

JULY 2025

PENNLINES

Peak Performance

How Load Management
is Leading to Energy Savings

**'MOVE OVER'
TO PROTECT
ROADSIDE CREWS**

**EFFICIENCY TIPS
FOR OLDER HOMES**

**TAKE A CULINARY
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Jeremy Kelley, PREA/Allegheny Coordinated Load Management System (CLMS) operator, inspects server connections in the Harrisburg CLMS control room.



ON THE COVER
PREA/Allegheny load control operators Joe Andrews, background, and Jeremy Kelley are part of the team in Harrisburg that's helping rural electric cooperatives and their members manage energy use so rates can remain stable and affordable.

PHOTOS BY
ARTEMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Playing Your Part

Load Management Program

Gives Members a Role in Power Costs



JIM STAUFFER

IF YOU'VE BEEN A MEMBER of your local electric cooperative for any length of time, you've likely heard us talk about "the cooperative difference." But what does that really mean?

For me, it comes down to three simple things: We are owned by our members, we exist to serve our members, and we work together — not in competition, but in cooperation — to meet shared goals.

Few programs capture that spirit better than the Coordinated Load Management System (CLMS), the topic of this month's feature.

Nearly 40 years ago, the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey came together with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale energy supplier, to tackle a common challenge: how to keep wholesale power costs down during times of peak energy demand. The solution wasn't flashy or high-tech (at least not back then). Instead, it was grounded in an idea as old as the cooperative movement itself: If we work together, we can do more — and do it better — than we ever could alone.

CLMS is a voluntary energy-saving program that enables cooperatives, with the help of their members, to reduce demand during high-use periods, like the hot, humid days we've been experiencing this summer. When hundreds of cooperative members agree to temporarily reduce their use of electricity, it puts less strain on the power grid and saves everyone money.

That spirit of shared sacrifice and mutual benefit is what sets co-ops apart from traditional for-profit utilities. We don't have outside investors demanding higher profits. Instead, we reinvest in our systems, return margins to members, and develop programs like CLMS that keep energy affordable and reliable for the long haul.

Through CLMS, Allegheny and its member cooperatives have collectively saved more than \$170 million in purchased power costs since the program's inception. Those savings are real, and they go straight back to you — our consumer-members — in the form of stable rates and lower bills.

Equally important, CLMS is powered by innovation and adaptability. As technology and member needs evolve, the program does, too. We've gone from managing water heaters to controlling electric thermal storage units and heat pumps — and the possibilities are growing.

But the heart of CLMS isn't the equipment. It's the people — from our dedicated load control operators at Allegheny to the cooperative employees promoting and managing the program in their communities to the thousands of members who have raised their hands and said, "I'm in."

That's the cooperative model at its finest: democratically run, community-focused and rooted in collaboration.

As chairman of the Allegheny board and a director of a cooperative that's actively involved in the program, I'm proud of the legacy CLMS has built. But I'm even more excited about what comes next — not just new technology, but new ways to strengthen the partnership between members and cooperatives. Whether it's managing electric vehicle charging or internet-connected thermostats, the future of load management will depend on the same principle that's guided us since the beginning: cooperation.

When we act together, we all win. That's not just the cooperative difference — it's the cooperative advantage. 🤝

JIM STAUFFER

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COMING HOME AGAIN

They say you can't go home again. I understand the sentiment, but I've spent much of my life trying to prove "them" wrong. After leaving the Army – and being away for 20 years – I found my way back to my hometown, thanks to the opportunity to work for *Penn Lines*. And while my parents and family had long moved away, I still searched the area for remnants of "home."

I grew up in the village of Bowmansdale in rural Cumberland County. It was a quiet community with everything close at hand, or a bike ride away. I bought my first baseball cards at the local butcher shop and general store. We got our milk at the dairy in glass gallon jugs, which proved disastrous after a sharp turn shattered two gallons in the back seat of our car. I can still smell that sour milk – a scent that lingered for the rest of that car's mercifully short life. OK, maybe some memories of home aren't the sweetest.

Nostalgia has a way of idealizing our past if we let it. But after 20 years away, I knew things would not be the same – and many things had changed. Communities, like people, can't live in the past. The butcher shop was long gone, the dairy was now a bed & breakfast, and my middle school was converted into apartments. But there were some nice surprises – our favorite pizza joint was still around, along with the local ice cream shop.

I was grateful for these small reminders of home, but I was more grateful to see a community that had grown with its changes. It gave me hope our young family would enjoy growing up here as I had.

That's not been the case for some communities in Pennsylvania, particularly in rural areas where population decline is a significant worry. Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives support a state effort to address this issue through the launch of the Pennsylvania Rural Population Revitalization Commission. Through its work, the commission hopes to promote growth and help attract families to rural communities – communities people want to come home to. Ideas and input can be sent to: commission@rural.pa.gov.

Now that I've settled back in my hometown, some more changes are on the horizon. Our daughter leaves for college next month. They say you can't come home again, and I sure hope they're wrong about that.

PETER A. FITZGERALD
EDITOR



CARL HUNNELL (RICHLANDSOURCE.COM)

AN EYE FOR HISTORY: In April, Gary Jakubick of Mansfield completed his goal of photographing every monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield when he took a photo of a memorial in honor of Capt. Thomas F. Brown's Battery B.

MONUMENTAL!

Tioga County man reaches Gettysburg goal

Mansfield resident Gary Jakubick recently completed his goal of photographing every monument on the 6,000-acre Gettysburg Battlefield, where more than 50,000 casualties were recorded in 1863.

Jakubick reached his goal in April after finding and photographing a small monument placed in honor of Capt. Thomas F. Brown's Battery B of the 1st Rhode Island Artillery.

The three-day battle, which marks its 162nd anniversary this month, was not planned by either the Union or Confederate armies. Instead, it ignited when a skirmish between scouting parties spun out of control.

A salesman, Jakubick estimated he has visited Gettysburg about 50 times over the years, including on the way home from his honeymoon, to photograph the battlefield's 466 monuments and 367 plaques.

His connection to the area is so strong, he said, that some of his ashes will eventually be scattered at the battlefield after he dies.

FROM TWO TO ONE

Candidates vie to represent city that doesn't exist – yet

When residents of Clearfield County went to the polls May 20, they selected a group of candidates to represent a city that doesn't exist — yet.

The City of DuBois and surrounding Sandy Township in Clearfield County will consolidate in January and become a new city, still called DuBois. The pairing is only the third to occur in Pennsylvania since a 1994 state law established the procedure for municipal mergers and consolidations.

In preparation for the change, approximately 12,000 voters were eligible to elect seven city council members and a treasurer. In May, they nominated candidates from each party to advance to the November general election, after which the newly elected officials will be tasked with unifying the two municipalities. That will include reorganizing staff, negotiating union agreements, managing the budget and accounts, and passing a new set of ordinances.

INSECT ISSUES

Lanternfly quarantine expands to protect grape, wine industry

Pennsylvania continues to expand its spotted lanternfly quarantine with the goal of protecting the state's \$1.8 billion wine and grape industry.

Many of those producers are in Erie County, one of the last places in the state to remain untouched by the invasive insect. Meanwhile, as Pennsylvania expands its quarantine zone, Virginia has dropped its controls after deeming they were no longer effective.

With the spring addition of Bradford, Sullivan, Venango and Wyoming counties, the quarantine covers all but 11 Pennsylvania counties. The unaffected counties are all in the northern part of the state and have few major highways, which helps limit the most prevalent way the insects are spread: by vehicle.

Quarantines also are in place for all of New Jersey and Delaware, most of Maryland, and a handful of counties in Ohio and Connecticut. The insects have also been found in states without quarantines, including New York, Massachusetts and Indiana.

Although state quarantines have not eradicated the lanternfly,

entomologists believe local predators have likely been lending a hand to control the pest's population.

In North America, the spotted lanternfly was first found in Berks County in 2014.

OVERDOSES DOWN

Report: Rural areas' drug-related deaths decreased in 2024

Rural Pennsylvania saw a decrease in drug overdoses and related deaths in 2024, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania (Center) reports.

According to 2023 and 2024 data from the Pennsylvania State Police Overdose Information Network, rural overdoses decreased by 40% and drug-related deaths decreased by 52%. Urban areas had similar decreases.

During the same period, 59% of reported rural overdose victims received naloxone, which rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Researchers say the typical overdose victim is a white male between the ages of 30 and 49.

The Center's report noted data is insufficient to determine why overdoses and deaths declined. Similarly, it's too early to determine whether the decreases are temporary or the start of a new trend. 📰

TIME LINES



A decade ago, *Penn Lines* reported on the popularity of bass fishing in Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth offers more than 85,000 miles of rivers and streams, and more than 4,000 lakes and ponds, including access to Lake Erie. This makes it attractive to clubs like the Tioga County Bass Anglers Association – featured in our story 10 years ago. The group keeps interest in fishing alive by organizing events like the Kids Fishing Derby, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in June at Cowanesque Lake.



FOURTH OF JULY IN THE WILDS

Celebrate Independence Day, July 4 to 6, with food, vendors, games, and, of course, fireworks as part of the PA Wilds program in Emporium, Cameron County. The event will be capped off by a Mud Run at Smoker's Insane Terrain Offroad Park. Learn more at pawilds.com.

LOOKING FOR GOLD

What's better than unearthing a buried treasure? Taking that treasure home with you, and you can do just that July 10 at Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon. Guests will follow an educational map to eventually find the ultimate prize. Advance tickets are required. Learn more at lincolncaverns.com.



COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG



WANDERING WATERFORD

Historical re-enactments, live music, kids activities, a parade, a car show and more than 100 craft vendors will be featured at Waterford Heritage Days, July 18 to 20, in Waterford, Erie County. The event is celebrating its 52nd year, and admission to all the festivities is free. See the event's Facebook page for more details.

CONQUER THE CANYON

Scenic and historic Wellsboro in Tioga County will host the Conquer the Canyon Marathon Race Festival July 26. Rain or shine, participants can compete in a marathon, half-marathon, 10K or 5K race. The registration fee is \$40. Learn more at marksaceschedule.com.



