

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



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Keepers of the Faith

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

If you are anything like me, when you look back nostalgically it is through the lens of the “good old days,” meaning I tend to remember and focus fondly on the good stuff. While listening to the radio the other day (when did 80’s music become “oldies”), I heard a lesser-known hit, one that only reached #18 on the Billboard Hot 100 list, by that wisest of all piano playing troubadours, Billy Joel. In his timeless classic, “Keeping the Faith,” he sings “the good ole days weren’t always good and tomorrow ain’t as bad as it seems.”

This sentiment is particularly important today, especially for those of us in the business of serving a community’s electricity needs. When you consume energy news from any source, you’re likely to be bombarded with information and opinions. You’ll hear news about the challenges facing our industry, the electric grid and ultimately our communities as it relates to supplying safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Many pundits, to garner support for their respective positions, will suggest we cling to the

“good ole days” to avoid the apocalyptic path we are on. Dramatic, I know, but the approach is used as a marketing tool for almost everything and can be quite effective.

As I have stated many times, and what should be obvious by my 80’s music reference, I have been in the electric utility business for many years and let me assure you, “the good ole days weren’t always good and tomorrow ain’t as bad as it seems.” Certainly, we keepers of the faith are faced with a few daunting challenges in providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to the communities we serve. However, this has always been the case.

Today’s concerns are well publicized. Electric demands are increasing fast due to the electrification of the transportation sector and the proliferation of large load data centers to serve the artificial intelligence market. Electric supply is unable to keep pace with demand for several reasons that include, among other things, smaller capacity reserves resulting from a deregulated generation market, the premature closure of baseload generation caused by changing rules, and a lack of understanding by those making the rules that not all

Continued on page 2

generation is equal in serving the grid. Significant storm events pose an ever-present threat to our reliability efforts.

However, today's concerns are not unique as the good ole days had their share of concerns too. The first electrification efforts were done using a direct current system that limited the distances between generators and substations. We addressed those issues by transitioning to the use of alternating current system (thank you Mr. Tesla). The economic conditions of the day led companies to only serve densely populated areas to maximize profit. Cooperatives were created to address this concern and bring electricity to everyone in America. In those early days, we were faced with some of the same concerns we are facing today, namely the exceedingly fast growth of demand outpacing the available supply. Stories of tornados, ice storms and other extreme weather events are littered throughout our history as well.

My comments are not intended to give the impression that there is nothing about which to be concerned. Instead I hope they illustrate that in the case of previously occurring events, we have experience in addressing the concerns and the luxury of learning from our mistakes and regarding the issues that we have not yet faced, we follow a planning and response methodology that allows us to navigate the pitfalls and come to effective resolutions. At CEC, we created a dynamic strategic plan that allows us to react to changing requirements daily while looking forward and creating goals for the future of the organization.

We continually upgrade and maintain our system to allow it to be more resilient in weather events. We work with other cooperatives, our generation and transmission provider, and our statewide and nationwide associations to educate ourselves on the concerns facing the industry and determine the best available path forward. These efforts are evolving as they relate to data center load and available capacity, but as an example, as I have shared before, we are uniquely prepared to implement the use of

electric vehicles in a manner that will be beneficial to the cooperative with minimal impact on the grid, equipment, or electric demand.

Mr. Joel was right, the good ole days weren't always good and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems. We keepers of the faith navigated the difficulties of the past and, using the knowledge and skills gained, provided a framework for future direction. Tomorrow looks challenging, but the possibilities look promising. The value of the cooperative model has never been more evident than now.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

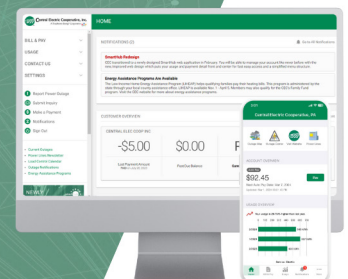
Matthew P. Boshaw	<i>CEO & General Manager</i>
Chester Conti	<i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i>
Lisa A. Hoover	<i>Director of Member Services</i>
Christopher W. Kossman	<i>Director of Information Technology</i>
Fred E. Terwilliger	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

Manage your account like never before!



FEATURES:

- Make digital payments
- Monitor your energy usage
- Sign up to receive email or text alerts
- Report outages
- Communicate with CEC directly
- AND MORE!



