



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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 DuBois, PA 15801-0688
 Customer Service: 888-581-8969
 www.unitedpa.com
 Outage: 800-262-8959
 Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Stephen A. Marshall, District 5
 1030 Donahue Rd.
 Luthersburg, Pa. 15848
 814-583-7320

Vice Chairman

Timothy D. Burkett, District 6
 5059 Hamilton Markton Rd.
 Punxsutawney, Pa. 15767
 814-938-7991

Secretary/Treasurer

Eileen Pisaneschi, District 2
 1964 River Hill Rd.
 Frenchville, Pa. 16836
 814-263-4491

DIRECTORS

Shanelle Hawk, District 1
 502 Pine Run Rd.
 Mayport, Pa. 16240
 814-365-5646

Arden E. Owens, District 7
 505 Trout Run Rd.
 Shawville, Pa. 16873
 814-765-6458

Richard Petrosky, District 3
 P.O. Box 612
 DuBois, Pa. 15801
 814-371-8672

David W. Walker, District 4
 631 Olanta Rd.
 Olanta, Pa. 16863
 814-236-3321

President & CEO
Brenda Swartzlander

Consumer Advocate
Paula Pascuzzo, ext. 8501

Richard Heverley, Editor

Guest Column



Don't fall victim to scams – be smart with SmartHub!

By Corey Kelso, Information Technology Manager

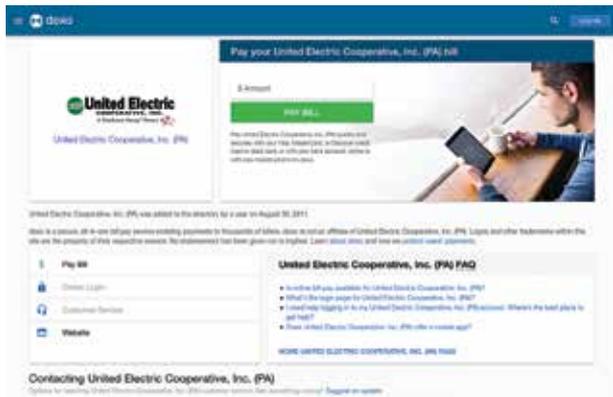
IN TODAY'S connected world, scammers are everywhere. They target our wallets from every country around the globe, by phone and through the internet. Scammers masquerade as law enforcement, the IRS, utility bill collectors, banks, Microsoft tech support — the list goes on and on. They try to make a quick buck through deception and then move on to their next unsuspecting victim. Just last year, 10 of the biggest scams cost Americans almost \$1 billion.

Here at United, we go to great lengths to protect your personal information from scammers. And I hope that you do, too. Recently, we became aware to a new type of internet scam affecting our members. They're called third-party payment sites. There are many of these sites on the internet today, using various names like chargesmart.com and prismmoney.com. But one site, DOXO.com, has left a few United members feeling especially misled.

Although they may appear legitimate, DOXO is not affiliated with your cooperative. DOXO's payment pages use United Electric Cooperative's name and logos WITHOUT PERMISSION. This falsely gives them the appearance of United's official payment site, SmartHub. But unlike SmartHub, which is free to our members,

third-party payment sites (like DOXO) charge extra "fees" to process your payment. These "fees" can be more than \$5, and they provide no guarantee when United will receive your payment. Unfortunately, this delay can result in late payment fees or even disconnection for nonpayment.

If you pay your United Electric bill online, please remember to "Be Smart with SmartHub!" By using SmartHub, your personal, credit and account information stay secure with United. There are no fees to use it, and payments are applied to your account without delay. Look for SmartHub at our website, unitedpa.com, or download the app from the Apple or Google App stores. Over 7,500 of United's



BE AWARE: This is a screen shot of the DOXO third-party payment site illegally using United Electric's logo to mislead members into thinking they are using our free payment site, SmartHub.com, to pay their bills.

accounts are registered to securely pay with SmartHub. I encourage you to give it a try today.

December is typically the peak of

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2019 United Electric Board elections will be held for Districts 3 and 6

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 3 and 6 will be eligible to vote in the 2019 director elections.

The 2019 United Electric Director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 3 and 6 are eligible to run for the board (See districts by county and township listed below for your location). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in Districts 3 and 6. Mail-in ballots provide everyone in those districts the opportunity to vote, includ-

ing those who do not, or cannot, attend the annual meeting. United Electric's 2019 annual meeting will be held Wednesday, May, 15, 2019, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2019 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 3 and 6 who are interested in running for the United Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should read the following bylaws carefully:

UNITED ELECTRIC BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV – BOARD MEMBERS

SECTION 2. Districts (excerpt).

DISTRICT NO. 3. *Clearfield County* – Pine, Sandy and Union Townships. *Jefferson County* – Henderson Township.

