



# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**United Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
 Post Office Box 688  
 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**  
 Debra Horner, ext. 8508

**Kristy Smith, Editor**

## Guest Column



# Financial help is available

By Lauren Gustafson, *Collections Specialist*

WHETHER directly or indirectly, COVID-19 has had an impact on everyone. The biggest change to many families has been the loss of income. While things have returned to some sense of normalcy, many families are still trying to recover financially. Many programs that can help alleviate some of the financial burden are available to our members.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), which has opened for the season and will run through May 6, 2022, is available to help pay a portion of your electric bill. You may call your county LIHEAP office to request a paper application, or you can apply online at the COMPASS website, [compass.state.pa.us](http://compass.state.pa.us). You may be eligible for a one-time payment, which varies from \$500 to \$1,500.

Crisis funding is also available for those who qualify. The maximum payment is \$1,200. You will need to contact LIHEAP each time you need assistance until you reach the \$1,200 limit. LIHEAP has been able to assist many families in the cooperative throughout the pandemic.

In January 2021, ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) was created to help families, too. In most counties, the funding is distributed through the Community Action offices. HAF (Homeowners Assistance Fund) will also be available soon to assist Pennsylvanians. Depending on the county, other programs are available through the Community

Agency Phone Listing	
<b>Clearfield County</b>	
LIHEAP	800-862-8941
Community Action	814-765-1551
<b>Jefferson County</b>	
LIHEAP	800-242-8214
Community Action	814-938-3302
<b>Clarion County</b>	
LIHEAP	800-253-3488
Community Action	814-226-4785
<b>Cambria County</b>	
LIHEAP	800-533-2253
Community Action	814-472-8282
<b>Elk, Cameron, McKean, Potter Counties</b>	
LIHEAP	800-847-0257
Community Action	814-486-1161
<b>Forrest, Warren Counties</b>	
LIHEAP	814-723-6330
Community Action	814-726-2400
<a href="http://www.compass.state.pa.us">www.compass.state.pa.us</a>	
Don't forget to contact your local ministries, like the Salvation Army	

Action office. To learn more about program availability and if you qualify, reach out to the Community Action office in your county.

Another program United members can benefit from is the **Members United Program**, which is funded by the voluntary contributions of our members and administered through the Community Action office in Clearfield. Eligible members can receive up to \$200. For anyone who would like to contribute to the Members United Program, there are several ways to participate, including our Round-Up Program. Please call our customer service department at

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Rustic Views

# Gifts should come from the heart

By Glenn Schuckers

I SOMETIMES wonder about holidays when I think about this month and all it brings. This, of course, is December and the biggest event is Christmas.

First of all, let's dismiss some of the baggage that goes with this holiday. Contrary to a lot of popular beliefs, there is nothing about the date when Jesus was born in the Bible, nor is there any mention of wise men riding camels. The Bible does give a location, but it was not until about 336 A.D. that Dec. 25 was mentioned in a Roman calendar as Jesus's birth date. That date also coincided with the Roman holiday of Saturnalia, which meant that the people of the Roman Empire already had a day of celebration.

It's also interesting that the Puritans, the early English settlers in New England, wanted nothing to do with the celebration of Christmas and even banned it from 1659 to 1681. Of course, the Puritans banned just about anything that involved fun, but we still enjoy many of those things today. Finally, in 1870, Christmas was declared a federal holiday, and has been one ever since.

Be that as it may, I have no intention of being the Grinch who abhors Christmas. Just the opposite. I want to celebrate the holiday with everyone, have a great Christmas tree and dinner, burn the yule log, and enjoy all the tra-



**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 DEAR FRIEND:** This will be a sad Christmas for us since it will be the first time in the past 12 years our dear friend and part of our family, the yellow Lab pictured here, will not be with us. Clancy brought us joy and happiness until he died on Oct. 8. Ann and I miss him every day, and we hope all pet owners take this month to appreciate what their pets bring to their lives.

ditions that have come to be associated with this holiday.

But I also want to think about the spirit that sometimes seems to get lost in all the shopping and buying and exchanging of gifts.

I used to rely on what Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote about gifts in an essay in the mid-1800s. Paraphrasing him, he said that presents all too often are not really gifts at all, but rather excuses for gifts. Gifts should be part of the giver; they should come from the heart, not the wallet. That is what I hope we will keep in mind this month. It won't help holiday sales or the economy, but gifts that are a part of the person who gives them are the only real gifts.