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Photo Contest Voting

After 23 members submitted photos for our 2025 Photo Contest, 934 online votes has narrowed it down to five photos. Please vote from the photos below for the **three** you feel deserve to be our winners and mail your form to our office. **You can also vote on our website until Oct. 17.** The photo with the most votes will receive the first place prize of a \$100 bill credit, second place a \$50 bill credit, and third a \$25 bill credit. We will announce the winners in late October and in December's Power Lines newsletter. Thank you to all who entered photos!



Photo #1: Somewhere

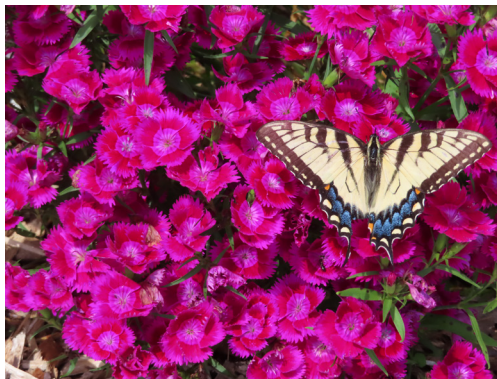


Photo #2: Picture Perfect

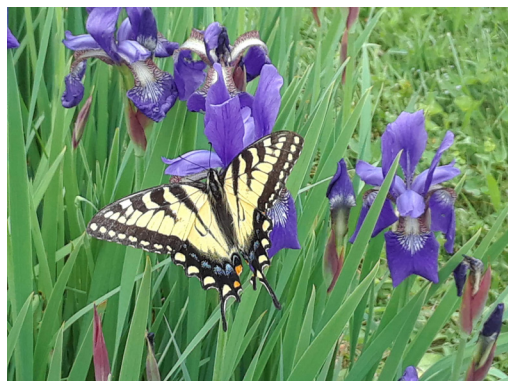
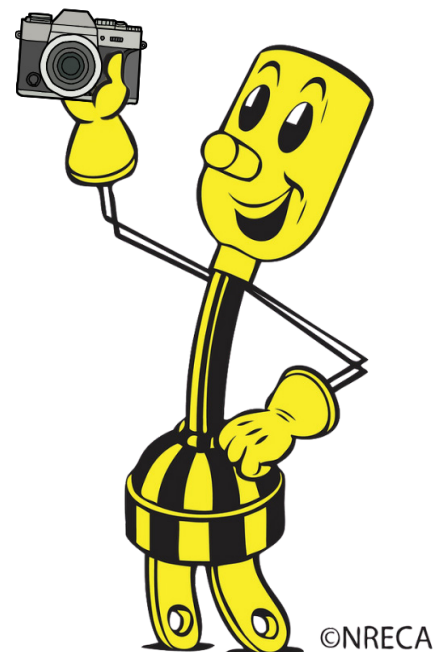


Photo #3: Summer Beauty



Photo #4: Nosy Bluebird



Photo #5: Trick or Treaters

Photo Contest Voting Card

Name: _____

Address : _____

*Please select the **top three** photos you want to vote for by checking the boxes.*

Photo #1

☐

Photo #2

☐

Photo #3

☐

Photo #4

☐

Photo #5

☐

Return to CEC by Oct. 17

Stay Safe Labor Day Weekend

by Grant Potsubay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control

When you think of Labor Day you may think of long weekends, parades, and backyard barbecues, but there is more to it than that. Observed on the first Monday of September, Labor Day began in the late 19th century to honor the American labor movement and the contributions of workers across the country.

At CEC, it's more than just a day off, it is a time to celebrate with friends and family and to reflect on the hard work of our linemen and staff. After a demanding year, a frigid winter, and a grueling summer, CEC's team has earned a break. Spending a long weekend with your family is priceless and we hope that all of you get to enjoy your well-deserved day off with your loved ones as well.

As you enjoy the holiday, we encourage everyone to keep safety in mind just as we do on the job every day. Whether you're grilling, travelling, or spending your time outdoors, a few precautions can help guarantee a great time for everyone.

Labor Day Safety Tips from the American Red Cross:

Driving Safety

If traveling is part of your plans, then these tips are for you:

1. Be well rested and alert, use seat belts, and follow the rules of the road.
2. Don't drink and drive. Instead, have a designated driver.

