

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

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Words to Live By

BY MATT BOSHAW

CEO & General Manager

We all have our go-to sayings, slogans and words to live by. Carpe Diem! Do your best. Treat others how you want to be treated. Let it go. Be kind. They can be motivational, faith based, or even educational. Every one of these is certainly laudable and may serve as figurative, theoretical, or as general guidance for how we behave but when I refer to words to live by, I mean it literally.

Visible Open, Test Dead, Ground, and Lock Out Tag Out. While perhaps not as catchy or not very usable in advertising slogans, these words literally save lives every day in the distribution electric business.

No matter what the conditions, when linemen are responding to a power outage, they must perform the operations indicated in order to safely repair facilities. They must first identify which direction the power is coming from and identify the nearest device that can be operated to provide a visible open, or gap between the power supply, and the facilities in need of repair. They then tag it as open or de-energized and

lock it out of service so that no one else will inadvertently place it back in service. Taking it further, they then test the line to confirm it is dead or de-energized. Lastly, they will place grounds on either side of their work area so that any potential current, like what could be created by an incorrectly installed home generator, will be channeled into the ground rather than through the facilities on which they are working. This process takes time that can be compounded by lack of daylight or poor weather conditions but is essential to the safety of our employees during outage restoration. This extra time cannot be compromised as we know all too well, failure to perform these tasks can be catastrophic.

This past June marked 13 years since the tragic electrical contact incident that took the life of a journeyman lineman here at Central Electric Cooperative. Adherence to our words to live by would have avoided our tragic incident. In late July, due to scheduling conflicts, we held our annual remembrance of the event. We call this event Safety Stand Down Day (SSDD), and we have held it nearly every year since the incident. Only a gathering restriction

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imposed by the pandemic interrupted our plans over the years. The event was born from the suggestion of another lineman that we have a safety-related day that all employees would participate in.

On SSDD, we literally stand down from our normal work responsibilities. We receive presentations on a variety of safety topics from industry professionals, we eat together and take the opportunity to share some fellowship with fellow employees that we don't interact with every day. Although this is not a memorial, we do take a few moments each year to reflect on the incident and remember those who experienced it, both those still with us and those who are no longer here. I think this remembrance gets more important each year as there are fewer and fewer of us who were here when it happened. As the man who had the terrible responsibility to inform a spouse that her husband would not be coming home, I believe the most important part of the day is that we remember the incident together. At CEC, our focus is on our membership, except for on Safety Stand Down Day. That day is for your cooperative employees and only your cooperative employees. I even tell the Board that they are not invited and they are my bosses. With that said, I would like to thank them and you for allowing us this day to pull us out of the day to day and allow us the opportunity to remember and reset our focus on safety and those all-important words to live by: Visible Open, Test Dead, Ground, and Lock Out Tag Out.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA

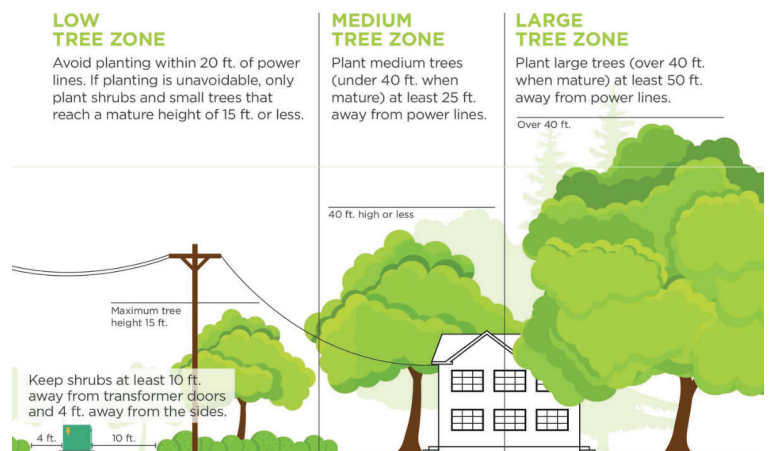


SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Matthew P. Boshaw	<i>CEO & General Manager</i>
Samantha J. Prasky	<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>
Caitlin T. Kriebel	<i>Director of Human Resources</i>
Fred E. Terwilliger	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

Did you know

Trees are the leading cause of power outages? Learn how to plant them properly.



