



# 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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## 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.  
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 814-236-3321

**President & CEO**  
**Brenda Swartzlander**

**Consumer Advocate**  
**Paula Pascuzzo, ext. 8501**

**Richard Heverley, Editor**

# 82nd Annual Meeting of the Members

By Kristy Smith

**WELCOME:** It was a beautiful day in Luthersburg on May 15 when board Chairman Stephen A. Marshall called United Electric's Annual Meeting of the Members to order. Marshall welcomed close to 400 members, families and guests, thanking them for taking the time from their busy schedule to be in attendance. He extended the co-op's appreciation to the many members who faithfully attend annual meeting each year, and offered a special welcome to all the new members who were in attendance for the first time. He also thanked the Clearfield County Dairy Princess Committee for once again providing the attendees with their milk punch, cheese, and snacks. He went on to introduce and thank the rest of the board members and our special guests for the evening.

**Down to Business:** Eileen Pisaneschi, the board secretary/treasurer, read the Official Annual Meeting Notice that appeared in the May issue of *Penn Lines*, which was mailed to all members of United Electric on April 30, 2019. "The Annual Meeting will be held May 15, 2019, at 7 p.m. at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg, Pa.," read Pisaneschi. "At the time of



PHOTO BY PETER FITZGERALD

**UPDATE:** President & CEO Brenda Swartzlander updates the members on the projects accomplished in 2018, as well as the projects currently underway at United Electric Cooperative.

the mailing, there were 16,033 members of the cooperative."

After motions from the floor to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes and the 2018 Financial Report, Marshall reported, "United Electric finished 2018 in a sound financial and operational position." He expressed his and the board of directors' gratitude to all the members who support the cooperative in their efforts to improve the system not only to meet our current members' needs, but also to meet the future electric needs of the area. He also thanked the management and employees of United Electric for their dedication.

**Guest Speakers:** District Attorney for Clearfield County William A. Shaw Jr. and Pennsylvania state Rep. Cris Dush were able to take time from their busy schedules to be on hand to speak with the members.

Frank Betley, president & CEO of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), United's statewide service organization, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our statewide generation and transmission supplier, was on hand to discuss issues affecting the utility industry throughout the state.

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PHOTO BY PETER FITZGERALD

**REPORT:** Steve Marshall, United Electric board president, updates the members on the state of the cooperative.

**82nd annual meeting**

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Betley explained, “Sixty percent of your power originates from the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Berwick, which is a nuclear facility. There are 12 other co-ops in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey that receive power from this facility; nuclear power is co-op power.”

Betley went on, “Every time you see a legislator, tell them how important nuclear power is to you, the rural members. Tell them there are four reasons nuclear power is important to Pennsylvanians: nuclear power produces 93% of the carbon-free electricity in the state; it keeps our energy mix diverse; nuclear power contributes \$3.1 billion to Pennsylvania’s economy; and it keeps your electric rates low.”

Betley said that while the price of natural gas is low right now, it won’t always be, noting, “We have two significant sources of power in Pennsylvania right now: natural gas and nuclear. Once pipelines are built to export natural gas, do you think the cost of natural gas will go up or down?”

He also reminded the members of the pledge they made at the last year’s an-



PHOTO BY PETER FITZGERALD

**REMINDER:** Frank Betley, president & CEO of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), United’s statewide service organization, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our statewide generation and transmission supplier, reminds the members of the promise they made at last year’s annual meeting to install the LED lightbulbs provided by the co-op.

nual meeting to replace their old lightbulbs in their homes with the new LED lightbulbs that United Electric sent to members.

“If you replaced four old lightbulbs with the four LED lightbulbs we sent you, you saved \$25 on your electric bill last year,” he said. “And every year from here on out!”

**President & CEO Update:** Marshall introduced United President & CEO Brenda Swartzlander. After thanking all the members for their attendance, she provided the members with a summary of what the cooperative has done this past year and what we intend to do going forward, continuing to improve for our members’ benefit.

“Our new TWACS metering system was completed in October 2018,” she reported. “This was a five-year project to upgrade all of our meters, which have reached their serviceable life, with completely new technology that has added benefits to our members. Some of these benefits include: voltage readings being taken on a daily basis to help identify failing transformers, ‘by pinging’ meters before crews leave an area, we can verify that all outages have been restored, and nightly readings help us verify if a meter hasn’t responded so we can send a crew or meter reader to investigate. Please remember to still call if you have an outage so we will know right away if you do not have power.”

