



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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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 Horner, ext. 8508

Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Kristy Smith

Reliable Power for Today and Tomorrow



BRENDA SWARTZLANDER

RINGING IN A NEW YEAR SPARKS a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the president and CEO of United Electric Cooperative, I often reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at United is always looking ahead, exploring ways to improve our services with innovative technologies. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to providing our members with safe, reliable power at the best possible cost.

So how are we working to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

Safety is the top priority at United Electric, and we are always looking for ways to strengthen our culture of safety. Our system is designed and maintained to keep both our lineworkers and our members safe. We are at the forefront of safety when it comes to reminding the public to stay away from downed power lines and how to spot home electrical hazards. We start with the youth in our communities by providing various school presentations, like Careers on Wheels, Touch-a-Truck events and tabletop electric demonstrations.

United Electric carries through our education with high-voltage demonstrations and additional safety presentations for fire departments, first responders, and the general public. We will continue to be committed to educating the public on the dangers of electricity and the importance of staying vigilant.

A critical component of reliable, affordable power is the mix of energy resources used to keep the lights on across all 10 counties of United Electric's service territory. We purchase power from our energy provider, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Our current energy resource mix is made up of 68% nuclear power (Susquehanna Steam Electric Station), 9% hydropower (Raystown Hydroelectric Plant and power contracts with the New York Power Authority) and 23% negotiated, market-purchased power in a variety of forms.

United applies industry best practices to keep service safe and reliable. Proactive tree trimming is one way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs likely to fall. Pole inspections and aerial patrols have allowed us to reduce labor and equipment costs while boosting reliability. As technology becomes more practical, we anticipate exploring and implementing more industry practices to better maintain our territory and infrastructure, while still providing reliable service to you.

Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model. For us, it's about cooperation, not competition. One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and benchmarks from other electric co-ops in our home state. There are 13 electric co-ops in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey that represent the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. Cooperation among cooperatives is a principle that helps us grow by learning and implementing best practices.

As we turn our focus to 2024, United Electric will continue working to provide the safe, reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow. 🇺🇸

BRENDA SWARTZLANDER,
PRESIDENT & CEO

Resolutions and Predictions

GLENN SCHUCKERS

THIS IS THE MONTH A LOT of people make resolutions and predictions about the future, but I don't put much faith in either of them. Nonetheless, it being January, I will try my hand at both.

It might be fun to make a prediction about the weather this winter. I have studied "wooly worms," measured squirrel nests and studied the bark on maple trees. I even studied the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, the predictions from the Weather Channel and the official government weather prediction. Some of them said to expect a cold, snowy winter, with more snow than average. Others predict a warmer than normal winter with less snow than usual, and still others predict "normal" winter weather patterns. As they say, pay your money and take your pick.

Who knows what to expect?

The long and short of it is, if they would all be honest, they would say their information is based on data from past weather records. But as we have seen in recent months, weather today is nothing like it has been, so the predictors are not really sure what to expect.

We all have some interest in what the future will bring, but if we know, what difference would it really make? I have some bags of ice-melt in the garage, some of it left over from last year when I bought more than I needed. I have a tractor with a blade on the back that I used on the driveway once or twice last winter. I expect to have to use it and the snowblower a few times in the next couple months.

This is Pennsylvania, and the next two months are bound to bring some snow and ice. They always have, and they always will. There have been a few winters where we had so much snow some of the state roads were closed. A couple of times, the state road past our farm snow-drifted so deep it took a diesel loader with a snowblower on front to clear it. Our sidewalk drifted up past my shoulder that year. With a crust on top, I could trim the tops of the apple trees without a ladder.

But there were also winters when the grass was barely covered. Last winter, we never did get a storm that left more than a few inches. It never really was bone-chilling cold, and we barely had enough cold weather for the apple trees to get the required number of frost hours.

I repeat: This is Pennsylvania, and every season is its own guide. Nature doesn't compile data and decide what the next day or week or month is going to be. There are air currents that change daily, oceans that are warm or cold, and natural factors that change daily. I try not to plan more than a day or two ahead and base my own predictions on

an old saying, "Red sky in morning, sailors take warning; red sky at night, sailors delight." That has always seemed to be pretty accurate, and planning more than a day ahead has always been mostly futile.

Something we all need

Resolutions, on the other hand, are things we all need. Of course, some are easier to keep than others, like when I vow to refrain from eating oysters during Lent. I should add that I dislike oysters so much you'd have to pay me to eat just one. To me, they are in the same category as smelt.

When I taught in Auburn, N.Y., for two years, I had roommates who were native to that area of the state. They could not wait for the spring "run" of smelt and went out early to catch them by the bucketful. They brought them back to our house and dumped them in hot oil, leaving the whole place with the odor of cooked fish. It took weeks to get the odor out, but it only took me 10 minutes to decide I wanted none of it. For the next week, I spent a lot of time out of the house.

But back to resolutions. Even though mine usually last only a few days or weeks at most, I like to make New Year's resolutions. I don't share them with anyone, though, so nobody knows if I keep them or not. It is like my "to-do" lists.

Last fall, I spent some days wrapping some shrubs, putting guards around some others, spreading mulch, mowing the garden, moving some deck furniture inside and cleaning out the garage. Then I sat down and made a list of those jobs and crossed them off. It is much easier to make a list of jobs after they are done than to make it before.

Predictions? What's the use of learning about good things that are going to happen? No one would avoid buying a lottery ticket if he knew it would be a winner. We need to live our lives one day at a time with appreciation for each and every one.

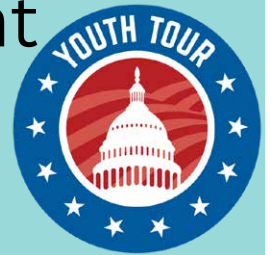
I predict January will have 31 days, some of them will be cold, some will be sunny, but the sunny ones will still be cold. There will be at least one morning when there will be snow on the ground that crunches underfoot. Hereabouts, where we are above 2,000 feet elevation, there will be some days with ice on the trees that sparkles in the sun. Those are my predictions.

And I resolve to keep on writing columns. I hope you will find them at least slightly entertaining — maybe even a little educational here and there. Beyond that, I make no promises or resolutions. I just take this opportunity to wish all a happy and prosperous New Year. 🍷





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 55,000 Youth Tour alumni from all walks of life.

Apply now!

For more information, contact:


Kristy Smith

888-581-8969, ext. 8507

ksmith@unitedpa.com

www.unitedpa.com

All applications are due by March 1, 2024. Dates for Youth Tour 2024 are June 16-21.

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

2024 United Electric Board Elections will be Held for District 2

United Electric Cooperative members residing in District 2 will be eligible to vote in the 2024 director elections, scheduled in May.

Members living in District 2 are eligible to run for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors (see District 2, listed by county and township, below). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in District 2. These ballots provide everyone in the district with the opportunity to vote, including those who do not, or cannot, attend

the annual meeting. United Electric's 2024 Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2024 election will be in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members in District 2 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. 2. *Cambria County* – Elder and Reade Townships; *Cameron County* – Gibson Township; *Centre County* – Burnside and Snow Shoe Townships; *Clearfield County* – Beccaria, Bigler, Boggs, Bradford, Covington, Cooper, Decatur, Graham, Karthaus, Morris and Woodward Townships; *Clinton County* – West Keating Township; *Elk County* – Benezette Township.

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, manager of marketing and member services, at 888-581-8969, ext. 8507.

*** Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than Wednesday, Jan. 31.**