DISTRICT NO. 6. *Indiana County* – Banks, Canoe, and West Mahoning Townships. *Jefferson County* – Beaver, Bell, Gaskill, Knox, McCalmont, Oliver, Perry, Porter, Ringgold, Rose and Young Townships.

SECTION 3. Qualifications.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who is not a member in good standing of, and receiving electric service as required in Section 2 hereof from the Cooperative at such member's primary residential abode for a minimum period of one continuous year immediately preceding his/her election within the particular district which such member is to represent. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who:

- (a) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise; including, but not limited to, the sale and distribution of electric power;
- (b) is engaged in regularly selling, at wholesale or retail, goods, equipment, or material that is used in and about the business of the Cooperative;
- (c) is unwilling to become acquainted with the business and working of the Cooperative;
- (d) does not complete half (50%) of the required NRECA Director Certification Training within three (3) years of election or appointment, and complete NRECA Director Certification at the conclusion of the Director's second term in office;
- (e) shall miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board without just cause and excuse filed with the Secretary and approved by the Board;
- (f) is not willing and able to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances;
- (g) is in any way employed (or is the spouse of an employee) by the Cooperative or has been an employee (or is the spouse of a former employee) of any electric cooperative or association;
- (h) has been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years;
- (i) is the parent, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother or sister of a person regularly employed by the Cooperative, whether by the

whole or half blood or by adoption.

- (j) has been removed as a Director of this Cooperative by vote of the Members or the Board. 'Ineligibility' under this subsection may be waived by the Board, at the Board's sole discretion, if the Director was removed by the Board.

Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for Director lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Judge of Elections, as hereinafter provided, to disqualify such nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding a position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from such person, or to cause such person to be removed therefrom, whichever be the case. Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of this Section, it shall be the duty of the remaining Directors on the Board to remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this Section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner the validity of any such action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors; PROVIDED the action taken was one in which none of the Directors had an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4. Nominations.

All incumbent Directors are automatically nominated to run for the office of Director and shall be one of the nominees to run for the office of Director, unless they decline and/or refuse to run. Any additional nominations for director shall be made by the submission of a written petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members of the Cooperative in their respective district. Such petition shall contain the following information:

1. Statement Release for Background Check Information;
2. Signed Review of the Director Oath of Office;
3. Signed statement that petitioner has reviewed the qualifications and is eligible to be elected as a Director of United Electric;
4. Brief Biography of Petitioner.

All such nominations by petition shall be addressed to the Judge of Elections and must be received at the Cooperative headquarters office no later than 4:30 PM on the last business day in January immediately preceding the annual meeting.

Nominations by petition not received in a timely manner or with incomplete, untrue, or inaccurate documentation will be disqualified. There will be no nominations taken from the floor and there will be no write-in candidates.

To receive the petition forms and additional information to be completed for nomination for director, please contact Richard Heverley, marketing and member services manager, at the cooperative office by calling 1-888-581-8969, extension 8506.

* Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois by the close of business on the last business day of January 2019 (Thursday, January 31, 2019).

Rustic Views

In praise of winter

By Glenn Schuckers

“JUST remember in the winter/far beneath the bitter snows/Lies the seed that with the sun’s love/In the spring becomes the rose.” Amanda McBroom wrote those lyrics in a song titled “The Rose.”

I have always liked that song and those lyrics because they remind me just when things outdoors look, if not their worst, then at least not very promising, there is hope for a “spring.”

This is the month when nature does not look very promising. As I look out the window, I see the hardwood trees across the road are bare and brown. Since the leaves dropped in October and November, I have trouble remembering what green trees and rolling green hills looked like. I have some pictures of trees, flowers, plants, and hills in their spring and summer colors, but looking around now, it’s hard to remember what they looked like just a couple of months ago.

Much of the area around our house is surrounded by spruce, pine and fir trees so they look much the same as they did last summer. But quite often there is a subtle difference.

Those evergreen needles are now often topped with white. Snow has a way of staying on those branches, sometimes for days, where the sun does not hit them, and they create a scene that, in a word, is gorgeous. Anyone who has hiked or hunted in the woods of western Pennsylvania knows what I mean.



Glenn Schuckers, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers’ Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*.

We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.

PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS



A PENNSYLVANIA WINTER: Snow often stays on the trees in Western Pennsylvania for days if the trees are in the shade, making for a winter scene beyond compare.

I think that may be one of the reasons why so many of us stay in the hills and valleys north of the Mason-Dixon Line all year long. I don’t know about anyone else, but I would not trade our four seasons for all the 90-degree days in the South. And winter is one of those four seasons.

I will concede winter is not my favorite time of year. If I could just stay indoors and look at the winter scenes around me, it would be since winter scenes have a beauty unmatched just about any other time. But there is a driveway and a sidewalk, and both need to be cleared. I suppose if we were like my grandparents and great-grandparents who had just about everything they needed in their cellar or the barn close at hand, we could survive without going out. Or at least only going out once or twice in a season.