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Peak Performance

How Load Management is Leading to Energy Savings

MICHAEL T. CRAWFORD

SOME WORDS AND PHRASES ARE just a fixture of childhood. Like: “When you leave the room, turn the lights off!” Aside from being a parent’s persistent command, this sound advice for keeping electric bills low is built upon the idea that the cheapest kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the one never generated.

In 1986, 13 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey collaborated with their wholesale energy provider, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), to turn this simple idea into an energy-saving program, the

Coordinated Load Management System (CLMS).

The program, which encourages cooperative members to do their part to alleviate stress on the power grid, has been lauded by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission as an initiative that truly works. In an era when energy policy and legislation tend to dictate efficiency and conservation measures, Allegheny has been ahead of the game for years.

“This program is what cooperatives are all about,” says Steve Brame, president & CEO of Harrisburg-based

Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), your cooperative’s statewide

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



BEATING THE PEAK: Far left, Steve Tataleba, an HVAC technician at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, installs a load control receiver (LCR) on a cooperative member’s water heater. Inset, Brian Shearer, senior staff engineer at Gettysburg-based Adams Electric Cooperative, reviews load data reported by LCRs in the cooperative’s service territory.

advocate. “CLMS is about cooperation among cooperatives to best serve their members; it exists solely to save members money on their power costs.”

How does CLMS work?

Cooperative consumer-members, through Allegheny, own a significant portion — nearly 70% — of the generation resources that power their homes and businesses.

This includes the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant in Huntingdon County and a 10% share of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, a nuclear plant in Luzerne County. Allegheny has also secured long-term power purchase agreements for hydroelectric energy from the New York Power Authority. These carbon-free resources ensure

cooperative members enjoy stable electric rates at the lowest cost possible.

The remaining energy is purchased on the open market. The cost of that extra electricity is based on the amount of electricity called for, or “demanded,” at a particular time of day. “Peak demand” refers to those periods when electric consumers collectively use the most electricity. Generally, electricity prices are higher during those peak-demand periods.

As a result, the price of electricity is partially based on how much power your local electric cooperative requires during the five hottest, most humid days each summer. Reducing the amount of power your cooperative uses on those days, as well as during other times throughout the year, can stabilize electric costs.

CLMS works by shifting when electricity is used — from times of peak demand to off-peak hours. As a result, Allegheny’s generation costs are lower, which in turn reduces power costs to local cooperatives and, ultimately, the cost to members of every cooperative. In 2024, the CLMS program reduced purchased power costs by approximately \$5.3 million, bringing total savings to more than \$170 million since the program began.

Currently, more than 42,000 load control receivers (LCR) are installed on appliances in the homes of electric cooperative consumer-members. These members volunteer to have an LCR installed on a particular appliance, such as a heat pump or hot water heater. Meanwhile, Allegheny staff monitors real-time electricity demand. When demand reaches an extremely high level, a load management operator sends a signal to the LCRs, which temporarily cut power to the appliances they are connected to, reducing demand across a cooperative’s service area.

Historically, hot water heaters have yielded the biggest bang for your buck in the CLMS program, with 91% of LCRs installed on these appliances. The program is set up so volunteers typically are not even aware the control has been activated. Because larger water heaters retain heat for a long period of time, cooperative members should not notice when they are off for a few hours. Water heaters are generally grouped according to capacity and household size with the goal being no group is turned off longer than

“CLMS is about cooperation among cooperatives to best serve their members; it exists solely to save members money on their power costs.”

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



A SWITCH THAT SAVES: Brian Shearer, senior staff engineer at Gettysburg-based Adams Electric Cooperative, stands beside a water heater equipped with a load control receiver. When members volunteer to have these systems installed in their homes, it helps the cooperative manage purchased power costs and offer stable rates.



LOOKING AHEAD: Tony Vincik, standing, PREA/Allegheny manager, energy management systems, and Brian Smith, PREA/Allegheny Coordinated Load Management System supervisor, review load forecasts to determine if it will be necessary to activate load control devices to reduce demand on the electric grid.

the storage capacity and needs of the family allow.

Usually equipped with ample insulation, water heaters are akin to batteries in terms of energy use; they can be switched off, which won't impact the heated water inside, and then switched back on when demand is lower. Electric thermal storage (ETS) units and dual-fuel home heating systems are other common candidates for LCRs.

"Initially, the program was just for water heaters, but later it was expanded to central air, heat pumps and then ETS units. Then as technology allowed, we were able to control more loads through an interruptible subpanel that controlled everything attached to it," says Brian Shearer, senior staff engineer at Gettysburg-based Adams Electric Cooperative. "Any kWhs used from that panel are at a reduced rate for our members, regardless of how many times we enter control.

"For example, March and April we only had to enter control one day each month, but members still benefitted from a reduced rate and limited interruptions."

Ted and Bonnie Wacchaus, Adams Electric members in York Springs, have been participating in the cooperative's load control program — U-Shift, U-Save — for as long as they can remember. In 1969, they moved into a century-old home that required more than \$500 worth of oil to heat year-round. As oil costs rose, they knew they needed to

make their home more efficient.

"We have always been very aware of our energy use, so when Adams offered the U-Shift, U-Save program, it was a no brainer for us," explains Ted, a retired state worker. "Almost 60% of our high-demand items — an ETS, three water heaters, a hot tub and even our dryer — are on load control. We're both retired and have a very livable situation with a lower, more stable electric bill."

Keeping up with the times

For decades, energy use across the grid showed distinct peaks and valleys. Today, however, end-use electrification — a term that describes the use of electricity over fossil fuels to power things, such as appliances, tools, and vehicles — is growing. More people are working from home, too. That makes load management trickier.

"That's one thing that has changed over the past three to five years: The consumers' energy usage curve is much flatter than before," says Todd Sallade, PREA/Allegheny vice president – power supply & engineering, "and it makes the load operators' jobs more challenging when trying to determine a peak."

To keep pace with the evolving demands on the grid,

Continued on page 17

'Move Over' to Protect Roadside Crews

SCOTT FLOOD

WHEN LINeworkERS ARE PERCHED in a bucket truck, repairing power lines along a busy road, they have good reason to be concerned about their safety.

The National Safety Council reports that 891 people were killed and 37,701 were injured in work zone crashes in 2022 (the most recent statistics). Most of those crashes occur at construction sites, which are usually well-marked. Electric co-op crews, however, work in all kinds of conditions, often along remote roads in heavy rain or other adverse weather conditions that can reduce their visibility.

The danger of work zone crashes has led every state to adopt "move over" laws that require drivers to lower their speed and switch lanes, when possible, to protect emergency responders and their vehicles parked along the road. The goal is to provide a safety buffer and minimize accidents. Drivers caught violating the laws can face penalties, including significant fines.

Danger everywhere

Pennsylvania is one of only 14 states that have "move over" laws that pro-

tect service vehicles, such as construction and utility trucks, in addition to emergency vehicles. Because of this, drivers in most states are under no legal obligation to give lineworkers that added margin of safety.

Compounding the danger is the dramatic increase in distracted driving. The National Transportation Highway Safety Administration has reported that as many as 1,000 Americans are injured each day due to activities that take drivers' attention away from the road. The most common is reading and responding to text messages, but the design of today's vehicles also contributes to distraction. Many have complex controls, forcing drivers to take their eyes off the road to make even simple adjustments.

Geography can be a factor, too. Co-ops serving rural and remote areas often have power lines along hilly and winding roads, which means drivers may have little time to react when they encounter a work crew.

In addition to the potential for lineworker injuries, accidents can also damage or destroy expensive service vehicles, reducing a co-op's

ability to respond to outages and other problems. Power poles and other infrastructure could also be casualties.

Additionally, many of the tasks performed by lineworkers, such as reconnecting high-voltage power lines, require complete focus. When their attention is distracted by speeding or noisy vehicles, they could make mistakes that complicate the repair or cause injury.

Safety first

Many state transportation agencies have work zone awareness programs. Cooperatives also devote a lot of time and resources to educating members and other drivers of the importance of giving lineworkers a wide berth.

Co-ops are considering ways they can modify bucket trucks and other service vehicles to make them more visible. Bright colors and additional lighting, such as strobe lights and illuminated detour arrows, help to attract attention from a distance. Reflective "work zone ahead" signs also alert drivers to be ready for an unusual situation.

Sometimes, a little bit of extra attention is all that's needed to prevent a serious incident. 🚧

ANDY BARTH



OUT OF COMMISSION: In addition to the potential for lineworker injuries, roadside accidents can also damage or destroy expensive service vehicles, reducing a co-op's ability to respond to outages and other problems.

FOR MORE than four decades, business writer **SCOTT FLOOD** has worked with electric cooperatives to build knowledge of energy-related issues among directors, staff and members. Scott writes on a variety of energy-related topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 electric co-ops.

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., based in Harrisburg, Pa., is the wholesale energy provider for the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The cooperative has a proud history of investing in sustainable energy solutions to benefit the communities it serves while providing reliable energy at an affordable price.

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Local Lore

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative

A Deal with (Seven) Devils

In 1865, a Mennonite farmer in Somerset County spotted a caravan of wagons traveling toward Somerset Borough. That farmer, Jacob Thomas, claimed he saw four wagons full of “shining gold” as they moved along what is today known as Somerset Pike, which leads to Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative.

Jacob, 60 at the time, followed the caravan as it turned onto what is now Roaring Run Road and headed toward Laurel Mountain, where the trunks of gold were unloaded and buried. When Jacob returned the next day, he claimed the treasure was being guarded by seven devils and a headless woman.

“The day was calm until the devils beheld him, but immediately thereafter a great hurricane arose, and giant trees were twisted like so many saplings,” according to an account published in the *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat* in 1885.