2026 Photo Contest: **Vote for the Top Three**

After 36 members submitted photos for our 2026 Photo Contest, 534 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. 16.** 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!

#1. Spring Awakening



#2. Berry Good!



#3. Hungry Hatchlings



#4. Majestic Watch



#5. Shining Light

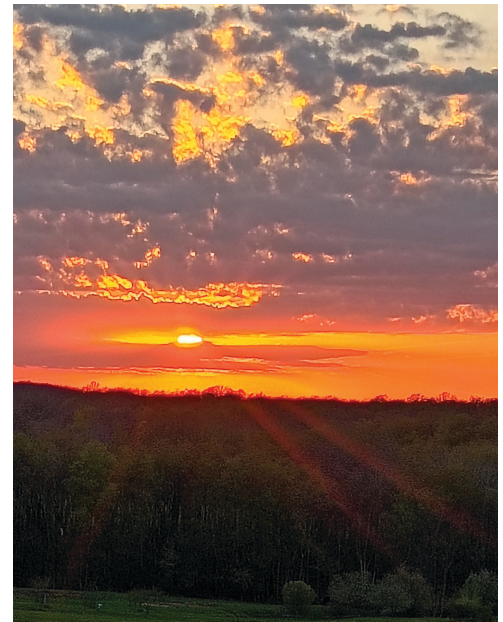


Photo Contest Voting Card

Name: _____

Address : _____

Photo #1

☐

Photo #2

☐

Photo #3

☐

Photo #4

☐

Photo #5

☐

Return to CEC by Oct. 16

Why Vegetation Management Matters

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

We know you love trees, and we do too! CEC will do everything we can to limit trimming, but we occasionally need to trim around overhead power lines to improve reliability and safety for our community. This infographic highlights why tree trimming is a necessity for both our staff and members.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you, our members!



Role: Cybersecurity and Compliance Specialist
Employee Since: July 2026

Employee Spotlight: Corbin Jordan



What do you do at CEC? I work towards improving our security measures to prevent hacks or data breaches.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? I enjoy being out in nature, walking trails, kayaking, etc. I also like gaming (video and board games) and watching movies/shows.



What is your least favorite food? Tomatoes.



Do you have any pets? I have a Black Mouth Cur named Cooper.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? I am currently learning French to spend time in France. I have a French background that I would like to learn about.



Morgan Webb and Katrina Konieczny speaking with a CEC member about America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.



Members, staff, and board mingling at the August 5 meeting.



President Jody Weaver speaking at the 89th Annual Meeting.



Laura Prosser and Stacey Bechtel running event registration.



2026 candidates elected to the Board of Directors: Nancy Lendyak and Todd Shingleton.

89th Annual Business Meeting Recap

On August 5, 2026, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), held the 89th Annual Meeting of the Members at AC Valley Elementary School at 6:00 pm.

138 members and their guests attended the meeting. Members that attended the meeting heard remarks from CEC's CEO and General Manager, Matt Boshaw, took the opportunity to speak with CEC's board of directors, management team, and staff, and learned of the official election results.

Before the meeting commenced, members enjoyed refreshments and took the opportunity to interact with staff at the education center. CEC provided members with information on the GenerLink transfer switch, energy efficiency tips for cost savings in their homes, solar power, Safety City, and America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

During the meeting, it was confirmed that incumbent director Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County Representative, was re-elected in an uncontested race, and Todd Shingleton, Butler County Representative, was newly elected to CEC's Board of Directors.

All members in attendance received a \$15 bill credit and were entered to win door prizes. Prizes included \$100, \$75, and \$50 Visa gift cards. Bill credits will appear on the September billing statements and none of these are redeemable for cash.

For the members not in attendance, a video recording of the 89th Annual Meeting of the Members is provided at www.central.coop.



Shade, Savings, and Keeping the Lights On

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

When members talk to me about lowering their electric bills, they usually bring up attic insulation, heat pumps, or smart thermostats. As a Member Energy Specialist, I like to let people know about one efficiency tool doesn't need to be plugged in at all, it's actually right outside your window.

