



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
Paula Pascuzzo, ext. 8501

Richard Heverley, Editor

From the President & CEO



You are part of a co-op network

The power behind your power

By Brenda Swartzlander

UNITED Electric Cooperative works hard to provide our members with safe, reliable power at the best possible price. In addition to the United board of directors and our dedicated staff, we have developed some important partnerships on both the statewide and national level, to help make that happen.

United Electric, along with the other 13 cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, are members of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AEC), our wholesale power supplier that provides all of the power for our members' homes and businesses. The Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives banded together in 1946 to create AEC so we would have more control over power supply and pricing. As a member of AEC, we own about 70 percent of our generation supply, and we rely on AEC staff to negotiate contracts with other power generation suppliers to provide the remainder of our members' power needs.

As I am sure you are aware, it also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital for major system improvement projects, we turn to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), which is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workers' compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance

Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

Each month, United Electric generates over 18,000 bills that we send to our members either through the mail or electronically. In order to ensure we accomplish this in an accurate and timely manner, we use the services of National Information Solutions Cooperative. They allow us to employ the latest technology to provide our members with additional services, such as automatic bank drafts and online bill payments, and make it possible for members to go online and monitor their energy costs.

United Electric is also a member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of services and informational materials. Touchstone Energy also allows us to offer our members access to the Co-op Connections Card — for more information about the card, go to our website at www.unitedpa.com.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not even see. Through our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), we pool our buying power with the other 13 Pennsylvania and New Jersey co-ops to purchase the major items we use, such as the poles, transformers and wire. We have also partnered with other co-ops across the country to create United Utility Supply. The power of this co-op allows us

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Rustic Views

Resolutions are easy ... implementation is another story

By Glenn Schuckers

A LOT of people look at this time of year and decide they need to make some changes. Whether all of us do or not, we probably like to at least think the new year is a good time to become better. So at least unconsciously, we resolve to amend some behavior and modify how we act and maybe even how we look at things.

I am no different; every year I renew my commitment to the New Year's resolutions I have made.

Of course, no one would want to change things that are good. That would make about as much sense as looking at the future and changing good luck or events that make life easier or better. The same is true about resolving to change good behavior; no one wants to stop good things.

But I have so many things that need changing that I have a real problem deciding where to start. I could resolve to go to bed sooner at night and get up earlier in the morning. Without going into what time I usually do get started in the morning, I'll just leave it that I could get started earlier.

For more than 30 years, Ann and I both started our days early. While we were teachers, we liked to get to school around 7:30 a.m., and for many years when I did early bus duty, it was a little earlier than that. Since we had about a 35-minute commute, that meant leaving home before 7 a.m. Having time to get up, shower, shave, have breakfast and get the boys ready for school took about an hour and a half, which meant getting up around 5:30 a.m.

During the months when school was not in session, it just seemed natural to continue the same routine so we could get the farm work done. But now that has changed, and it has become a habit to stay in bed, let's just say, later than 5:30.

But deep down, I know I should get the days started earlier. As Mom used to say, "The spirit is willing, but the

body is weak." It just seems so easy to roll over and "resolve" to get up in 10 minutes. Funny how 10 minutes can turn into 30.

I also know I would benefit from a little more exercise. So would our dog, Clancy. This summer, I did get in the "habit" of taking him out for about a mile hike in the morning. But then we had a spell of really hot mornings and another week of rainy weather, and the "habit" slipped.

I also have a stationary bike in the basement, but being there pedaling and not going anywhere seems rather pointless, so it remains at rest while I think about pedaling a mile or two.

One of my jobs around the house is to keep the garage cleaned out. I know it should be done about once a week, and it would not be a huge job if I did it then. But so long as the "stuff" that collects there doesn't keep the cars from backing in or stop me from getting to the workbench there, I tend to put it off until it becomes a full day's job. So what could have been done in about an hour each week becomes seven hours once a month.

I would guess that all of us have some things we could improve on if we stop to think about them. Writing a letter to an old friend or a relative, even making a phone call to a neighbor, picking up some paper that has blown into the back yard, putting away last summer's clothes, cleaning that closet where stuff collects. Making a list of all the jobs that I have been putting off would take as long as doing some of them.

I know a word that describes all of them: procrastination.

I even procrastinate about things I like to do, like writing this column. The editor likes to get it about six weeks before it shows up in the magazine. I know when it is due and I know how long it will take to write it, revise it, proofread it and get it sent

out, but month in and month out, I put it off until about four days before it is due. That makes it neither easier nor harder to get done, but after it is in print, I am often left wondering if, had I had started it earlier, could it have been better?

