



# 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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## From the President & CEO



## It's that time again...

By Brenda Swartzlander

THE FALL in western Pennsylvania is certainly a sight to behold, and we are heading into the holiday season again ... my, how time flies. The period from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's is many people's favorite time of the year. It is a time when we are making plans to spend the holidays with family and friends, many of whom we may not have seen in quite awhile.

While the holidays are just around the corner, hunting season will also be in full swing. To enthusiastic sportsmen, hunting season may trump the holidays (even though they may not want to admit it to their families). Thanksgiving dinner will hardly be finished when the hunter's mind will be focusing on where to stalk that big buck.

Jefferson and Clearfield counties are the center of the hunting region of Pennsylvania. DuBois, located in the geographic center of United Electric's service territory, has long been known as the "gateway" for hunters heading through the area to reach their favorite hunting grounds. While there are many hunters that are just passing through to reach the northern counties of Elk,

Forest, Cameron or Potter, many of those hunters are heading to camps in United Electric's service area. United has more than 5,200 seasonal accounts on our system. Not all of these are "hunting camps," but a large number of them are.

It is not unusual for some of our seasonal accounts to be dormant all year long until we near hunting season. Across the country, electric co-ops see an increase in damage to their lines and equipment due to carelessness. This can lead to dangerous situations, expensive repairs and outages for members, both seasonal and residential. United Electric and I would like to remind our responsible, ethical sportsmen to take care and be aware of power line locations while hunting. I know our rights-of-way can make great vantage points, but please be aware of your surroundings before you pull that trigger.

On behalf of the cooperative, we welcome the hunters back to our area and wish you the best of luck in bagging that trophy buck. Be assured that United Electric is here to serve your electric needs. As for me, I'll be too busy spending my spare time finding just the right presents for my family, especially my grandchildren, to join you in the woods. **Be safe out there!**

Until next month,

  
Brenda



Rustic Views

# Two holidays to give thanks

By Glenn Schuckers

THIS MONTH we celebrate two national holidays: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We also have a day to vote, but I am not sure that qualifies as a day of celebration — although it should be. If we do not celebrate our right to vote to choose our leaders, then what is our nation about?

The first national holiday, Veterans Day, started out as “Armistice Day.” It was first celebrated on the 11th day of the 11th month to commemorate the end of World War I. That was supposed to be the “war to end all wars” due to its barbarism, which included the use of poison gas and a disregard for “rules” that existed at the time.

It took 20 years and numerous legislative attempts to establish Armistice Day, and even then, six congressmen voted against it. At one point, in 1954, the date was “adjusted” to a day in October after it was changed to honor all veterans of all wars.

In 1975, the date returned to its original day, Nov. 11. It has been observed on that day ever since and remains a day we set aside to honor all those who have served. In my way of thinking, this should be one of the biggest national holidays of them all since without the men and women we honor, there might not be any other holidays.

The other national holiday this month is almost an afterthought these days. We have had Halloween



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

GRATEFUL: Thanksgiving with family and friends is always something to be thankful for.



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

VETERANS DAY: November 11 is set aside to honor – and thank – the nation’s brave men and women.

decorations in the stores since mid-September and finding Thanksgiving decorations is probably hopeless by now. Christmas is everywhere you look, and other than being the day before “Black Friday,” Thanksgiving is almost overlooked.

Maybe the lack of interest has something to do with the fact that we don’t buy a lot of stuff for Thanksgiving. I have come to realize that just about everything in America is judged on its commercial value. Other than buying a turkey, stuffing ingredients, sweet

potatoes and whatever else goes into a traditional feast, not a lot of money changes hands on Thanksgiving. If the profit margin was anything like it is for Christmas, it would garner a lot more attention.

At any rate, I look forward to Thanksgiving more than just about any other holiday. There is no stress about finding the perfect gift or getting the best wine to go with the meal. It is a day to have family gather together and say thanks for the blessings of the past year.

For many years after the Pilgrims landed, designating a day to give thanks remained in the hands of the states, and it was not until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation establishing the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

Lincoln’s proclamation asked, in part, for all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the



**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.



# Think Before You Climb

Before you rush into a job that requires you to use a ladder, take precautions before you climb.

## Electrical Safety



1. **Look up** and around for power line locations before using a ladder.
2. Keep a minimum **10-foot distance** from a power line or other electrical equipment at all times.
3. The minimum distance rule includes you (any part of your body) or **any object you are holding**, such as a ladder or tool.
4. Always **be aware of power line locations** when you are elevated.
5. Sources of elevation include, but are not limited to, a **ladder, rooftop, boom lift or scaffolding**.

## General Ladder Safety

1. Use a ladder on a **stable, level surface**.
2. Maintain **three-point contact** on the ladder when climbing.
3. Three points of contact mean **two hands and a foot** or **two feet and a hand**.
4. Keep your body **near the middle of the step** and face the ladder when climbing.
5. **Do not use the top step/rung** of a ladder unless designed for that purpose.
6. For a stepladder, make sure the base is **fully open** and the spreaders are **locked**.



Learn more about electrical safety:

Safe Electricity.org®

Sources:  
OSHA,  
American Ladder Institute

wounds of the nation.”

I look forward to Thanksgiving, and not just because I like to eat. No one seems to know where the tradition of having turkey started. Historians recorded that four deer were brought to the first feast, but they said nothing about turkey. I like everything on the table that day anyway.

We have some meal traditions that include sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes, gravy, strawberry salad, scalloped pineapple and at least three desserts. Even though we have some pretty big plates, it usually takes two trips to the buffet to get some of everything. That is how I like it. This is not a day to worry about diets, cholesterol or weight. It's not a day to worry about leftovers, which we always end up eating for about a week. I think they just get better every day.

Our families are not as big as they used to be. Ann's parents and mine have been gone for years. Our table now has just six chairs around it, but we enjoy the day nonetheless. It is a day for us to give thanks for all that we have and have had in the past year and to share the fellowship of family. After the year we have had, it will be good to give thanks together again. 🍁

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

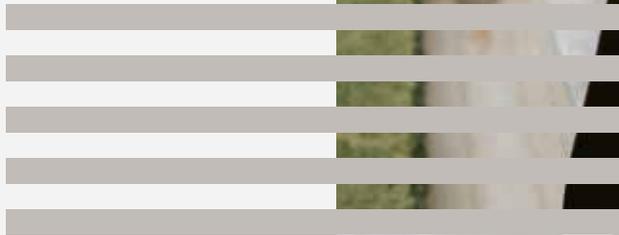
Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





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



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

**All Students Attending or Planning  
to Attend Higher Education\***

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

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

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