



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
Len Hawkins

Consumer Advocate
Lauren Gustafson, ext. 8501

Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Kristy Smith

The Journey Ahead



LEN HAWKINS

I AM HONORED AND HUMBLLED to be chosen to lead United Electric Cooperative as the next president & CEO. I will diligently focus on advancing United's mission to provide safe and reliable power to our membership.


My name is Len Hawkins, and I have worked at United Electric for 24 years. I bring extensive experience in electric cooperatives to the president & CEO position: I've been United's manager of finance and accounting for 20 years. I have a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the Pennsylvania State University. I am also a 2002 graduate of the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship

Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Although DuBois has been my home for 20 years, my hometown is Houtzdale. I've been married for 30 years to my wife, Kandace, originally from Howard. We have two children, Jared and Alayna, who are both grown and married. We spend most of our time at home learning to care for our apple trees or playing ball with our two German shepherds.

I am honored to continue to build on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Brenda Swartzlander, and it was great to work alongside her during her tenure. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brenda for more than four decades of outstanding service and leadership. Her legacy will continue to inspire us as we move ahead. We've had many accomplishments at United, and I look forward to working with our talented staff, the board of directors, and dedicated members to achieve new heights of success and innovation. I believe we have lots of opportunities in this evolving energy environment to enrich United Electric while also adhering to the cooperative principles and our mission.

With our ever-changing economy, we will be faced with challenges, such as increasing material, equipment and generation costs, and we will be looking for innovative ways to make our employees and contractors more efficient. Rest assured that United's board of directors, CEO, and employees measure up to the challenges ahead and will take advantage of every opportunity.

Member satisfaction will be one of my greatest priorities moving forward. I am excited to work for all of you and, together, I believe we can do great things. I also look forward to meeting and hearing from you, our members, as we begin our journey. 

LEN HAWKINS
PRESIDENT & CEO

Safety Tip

Heating equipment accounts for 13% of home fires. Place a space heater on a hard surface and make sure clothing, papers and other combustible items are at least 3 feet away from the heater.






Shiny Things This Month

GLENN SCHUCKERS

ALMOST EVERY DAY I GET a new shiny thing in the mail. They started arriving in December and will keep coming all month. Seed catalogs find their way to the mailbox of every gardener, whether he or she has even ordered anything anywhere. I know a lot of us look forward to getting them each year and eyeing all the things they have to offer. Even though I have not ordered anything from more than two or three places, I will probably have a collection of three dozen new catalogs before the month is over. Apparently, it costs more to take me off a computerized mailing list than it does to print and mail a new catalog, and I guess it helps the post office stay in business, too.

Or maybe, like the pile of letters asking me for donations to save everything from aardvarks to zebras, the catalog senders are hoping I will order from them even though I have not done so in the past 10 years. There is, however, that one in a thousand chance that this time I will order a packet of the newest variety of turnips just to see how they grow.

I don't mind the catalogs, really. They make for some interesting reading when the weather is too cold or snowy — or both — to do much of anything except sit in the house and look out the window. They also help me keep my vocabulary up to date. I mean where else would I see words like “bodacious” or “stupendous,” if I did not read the descriptions in a seed catalog?

They are, as Mark Twain once remarked about his stories, “mostly true.” While the descriptions may not be false enough to be grounds for fraud, they sometimes stretch the truth almost to the breaking point.

Often, they need to be read and understood with a pound of salt — and a strong dose of common sense. In the actual life of a garden, no tomato plant will yield a tomato big enough to fill a jar of tomato sauce, unless by “jar” they mean one of those 4-ounce jelly jars. When most of us think about a jar of tomato sauce, we think about a quart jar or at least one that holds a pint, and from my experience, getting even a pint of sauce from one tomato would be a stretch. And no pepper plant will produce enough peppers to fill a

shelf or freezer with stuffed peppers.

But the people who write descriptions in seed catalogs are not competing for the “Boy Scout of the Year” award. They are trying to sell their products, and they know the people who read the catalogs and may buy the products they describe fall into one of two categories.

The first category is probably people like me who have been reading descriptions for years and expect them to be filled with hyperbole, a fancy word for exaggeration or more fiction than fact. We accept the fiction and then go about the business of ordering mostly what we have always ordered.

The second category of people who order something based on its description may be those who are new to the scene, maybe with their first or second garden. Even if they are a little skeptical of the description, they will place an order believing that a company would not blatantly lie about a product. When six months go by, chances are they will have forgotten those glowing descriptions of the seeds they ordered. And if they are lucky, the plants will have grown and produced something close to what was promised. A 3-inch tomato is good even if it's not the 6-inch fruit the description promised. They may well blame themselves for not planting it in the right spot, not using the right fertilizer or not watering it enough.

The lone exception is in the description of zucchini plants. These seeds usually live up to their expectations and then some. Two seeds will probably produce two plants and these two plants may well satisfy a whole neighborhood. This is an observation from a man who once planted a whole row and then put green zucchinis in brown paper bags and left them on neighbors' doorsteps in the middle of the night. Don't believe me? We have storage bags in our freezer filled with shredded zucchini and marked “August 2021,” just in case we want to make more zucchini bread in the future.

My only real objection to the glossy catalog descriptions is the way they use, or more correctly abuse, the language. I have no objection to them saying one variety of sweet corn is “better” than another, but when it says it is the “best,” that is logically impossible. That would mean no other variety is better than the one described, and that gets back to the opinion of the person growing or eating the corn, in this case. One person may prefer corn that is sweeter while another wants it to be crunchier. When we had the orchard, people would ask me what blend of apples made the “best” cider. My usual response was, “The ones we're selling today.” It reminds me of Lincoln's answer when someone asked how long a soldier's legs should be. The president's reply: “Long enough to go from his waist to the ground.”

Enjoy reading your seed catalogs. 🍷

PLEASE NOTE:

Effective **January 1, 2025**: Most members will see an increase of \$10 per month to the Cost of Service charge.

Generation and transmission kilowatt hour (kWh) charges for all members will also increase by \$0.006 per kWh.

These combined increases will affect an average residential member's bill by about 10%.

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



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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 Districts 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, listed by county and township below). A mail-in ballot, which will be sent to every member in these districts, provides everyone with 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, 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.**