She added, “We completed our Robertsville Substation rebuild in 2018. The 70-year-old wooden structure was rebuilt with new materials and state-of-the-art equipment. We upgraded the transformer and other equipment so we can help backfeed three other substations during major outages. We can now backfeed Conifer, Grange, and Henderson substations from Robertsville in case of a loss of power supply. We also rebuilt over 20 miles of line in 2018 and



PHOTO BY PETER FITZGERALD

**ELECTION RESULTS:** President & CEO Brenda Swartzlander, left, and PREA/Allegheny President & CEO Frank Betley, right, congratulate newly re-elected directors, from left: Richard “Pete” Petrosky and Timothy Burkett.

are continuing with our work plan to rebuild approximately 25 miles of old lines and poles every year. Currently, contract crews have begun construction in the Utahville area near our Erhard Substation, United crews are rebuilding lines on Anderson Creek Road, and numerous other projects are in various stages of engineering for construction later this year. Along with rebuilding comes right-of-way clearing, of which we clear around one-sixth of our system every year. Unfortunately, we have had to contend with the emerald ash borer and beech tree blight, as well as monitor the spotted lantern fly’s progression into our service territory.”

She closed with an update on Youth Tour and scholarships, saying, “Each year, United Electric participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Youth Tour. Youth Tour brings together high school juniors from across the country for a five-day tour of our nation’s capital and a meeting with congressional representatives. This is an all-expenses-paid trip for students from co-ops across the country to meet with and socialize with each other, as well learn about cooperatives and what they mean to America. This year, United is proud to be sending five outstanding students to participate in Youth Tour. We are also very proud to once again provide scholarships this year for co-op members and their dependents. This is the fourth year we have been

able to provide our 'Shine the Light' scholarship. This is done at no cost to our members through escheats funds. Thanks to lobbying efforts in Harrisburg by local co-ops and PREA, the escheat laws have been changed to allow co-ops to keep unclaimed capital credits funds in order to use them in our communities. This unclaimed money belonged to former co-op members who we have been unable to locate for three years. Prior to this change in the law, co-ops had to turn over this money to the state, but now we can use it for specific causes, such as scholarships. Any student is eligible provided they are working toward the minimum of a certificate and up to a master's degree or beyond. Students may be currently attending college or a technical school or they could be continuing their education following high school.

## Rustic Views

# Celebrate July, crops, summer

By Glenn Schuckers

THIS is the month we celebrate the Fourth of July and the Declaration of Independence, and well we should celebrate it. That document, with its soaring phrases and principles, has stood for over 200 years as a monument to the things America stands for. It would be good to remember the rustic nation we had then and what kinds of people sent representatives to write that document.

But this is also the month when I like to look out at a field of growing sweet corn, which around here is about six weeks away from being ready to pick and enjoy. I can remember my dad and my grandfather saying that on a warm July night if you listen closely, you can hear the corn growing.

By now, we pretty well know what kind of summer we are having. Last summer was so wet and rainy that it seemed like we never had a full week

Providing scholarships allows the co-op to follow through on two well-established cooperative principles: concern for our communities, and education and training for our members."

Swartzlander closed with a thank you to all our members for attending and helping us address concerns throughout the year. She then introduced the evening's special guest, Heather Olson, who provided the members an enjoyable experience with crowd participation while impersonating the late Patsy Cline. "I go out walking ..."

**Election Results:** Marshall introduced the Judge of Elections Patrick Lavelle, who reported the results of the director elections in Districts 3 and 6. Having received one petition to run in District 3, election ballots were mailed to all members of that district before

the meeting. Candidates were Henry Daugherty and incumbent Richard A. Petrosky. After the votes were tallied by members who agreed to be tellers, Lavelle declared Petrosky as newly re-elected board member in District 3. Lavelle also reported that because there were no petitions to run for the board in District 6, in accordance with the cooperative bylaws, incumbent director Timothy D. Burkett was re-elected.

Having concluded the business of the cooperative, Marshall entertained a motion for adjournment. He thanked all of the members for their continued support of the cooperative, stressing the importance of member participation in the business of the cooperative. He also encouraged the members to keep in contact throughout the year and invited everyone back to next year's meeting. 🌻



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

IT'S SUMMER: Summer flowers attract butterflies, and with a little patience, I got a close look at one.

without rain. Farmers had a hard time getting crops planted, and an even harder time cultivating the fields. I know it was hard even with my fairly small garden to keep ahead of the weeds.

Early crops like beans and cucumbers will likely be ripe before long, and tomato and pepper plants probably have the beginnings of their fruit. Summer squash will be ready to pick this month, and anyone who planted more than four or five zucchini will be looking for neighbors who like his overflow.

