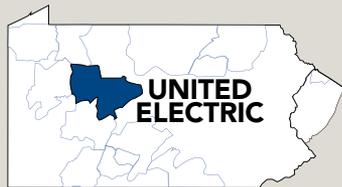




# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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**

**Richard Heverley, Editor**

## From the President & CEO



## What will 2021 bring?

By Brenda Swartzlander

AS 2021 is ushered in, I can't help but wonder what the new year will bring. Since this past year was so extraordinary, my hope is that 2021 will bring back some normalcy to our lives. As our dedicated staff can tell you, modifying how to safely work together, while maintaining a safe distance, has been a challenge over this past year. My hope was that any change made to our operations (some government mandated) would have minimal impact on our members. I can assure you, one thing that never changes is our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you.

**Safety:** As I mentioned last month, safety is a top priority at United Electric. We design and maintain our system to meet or exceed all electrical safety standards. We constantly remind everyone, not just our members, to stay away from downed power lines and to watch out for home electrical hazards. We educate school students and fire departments on the dangers of electricity, as well as how to handle car accidents that involve electric lines (STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE UNTIL HELP ARRIVES). Staying vigilant when it comes to safety is important, not only for our members, but for the communities we serve.

**Reliability:** Our engineering and operations departments coordinate

with each other to create and maintain our distribution system. Our construction practices, designs, and extensive tree-trimming cycles take into account our terrain and typical weather conditions for our area. United's distribution system withstands a lot of heavy ice and snow buildup, as well as high winds. However, the weather is something we can only try to anticipate. Who would have thought we would have had so much damage to our system and replaced so many broken poles due to storm damage in the last quarter of 2020?

**Affordability:** United Electric strives for affordability in everything we do. Since power supply is the largest single cost we have, United Electric, along with the 13 other cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, established our wholesale power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AEC). The Pennsylvania and New Jersey co-ops banded together in 1946 to create AEC so we would have more control over power supply and pricing. As members of AEC, the co-ops own generation supply from the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Berwick, Pa. We also own generation supply from the Raystown Hydroelectric Project in Huntingdon, Pa. How much generation, you ask? About 70% of what the co-ops need combined,

*(continues on page 14d)*

## 2021 United Electric board elections will be held for Districts 4 and 5

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 4 and 5 will be eligible to vote in the 2021 director elections.

The 2021 United Electric director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 4 and 5 are eligible to run for the board (See District 4 and 5 by county and township listed below). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in Districts 4 and 5. 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 2021 annual meeting will be held May 19, 2021, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2021 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 4 and 5 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. 4. *Cambria County* – Susquehanna Township; *Clearfield County* – Bell, Burnside, Chest, Ferguson, Greenwood, Jordan, Knox, Lumber City, Penn, and Pike Townships; *Jefferson County* – Henderson Township.

DISTRICT NO. 5. *Clearfield County* – Bloom, and Brady Townships; *Jefferson County* – Pine Creek, Warsaw, Washington, and Winslow 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 Kristy Smith, energy management advisor, at the cooperative office by calling 1-888-581-8969, extension 8507.

\* Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than the last business day of January 2021 (Friday, Jan. 29, 2021).

## Rustic Views

# Traditions

By Glenn Schuckers

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Tradition, not common sense or logic, dictates that this month begins a new year, and it is so well established that even the most reasonable among us accept it, even though I will still hold that the Native American tradition of beginning a new year should be when spring planting takes place. So again, Happy New Year. We begin the new year on Jan. 1, and traditions are and should be honored.

We have always thought it necessary to observe one tradition even though I am not really sure where it came from. Every year for the past 50 years, we have had a meal of pork and sauerkraut on the first day of January.

I have heard that the tradition comes down from the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of having that meal as a sign of good luck. I don't know how eating either pork or sauerkraut will bring luck, but why tempt fate? My dad's family, who moved into these parts in the mid-1800s, came from the eastern part of the state and, like many others in the area, brought many of their traditions with them. As far as I have been able to find out, their name was Schugartz, which through some translations became "Schuckers" and has never changed back.

Anyway, both my family and Ann's (which is a blend of Pennsylvania Dutch and Swedish) have strong ties to our heritage. Favorite sayings at my grandfather's house were Dutch: "A full barn and a plump wife never did any man harm," or "Kissin' don't last, cookin' do." As to the sauerkraut, I



**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.



found this Pennsylvania Dutch proverb: "May you have as much good luck as there are shreds of cabbage on your plate."

I'll have to admit I was not always a fan of either pork or sauerkraut since they are probably an acquired taste. It might go back to my youth when I was sent to my grandmother's basement to get a pan full. It was in a covered crock that had been fermenting there for four months. I was not fond of the basement at any time, with its dirt floor and combination of fruits and vegetables, some of which were not too "fresh." And lifting off the crock's cover and scooping out some fermented cabbage was not something I looked forward to. Then an hour later when it was cooking, the aroma was something less than pleasing.