The story goes that although Jacob



BURIED TREASURE?: Michael Cook, a local lore enthusiast, takes a photo of the remnants of Tobias Yoder's farm in Somerset County, which is mentioned in one version of the “Seven Devils” legend involving hidden gold.

fled that day, he would return to the site. The devils, apparently starved for conversation (headless individuals have their limitations), bargained with the farmer for years until finally allowing him to unearth the treasure under one condition: He needed the help of three brothers.

The prospect of getting gold from devils proved to be too juicy, and the brothers spilled the beans to their friends. Word spread, and when Jacob and the trio arrived to dig up the treasure, two men followed. The devils raged and delayed the deal — indefinitely, it would seem.

Today, the hunt for the gold

continues and was most recently detailed in the 2023 podcast “Hiking the Highlands,” produced by *The Tribune-Democrat*.

What are the local legends in your hometown? Let us know your stories at communitycorner@prea.com.



Main Office: Somerset, Pa.
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Website: somersetrec.com

‘Everyone’s friend’

“Flowers are one of nature’s wonders. They beautify the Earth with many colors and smell great, too. When you are sad or not feeling well, flowers brighten your day. Flowers are always present to celebrate any special day. A beautiful bouquet of flowers is everyone’s friend.”

Josiah Ansell, age 9, Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative

CALLING ALL KIDS, ages 5 to 17:

Show off your artistic skills!

Each month, we'll feature the artwork of our young readers (or our readers' youngsters), inspired by something they've read in *Penn Lines*. Paints, pencils, crayons, clay, sand – any physical medium is OK! You may send digital photos of the creation to CommunityCorner@prea.com, but please: no digital artwork.

Please include the artist's name, age and electric cooperative, plus a 25- to 50-word description of the art.



2024

Annual REPORT



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**Northwestern Rural Electric
Co-operative Association, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



2024 EXECUTIVE REPORT

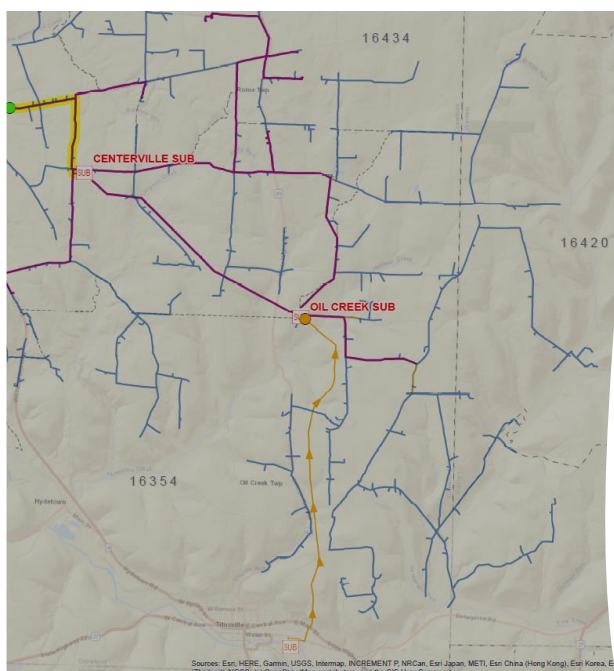
Just like other cooperatives around the world, here at Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) we operate according to seven core principles. These principles are the reason Northwestern REC and our sister cooperatives throughout Pennsylvania and across the nation operate differently from other utilities. The key difference: We put the needs of our members and communities first.

RELIABILITY

When the power goes out, we know our members are relying on us to safely and quickly complete repairs to restore service as soon as possible.

That's why here at Northwestern REC, we are investing in upgrades in Centerville and Oil Creek, which will allow us to have more backfeeding capabilities and a new transmission loop. These investments will give members in our Centerville and Oil Creek service areas access to the technology and reliability that most of our other members have already come to expect and appreciate. With financial support from the Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grant Program, this project will help reduce power outages for our members in District 6 by upgrading our grid. The grant making this project possible was awarded to your co-op by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which is supporting resilience measures throughout the Commonwealth.

This \$866,000 grant helps your co-op offset 75% of the projected costs associated with constructing a new transmission loop near our Centerville substation. This new line, combined with upgraded smart grid-enabled recloser technology and automated switching software, will greatly reduce the number and duration of outages. Currently, this portion of our grid does not have any built-in redundancy, which means members in this area are vulnerable when external transmission outages impact the co-op's system. While other portions of our grid are interconnected to allow us to send power from other areas during times of outage, the Oil Creek and Centerville substations — serving members in Centerville Borough and Oil Creek, Southwest, Steuben, Rome, Eldred, and Sparta townships — do not have the connections needed to provide this same level of service. By adding this new transmission line, we will no longer be subject to our transmission provider's timeline to restore service to this area.



This improved infrastructure will not only enhance service to those impacted in District 6 but will also lead to operational cost savings for every Northwestern REC member as outages, and the costs associated with them, decrease.

Grant funding for this project was awarded in 2024. Engineering will be completed by the end of September. Construction will begin soon and will take 12 to 16 months. We anticipate bringing the new transmission line onto the grid by the end of the first quarter of 2026. We look forward to providing our Centerville and Oil Creek members with the reliable electricity they deserve.

Continued on page 4

CENTERVILLE & OIL CREEK TRANSMISSION LOOP:

This project, partially funded by a Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grant, will improve the reliability of service to members in District 6.

2024 EXECUTIVE REPORT

Continued from page 3

COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPS: MUTUAL AID

Helping others in need is more than just a nice sentiment; it's living up to our cooperative principles. We recognize our responsibility to help when the power goes out, not just for our members but for members of other co-ops.

Mutual aid among electric cooperatives has been a mainstay philosophy within our industry, beginning in the 1930s when the rural electrification program first brought power to rural America.

Your co-op is connected to other electric cooperatives throughout the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to provide a network through which mutual aid is coordinated.

When Hurricane Helene caused devastating damage throughout southern Appalachia, Northwestern REC sent four, two-man crews to help impacted electric cooperatives restore power to their members. As you may recall from the December issue of *Penn Lines*, lineworkers who serve your co-op every day spent time helping folks who needed it most. Traveling throughout the devastated region, members of the Northwestern REC team spent nearly a month helping restore power to communities that were deeply impacted. Your co-op and lineworkers are proud to assist other cooperatives and communities in need and trust that our sister cooperatives would — in turn — assist our members if disaster were to strike in our region. In late March and early April 2023, we did have to make that call for mutual aid, and three of our sister co-ops, Claverak REC, Valley REC and Somerset REC came to our aid, sending five two-man crews. We remain grateful for their assistance during our time of need.

Throughout these pages and on the cover of this report, you'll find photos taken by our lineworkers in the field when assisting with Hurricane Helene recovery. Please join us in thanking them for their dedication to their work, our members and community, and the greater cooperative community throughout the nation.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY: NORTHWESTERN REC COMMUNITY FOREST

In partnership with Northwestern REC, the Foundation for Sustainable Forests has established a community



MUTUAL AID: Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative crews work to restore power to communities devastated by Hurricane Helene.

forest adjacent to our headquarters in Cambridge Springs. Funded in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Northwestern REC Community Forest project is the first Community Forest Program Grant to be awarded in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The USDA Community Forest Program establishes community forests that provide community and economic benefits through active forest management, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities and public access for recreation.

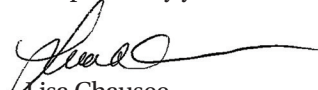
As part of the project, the Foundation for Sustainable Forests acquired 106 acres of woodland from Northwestern REC through partial donation and partial purchase. This transfer keeps the property on local tax rolls while ensuring the land will be carefully managed by the foundation and open to the public for non-motorized recreation activities like hiking, birdwatching and hunting. The forest is well-suited as habitat for wood thrush, a species of bird that is in population decline — having lost 50% of its pop-


ulation since 1966. Home to a variety of woodland and other habitats, the land will be used for education, non-destructive recreation, and to support the local forest products industry. The land has already been timbered by the foundation's crews, which has increased the health and sustainability of the property.

The community forest opened to the public in September, following work done by members of Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, a program of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as foundation staff and volunteers, who mulched a walking trail loop off Wenner Drive, built a welcome kiosk, installed signage, and built bat boxes that were installed on poles set by Northwestern REC crews. Shortly after this work was completed, the foundation hosted its Loving the Land Through Working Forests conference, which brought countless local and regional forest enthusiasts to the property to learn and enjoy.

If you're interested in visiting the Northwestern REC Community Forest, point your GPS to 22862 Wenner Drive, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403. We hope to see many of our consumer-members and community members enjoying the community forest for years to come.

Cooperatively yours,


Lisa Chausee
Board Chair


Ryan Meller
President & CEO



YOUR CO-OP LEADERS: Board Chair Lisa Chausee sits with President & CEO Ryan Meller. Chausee was first elected to the District 9 seat in 2017. She was chosen by her fellow directors to serve as board chair at their December 2024 meeting. Meller was hired as president & CEO in 2022. Prior to that, he was the chief operating officer for the co-op. He has been with Northwestern REC since 2011.



COMMUNITY FOREST: Members of the community tour the Northwestern REC Community Forest during the Foundation for Sustainable Forests Conference in September 2024. The community forest opens access to this beautiful woodland to members of the Northwestern REC community while preserving the land, allowing for educational programs, non-destructive recreation, and support for local forest products through sustainable maintenance practices by the foundation.

