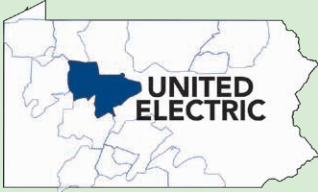




# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. 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.

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Brenda Swartzlander

**Consumer Advocate**  
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**Kristy Smith, Editor**

## In Honor of Our Linemen



**THERE ARE A LOT OF** things that are important to the operation of your electric cooperative, but above all, we must keep the electricity on. For that, we rely on the dedication of our linemen. Over the years, I have received letters, phone calls, notes sent with bill payments and emails from members expressing appreciation for the excellent job our linemen did in restoring power or assisting a member with whatever electrical issue they were experiencing. There is nothing I enjoy more about my job

than passing on the praise of our members to the employees who work so diligently to meet our members' needs.

In recognition of the dedication it takes to "keep the lights on," April 10 has been designated National Lineworker Appreciation Day. It's appropriate we take this opportunity to recognize the people who often work in some of the worst weather conditions to ensure that you, our members, have safe and reliable power. In many instances, our linemen are the first responders during storms and other events. They work to make the scene safe for the public and repair the damage that has occurred. In times of trouble, our linemen's experience and training are invaluable. No matter what the problem is or how difficult the repairs will be, our linemen will find a way to fix the damage.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They have extensive knowledge of our system that often allows them to determine where to look for a problem before they even arrive at the site of an outage. Line crews use their laptops and cellphones to map outages, take photos of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our service area, United Electric's linemen are responsible for 2,974 miles of lines across parts of 11 counties. This system brings power to your home and our communities, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations. While some of the tools and technology lineworkers use have changed over the years, their dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. It is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines often in the worst conditions at any time of the day or night. During severe storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

April is best known for ushering in spring in our part of the country, but it is also when we set aside a day to "thank a lineworker."

**BRENDA SWARTZLANDER**  
PRESIDENT & CEO



# A Time of Promises

GLENN SCHUCKERS

**WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS** month, one of the first things that comes to mind is the song, “April Showers.” It has been around a lot longer than I have (a pretty long time!), but I never really thought about where it came from. I remember my mother singing it when there was rain in April as a way to think that better things were coming.

Not really knowing much about the actual song other than the one line, I looked it up. Here’s how it goes: “March winds and April showers/Make way for sweet May flowers/And then comes June, a moon and you/March winds and April showers/Romance will soon be ours/An outdoor paradise for two.”

The song was written in 1921 by Louis Silvers and Buddy DeSylva and made popular by Al Jolson. But it looks as though Jolson had some different lyrics when he sang the song: “Though April showers may come your way/They bring the flowers that bloom in May/So if it’s raining have no regrets/Because it isn’t raining rain you know, it’s raining violets.”

Both versions have the same idea in mind: The rains that come our way — whether they are showers in April or showers in our lives — are nature’s way of promising that it will not always be raining and better times will follow.

That is what we all have to remember this month.

Here, in Zones 4 and 5, it may be a little too early to start planting things like tomato and pepper plants in

GLENN SCHUCKERS



**APRIL FLOWERS:** Daffodils may be the first flowers to fulfill the promise that spring is coming. They are hardy enough to withstand frosts, and I have even seen them bloom when snow is on the leaves and flowers.

the garden, or petunias and dianthus in the flower beds. In a “good” year, they may survive, but that is only if the nighttime temperatures stay above 30 degrees. More often than not, there will be frosts this month and maybe even a coating of snow some days. Most of us resist the urge to rush the season and keep our plants and flowers under cover for a few more weeks.

It will probably take at least six more weeks until it is safe to plant tomatoes in the garden, and even in the middle of May, you might be taking a chance. The surprising thing is, as I learned some 40 years ago, the harvest dates for tomatoes planted in the middle of May and the first of June will be almost exactly the same. And along the way, there is a 50-50 chance the ones planted in May will need to be replaced after a frost.

It is the same with promises. I can make a promise with every intention of fulfilling it, but between the promise and the fulfillment, a lot of things can happen.

Warm, sunny days this month can turn to cold, chilly nights before April is over. Nature only makes one promise to us: Nature will always be nature — in other words, it will be unpredictable. Despite all of our scientific knowledge or native superstitions, nature makes no guarantee to cooperate with our plans. The best thing we can do is know what has happened in the past and adjust our expectations to what we now know.