3. Use caution in work zones with the multitude of construction projects on highways.

Heat Safety

1. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. If you are going to drink alcohol or caffeine, remember to drink in moderation.
2. Be aware of extreme temperature changes and apply sun protection!
3. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, or light-colored clothing.

Great Outdoors Safety

Being prepared is critical when people are out in remote areas with limited access to phone services, hospitals, and emergency services. Before you head out, follow these steps:

1. Know the ability level of the people in your group and the environment around you. Plan accordingly. Sprains and falls are some of the most common injuries travelers face.
2. Share your travel plans and locations with a family member, neighbor, or friend.
3. Pack a First-Aid Kit and make sure to include bug spray, sunscreen, and personal medications.

Regardless of what you plan to do, make sure to keep yourself and others safe to have a fun and worry-free Labor Day weekend!



Role: Journeyman Lineman
Employee Since: March 2019

Employee Spotlight: Jeb Parker



What do you do at CEC? I'm a Journeyman Lineman.



What do you enjoy most about working at CEC? The location and the area we serve.



Why did you choose to be a lineman? To be outside working with my hands at different locations.



What was your first job? I was a Tree Trimmer.



What is one thing on your bucket list? To see all the national parks in the U.S.

Getting the Most Out of SmartHub

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative



Ever missed an important update because you didn't check your email on time? You're not alone. Luckily, there is an easier way to stay informed! SmartHub, CEC's free web and mobile app, helps you manage your electric account, offering real-time notifications so you're never out of the loop.

Designed with members in mind, SmartHub was created to be a powerful communication tool. You can personalize your notifications to match your preferences whether it's about your account, usage, billing, or outages. By going to your account settings, you can opt-in or out of the alerts that matter most to you. For instance, under the billing tab, you'll find 14 different notification options, such as reminders from CEC for upcoming bills or confirmations when payments are made.

You have full control over what information you receive, and you can even choose to have messages sent via email, over text, or through a push notification. This flexibility is especially helpful during outages, when timely information is in high demand. SmartHub Notifications can inform members of confirmed outages, when power is restored and, when possible, an estimated time of restoration (ETR).

Aside from outage updates, SmartHub brings all your essential account and communication tools together in one place. You can pay electric bills digitally, monitor your energy usage, and get in touch with CEC. It is also a quick and efficient way to report service interruptions and ask questions on the go.

One of the most popular features of SmartHub is the ability to pay bills online or through the app, a service

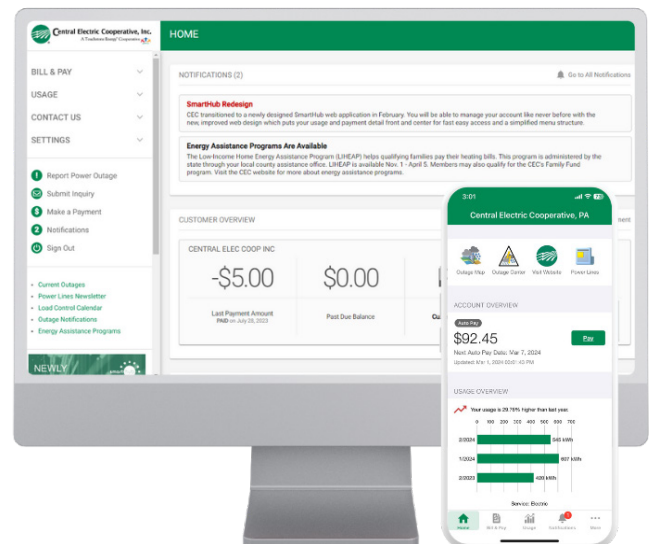
known as Smart Payments. A notification is sent when your bill is ready, then you can pay securely online or in the app at any time. Upon initial logins to SmartHub you are asked if you wish to enroll in paperless billing. Unless you choose to enroll in CEC's paperless billing program, you will continue to receive a paper bill each month. You can opt-in or out of this program anytime in SmartHub.

Smart Usage is a resource for monitoring your usage and tracking your energy consumption, finding ways to reduce and save 24/7. As Connie's Connection article, "Taking Charge of Your Energy Usage with SmartHub" mentions on the following page, CEC uses Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology to offer the following services:

- Usage explorer
- Bill/Usage Comparison
- Average Usage
- Usage Planning

Notifications for Smart Usage updates and alerts can also be customized in your settings. Unlike a monthly statement, you can check your energy use anytime and take steps toward more efficient habits.

