



# 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**  
Debra Homer, ext. 8508

**Kristy Smith, Editor**

## Containing Cost Increases



**FROM THE GAS PUMP TO** the grocery store, we've all seen costs going up. Pandemic-driven supply chain disruptions, a war in Ukraine, and skyrocketing natural gas prices have fueled inflationary pressures and cost increases in just about every sector, including electric generation. As a result, energy bills are going up.

In this challenging economic climate, your cooperative remains committed to containing costs. We have had a remarkable record of stable and low-cost generation rates over the past several years, but power costs are rising. While your generation rate is set to increase this month, it will still be among the lowest in the region. That's because your not-for-profit cooperative has long made investments to help curb costs to our members.

The notion of investing in our areas and taking care of our own needs has endured throughout our cooperative history. In 1946, it led to the creation of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) by rural electric cooperatives in the state for that very purpose: taking care of our own power needs.


Today, Allegheny is the energy provider for 14 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including United Electric. Each cooperative has a seat on the Allegheny board of directors, whose decisions continue to be driven by the needs of our rural communities and their residents.

In the late 1970s, Allegheny made the decision to invest in a nuclear plant, becoming a part-owner in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna) in Luzerne County. Today, Allegheny's 10% share of the plant provides more than 50% of all the energy needs of all of Allegheny's member cooperatives.

Allegheny also owns the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant, a hydropower dam in Huntingdon County. In addition, cooperatives have been receiving generation since the 1960s through long-term hydropower agreements negotiated with the New York Power Authority.

Combined with Susquehanna's output, these investments have helped shield cooperative consumers from periods of intense market volatility. They represent roughly 65% of our power portfolio, requiring Allegheny to purchase only about 35% for our remaining needs. This portfolio has been a bulwark against recent rising energy costs. Whereas investor-owned utilities are subject to 100% of the spikes in market prices, our exposure has been limited to this 35%, helping to temper cost increases.

To further assist consumers, cooperatives are putting revenue toward tamping down generation costs for 2023. Used for rainy-day situations like the current market volatility, Allegheny maintains a deferred revenue fund. The Allegheny board has decided to use a portion of this fund to help absorb the impact of the generation rate increase in 2023.

The decision to raise rates is never taken lightly. It's made by a board of fellow cooperative members who understand what a cost increase will mean to the local community. That's why cooperatives work hard at keeping costs down. The generation rate increase for 2023, while necessary, also reflects that continuing cooperative effort to contain costs. 

**BRENDA SWARTZLANDER**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# Truth in Tomatoes

GLENN SCHUCKERS

**CHRISTMAS IS BEHIND ME, BUT** I still have about two months of winter ahead. The weather forecasters have predicted everything from cold and snowy to warm and wet, to cold and dry and warm and dry. I have seen woolly caterpillars that were every possible combination of brown and black, so when people ask me what I think the rest of the winter will be, I tell them to ask me again in April. The weather forecast is like a seed company seed description, giving us something that will please everyone. The sad truth is there is not a whole lot a gardener can do this month.

When we had the orchard, we could, depending on the weather, start working outdoors. If it was not too cold and the snow was not too deep, January was a good month to start pruning the trees. There were even times when there was enough crust on the snow to allow us to walk on top and reach the upper limbs without having to use a ladder, but I could not always trust that crust and just as often as not used to find myself up to my waist in snow. Better to wait until there was only a foot or two on the ground.

But now, looking at the mostly bare ground where the garden will be, there is not too much I can do except plan. I have put in a “grow light” in the basement where I hope to start some plants from seeds, but that won’t happen for a couple more months.

So, this month we plan.

Most of that planning involves looking through seed catalogs and that, in and of itself, is an adventure. I have one catalog that is nothing but seeds for tomatoes and peppers. I plan to try growing some of those plants from seed this year, so I am taking the catalogs a little more seriously.

It is hard to take some of the descriptions seriously, though. That particular catalog has more than 20 pages of descriptions of tomato varieties, and there are some 10 different varieties on each page. If my arithmetic is still good, that comes out to more than 200 varieties of tomatoes.

Two hundred varieties and each one has its own name. There must be a lot of people working overtime to come up with those names. Of course, some of them have been around for a generation or more.