PHOTOS BY AND PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM
THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2023 and 2024

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES

Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2024

Assets	2024	2023	2024	2023
Property and equipment:			Operating revenues:	
Electric plant in service - at cost	\$ 146,015,815	\$ 141,133,563	Electric energy revenue	\$ 37,192,182 \$ 37,284,138
Construction work in progress	2,618,686	1,847,977	Customers' forfeited discounts and penalties	119,237 76,803
	148,634,501	142,981,540	Rent from electric property	1,041,316 1,026,372
Less accumulated provisions for depreciation	52,832,371	50,817,471	Miscellaneous electric revenue	715,302 395,276
Total electric plant	95,802,130	92,164,069	Total operating revenues	39,068,037 38,782,589
Other assets and investments:			Operating expenses:	
Non-utility property, at cost	-	255,000	Cost of power	17,924,992 18,113,635
Cash surrender value of life insurance	494,472	466,725	Distribution - operations	1,625,392 1,911,581
Investments in associated organizations	15,830,492	14,829,420	Distribution - maintenance	5,699,054 5,155,580
Certificates of deposit	308,612	293,291	Consumer accounts	1,290,223 1,289,938
Board designated funds	1,477,977	1,432,070	Customer service and information	1,053,412 950,720
Total other assets and investments	18,111,553	17,276,506	Sales	274,082 205,548
Current assets:			Administrative and general	3,958,063 4,153,189
Cash and cash equivalents	2,186,586	2,918,277	Depreciation and amortization	4,324,715 4,308,911
Trade accounts receivable, less allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$122,926 and \$117,668 for 2024 and 2023, respectively	4,781,352	4,539,962	Other	102,818 110,439
Other receivables	586,228	76,350	Total operating expenses	36,252,751 36,199,541
Materials and supplies	1,069,967	1,044,039	Operating margin before fixed charges	2,815,286 2,583,048
Other current and prepaid assets	163,847	158,300		
Total current assets	8,787,980	8,736,928	Fixed charges:	
Deferred charges	621,958	846,080	Interest on long-term debt	2,147,819 1,920,245
	\$ 123,323,621	\$ 119,023,583	Operating margin after fixed charges	667,467 662,803
Equities and Liabilities	2024	2023	G & T and other capital credits	1,647,103 1,061,926
Equities:			Net operating margins	2,314,570 1,724,729
Memberships	\$ 59,575	\$ 61,125	Non-operating margins:	
Patronage capital	11,676,323	11,655,611	Interest income	160,114 151,930
Other equities	56,474,408	54,261,940	Net gain on disposition of property	37,409 53,188
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(390,216)	(336,527)	Miscellaneous non-operating income (loss)	140,360 (70,138)
Total equities	67,820,090	65,642,149	Total non-operating margin	337,883 134,980
Long-term debt:			Net margin	\$ 2,652,453 \$ 1,859,709
CFC notes, less current maturities	43,412,111	41,937,441	Other comprehensive income	
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities	3,461,608	3,963,032	Unfunded post-retirement benefit plans:	
Financing lease obligation, less current maturities	6,005	41,143	Net actuarial gain (loss)	(69,596) (106,890)
Total long-term debt	46,879,724	45,941,616	Amortization of actuarial loss recognized	15,907 14,624
Non-current liabilities:			Total other comprehensive income	(53,689) (92,266)
Accumulated post retirement benefit obligation, less current portion	625,410	589,322	Total comprehensive income	2,598,764 1,767,443
Total other long-term liabilities	625,410	589,322		
Current liabilities:				
Current maturities of long-term debt	2,313,146	2,501,570		
Current maturity of finance lease obligation	35,137	33,665		
Current post-retirement benefit obligation and deferred compensation	75,515	100,975		
Accounts payable:				
Purchased power	1,521,836	1,512,650		
Other	1,517,380	615,693		
Capital credit retirement funding liability	345,627	484,341		
Customer deposits	376,290	434,196		
Accrued interest	389,858	353,326		
Accrued payroll	462,451	370,952		
Accrued vacation liability	461,157	443,128		
Total current liabilities	7,498,397	6,850,496		
Total liabilities	55,003,531	53,381,434		
Deferred credits	500,000	-		
	\$ 123,323,621	\$ 119,023,583		

The consolidated financial statements of the cooperative and subsidiaries for the year ended Dec. 31, 2024, have been audited by Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro, P.C., Jamestown, New York. The audit resulted in a clean opinion stating that the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the cooperative and subsidiaries as of Dec. 31, 2024 and results of their operations and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles, generally accepted in the United States of America.

The auditors' complete report is on file in the office of the cooperative and is available for inspection by the membership.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

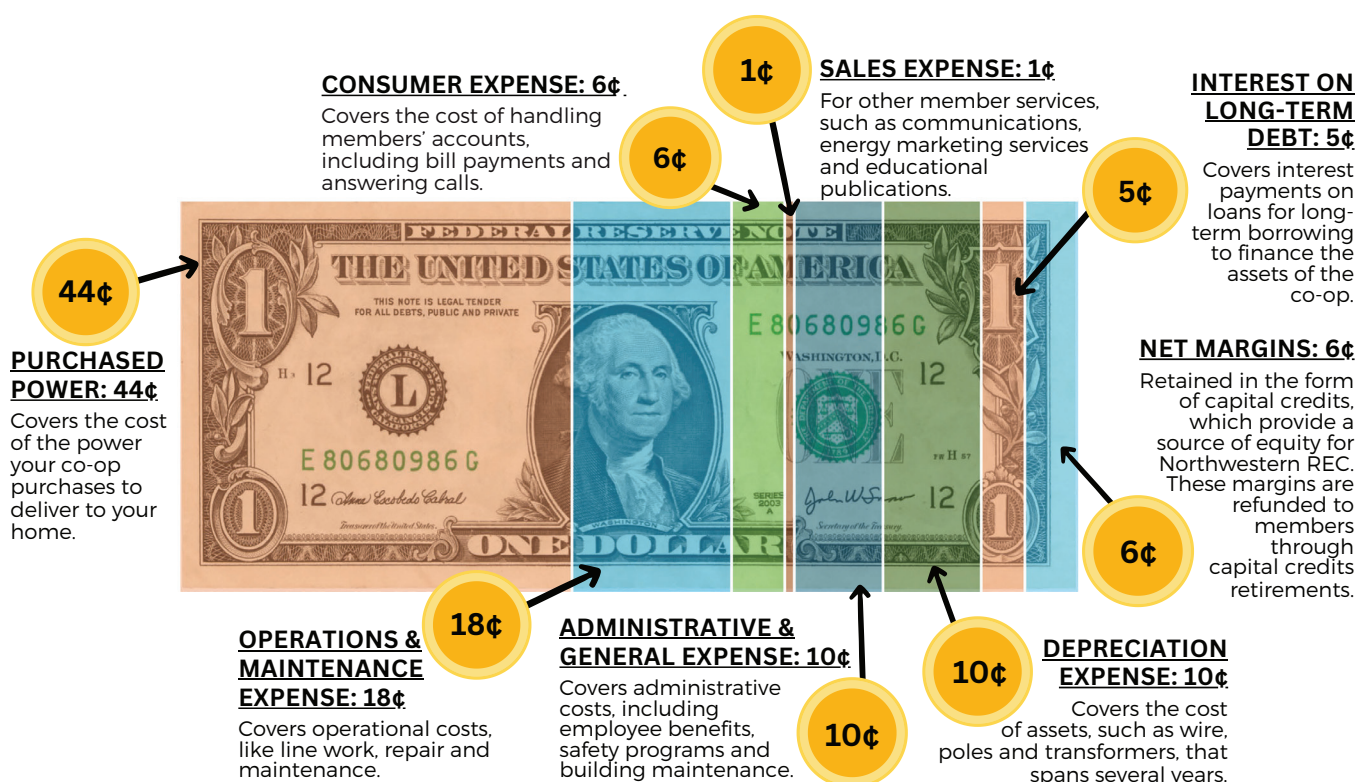
Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EQUITIES

Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2024

	Memberships	Patronage Capital	Other Equities
Balance, at December 31, 2022	\$ 63,000	\$ 12,161,302	\$ 52,475,678
Membership fees cancelled	(1,875)	-	-
Net operating margins	-	1,724,729	-
G&T patronage capital credits received and allocated	-	354,636	(354,636)
Non-patronage source margins	-	(1,324,729)	1,324,729
Net non-operating margins	-	-	134,980
Retirement of capital credits	-	(1,261,247)	-
Equity payable upon liquidation	-	-	678,301
Gain on early retirement of estate capital credits	-	-	3,868
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Change in donated capital and other adjustments	-	920	(980)
Balance, at December 31, 2023	\$ 61,125	\$ 11,655,611	\$ 54,261,940
Membership fees cancelled	(1,550)	-	-
Net operating margins	-	2,314,570	-
G&T patronage capital credits received and allocated	-	417,784	(417,784)
Non-patronage source margins	-	(1,728,210)	1,728,210
Net non-operating margins	-	-	337,883
Retirement of capital credits	-	(983,432)	-
Equity payable upon liquidation	-	-	560,253
Gain on early retirement of estate capital credits	-	-	3,853
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	-	-	-
Change in donated capital and other adjustments	-	-	53
Balance, at December 31, 2024	\$ 59,575	\$ 11,676,323	\$ 56,474,408

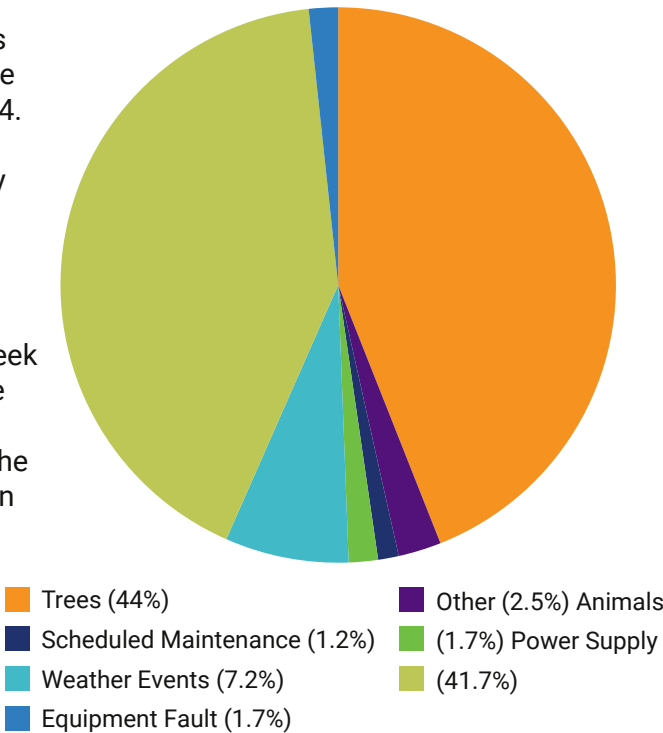
Where your co-op dollar was spent in 2024:



Outage Causes in 2024

As in past years, trees were the largest cause of our outages in 2024. Most tree outages were accompanied by high winds or severe weather conditions.

