent of payments were electronic.

We were able to complete and roll out our outage communication program, allowing members to receive outage and restoration information via text or email. We updated our website to provide more information to members. We continued our Good Neighbor Scholarship program, providing 10 scholarships totaling \$25,000. We offered nearly \$300,000 in bill payment assistance through our Family Fund and COVID-19 hardship grants. All this money

“Our current economic outlook indicates no need for a rate increase in 2021 and, at this point, we have no plans for one in 2022.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

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came from our Escheats program at no cost to members.

Some of our in-person, value added services were interrupted, but our Member Aware Advisory Committee was able to continue virtually throughout the year.

We were able to extend our computer network in a matter of days — allowing our employees to

perform functions remotely. This extension of our network came with a significant increase in support requirements and cybersecurity concerns. The IT team was able to handle the support and improve cybersecurity to mitigate increased risk.

All in all — 2020 was a strong year for CEC, indicating our ability to adapt to provide business continuity and safe, reliable service — while maintaining a healthy and safe workforce.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Daylight Saving Time Safety



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

This time of year, most of the United States will turn their clocks back one hour for the end of daylight saving time. Most of us think: “Fantastic! Another hour of sleep.” However, there is a huge difference between the “social clock” and our “biological clock.” During such time changes, there is statistically an increase in safety incidents.

With the end of daylight saving time, comes an increase of darkness around the time many are making their commute and drivers aren't used to the decreased visibility — nor are pedestrians.

Pedestrians walking at dusk are nearly three times more likely to be struck and killed by cars in the days following the end of daylight saving time than just before the time change. A study of seven years of nationwide traffic fatalities was conducted at Carnegie Mellon University, calculating the risk per mile walked for pedestrians. The study found that the per-mile risk jumps 186 percent from October to November.

The National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF) has done studies proving auto accidents increase after the clocks fall back an hour. Besides the lack of visibility, the NRSF notes that commuting in the dark can also make drivers drowsier than usual.

Additionally, some health studies have found changes in waking time, coupled with the earlier onset of darkness, throws off our internal clocks.

The end of daylight saving time can leave many feeling fatigued, which can pose safety risks both at home and in the workplace. Some things to keep in mind when switching back to standard time are:

- Fatigue: Studies suggest it takes people several days to fully readjust their sleep schedule after the time change. Don't be surprised if you feel sluggish during the first week (ish) of November.
- Accidents: Evidence suggests time changes increase safety problems both at work and at home. Just being aware of the increased risk of accidents in the period immediately following the time change may help you stay alert.

The time change can also serve as a reminder for performing important, recurring safety tasks such as:

- Checking and replacing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Preparing a winter emergency kit for your vehicle.
- Checking your fire extinguishers.

NEW FEATURE! Report Outages via Text!!

CEC is excited to announce another new feature available — reporting an outage via text message!

CEC understands that providing members with communication options is essential as everyone relies more on technology to stay connected.

CEC's new, two-way texting feature allows members with a single account to text the word "OUT" to report a power outage.

To take advantage of this easy and convenient way to report an outage, you must be a registered SmartHub user with a text enrolled mobile number.

The text must be sent to CEC's dedicated SmartHub number (855-940-3955).

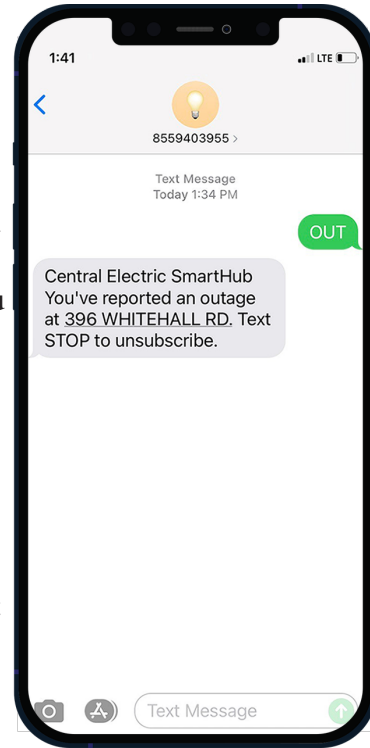
Additionally, outage notification texts and emails are available to keep you updated on information specific to your outage.

The ability to report an outage and receive

updates via text gives you more flexibility and options to communicate with CEC efficiently and effectively.

Do not wait until you are experiencing an outage to utilize these great features — sign up today!