But as the years have gone by, or maybe as my sense of smell has diminished, I actually look forward to the aroma of the mingled pork and cabbage in the house.

I have also heard that the tradition of pork goes back to the fact that as pigs root in fields and woods for food, they are always moving forward, which according to legend is an omen for the new year when we should be looking to the future, not the past. So, pork and

**GOOD LUCK MEAL:** Many Pennsylvanians eat pork and sauerkraut on the first day of the year in a bid to ensure good luck throughout the coming year.

sauerkraut it should be on Jan. 1.

But other cultures have their own traditions.

Spain has a tradition of eating 12 grapes on New Year's Day, promoted, I'll bet, by the vineyard growers in the country. But it works for them, and who am I to question their motives? In Scotland, the day has a name, Hogmanay, and the belief is that if the first person to come through the door is a dark-haired man, you will have good luck. Maybe that goes back to when the country was being invaded by Vikings who typically did not have dark hair. And as further good luck, the man should bring gifts, among them some whiskey.

In Siberia, natives go to the bottom of a frozen lake to plant trees. Maybe that's where our celebration of a polar plunge comes from! In Brazil, the custom is to throw white flowers and candles into the ocean, and in Italy, men wear red underwear.

In short, traditions are wonderful.

I know there are people who believe that traditions are the stuff that gets

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**Rustic Views**

(continued from page 14c)

in the way of progress and deserve to be cast aside. There are those who believe that new ways, new ideas and new things should be the order of the day. There are those who must have the newest cellphone the day after it goes on sale or maybe they even order it weeks before. And I suppose the economy depends on them and everyone like them to keep on expanding.

Some people scoff at traditions like hot-cross buns on Easter, turkey on Thanksgiving, parades on the Fourth of July and Labor Day, and midnight candlelight services on Christmas Eve. If traditions get in the way of important things like freedom or equality or democracy, maybe we should think about abandoning them, but to forget a tradition just because it might be inconvenient or awkward is losing a link that is important.

We all need those links to our past. Man is the only animal who knows both a past and a future; we need some traditions that preserve our past. We need sometimes to look back at where we have been and decide what has been successful as well as what has been a mistake.

We should repeat those things that have made us better, the things we did that were successful and eliminate the things that were mistakes. Traditions, properly kept, can make us better people than we were, and help us move toward being a better society. ☀

**From the President & CEO**

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which is a considerable amount when it comes to holding the line on rates. AEC staff negotiates with other generation suppliers for the remainder of our electric supply needs.

My sincerest wish for 2021 is a safe, happy and healthy year for everyone. Until next time,

*Brenda*  
Brenda

**Shine the Light Scholarship**

**Apply today!**

[www.unitedpa.com](http://www.unitedpa.com)  
[ksmith@unitedpa.com](mailto:ksmith@unitedpa.com)  
(814) 371-8507, ext. 8570



All students\*, including adult learners\*, who are attending or planning to attend a university or technical school are eligible to apply by April 15, 2021.

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

**United Electric**  
COOPERATIVE, INC.  
A Touchstone Energy® Partner

**Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) Receptacles**

**Why is it needed?**

NFPA reported 47,700 home fires involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction in 2011. These fires resulted in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage. However, the CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

**418 DEATHS**    **1,570 INJURIES**    **\$1.4 BILLION PROPERTY DAMAGE**

**How does it work?**

Interrupts power when an arc-fault is detected in the circuit downstream from where the receptacle is installed, including within items plugged into it. Provides protection from arc-faults beyond branch circuit wiring extending to appliances and cords plugged into the receptacle. Also provides protection for series arc-faults upstream from where the receptacle is installed.

**What is an arc fault?**

An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices. Arc faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall, or when outlets or circuits are compromised.

**Parallel Arc:** Arc between the hot and neutral conductor or between the hot and ground conductor.

**Series Arc:** Arc along the same conductor or at connections.

**Where is it required by the National Electrical Code® (NEC)?**

**NEC** The 2014 NEC expanded Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection (Section 210.12 and 409.4(D)(4)) to include most circuits. The use of AFCI receptacles are now an acceptable form of protection when in compliance with some restrictions as specified in the NEC. The 2014 NEC allows 6 different installation methods to provide AFCI protection in new construction and specific replacements.

**Things to consider about AFCI receptacles:**

Protects all downstream wire and appliances from both parallel and series arcs, and also protects from series arcs upstream in the wiring between the source of the circuit and the first outlet on the circuit, called the "home run".

Provides localized **TEST** and **RESET** ability.

**ESFi** States and localities may differ in the version of the NEC applied to their jurisdiction. Consult an electrician to determine if your AFCI plans comply with applicable codes. To learn more about AFCI protection and the NEC, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

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