Planned updates in Centerville and Oil Creek will greatly reduce the frequency of power supply occurrences, the second most common cause of outages in 2024.

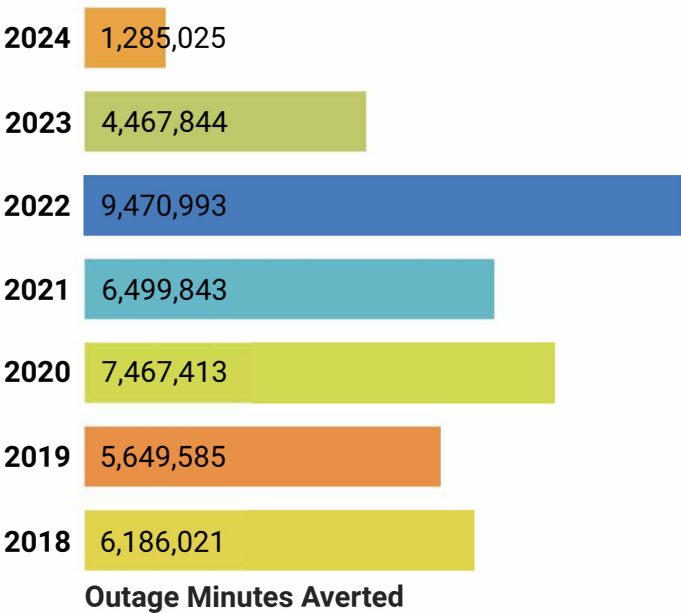


Outages Averted in 2024

When possible, Northwestern REC uses switching technology to keep power supply outages from impacting our members.

In 2024, we had a significantly lower number of supply outages, which resulted in a much lower number of outage minutes averted, as shown in this graph.

While the number of outage minutes averted dropped significantly, the overall outage minutes also dropped by more than 50%.



IN 2024,
21,543
METERS
SERVED
RESULTING IN
MORE THAN
19,592
MEMBERSHIPS.

\$17,924,992
PURCHASED POWER
264,882,887 kWh

2,650
MILES OF
ELECTRIC LINE
AVERAGING OUT TO
8 MEMBERS PER
MILE OF LINE

59 FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

\$139*
AVG. MONTHLY BILL
891*
AVG. MONTHLY kWh USE
*AVG. of households only

YOUR CO-OP ADMINISTRATION:

**PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER: DR. RYAN MELLER**

**VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF
FINANCIAL OFFICER: KATHY LANE**

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:
STEPHEN MILLER**

**DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
THOMAS DIMPERIO**

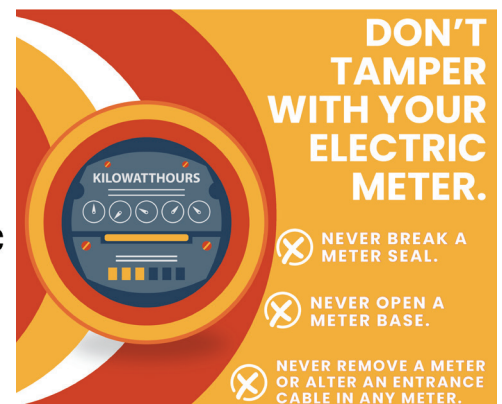
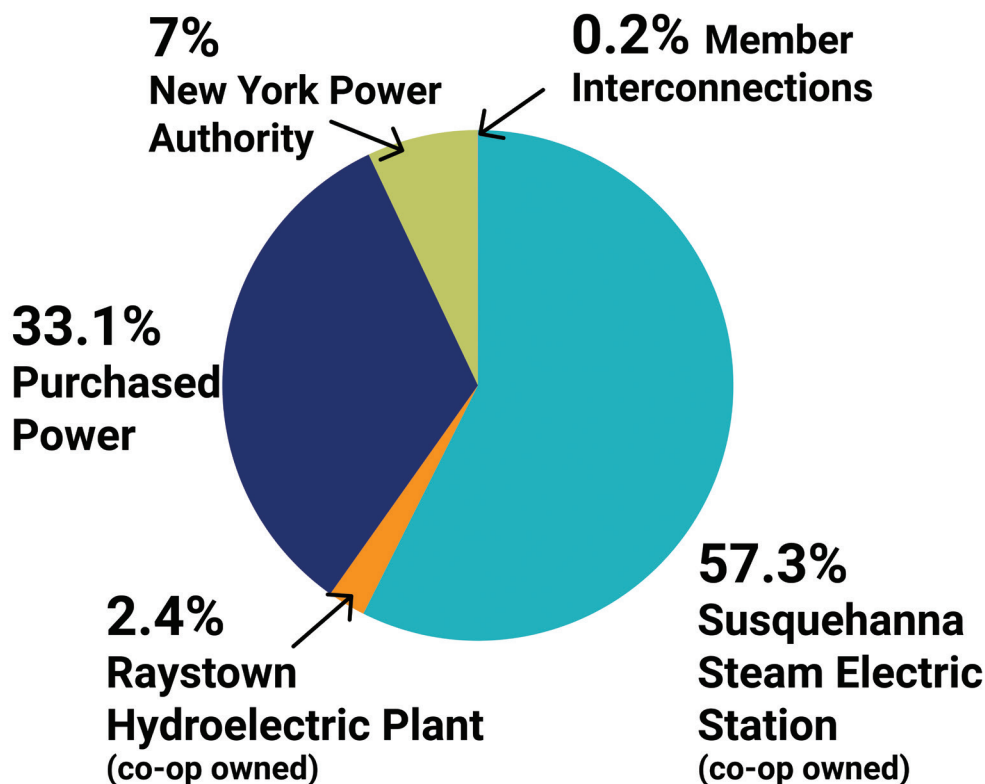
**DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES:
KERRI FLEET**

**EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR:
CLARISSA SCHNEIDER**

**DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS:
AMBER TILL**

While this list only includes the senior staff, we recognize the contributions of every employee and contractor who contributes to the success of Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative. We are grateful for their hard work, dedication and expertise.

Where your power came from in 2024



Know the 2025 Nominees

District 1: Conneaut, Girard, Elk Creek, Franklin, and Springfield townships and Cranesville and Platea boroughs in Erie County and parts of Monroe Township and City of Conneaut in Ashtabula County, Ohio.



**June T. Shelhamer, Incumbent
District 1**

June T. Shelhamer has been a member of Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) since the day she was born and currently lives on the property she grew up on in Franklin Township.

Shelhamer served as the Franklin Township tax collector from 1978 until she retired Jan. 1, 2022. During her time as an elected official, she sat on the Pennsylvania State Tax Collectors Board of Directors for several years in the 1990s.

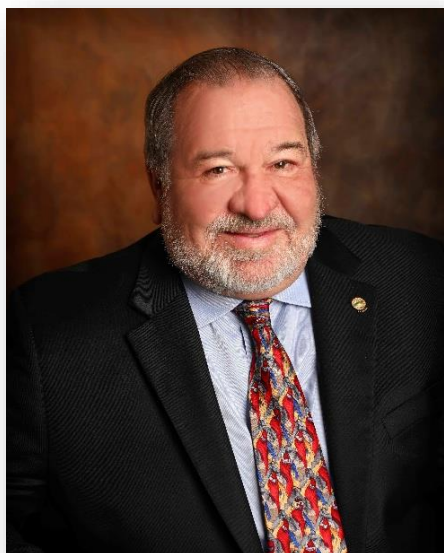
Throughout her working career, Shelhamer also owned and operated the Priority Pack and Ship store in Edinboro from 1993 to 2005. She also served as a controller at Beacon Lubricants, Inc. from 2006 until she retired in 2019 to care for her ailing husband, Gary, who passed away in November 2021.

Shelhamer has been a member of the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department for the past 40 years, where she dispatched calls for the fire police. Currently, she serves as the fire company's treasurer and helps raise funds.

She has one daughter, a son-in-law and two grandsons, one of whom is currently serving in the U.S. Navy. Her other daughter passed away in 2014. Along with her deceased daughter's husband, she also has a step-daughter-in-law and a step-granddaughter.

"I look forward to serving the residents of District 1," she says, "and working with the employees of Northwestern REC to keep our electric rates as low as possible and our electric service the top-notch quality it has been for many years."

District 2: LeBoeuf, McKean, Washington, and Waterford townships and Edinboro and Mill Village boroughs in Erie County.