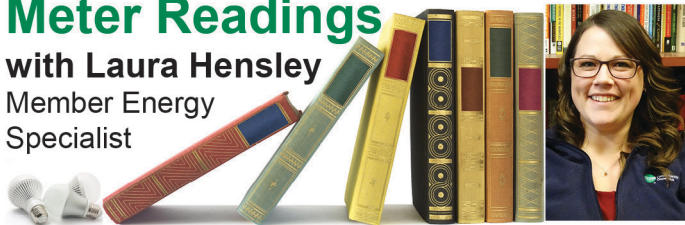
To learn more about reporting an outage via text or outage notifications, please visit www.central.coop.



Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy Specialist



Members often ask how much electricity a TV or computer uses and how much it costs them. Unfortunately, this question has no standard answer as our in-home electronics vary in size, features, usage and technology. The good news is these devices are likely some of the lowest energy consuming items due to new technology.

A TV or desktop computer purchased in the last ten years will likely cost somewhere between \$15 to \$50 per year. However, many of us also have cable boxes, gaming consoles, Wi-Fi routers and other accessories that add to our total energy consumption. Fortunately, there are many ways to ensure your electronics are not wasting energy.

- Plug your TV, cable box, gaming systems and other accessories into a power strip/surge

Electronics and Energy Usage

protector. When this equipment is not in use, turn off the power strip to prevent energy usage.

- Try a smart power strip to detect when a control unit, such as a TV, is off and shuts off peripherals, like DVD players and printers.
- Select a laptop computer or tablet that uses less electricity than a desktop computer.
- Adjust your computer's power and sleep modes. The monitor may go into sleep mode, but the computer doesn't without configuration.
- Turn your gaming console to energy-saving.
- Avoid using a game console to stream online content. This can use up to ten times more energy than a laptop, tablet or smart TV.

To learn more about how much energy a device consumes, try the Kill-A-Watt™ EZ electricity usage monitor. This monitor will record device or appliance energy usage and provide you the cost of electricity over a time period. Learn more about the Kill-A-Watt™ EZ on our website.

Get Involved in CEC: Join the MAAC!

Are you interested in serving on a respected committee and sharing your ideas with cooperative employees and members? Then the Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) is the perfect opportunity for you!

CEC is currently looking for members to serve on the 2022-2023 MAAC committee. This committee establishes effective communication between cooperative members, the Board of Directors and management.

As a MAAC member, you have the chance to discuss and contribute your ideas on issues directly concerning cooperative members. You will also have the chance to submit recommendations to the Board of Directors and management on improving services and procedures. This committee will meet eight times (once a quarter) throughout the 2022-2023 term.

CEC will select representatives from the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest and Venango. In keeping with the cooperative's bylaws, Allegheny County members shall be affiliated with Butler County and Mercer County members with Venango County.

MAAC members must be residential members with their permanent residence on cooperative lines in the county they represent. In addition to residential members, the committee will also

include a seasonal representative who is required to have a seasonal account on cooperative lines.

All interested members must be in good standing with the cooperative to be considered. The Board of Directors will appoint members if there are no volunteers for a specific county.

MAAC members receive a per diem and mileage compensation for attending each meeting.

CEC would like to recognize the 2020-2021 MAAC members for their dedication and outstanding efforts. They are: Tom and Laura Hahn of Armstrong County; Bob and Sandy Boda of Butler County; Michael and Deanna Panza of Butler County; Albert Coppock III of Butler County; Tim and Amy Farrell of Forest County; Beverly McAnallen of Clarion County; James and Suzanne Reed of Clarion County; Dan and Jayme Hurrelbrink of Clarion County; Larry and Carol Shaffer of Venango County; John and Lisa Groner of Venango County; and seasonal representative Linda Costanzo.

If you are interested in serving on the MAAC committee, please complete the coupon below and send it to: Central Electric Cooperative, MAAC Committee, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049. Coupons must be returned by Dec. 1. If you have any questions, please call 800-521-0570.

Member Aware Advisory Committee

I would like to volunteer to serve on the 2022-2023 MAAC Committee

Name(s): _____

Residential or Seasonal (circle one) Account Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ County: _____

Email: _____

Recipe of the Month

Pineapple Nut Cake

Cake Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 can (about 20 ounces) crushed pineapple (with juice)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions:

Mix ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Icing Ingredients:

- 8-ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1-1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions:

Mix and spread on top of cake. Top with chopped walnuts.

Thank you to Luann Marzullo for submitting this recipe!

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Frank Barger of Parker

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Frances Vandermark of Seneca

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: CEC was not able to inspect or replace poles in the year 2020.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Daylight saving time can pose a safety risk both at home and in the workplace.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: A smart power strip is a great way to reduce your electronics' energy usage.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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