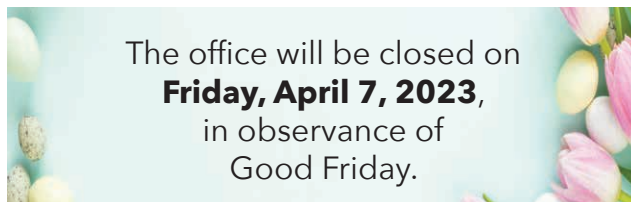
My own dad learned that the hard way when he planted about 200 peach trees at the orchard. It was in a field that faced southeast, and if any place on the property was suited to peach trees, that was it. He planted them over a span of about two years, and we all cared for them as they started to grow. We sprayed for insects and diseases and inspected the trunks for the dreaded borers. For about five years, they did well. I cannot remember what those winters were like, probably around 1958 through 1960, but I do remember the trees growing and even starting to bear peaches. Golden Jubilee was a favorite.

Then, when the trees reached age 6 or 7, they started to die. He replaced the first few when it looked as though most would survive, but after about three years of having to replace more, it became obvious our climate was just not suited for a commercial peach orchard.

Since that time, I have planted one peach tree in our modest home orchard. It is a white variety, Belle of Georgia, and although its total production in four years has been two peaches, it survives and continues to grow — so far. I also had two apricot trees at our old house, but to get them to survive, I had to first paint the trunks white, then wrap them in burlap and straw. It took a lot of hours to just keep them alive, and they never had even one fruit bud. After four years, I realized I could buy apricots a lot more cheaply than

I could grow them, so I gave up.

Nature, as is usually the case, had won, and I had learned to live with nature's promises — to always be nature — and not expect any special treatment just because I wanted something. Wanting and hoping are not in nature's basket of promises. 🍀



## 2023 Board of Director Elections

Members in District No. 3 will receive mail-in ballots to vote for one of the following:

### Richard A. Petrosky

Richard "Pete" Petrosky is a 1965 graduate of DuBois Area High School. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army before attending Duquesne University as an accounting major. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in 1973. A certified public accountant, Pete has served on the board of directors of United Electric since 2007. During his tenure on the board, Pete has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) training requirements to receive his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification and Board Leadership Certification as well as Director Gold. He also has served as the board's secretary/treasurer. Pete was general manager and part owner of Shaw Mack, Inc., until 1985. He then became general manager of the entire leasing operation at Hunter Leasing, Inc., in Butler, where he received the Ideal Gold Award 10 years in a row, achieved the top award with Idealease in 2010, and earned Diamond status in lease and rental management as the most profitable Idealease location in the United States. During the final two years of his career, he was general manager of Hunter Keystone Peterbilt, a heavy truck dealership in Clearfield. Pete is a member of the Tri-County Harley Owners Group, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a former board member of the Pennsylvania Truck Dealers Association. He is a member of St. Michael's parish and an auxiliary member of Christ the King Nursing Manor, both in DuBois. Pete retired in March 2013 and lives in the Gelnett area with his wife, Janice. They have one daughter, Kimberly, who is a graduate of Penn State Dickinson School of Law and is employed at Penn State University in State College.



### Henry H. Daugherty

Henry Daugherty is a 1970 graduate of the DuBois Area School District/Jeff Tech in Reynoldsville. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves, where he attained the ranks of sergeant first class, detachment first sergeant and acting warrant officer before retiring in 1996. He started his own business, Henry Industries of DuBois, which has been operating continuously since 1970 and provides excavating, hauling, snow removal, and equipment sales. He also owns Tri-County Contractors Supply, Inc. (producing asphalt), Tri-County Resources Supply (producing aggregate), Site Support Cooperative, Inc. and Daugherty Acquisitions, LLC (property management). Henry is a former member of United Electric's Board of Directors, where he served from 2003 to 2007. During his tenure on the board, he completed NRECA's training program, where he earned the designation of Credentialed Cooperative Director. He also completed advanced training to earn his Board Leadership Certificate. Henry has been a member of the Clearfield Farmland Preservation Board since 2016 and is also a member of the Clearfield County Planning Commission. He is a former board member of CMA Church in Reynoldsville and a former vice president of the Reynoldsville Community Food Pantry's Board of Directors. He is also a life member of the Sabula Fire Company. Henry lives in Sabula and has two sons, Dillon and Dalton.





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## ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 7 p.m.  
Brady Township Community Center  
Luthersburg, PA

\$20 BILL  
CREDIT FOR  
REGISTERED  
MEMBERS

- Report of Directors
- Business Session
- CEO's Report
- Results of Director Elections in Districts 3 & 6

DOOR  
PRIZES FOR  
REGISTERED  
MEMBERS

High-voltage demonstration preceding the meeting at 6:30 p.m..



DREAM.  
SHINE.  
ACHIEVE.

### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SHINE THE LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

All Students  
Attending or  
Planning to Attend  
Higher Education\*

Application  
deadline is  
**April 15, 2023.**

**Contact Kristy Smith:**

888-581-8969, ext. 8507

ksmith@unitedpa.com

www.unitedpa.com

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