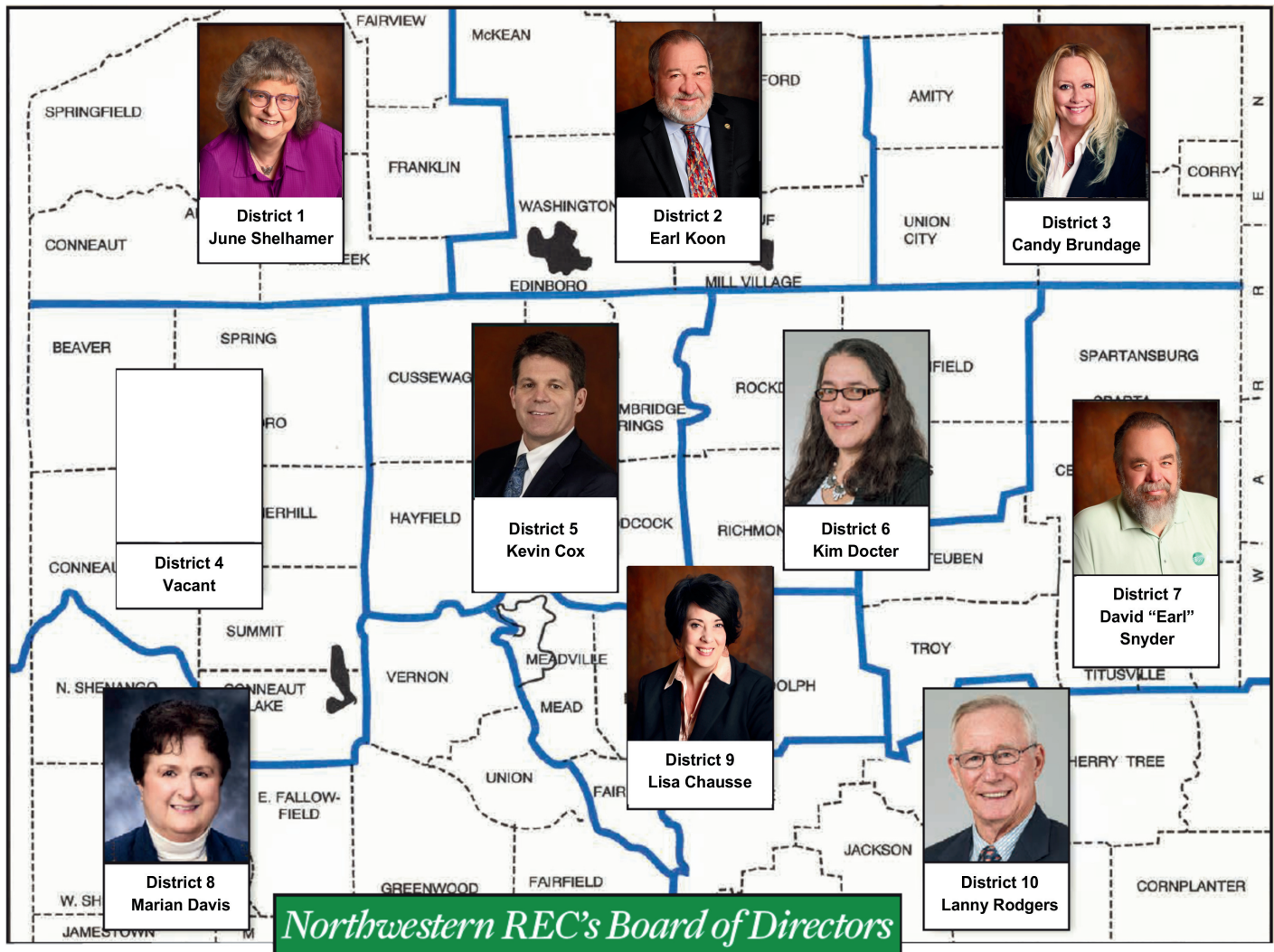
**Earl J. Koon, Incumbent
District 2**

Earl Jesse Koon was born and raised in Edinboro on a farm where he still resides and continues the tradition of operating and maintaining the family farm.

Koon received a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics in 1975 from Edinboro University and a master's degree in business administration from Gannon University in 1979.

Following college, he was employed by the Borough of Edinboro for five years as the code enforcement officer and then by Washington Township as the secretary/manager, a position he held for more than 17 years. He finished his career in the road construction industry, where he specialized in asphalt products for more than 20 years, in 2021.

Koon and his family have been members of Northwestern REC since its availability in the mid-1940s. He is a member of Oasis Lodge No. 416, where he served as master and treasurer. Koon is married and has two grown children who help on the family farm.



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

After reviewing attendance numbers and member feedback, the Northwestern REC Board of Directors and the cooperative's management team decided to update the way the annual meeting is handled. This year, all information normally shared through the annual meeting is included in this annual report and through presentations by officers, executives, and the panel of members overseeing the election that will be live broadcast online Saturday, Aug. 2. The actual business meeting will be very brief and will only include reports from the secretary and member panel. Due to construction limiting parking at Northwestern REC headquarters, we encourage members who wish to attend to consider watching the livestream on our Facebook page: facebook.com/northwestern.rec.

For members who wish to attend the meeting in person, please RSVP by calling 800-352-0014, ext. 364, or emailing communications@northwesternrec.com no later than Thursday, July 31, so we can plan for your arrival.

This change allows us to host member appreciation events throughout our 10 districts, bringing opportunities for member engagement closer to home for our 20,000 members. These events began Feb. 22, when Northwestern REC partnered with Mount Pleasant Ski Resort to host a family tubing event. We hope to see you at the next member appreciation event at the indoor pool at Meadville Area Recreational Complex on Saturday, July 19. More details about this and other events will be announced soon. Keep an eye on northwesternrec.com and Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts and on SmartHub to find out more.



Member-to-Member, Inc.

MEAT RAFFLE

Date of Drawing: Tuesday, Aug. 26

**GRAND
PRIZE:**

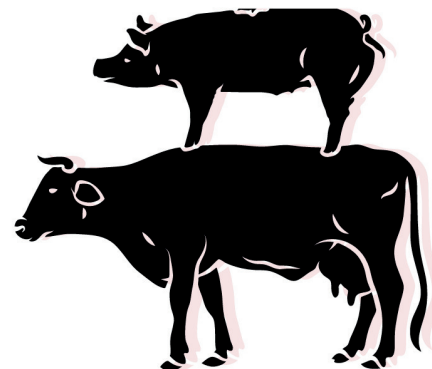
Large freezer with
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cow & $\frac{1}{2}$ pig

**SECOND
PRIZE:**

Small freezer with
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cow & $\frac{1}{4}$ pig

**THIRD:
PRIZE:**

Small freezer with
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cow & $\frac{1}{4}$ pig



\$10 EACH

**Free delivery within
a 60-mile radius
of the co-op!**



**SCAN ME TO PURCHASE
MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS!!**

Efficiency Tips for Older Homes

MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Q: How do I improve the efficiency of my older home while keeping its charm?

A: I love old homes. While the features can make them less efficient than modern construction, you can still keep the charm and save energy.

Start by prioritizing the invisible upgrades that make your home more comfortable and efficient. Many older homes, for instance, are not properly insulated.

Those with pocket doors, coved ceilings, dumbwaiters, doors to attic spaces, and laundry chutes allow indoor air to escape through the cavities, gaps, and cracks around these classic features. Sealing off open cavities around those features often requires plywood, rigid foam or drywall fastened into place and then caulked around the edges.

Keep an eye out for framing features that cause drafts, too. With balloon framing, wall studs run from the foundation to the roof, allowing air to flow freely through those spaces. Second floors with knee-wall attics on both sides are notorious for air leakage. Open cavities allow air to flow horizontally between the attic spaces, making the home uncomfortable and inefficient. Seal off the open cavities in the floor framing and insulate attic spaces.

Dense-packed cellulose or closed-cell foam insulation

can be sprayed into exterior walls. Skilled contractors can remove pieces of siding and drill holes to fill the wall cavities from the outside of the home. For brick or stone homes, holes can be drilled from the inside and then patched and painted. Insulating walls from the inside of the home requires more time and effort, but having well-insulated walls is worth it.

People often think new windows are the best way to improve a home's efficiency. Considering the replacement costs, I recommend investing in air sealing and insulation first. Then consider storm windows to keep the charm of the home's original windows.

Once you've addressed the envelope of your home, consider appliance improvements. Replace your old electric water heater with a heat pump water heater. This upgrade can save a family of four an estimated \$550 per

year and more than \$5,600 over the lifetime of the water heater, according to Energy Star®.

Invest in high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment. A mini-split heat pump, also known as a ductless heat pump, is more efficient than electric baseboard heating and provides the benefit of air conditioning.

Older homes don't have to be inefficient. Show your home some love and invest in energy-efficient upgrades. 🏡

MIRANDA BOUTELLE is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



AIR SEALING AND INSULATION: The first step to improving an older home is air sealing and adding insulation to attic spaces.

The Planning Process

STEVE PIATT

A LOT OF PLANNING GOES into any adventure Paula and I undertake — some of it out of necessity — but, at times, it's simply a product of the way we're both wired.

Certainly, the planning and prep is at its zenith when we're readying for a hunting or fishing excursion that involves long-distance travel. It ramps up even more when we're heading into the bush on a paddle-and-portage canoe trip of several days, maybe even more than a week. There aren't any convenience stores out there.

The popularity of Pennsylvania's state parks also necessitates a bit of planning: The sites at our favorite spots — Sinnemahoning, Ole Bull, Kettle Creek, Sizerville — fill up quickly as the reservation window opens 11 months out.

So by the time we're ready to head out, things are pretty much etched in stone — at least on paper. The planning is done; it's time to execute it to perfection. However, as we've come to realize over the years, nothing ever goes as planned.

That doesn't stop us. Exhaustive planning is part of the fun with any big adventure, and it's necessary. But at the same time, you have to be ready to roll with whatever punch is thrown at you along the way.

The typical left hook for us involves the weather. Extending a weeklong northern Ontario fishing trip by two days wasn't part of the plan, but if rain and fog keep the float plane from fetching you, you do the only thing you can do: keep fishing, albeit close to camp in the event the pilot does swoop in.

It doesn't always involve rain, either. A wind-blown lake can shut down any canoe travel, forcing you



STEVE PIATT

PREP WORK: From packing bags to making lists, travel takes a lot of planning but, as most adventurers know, it rarely goes exactly as expected.

to abandon your schedule to avoid capsizing. Tornado warnings and an approaching hailstorm had us scrapping an evening turkey hunt in Kansas. Instead, we took shelter in a car wash to keep our rented SUV from getting pelted.

And, obviously, air travel is always a bit of a crapshoot. Flight delays and missed connections are incredibly frustrating when heading to a long-awaited adventure; a little less so when returning home. You can pound on the counter at the service desk as hard as you can, but it won't get you in the air. Raise enough of a ruckus, in fact, and it might get you on the *ground*.

With all the things that can happen that are out of your control, it makes perfect sense to thoroughly plan your trip and control what you can. The last thing you need is some kind of self-inflicted slip-up.