Along the line of gifts and giving, I thought about a favorite song from my misbegotten youth, "The Ballad of Desert Pete" by the Kingston Trio. Its theme is all about giving.

In my earlier life as an English teacher in the previous century, I used it as a prompt to have kids write.

We'd listen to the song, maybe twice,

and then I'd ask my students to write about their reaction to it. It was not the kind of music they would have chosen to listen to, what with the banjo and lyrics they could actually understand, and I always had to hear, "Do we HAVE to listen to that song?" But complaints aside, it was a song that they actually understood, and many of them had great insights into the lyrics.

The chorus says: "You've got to prime the pump. You must have faith and believe. / You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive. / Drink all the water you can hold. / Wash your face to your feet. Leave the bottle full for others. Thank you kindly, Desert Pete."

It's that line, "You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive," that has stayed with me through all the years since I first heard it back as a teenager. "Give of yourself." It is such a simple thought, but like so many simple thoughts and expressions, it so often gets passed by.

I don't give of myself if I buy a pearl

necklace or gold bracelet or new gloves. I can buy socks for our sons or sweaters for them to wear, but there is nothing of “me” in any of that. I can send a gift box of gloves or scarves, but like the jewelry, there is nothing of me there. Other than paying for them, I had nothing to do with their creation.

Emerson also said that fruit and especially flowers are always fitting gifts because “they are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world.”

I may give a poem I have written, if I am able, or a photograph I have taken. Those would also be fitting gifts. I am determined to make this Christmas more meaningful than some others. It may be difficult, but doing the right thing is seldom easy.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas. ❁

### Guest Column

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888-581-8969 for more information.

There are many options for our members to apply for assistance. Each agency has its own set of eligibility requirements, but with LIHEAP and ERAP, we are able to help our members submit their applications online, should anyone need assistance. As a cooperative, United Electric is ready to help our members as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time. ❁

### PLEASE NOTE:

Effective January 1, 2022, most members will see an increase of approximately \$5 per month to the Base Charge.

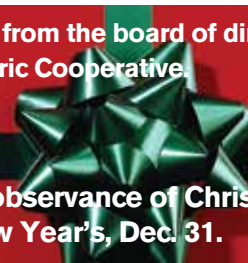
In addition, Outdoor Lighting fees will increase by \$2 per month.

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 in observance of Christmas, Dec. 23 and 24, and in observance of New Year's, Dec. 31.



**United Electric**  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**DREAM.**  
**SHINE.**  
**ACHIEVE.**

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
**SHINE THE LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP**

All Students  
Attending or  
Planning to Attend  
Higher Education\*

Application  
deadline is  
**April 15, 2022.**

Contact **Kristy Smith:**

888-581-8969, ext. 8507

[ksmith@unitedpa.com](mailto:ksmith@unitedpa.com)

[www.unitedpa.com](http://www.unitedpa.com)

\*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent.  
Directors, employees and their families are ineligible to apply.



## 2022 United Electric board elections will be held for Districts 1 and 7

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 1 & 7 will be eligible to vote in the 2022 Director elections.

The 2022 United Electric Director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 1 & 7 are eligible to run for the Board (See District 1 & 7 by county and township listed below). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in districts 1 & 7. Mail-in ballots provide everyone in these districts the opportunity to vote, including those who do not, or

cannot, attend the Annual Meeting. United Electric's 2022 Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2022 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 1 & 7 who are interested in running for the United Electric Board of Directors should read the following bylaws carefully.

### UNITED ELECTRIC BYLAWS

#### ARTICLE IV – BOARD MEMBERS

##### SECTION 2. Districts (excerpt).

DISTRICT NO. 1. *Armstrong County* – Redbank Townships; *Clarion County* – Clarion, Farmington, Highland, Limestone, Mill-creek and Redbank Townships; *Forest County* – Barnett Township; *Jefferson County* – Barnett and Eldred Townships.

DISTRICT NO. 7. *Clearfield County* – Girard, Goshen, Huston and Lawrence Townships; *Elk County* – Fox, Horton, Millstone, Ridgway and Spring Creek Townships; *Jefferson County* – Heath Township.

##### 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 Kristy Smith, Marketing and Member Services Supervisor, at the cooperative office by calling 1-888-581-8969 Ext. 8507.

\* Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than the last business day of January 2022 (Monday, January 31, 2022).