I suppose that is like a lot of things in our lives. Could I have been better at this or that? Could I have done a better job? Could have, should have, would have. The fact is, we all live our lives a day at a time and, just as there is no changing what has been, we have no guarantee about what tomorrow will bring.

Nonetheless, making a resolution to get better, to stop procrastinating, to be more friendly, to talk less and listen more, to learn one thing each day, and not make the same mistake I made yesterday would be in order.

Even if I don't follow the resolutions I make, just the recognition that I need to change and improve should be a step in the right direction. Maybe nobody else in the neighborhood needs as much improvement as I do. Maybe they get up at sunup, get an hour's exercise every day, keep their garage spotless, write letters and notes to friends and relatives, don't have clothes that need to be put away, and don't have even a scrap of debris in the back yard, so they don't need to get any better.

Me? I'm going to resolve to stop putting things off, get the pedals on that bike moving, get up earlier, take Clancy out for a walk and keep the garage spotless.

And I'll start all of that tomorrow. 



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.

From the President & CEO

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to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

United Electric Cooperative is one of 838 electric distribution cooperatives serving an estimated 42 million people in 47 states. Each of these electric co-ops is governed by a member-elected, local board of directors, which sets policies and procedures. We all operate as independent cooperatives. But as you see, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

Until next month,



Brenda

2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour

ATTENTION – HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

It's time to start planning for the 2018 Youth Tour. This is an all-expenses-paid excursion that draws over 1,800 rural high school juniors from across the country to Washington, D.C., for sightseeing, education and fun in our nation's capital. The 2018 Youth Tour will be held the week of June 10-15. Any junior who may be interested is asked to 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 16, 2018.**



TRUCK FOR SALE

United Electric Cooperative has the following truck for sale. We will be accepting bids on this unit beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Bids must be received on or before close of business on Jan. 26, 2018.

The truck can be inspected at our DuBois facility on Jan. 12 and Jan. 19 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Contact Scott Zimmerman at 1-888-581-8969, extension 8504, with any questions.

Sealed bids can be mailed to United Electric Cooperative, 29 United Road, Box 688, DuBois, PA 15801 to the attention of Scott Zimmerman. Bids will be opened Jan. 29, 2018. United Electric Cooperative reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.



1989 International 4800, 4 x 4, 150,612 miles, DT 466 diesel engine – 210 H.P., Spicer S-90 9000lb front-drive axle, Fabco TC-38, 2-speed transfer case, Spicer 5-speed transmission, International N-175, 17,500lb rear axle, Altec digger derrick, model D-820 BC, 3-stage corner-mount derrick-no auger, Rope tip winch, Rear winch – Braden PD-18 hydraulic, flat bed, engine overhaul – 10,000 miles ago.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!

United Electric Cooperative, Inc. is proud to present the "Shine the Light" Scholarship program for its third year!



Two well-established cooperative principles are: concern for community, and education and training for our members. In keeping with these traditions, the board of directors of United Electric has decided to reinvest unclaimed capital credits back to the community by providing educational scholarships to our members.

Several years ago, as a result of lobbying efforts in Harrisburg by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, Pennsylvania electric cooperatives are now able to use this unclaimed money within their local communities. These funds come from capital credits belonging to former members that have been unclaimed; and the members have not been able to be located for three years. Legislators have agreed to allow the cooperatives to use these funds locally for specific causes.

United Electric Cooperative is offering scholarships to members and dependents of members who have been members for at least one year prior to Dec. 31. Scholarships are for advanced education at an accredited university or technical school. Students must be working toward a minimum of a certificate through master's degree or higher. Opportunities include adults.

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 please see our website at www.unitedpa.com or contact Kristy Smith at 1-888-581-8969, extension 8507, by May 1, 2018.



*Directors and employees of United Electric Cooperative, Inc. are not eligible.

2018 United Electric board elections will be held for Districts 1 and 7

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 1 and 7 will be eligible to vote in the 2018 director elections.

The 2018 United Electric Director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 1 and 7 are eligible to run for the board. (See District 1 and 7 by county and township listed below.) A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in Districts 1 and 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 2018 annual meeting will be held Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2018 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 1 and 7 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. 1. **Armstrong County:** Redbank Township – **Clarion County:** Clarion, Farmington, Highland, Limestone, Millcreek and Redbank Townships – **Forest County:** Barnett Township – **Jefferson County:** Barnett, Clover, Eldred and Union 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 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 no later than 4:30 p.m. on the last business day of January 2018 (Wednesday, January 31, 2018).