But they do happen. On one of our first-ever canoe trips into Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park, I absent-mindedly forgot to pack our tent. Discovering this a mere 10 miles from our house, I motored on with the kind of unwavering determination that would make any man proud. Refusing

to turn back, we purchased a new one at Canadian Tire.

And it seems on every state park camping trip we forget something: a table on which we set our stove; the cup-holder piece to our coffeemaker; the boots I needed to continue prepping for a mountain goat hunt in the fall (I actually had to make the three-hour trip home to grab those).

Also, in our household, it's not unusual to be planning multiple trips at the same time. We may be developing lists for a northern Ontario fly-in fishing trip as well as a separate game plan for a September moose hunt in Newfoundland. Rain gear is nearly as important as a fishing rod and rifle, and it's wise to not count on walleye filets for your week of meals.

So we plan. And prepare. And count down the days until our next adventure. And plan some more.

All while knowing nothing ever goes exactly as expected. 🐾

STEVE PIATT is a veteran newspaper editor and outdoor writer who along with his wife, Paula, has hunted and fished across North America. He is most at home on the water and in the fields of the Keystone State. He lives in Bradford County.

Continued from page 11

CLMS is receiving upgrades of its own.

"We are currently in the process of converting to radio frequency (RF), which will replace the original powerline carrier system to activate load controls," says Chris Weller, load management supervisor for REA Energy Cooperative in Indiana, Pa. "The RF will allow two-way communication, essentially letting load control receivers send data back to the control center."

Near-real-time data enables cooperatives to find patterns that help to better predict loads, allowing for tighter control periods and more precise measurement of a control period's effectiveness, says Phil Stern, manager of technical services at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative. Incidentally, two-way communication helps cooperatives manage outages more efficiently simply by seeing where electricity is and isn't being used.

As the CLMS program nears its 40th anniversary, Tony Vincik, PREA/Allegheny manager, energy management systems, is imagining new opportunities to help cooperatives control load.

"In 2023, there were approximately 20,000 internet-connected thermostats in co-op territory," says Vincik, who joined PREA/Allegheny in 2008 and will be retiring soon. "Can we find a way to control those without inconveniencing our members? Can we discharge batteries on peak and charge at night? Would members allow devices to limit electric vehicle charging until nighttime?"

"There's a lot of possibilities out there," he adds, "we just have to be willing to try it and see if it will work."

Taking the reins from Vincik is CLMS Supervisor Brian Smith, who joined the cooperative family in 2020. When

Smith first came on board, his task was "simple," he says: Don't miss a peak — although that's not always easy.

"We enter control periods according to the available, real-time load data provided by PJM, but we work with our members to tailor our operations to meet their needs," Smith says. "We provide all the facts of the load as it stands, give them an estimated start and stop time, and let them make the decision as to when and how they control."

A collaborative approach

That collaborative approach has defined the CLMS program — within the PREA/Allegheny control room among the CLMS operators and with their cooperative counterparts — and that isn't changing, no matter how the program evolves.

"The decisions we make come from everyone putting their heads together and coming up with informed plans," Smith says. "Outside of this room, we gather with our partners at each of the cooperatives every year and hear their stories, their ideas, so we can keep meeting those peaks with as little disruption to folks' lives as possible."

For participating distribution cooperatives, there is no charge to members to participate in CLMS, and no actions are expected from the members once the system is in place. Any full-time residential cooperative member with an electric water heater, ETS unit or dual-fuel heating program can participate. Power cost savings resulting from the program offset any expense incurred by the participating cooperative.

To learn more about how to participate in the CLMS program, visit prea.com/load-management or contact your local cooperative office. 📞

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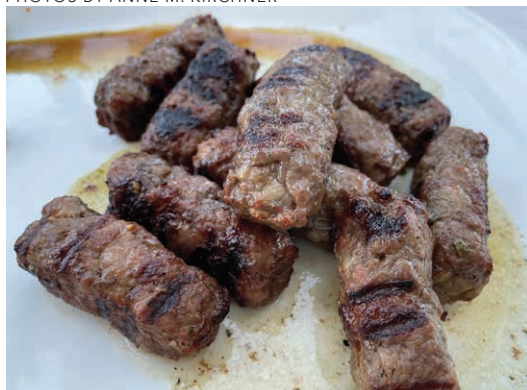
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Take a Culinary Journey

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

PHOTOS BY ANNE M. KIRCHNER



IT'S JULY, THE MOST POPULAR month for travel. Last summer, my family visited Croatia. Restaurants and private settings introduced us to cultural experiences and mouthwatering dishes. Whether domestic or international, let travel inspire your culinary senses.

Ćevapi (pronounced "che-vah-pi") is a traditional dish of grilled minced meat. The handmade sausages are often served on a plate in groups of 10 or more. Zeje (pronounced "zay-juh"), a traditional dish from the Dalmatian region of Croatia, consists of boiled potatoes and green vegetables seasoned with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Crêpes are an ultra-thin European pancake served with sweet or savory fillings. 🍴

ANNE M. KIRCHNER focuses her writing on human connections, travel and culinary arts, researching food origins, exploring cooking techniques, and creating new recipes.

ĆEVAPI (BALKAN MINI SAUSAGES)

- 1½ pounds ground beef
- 1½ pounds ground pork
- 1 egg
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon coarse black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Combine the beef and pork in a large mixing bowl. Add the egg, garlic, salt, baking soda, black pepper, cayenne pepper and paprika. Mix well then form finger-length sausages about 1-inch thick. Place the sausages on a plate, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 to 4 hours. Preheat the olive oil in a skillet on medium heat. Place the Ćevapi in the skillet and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, turning often to brown evenly. *Makes 10 to 12 servings.*



ZEJE (GREEN VEGETABLES & POTATOES)

- 6 large red or yellow potatoes, cubed
- 1 bunch asparagus, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon coarse black pepper

Place the cubed potatoes in a pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil and cook for 15 minutes. Add the chopped asparagus to the boiling potatoes and cook for 5 minutes. Drain the potatoes and asparagus. Season with olive oil, salt and pepper. **Note:** Fresh green beans, Swiss chard or cubed zucchini can be substituted for the asparagus. *Makes 8 to 10 servings.*



CRÊPES

- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups whole milk
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Jam or chocolate spread, and fresh berries for serving

Place the eggs, milk, butter, sugar, almond extract and flour in a food processor or blender. Blend for 30 seconds or until the batter is smooth. Refrigerate for 8 to 12 hours. Heat an 8-inch skillet over medium heat. Brush the pan with olive oil. Pour approximately ¼ cup batter into the skillet and immediately tilt the pan side to side to form a thin, even circle. Cook the crêpe for 1 to 2 minutes. Flip the crêpe, cook another 1 to 2 minutes and transfer to a plate. Repeat the process with the remaining batter, stacking the crêpes until ready to serve. Spread jam or chocolate hazelnut spread on each crêpe. Roll the crêpes and serve with fresh berries. *Makes 12 to 14 crepes.*

Best Summer Dip Recipe – Lake, Pool or Swimmin’ Hole

MITCHELL KYD

WHETHER IT’S GENERATING MAXIMUM SPLASH from a cannonball into the backyard pool or wriggling your toes at the edge of the lake, there’s no denying that the best dip of summer is whichever one you like best. Even if you’re past the age of trying to scoop up “minnies” in a plastic cup or playing Marco Polo, the lure of getting into the water on a hot day is one of the hallmarks of summer.

It seems natural that we humans want to relax and cool off with a swim or a splash in the July heat. After all, water makes up 50% to 60% of our body weight, more or less. The more-or-less factor has a lot to do with your age and gender as well as how much of your lifetime you’ve spent in the water actually swimming (as opposed to lounging on a raft with a big umbrella overhead and a tiny one in your drink).

Prefer a pool but don’t own one and don’t have an affable neighbor? If you like being able to see the bottom of the water and knowing you’re not sharing it with any other species, know that the Pennsylvania State Parks system includes 15 locations with swimming pools. There are also 35 parks with lakes, which are a great alternative to the ocean if you like getting closer to nature without fear of encountering something that could eat you.

Consider yourself lucky if your life now or your memories include kicking off your shoes then launching off a tree branch or wrestling a tire swing to the perfect arc before dropping into your local swimming hole. That’s part of your rural heritage. Embrace it.

My favorite dip as a kid was a swimming hole in the Conococheague Creek, and we usually braved a shortcut down a wooded hillside to reach it. Although that path was a little rocky and got a little slick if foot traffic had been heavy, it was much quicker than walking down the abandoned road that passed our town’s crumbling mill race. The mill

it powered was already on its way to collapse, and I never talked to anyone who could remember a working version of it. That didn’t stop the boys from trying to impress the girls, all on their way for a swim. Boys stopped to pick their way along the remaining floorboards high above the race, while the girls debated if that was brave or just stupid.

Adults came to cool off there, too, and while the kids played, some of them worked on the rock dam, deepening the sweet spot that made the water slow and lazy. Our

swimming hole was never meant for diving, but it was our version of the water park, and it was free. In those days, we never gave any thought to the fact that cows were grazing creekside — upstream from us — or that the one water snake we saw probably wasn’t the only critter swimming among us.

Whatever your favorite summer dip, for me, the perfect recipe always includes five essential ingredients: 1) a sense of happy anticipation; 2) a pledge to not get grumpy if you get wet without consent; 3) the release of expectations — time spent near the water has a rhythm of its own; don’t try to control it; 4) the understanding that any little mishap will evolve as a future, funny story, as in: “Remember the day when ...”

And finally, there’s ingredient No. 5: You need someone who begs, “Five more minutes! Please? Just five more minutes!”

That desperate plea conjures up the bliss of being immersed in moments of total joy. But if you don’t have traveling companions who are entreating with those words, it’s OK to let your former self out to play. Stand up and request of no one in particular: “Five more minutes! Please? Just five more minutes!” 🐸



YVONNE BUTTS-MITCHELL celebrates the joys and poignant moments of rural living under the pen name Mitchell Kyd. Her stories from the Path Valley Hotel were hatched by encounters with contractors, critters and creepy crawlies while rehabbing the family cabin after its 17-year stint as a giant closet.