Forty years ago, I planted varieties like Rutgers, Jet Star, Marglobe, Supersonic, or Roma, and they are still around today. I do not know when companies started to come up with all the new varieties, but I suspect it was an attempt to sell more seeds with names like Goliath (couldn’t be

PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS



**TOO MANY TOMATOES?:** Here are two of the more than 20 pages of descriptions of tomatoes in a catalog. They make every variety sound like I can't bear to be without them, and that's their job. If it helps keep the company going and growing, more power to them.

small, right?) Better Boy, Big Boy, Early Girl, Mortgage Lifter, Goddess, Park Whopper, and Best Boy, just to name a few.

Someone must also be working overtime to write all the descriptions. I mean, there can't be that many things a person can say about a tomato.

Or are there?

Now, we have tomatoes that are not just large, they are gigantic. Or, depending on which catalog I read, substantial, immense, enormous, colossal, massive, mammoth, goodly, prodigious, tremendous, giant, monumental, stupendous, gargantuan, titanic, mountainous, monstrous, mighty, epic, inordinate, voluminous, king-size, man-size, and outside, not to mention just plain BIG.

And that just describes their size.

Then they describe the taste with descriptors like luscious, great flavor, mouthwatering, sugary sweetness, tangy acid, deliciously succulent, lush, juicy, tasty, flavorful, appetizing and delectable.

Also, I did not make up those names or descriptions; they actually exist in a catalog.

When it comes right down to it, don't all tomatoes have basically the same taste? I mean, blindfold me and give me a bite of cucumber and a bite of tomato, and I am pretty sure I will know which one is a tomato.

Like wine tasters who swirl and sniff wine and can tell which year it was produced and what country, state, and township it came from, there are folks who can do the same with tomatoes. But most of us just pour a glass of wine and drink it, or we cut a tomato and put it between



two slices of bread and enjoy it.

Will I plant 200 different kinds of tomatoes? No. This year, I plan to plant about a dozen plants, and since we canned about 50 quarts of sauce last year, all we need in 2023 are enough for sandwiches, toppings for hamburgers, and to mix with cucumbers for a salad or two.

If someone wants to plant all the newest varieties, that is perfectly all right with me, just like the 100 or so new varieties of apples. If they help keep farmers in business and fruit growers prosperous, more power to them all. And if 200 varieties of tomatoes help a company stay in business so that it can provide seeds to everyone who wants them, far be it for me to criticize it.

But, please, can't we be a little more modest and accurate about the descriptions and names? I know from experience that not every Goliath tomato will be huge and that not every Luscious tomato will actually be luscious. People who expect the actual results to be identical to the descriptions will be disappointed, and goodness knows, there is enough disappointment in

the world without tomatoes that don't live up to the promises.

So instead of giving us hundreds of kinds of tomatoes that will please everyone, how about some good, old-fashioned honesty and humility in the descriptions.

Now excuse me while I order some of those Goliaths. 🍅



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

**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.



## Seeking Current High School Juniors!

Be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C.! You'll learn the impact cooperatives have nationally and meet with your congressional leaders, along with other students from nearly every state. Explore museums, memorials and monuments, while becoming a part of more than 50,000 Youth Tour alumni from all walks of life.

Apply now:  
Kristy Smith  
888-581-8969, ext. 8507  
ksmith@unitedpa.com  
www.unitedpa.com

All applications are due by  
March 1, 2023. Dates for Youth  
Tour 2023 are June 18-23.



# 2023 United Electric board elections will be held for Districts 3 and 6

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 3 and 6 will be eligible to vote in the 2023 director elections.

The 2023 United Electric director elections will be held in May. Members residing in Districts 3 and 6 are eligible to run for the board (see District 3 and 6 by county and township listed below). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in Districts 3 and 6. 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 2023 Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2023 election will be published in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 3 and 6 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. 3. *Clearfield County* – Pine, Sandy and Union Townships; *Jefferson County* – Polk and Snyder Townships.

DISTRICT NO. 6. *Indiana County* – Canoe and West Mahoning Townships; *Jefferson County* – Beaver, Clover, Knox, McCalmont, Oliver, Perry, Porter, Ringgold, Rose, Union and Young 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 herein after 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, marketing and member services supervisor, at the cooperative office by calling 888-581-8969, Ext. 8507.

**\* Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than 4:30 PM on the last business day of January 2023 (Tuesday, January 31, 2023).**