



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.

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
Lauren Gustafson, ext. 8501

Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Kristy Smith

A Season Marked by Gratitude



BRENDA SWARTZLANDER

THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME of year that many eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, decorations (hopefully with LED lighting) and festivities. I cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. I also look forward to spending time with family and friends. Despite the hustle and bustle, I also like to slow down and take the time to reflect on the past year.

At United Electric Cooperative, we are grateful for you, the consumer-members of our cooperative. One of the founding principles of a co-op is "concern for community," and we want our communities to thrive. Together with United Electric's mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable power, we also encourage our members to be safe, especially during the holiday season.

Safety

Decorative lights add holiday cheer to your home, but we encourage you to only purchase lights approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). UL Solutions is a global, independent, safety-science company that evaluates electrical products. You should also only use lights outdoors that are rated for outdoor use. Please avoid water and snow when using those extension cords, and check for broken sockets and frayed wires on those light strands brought up from the basement.

Touchstone Energy

We help our communities by partnering with Touchstone Energy, which provides United Electric with a wealth of information on safety and energy conservation, as well as savings discounts through the Co-op Connections program. Nationally and locally, discounts are available for roadside assistance, insurance, and identity theft protection, along with travel and entertainment. Register at connections.coop to explore before you head out this season.

Ease of use

There are many other ways we help our communities. We have easy-to-use payment options to suit busy lifestyles, including budget billing, autopay, paperless billing, and the SmartHub web platform and app. Whether we're providing information about our heat pump rebate program or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know that we can and want to help.

As 2025 approaches, I can assure you that United Electric looks forward to continuing to serve you and our communities. Whether you are carrying on those old family traditions or creating new ones, my hope is you take time to reflect on all the good 2024 has brought. On behalf of United Electric employees and the board of directors, may your holidays be merry and bright.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🎄

Until next time,

BRENDA SWARTZLANDER
PRESIDENT & CEO

Receiving Gifts

GLENN SCHUCKERS

I BELIEVE JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY who thinks about December thinks about Christmas. The weather may vary: Some years we have mountains of snow, while others have fields covered with green grass. Some years temperatures barely rise above freezing, while other years have people in short sleeves all month. No matter what changes come about in December, one thing that never changes is Christmas.

Christmas always brings the same dilemma: Gifts. No matter where we live, what generation we are in or where we are in our lives, December brings thoughts about giving and receiving gifts.

That reminds me of a short story I have read and used in classrooms with kids of all ages in my previous life as a teacher, "The Gift of the Magi." The story is neither long nor complicated. It tells of a young couple who are married and living on limited financial means. They both want to give something that is meaningful, but with their limited budget they don't know what that would be.

The wife had long beautiful hair, which meant a lot to her, and the husband had a pocket watch, which had been in his family for three generations. I am going to greatly shorten the story to a couple of sentences for this column. In short, the wife sold her hair to buy a fob for her husband's watch and the husband sold his watch to buy combs for his wife's hair. She no longer had hair for the combs he had bought, and he no longer had a watch for the fob she had bought.

I think the meaning of the story was about the values of the gifts we give. Each of the characters in the story gave up something dear to them to give to the other. It is a worthwhile theme and one I have always hoped would mean something to the kids who read it.

I have concluded that there is no "perfect" gift, so I am not going to write as I often have about what to give. This month, I would like everyone to think about not what we give but what we receive. In my case, I have been receiving gifts for longer than I can remember, so rather than tax my memory for some that were meaningful, I am going to think about the gifts I have received from nature. Each and every one of them has been precious and meaningful.

I have been blessed to have a garden every year, from the two-acre gardens where we grew produce to sell at the barn store to the 30-foot-by-50-foot gardens at our "new" house. These new gardens have given us enough beans to fill a freezer, tomatoes to fill shelves with jars of sauce for the winter, peppers to stuff in the freezer, and squash to keep for a few months for the table. I did not realize it at the time, but in retrospect, those gardens were gifts from nature that kept me connected to the land, even as that connection sometimes grew a little strained.



GLENN SCHUCKERS

NATURAL GIFT: This is a sunrise from our front porch. It was red in the morning – and accurately forecasted rain before the day was over.


I have also been blessed to see a lot of sunrises and sunsets. Even though the location of our new house means a view of sunsets is mostly limited, the tradeoff is a view to the east over a field and some woods for a truly gorgeous sunrise. Those views, even the limited one at sunset, remind me of the old prediction: "Red sky at morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailors delight." Surprisingly, it is pretty accurate.


Just like a gentle spring shower is a gift from nature, so is a violent downpour. Those winter scenes that inspired Robert Frost also make us shiver in the cold. Even though we don't always recognize the gifts from nature, they are gifts, nonetheless. The next time you see a colorful sunrise, remember it may forecast a blizzard. They are both gifts from nature.

Merry Christmas. 🎄

Safety Tip

When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines. Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.





OFFICE CLOSING

Happy Holidays!

United Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Dec. 25 and 26 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

EXPLORE *Washington D.C.*

YOUTH TOUR 2025 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: THIS IS YOUR MOMENT!



Explore

See museums, memorials and monuments all over the city. This all-inclusive trip packs it all in!



Network

Meet students from nearly every state while you become a part of almost 60,000 Youth Tour alumni.



Learn

Discover the impact electric cooperatives have nationally and voice your questions to congressional leaders face-to-face.



Plan

Transportation for the 2025 Youth Tour picks up from many convenient locations across Pennsylvania on Monday, June 16, and returns on Saturday, June 21.

APPLICATION
DEADLINE: 2/28/25

APPLY NOW

Contact Kristy Smith

 ksmith@unitedpa.com

 888-581-8969, ext. 8507

 www.unitedpa.com

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



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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, 2025.

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.



2025 United Electric Board Elections will be Held for Districts 4 & 5

United Electric Cooperative members residing in District 4 and 5 will be eligible to vote in the 2025 director elections.

The 2025 United Electric director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 4 and 5 are eligible to run for the board (See Districts 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

Cooperative's 2025 Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2025 election will be provided in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

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

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 p.m. 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, manager of marketing and member services, at 888-581-8969, Ext. 8507.

*** Completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.**