Strategic landscaping is basically nature's original climate control system. Planted intentionally, mature trees and shrubs can slash summer air conditioning costs by up to 25% while serving as a natural shield against icy winter drafts.

If you want to maximize your energy savings, another way is to pay attention to how seasonal weather, especially in Pennsylvania, affects your home in the summer and winter. Here are a few ideas of how:

- **Beat the Summer Heat:** Plant deciduous trees (the kind that shed their leaves) on the south and west sides of your home. Their thick summer canopy blocks scorching afternoon sun before it bakes your roof and windows. Once winter rolls around and the leaves fall, that warm sunlight shines right through to help heat your living room for free.

- **Block the Winter Chill:** Plant dense evergreens on the north and northwest sides of your lot. They act as a living windbreak, cutting down on the cold breezes that force your heat to work overtime.

The "Right Tree, Right Place" rule may be something you haven't heard before, but this is where my job as a co-op specialist kicks in. As much as we love trees, overhead power lines don't! Tree branches contacting power lines are one of the biggest causes of blinking lights and storm outages in our area. Before you dig, keep distance guidelines in mind based on the tree's full mature size:

- **Tall Trees (Oaks, Maples, Pines):** Plant these at least 50 feet away from overhead lines.
- **Medium Trees (Birch, Redbuds):** Keep them 20 to 40 feet away.
- **Low-Growing Trees (Dogwoods, Crabapples):** If a tree stays under 25 feet tall at full growth, it's generally safe to plant closer to overhead lines.

Smart landscaping isn't just about curb appeal; it's a long-term investment in lower energy bills and a more reliable grid. By picking the right spot for the right tree, you get to enjoy a cooler house today without risking power outages down the road.

Have questions about setting up your yard for efficiency? Reach out to us at CEC anytime, we're always here to help you save! (And remember, always call 811 to mark underground utilities before you break ground.)

A Little Cost. A Lot of Life.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- **720** hours of refrigeration
- **20+** loads of clean clothes
- **15+** home-cooked meals
- **90+** hours of lighting
- **Numerous** devices charged
- **Hundreds** of hours of cooling/heating
- **Countless** connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort

As harvest season approaches, take time to think about electrical safety.

Farm Safety and Health Week | Sept. 21-25

Energy Detective Challenge

School is back in session, and it's time to put your observation skills to work! Complete the challenges below and earn points by finding ways your family can save energy.



SCAVENGER HUNT

COMPLETED

A light is left on in an empty room **(2 points)** ☐

A smart or programmable thermostat **(4 points)** ☐

A ceiling fan spinning in a room where no one is spending time **(2 points)** ☐

A charger plugged in with nothing connected to it **(2 points)** ☐

An ENERGY STAR® label on an appliance **(3 points)** ☐

A window or door left open or cracked when the heating/cooling system is on **(3 points)** ☐

MISSIONS

COMPLETED

Turn off the lights when you leave a room **(3 points)** ☐

Open blinds or curtains during the day instead of turning on a light **(3 points)** ☐

Unplug a charger that isn't being used **(3 points)** ☐

Remind family members to close the refrigerator door quickly **(3 points)** ☐

Help your family create a "lights out" check before bedtime **(4 points)** ☐

From the Kitchen of:
Becky Zacherl



RECIPE: PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN FUDGE

Send your own recipe to:

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

INGREDIENTS:

- 14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 c. yellow cake mix
- 2 1/2 c. white chocolate chips
- 6 oz. bag chopped sweetened dried pineapple chunks
- 18 maraschino cherries, cut in half and stems removed

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Line 9x9 baking dish with parchment paper.
2. Combine sweetened condensed milk, cake mix and white chocolate chips in a medium sauce pan.
3. Cook over medium heat, whisking or stirring until the mixture is melted and smooth.
4. Stir in chopped pineapple. Pour fudge into parchment-lined baking dish.
5. Press cherry halves into the fudge mixture.
6. Allow to cool 2 hours in fridge, or until set, removed and cut into pieces. Store in air-tight container at room temperature and enjoy!



Central Electric Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

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

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