ISSUE MONTH AD DEADLINE

September	July 15
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Please note ads must be received by the due date to be included in requested issue month; ads received after the due date will run in next issue. Written notice of changes/cancellations must be received 30 days prior to issue month.

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IT'S CONTEST TIME!

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CONTEST NO. 1 – OLDEST ISSUE OF PENN LINES! If you have an oldie but a goodie around the house, take a photo of it with you. Please make sure the publication date is visible.

CONTEST NO. 2 – MOST WELL-TRAVELED PENN LINES! Take your favorite copy of *Penn Lines* beyond the borders of the Commonwealth. Send us a photo of you holding the magazine at your destination in front of a recognizable landmark or a sign that tells where you are. Also include a 50- to 100-word essay about where you were and why you brought that issue.

CONTEST NO. 3 – A DATE WITH PENN LINES! We'll be honest: We like it when we get to go to some place nice. Take your favorite issue of *Penn Lines* to a special place in your community and take a photo of yourself with it.

FOR ALL CONTESTS, WE WILL NEED: your name, address, daytime telephone number, the month and year of the magazine, and the name of the cooperative that serves your home, business, or seasonal residence.

PRIZES: \$50 gift card for each contest winner; the winning photos will be featured in a 2026 *Penn Lines* issue.

DEADLINE: Friday, Oct. 31

SEND ENTRIES TO: PennLines@prea.com (put "60 Years of PL" in the subject line) or *Penn Lines* Editor/60 Years of PL, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266



My First House Choice was Almost my Last

JOHN KASUN

THANKS TO MY COLUMNS AND ARTICLES, I am often invited to speak at meetings or events, and recently, I was invited to be a guest on a radio program. I have been on TV and radio before, but this time the subject was real estate — specifically, home ownership.

Now, I can handle that, but the host asked me to be funny. Funny!? Have you seen home prices? That subject is about as funny as a heart attack, which I've had and can guarantee is no laughing matter. But after some thought, I came up with the perfect approach as I reached into my bag of personal experiences.

My wife and I were married in 1962 and moved into our present home in 1968, which we designed and had built to our specifications. I don't say that in an effort to impress; I say that because in the first six years of marriage, we lived in 10 different homes and moved 13 times, including four times across country. If anyone knows what they want in a house — or don't want — we had the experience 10 times over.

While that many moves in a short period of time is unusual, it was due to a job change and three years in the military, where Uncle Sam wanted

my wife and me to see the world, literally. As a matter of fact, on one military move, we actually stayed packed for two months in our new home — unpacking only personal items and two each of dishes, cups, and silverware — until we were sure we were staying. Two weeks after we unpacked, they relocated us. You can't make this stuff up.

However, our very first move was the best example of why proper planning is important. After college, my first job was two hours from where my wife-to-be was working. I came home every weekend, but spent the week at my work location, renting a bedroom in a local home. I was 22 and spent

all my time working, sleeping or driving several hours each weekend to see my future bride. When we set our wedding date, I was in charge of finding us a place to live.

I can say from experience that a single, 22-year-old male does not have adequate skills to select a house. To show how inexperienced I truly was, I took the recommendation of a fellow single, 22-year-old male co-worker who told me about a "great" house for rent just outside of town. It was furnished and the price was right, so after a quick walk through, I took it.

Several weeks later, my wife and I were married in our hometown. That evening, after the reception, we drove to our "new home," which my wife had never seen. The Victorian-style house with a tower on one corner stood all alone on the edge of town. It was quite old and didn't look as good as I had remembered. The furniture was old and dated, and the house had 12 dimly lit rooms and two huge staircases. It looked like the house in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho." The only thing missing was Janet Leigh and a bloody shower. Yet, this is where I had chosen to spend our wedding night and begin our marriage.

My wife and I celebrated our 63rd wedding anniversary earlier this year, and I believe our marital success is based on the fact that she insisted on moving from our first "starter home" instead of getting a divorce. Since then, we've had exacting standards when making housing choices. And, of course, she never let me make those decisions alone again. 🍷

JOHN KASUN, a lifelong Pennsylvanian with more than 30 years of writing experience, looks for the humor in everyday life and then tells a story from that perspective. He is a member of Huntingdon-based Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.





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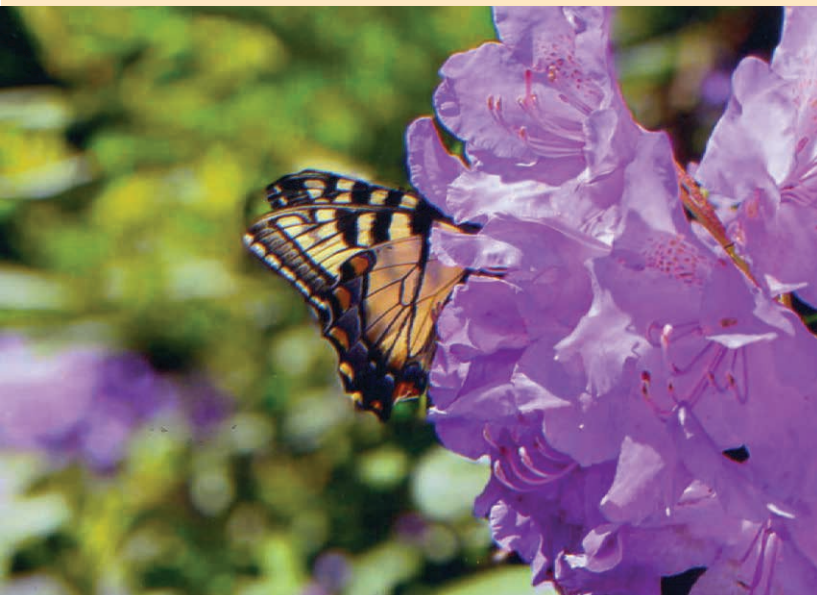
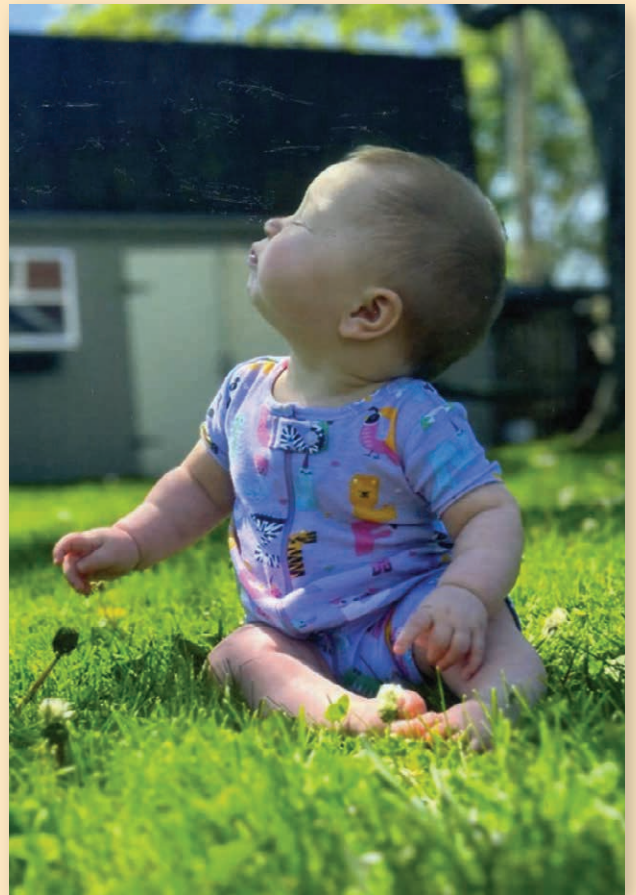
Soak It In

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER, and half the year has come and gone. Whatever excuses you had to stay indoors this year, don't miss another minute. It's a sure bet that no matter where you are, there is beauty outside your window, meaning it's a perfect time to get outside and take some seasonal photos. 📷



JOYCE BARRE • VALLEY REC

VERONIQUE STERN • VALLEY REC



AMANDA OCKER • SOMERSET REC

How to enter

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS are encouraged to send photos for the 2025 Rural Reflections contest (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines* Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

Remember: Our publication deadlines require us to work in advance, so send your seasonal photos in early. Photos that do not reflect any specific season may be sent at any time. Photos will be returned one year after receipt if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

For change of address, please contact your local electric cooperative. For cooperative contact information, please visit www.prea.com/member-cooperatives

\$379 OFF EACH WINDOW¹

\$779 OFF EACH DOOR¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

AND NO Money Down | NO Monthly Payments | NO Interest for 12 months¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4 - INTEREST ACCRUES BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS

TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.³

"My overall experience was great. I love the window, and from sales to scheduling, the experience was very good. The installers are highly skilled professionals and I would recommend Renewal by Andersen to all my contacts."

LYNN F. | RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN CUSTOMER

More 5-Star Reviews



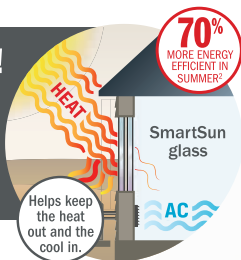
Than Other Leading Full-Service Window Replacement Companies⁴



Nation's Best Warranty⁵

KEEP THE COOL AIR IN AND THE HEAT OUT!

Solving your window problems and having a comfortable home is easy and enjoyable when you choose Renewal by Andersen. Take advantage of this great offer to save money on your window project - and help save on high energy bills for years to come!



**RENEWAL
by ANDERSEN**

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



Offer Ends August 31

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

844-871-5517

FINDYOURWINDOW.COM

¹**DETAILS OF OFFER:** Offer expires 8/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$379 off per window, get \$779 off per entry/patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 7/12/2025 and 8/31/2025. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ³Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. ⁴It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. ⁵Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual-pane glass nonmetal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. ⁶Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. ⁷Renewal by Andersen® and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201

⁸Using U.S. and imported parts.