This is how things are in Pennsylvania in July.

Every now and then, I have to stop and remind myself how lucky I am to be living where I am when I am. This may not be the very best of times, but

looking back over the past 70 or so years (I never count the first five years of my life as I was alive, but I don't remember much of anything), there were a lot of times when things were a lot worse.

Time in the country is a lot like a farm. Not every year yields a bumper crop, and every field is not a field of dreams. A promising crop of corn can be destroyed in an hour by a July hail storm. A barn that stood for a century can be laid low in minutes by a tornado. But through it all, farmers have been the optimists of our society. The motto of a farmer is to keep on working, not look back, and make things better next season.

I count myself lucky to be living amid country folks in this new century. I cannot envision a better time to be alive than now. Looking back at the events since 1950, it's refreshing to know that those days are in the past and the "winter of our discontent" is behind us. That is why I truly believe that although nothing is perfect, I am really blessed to be living now.

That is the part of "when I am" that makes me lucky.

Now to the "where I am."

Although I have lived most of my life in western Pennsylvania, there have been a few years when I lived elsewhere.

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**Rustic Views**

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The first two years after college I had a job in Auburn, New York. It is a small city just west of Syracuse and at the time I took the job, I had never heard of the “snow belt.” I soon learned what that meant.

For the two years I was there, I think the snow started falling about the middle of October and kept on falling, daily, until mid-May. I had a car, but no garage, and every morning’s routine was sweeping the snow off the windshield and back window. It probably did not snow exactly every day, but out of the 200-plus days, it probably snowed 190.

Summers in that area were quite nice, though, even if they only lasted 30 days. It was part of the area known as the “Finger Lakes,” and luckily there were a lot of wineries in the area.

Then for two years, Ann and I lived in a suburb of Philadelphia. At first, we thought we would be happy in a suburb, but before long, the 10-mile drive to work that took an hour to cover, the crowded roads everywhere, the sheer crowds of people and general congestion were just too much.

We could not wait to get back to the peace and serenity of western Pennsylvania.

Living where we do, of course, is not perfect. I would love to dig a hole or plant a shrub without having to move 60 stones. Every year, I plow the garden and pick off a trailer full of stones. Then the next year, I again plow the garden and again pick off a trailer load of stones. Apparently, in the 12 months in between, someone is manufacturing a load of stones and dumping them in the garden when I’m not looking.

Most of us also live in an area where the wind always blows. Maybe it’s not always. I think I remember a day two weeks ago when the wind was not blowing. I used my rotary spreader to put lime on the garden earlier today, and all I had to do was drive along one side and let the wind carry the lime all the way across.

Probably not very scientific, but it worked.

But these minor flaws in where I live don’t begin to measure up to the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, a country road in autumn, even the snow on a spruce tree in January. Since we now only have serious snows for about 40 or 50 days a year, and those usually get measured in inches and not feet, winter is more a thing to anticipate than to dread. They are nothing like the winters of the late 1970s, when

we had storm after storm that dumped feet of snow two or three times a week.

This season, summer, is something to be savored. It will last for about 60 more days and during that time, if we are lucky, the corn will ripen, tomatoes will get red and juicy, cantaloupes will mature on their vines, and all the other vegetables we’ve tended for months will hand over our reward.

It really is a great time to live and love where we can celebrate freedom and liberty, and look around at the great rustic views all around us. So I sing the song of liberty and freedom Thomas Jefferson had in mind when he wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” I intend to pursue happiness in the garden and orchard, and I will enjoy every day of the summer my creator gives me. ☀

**OFFICE CLOSING**  
 United Electric’s office will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observation of Independence Day.

**SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!**  
 Numerous items to be sold AS IS to the highest bidder

United Electric is selling a number of computers (desktops and laptops), monitors, servers, a fax machine, a 2007 Ford F-150 Supercab, and much more!

Sealed bids must be received at United Electric’s office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

Items can be viewed online at [www.unitedpa.com](http://www.unitedpa.com) (go to the “2019 Items for Sale” link on the homepage), or photos can be seen at United Electric’s office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Items can be seen upon request **Aug. 8 and 9 ONLY.**

Bid must be on bid form and specify item number and price bid.

Bid forms are available online or at United Electric’s office.



**2007 Ford F-150 Supercab 4 x 4**  
 169,010 miles, 5.4L engine, 4-speed automatic, 3.73 axle, frame is badly rusted on both sides.

**All items must and will go to the highest bidder!**