SmartHub is a great option for managing your account, staying up-to-date and communicating with CEC on your terms. Whether you're tracking your energy usage, paying your bill, or reporting an outage, Smart Hub makes it simple. Getting started is easy: visit www.central.coop and click the SmartHub tab at the top of the page. Already signed up? Don't forget you can adjust your notification preferences anytime to get the best possible experience. Take control today and discover a smarter way to stay informed.





Take Charge of Your Energy Use with SmartHub

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Have you registered for SmartHub yet? If not, I highly recommend it. SmartHub is a convenient tool we offer to you, our members, to view your bills, make payments, report outages and my favorite part, monitor your energy usage. As the Member Energy Specialist, I'm most interested in the usage section because you can find key energy monitoring tools. Your electric meter uses Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology, allowing you to monitor your usage in detail. It records a reading every hour, then is sent to CEC once a day, ensuring actual readings daily. The readings are sent on the following day as they are recorded midnight to midnight.

When viewing energy usage on SmartHub, you can

look at your current readings or even go back and look at previous dates. This can be useful if you are trying to see whether your usage has gone up or down in comparison to prior years. SmartHub shows you the temperature for each day so you can see if it is affecting your energy usage. Are you worried that your next bill might be higher and want to know prior to receiving your bill? You can check out your unbilled usage on SmartHub by viewing your data in terms of usage or cost to see what your daily usage is costing you.

You can also set up notifications to notify you if your usage is higher or lower than usual. This is a great option for someone who may have a location they're not at all the time but can still be beneficial to anyone. All the notifications from SmartHub can be set to either receive them as an email or a text message. If you'd like to opt-in to usage notifications go under Settings > Manage Notifications > Usage, then set up your usage alert to best fit your needs.

Being able to view your usage at your fingertips can help you be more energy conscious and help reduce your usage.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

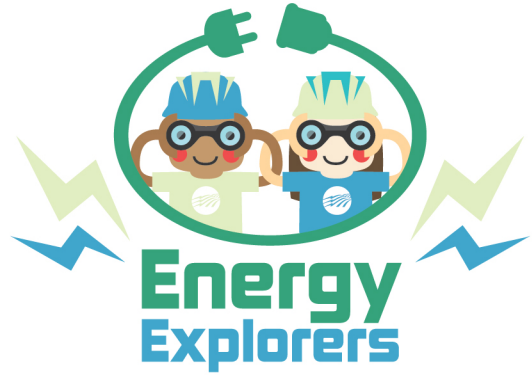
Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment, or send a reply to an untrusted source. When you have a doubt, please contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS)



HYDROPOWER WORD SEARCH

You know that it's never safe to mix water and electricity at home, but did you know that large amounts of flowing water can be used to create electricity? This process of generating electricity from the movement of water is called hydropower.



Read the facts below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

1. **Water** flowing down a river is used to spin large **turbines** that help create hydroelectricity.
2. When the turbines spin, a large **generator** spins, which creates **electricity**.
3. The amount of water used to generate hydropower is controlled through the use of large **dams**.
4. **Hydropower** is a form of renewable energy.



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



From the Kitchen of:
Sue Ritchey



RECIPE: **MISSISSIPPI CORN BREAD SALAD**

INGREDIENTS:

1 box Jiffy cornbread, prepared, cooled & crumbled	
3 large tomatoes, chopped	1 can corn, drained
1/2 c. green peppers, chopped	1 pkg dry ranch mix
1/2 c. green onions, chopped	8 oz. sour cream
2 cans pinto beans, drained	1 c. mayonaise
1 c. cheddar cheese, shredded	
10 slices bacon, cooked & crumbled (optional)	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In 9x13 pan, crumble half of cornbread, layer tomatoes, peppers, green onions, beans, cheese, corn, and bacon.
2. In a bowl, combine ranch mix, sour cream, and mayonaise.
3. Top with dressing and remaining cornbread. Refrigerate for at least 5 hours.
4. Enjoy! "This is a hit wherever you take it." - Sue

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.

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Member Services: 800-521-0570

Outages: 800-282-8610



Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci

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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.*



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