But we don’t. Despite the fact that we have two freezers full of last summer’s frozen vegetables and enough meat and chicken to last maybe a week, we don’t have a cow in the garage, or chickens in a coop outside. So it is not just a whim to get to town once a week or so; it is about as close to being necessary as it could be. And there are doctors to see and other “necessaries” that make staying put

nearly out of the question.

During the 30-some years when both Ann and I worked in schools about 20 miles from where we live, getting out on a daily basis was a necessary part of our lives. Our house at that time was at the bottom of a steep lane that lay on the south side of a ridge. Simply said, it drifted.

I have pictures of days when the snow drifts were higher than my head. And seeing out of the sides of the driveway was often impossible until we reached the state road. On more than one occasion, the state was forced to bring in big snowblowers and hire loaders from coal companies to clear that road.

We bought a 6-foot-wide snowblower for the back of our farm tractor that I used for many years. Using it, I could usually clear the driveway, at least enough to drive over, in about an hour. The only drawback was that the tractor had no cab and the snow more often than not would cover it and me with a coating of the cold, white stuff. Ann often said that when I came in, I looked like an Abominable Snowman.

All that went on some 40 years ago. I think we had the hardest winters in the late 1970s, although there were probably some strong storms after

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Guest Column

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scam attempts. Here are a few tips to protect yourself this holiday season:

- ▶ If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of United Electric Cooperative, ask to see their identification or call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.
- ▶ Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be from the IRS, hang up immediately.
- ▶ Never send money to someone you have never met face-to-face.
- ▶ If someone calls your home “from Microsoft” or if they claim to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller’s intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.
- ▶ Be careful when making payments on the internet. Third-party payment sites pay search engines, like Google, to advertise their sites ahead of true ones like SmartHub.
- ▶ Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts — especially those asking for your account information.
- ▶ Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- ▶ Be cautious what you share on social media, and only connect with people you know. Imposters use personal information to steal your identity.

Be safe with your personal information this holiday season. If you find that your electric account has been jeopardized by a scam or fraud, please contact our toll-free customer service hotline at 1-888-581-8969. On behalf of everyone at United Electric, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! 🌟

Rustic Views

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that. Once we had an ice storm that only affected areas above 2,000 feet above sea level. That time, it took us over 45 minutes to get five miles from home and down to where there was no ice.

Often, the ice did more damage than the snow. One storm in particular completely destroyed our cherry trees, cherry being more brittle than apple or pear wood.

But snow and ice, blizzards and whiteouts were and are just part of living in Western Pennsylvania.

Now I often console myself with the idea that bad weather is just part of life. That at most, the really bad stuff will last no more than three months, and during those three months, we will probably have fewer than 20 really bad days.

These days, I only count really bad days as those with two feet of snow, temperatures in the teens and wind chills below zero. As someone who can remember a time when no one ever kept track of those “wind chill factors,” I can find some comfort in knowing that winter will not last forever, that with every cold, snowy, windswept day, we are a little closer to the warm days of spring.

Would we appreciate spring if we had no winter? Would we look forward to seeing those first sprouts of daffodil, crocus and tulips if we had not had two feet of snow? Would we look anxiously for those first green leaves of our rose bush if they had not been buried for three months?

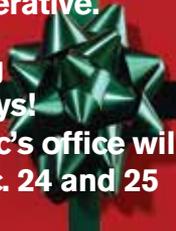
I doubt it. Just as we never know real joy without having some sorrow, never know real pleasure without some pain, we know the daffodils and tulips and lilacs will bloom in their appointed time. The rose will come as surely as the snows came if we, “Just remember in the winter/Far beneath the bitter snows/Lies the seed that with the sun’s love/In the spring becomes the rose.”

Merry Christmas. 🌟

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the board of directors, management and employees of United Electric Cooperative.

Office Closing Happy Holidays!

United Electric’s office will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1



United Electric Cooperative, Inc. is proud to present the ‘Shine the Light’ Scholarship program for its fourth year!



All students*, including adult learners*, who are attending or planning to attend a university or technical school are eligible to apply. For application and details, see the cooperative’s website, unitedpa.com, or call Kristy Smith at 1-888-581-8969, extension 8507, by April 15, 2019.

**Must be associated with a cooperative member. Directors, employees and their families are not eligible to apply.*

2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour

ATTENTION – High school juniors

Youth Tour is an **all-expenses-paid** trip to Washington, D.C., for sightseeing, education and fun in our nation’s capital. The 2019 Youth Tour will be held the week of June 16-21. Any junior who may be interested, please contact Kristy Smith at United Electric Cooperative at 1-888-581-8969, extension 8507, for an application. All applications **must** be received at United Electric by **March 2, 2019**.

