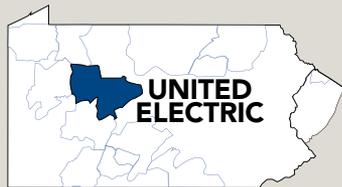




United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

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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



We want to hear from you

By Brenda Swartzlander

AS WE begin 2020, we cannot help but notice that we are now living in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect with our children, businesses we purchase things from, and yes, even our utility companies. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening?

At United Electric, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you simply stop by our office and chat in person, give us a call, or use our SmartHub application to send us a message, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our members' priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. United Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than just your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people of our area.

We encourage you to support a program established over 25 years ago: Members United. This program was designed to help community members in need, especially during the winter. We fund this program through the

generosity of members, like you, who participate in our Round-Up program, donate their capital credits refunds or offer a one-time donation. Members in our Round-Up program contribute by having their bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the extra cents going toward keeping the lights on for members in need.

Community strength not only comes from giving back, but by involving you in our cooperative decisions. Our boardroom is comprised of elected, local members just like you who understand the needs of your community and are looking out for your long-term interests. During our annual meeting, we encourage you to interact with co-op staff and other members, including your board members, in order to help us all understand our community's needs. There will always be complex issues to navigate. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and others as we plot our course for the future.

United Electric works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you — because your co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective ... at United Electric, we are listening.

Until next time,

Brenda

Rustic Views

January: A time to look to the future, past

By Glenn Schuckers

NOW WE begin a new year, at least on the calendar, so Happy New Year! This is the month to look to the future as well as the past. I have written many times before why I don't believe January should be the time to start a new year; March or April would make more sense, but now everyone knows how I feel about it so I'll not belabor the point anymore.

Like so many things about how we tell time, not much has changed for over 1,000 years. The calendar we use now is known as the Gregorian calendar, so named because it was Pope Gregory who introduced it in 1582. It replaced the Julian calendar, which was devised when Julius Caesar conquered Egypt in 48 BC and decided there ought to be an accurate way to determine dates. The truth is, neither was completely accurate as neither of them can account for the way the Earth revolves around the sun, but a few fractions of a second does not matter to me or to most of us.

I think the decision to name the first month, January, is a lot more interesting. January was named after the Roman god Janus. You know him; he is the one in that funny-looking statue that has two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Not many things could be more appropriate for what we think of as the first month of the year than a god that faces both forward and backward. That pretty much symbolizes what we do this month.

Lots of people use this month as a time to make resolutions for what they plan to do looking forward into the



TWO VIEWS: The ancient Roman god Janus looked both at the past and the future. Our month of January is a time to do the same.

coming year. Some folks who smoke tobacco promise themselves that they will stop smoking. Others make a resolution to lose weight, get more exercise, be nicer to neighbors, save more money or spend less on things they don't need. Over the years, I have known a lot of people, including myself, who made resolutions to do great things in the coming year. As of today, I cannot think of anyone, including myself, who has kept them. I stopped making New Year's resolutions years ago when I realized I had not been able to keep any I had made in the past.

I think it would be a lot easier to make a resolution to do something that is easy and fun. How about if I resolve to have a glass of wine each evening? Or maybe eat a piece of pie

every day? I could resolve to sleep in three days a week. Those are some resolutions I think I could keep. That is one face of Janus, the face looking forward. Of course, looking forward comes with a lot of uncertainty since no one knows for sure what is in the future.

When I was 18, I was pretty sure I would not see 25. When I was 26, I doubted I would see 40. I am now, at 76, the oldest man in my immediate family, my dad and brother both having died at 68. Making predictions can be risky and more often than not, they don't come true. It's like the slogan I saw somewhere that said, "Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." Of course, looking toward the future can be important, and we can't totally ignore it.



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.

Looking at the past, however, is a lot more accurate, even though it, too, can be misleading. I always tell my sons there is nothing wrong with my memory since I can remember things from 40 years ago, whether they happened or not.

There is also the danger we remember the things we want to remember and skip those things we would rather forget. In all honesty, my teen years were not as happy and carefree as I sometimes let on. And speaking of the past, George Santayana, an author of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Those words have a lot of truth to them. There is a great value in not only remembering what has happened in the past, but also understanding it. And that applies to all the facets of our lives, both large and small.

Although there is no certainty that history will repeat itself, I can be fairly sure if I plant six more rhododendrons as I did five years ago, only to watch the local deer completely destroy them, the same thing will happen again. That's why I have an 8-foot fence around the dwarf fruit trees in a field beside the house. That's why Eric Chamberlin, the landscaper who recently replanted our lawn, took soil samples and added fertilizers before he planted the new seed. The old lawn had been taken over by weeds and was in danger of dying out completely, and new seed in the same soil would have done the same. That's why I plan to have soil samples analyzed for the "orchard," garden and corn fields next spring.

Acting on what I remember is not a guarantee that the lawn, garden and corn fields will be better, but not making any changes is practically a guarantee that things will not improve. Remember the saying, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results."

So, at the same time I sing "Auld Lang Syne," which by tradition is a way to say a proper goodbye to the

past, I have to be looking to the future. And no time could be a better time to be an optimist than this month. 2019 is "in the books" and nothing anyone can do will change what happened.

2020 is on the horizon and if I look to the year past and use it as a guide for the future, I can "resolve" to do at least as well, if not better.
Happy New Year! 🌞

2020 United Electric board elections will be held for District 2

United Electric Cooperative members residing in District 2 will be eligible to vote in the 2020 director elections.

The 2020 United Electric director elections will be held in May. Members residing in District 2 are eligible to run for the board. (See District 2 by county and township listed below.) A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in District 2. Mail-in ballots provide everyone in this district the opportunity to vote, including those

who do not, or cannot, attend the annual meeting. United Electric's 2020 annual meeting will be held Wednesday, May, 20, 2020, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2020 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in District 2 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. 2. **Cambria County:** Elder and Reade Townships. **Cameron County:** Gibson Township. **Centre County:** Burnside and Snow Shoe Townships. **Clearfield County:** Beccaria, Bigler, Boggs, Bradford, Covington, Cooper, Decatur, Graham, Karthaus, Morris and Woodward Townships. **Clinton County:** West Keating Township. **Elk County:** Benezette 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 the last business day of January 2020 (Friday, January 31, 2020).