

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Northwestern REC

P.O. Box 207
22534 State Highway 86
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
www.northwesternrec.com

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Main Access Number

1-800-352-0014

Emergencies/Outages

1-800-352-0014

FAX

814-398-8064

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Amy Wellington, Editor

From the President & CEO



Loss of a board member

By Bill Buchanan, *President & CEO*

MICHAEL SAMPLE was more than a co-op board member from District 3. He was an advocate for the Member-to-Member fund, fighter for rural broadband resolutions, board comedian and friend.

On Jan. 3, 2022, Sample passed away at 55 years of age following a brief illness.

Sample was first elected as District 3 director in August 2015, and then re-elected in 2018 and 2021. He served as board secretary for all but one of those years. There is a tremendous void in the boardroom with

his absence that is almost palpable. To help fill that void during a recent meeting, the other directors placed a Penn State sweatshirt and a can of Mountain Dew — his alma mater and preferred soft drink — at his seat around the board table.

As the longtime owner of several local newspapers, including The Titusville Herald and The Forest Press, and co-owner of The Corry Journal, he brought decades of business knowledge and leadership to Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative's Board. Sample has always called northwestern Pennsylvania home. He has helped regional

businesses grow and prosper as a member of the Titusville and Corry Area chambers of commerce boards.

During his time on the co-op's board, Sample had earned

Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and was well on his way to completing Board Leadership certification. His shoes will be big ones to fill.

With his spirit surrounding them at the February meeting, the board voted in accordance with the bylaws to add the remaining two-year

balance of Sample's term to the 2022 ballot. Nominations for District 3, as well as Districts 1, 2 and 4, will be received by a nominating committee beginning March 23. Electronic and mail-in voting will begin in June.

Sample leaves behind his wife of 27 years, Debra, and their two adult children, Sydney and John-George. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Cooperatively yours,

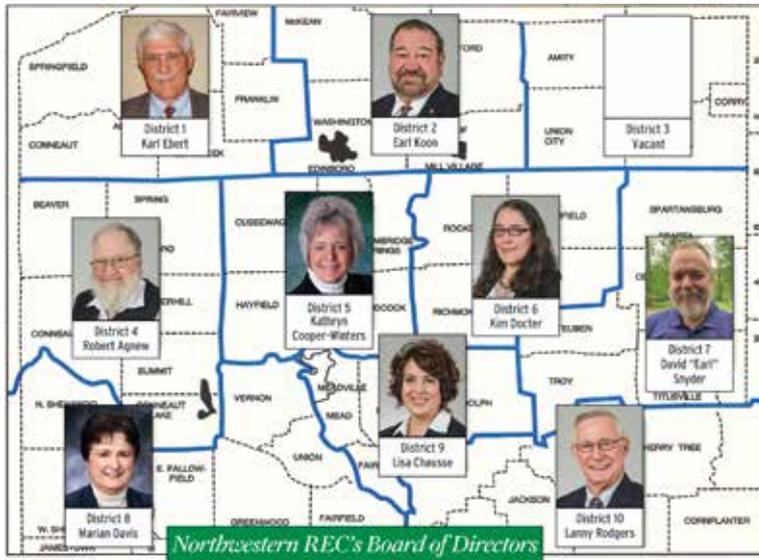
Bill Buchanan
President & CEO



Michael Sample

Members in Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4: Are you ready to serve?

By Amy Wellington, *Director of Communications*



Northwestern REC's Board of Directors

IN ONE of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative’s (REC) board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, business owners, educators and other community leaders. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That’s why when we’re seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We’re

seeking members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all of our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we’re looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

If you are interested in running for your district or would like to nominate another member for any of the districts, there are a few qualifications you must meet before becoming a director. They include the following (this is not a complete list):

- ▶ Your primary residential home (within that district) must have received Northwestern REC electric service for at least one year prior.
- ▶ You must be a member in good standing with no outstanding balances for at least one year.
- ▶ You cannot be an employee of any cooperative or association within the past three years.
- ▶ You cannot be a close relative of an employee or current director.
- ▶ You cannot be convicted of a felony within the past five years.
- ▶ You cannot be a candidate or incumbent for elected public office at the countywide level or above.

Please review the director position description and the full list of qualifications at northwesternrec.com/

content/running-board before submitting your nomination.

Any member, regardless of their district, can nominate another member for any of the districts up for election. The nominee, however, must live in the district of which he or she is being nominated. Here is a breakdown of Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4:

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

District 2 — McKean, Washington, Waterford and LeBoeuf townships and Edinboro Borough in Erie County.

District 3 — Amity, Union, Wayne, and Concord townships and Elgin and Union City boroughs in Erie County; and Spring Creek Township in Warren County.

District 4 — Beaver, Spring, Conneaut, Summerhill, Summit, Sadsbury, and Pine townships and Conneautville Borough in Crawford County; and Pierpont and parts of Richmond and Monroe townships in Ashtabula County, Ohio.

Nominations should be emailed to nominations@northwesternrec.com by the May 22, 2022, deadline.

Once all nominees are certified by the Member Panel for Director Elections, voting will begin on June 21, 2022, with online, electronic and mail-in ballots. Election results will be announced during the cooperative’s 86th annual meeting, currently scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 20, at the New Beginnings Church of God on Leslie Road in Meadville.

Terms for Districts 1, 2 and 4 are for three years, while the District 3 term is for the remaining two years of Michael Sample’s term (please see the CEO column on page 14a).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 800-352-0014 or chat with us online at NorthwesternREC.com. ☀



2019 – THE LAST YOUTH TOUR BEFORE COVID-19, from left, Matthew Hamilton, Titusville; Lianna Byler, Conneaut Area; Kaylee Mulligan, Saegertown; Maddy Burncheck, Cochranton; Maggie Thomas, Maplewood; Joel Ploski, Maplewood; Melody Stainbrook, DuBois; Kylie Vergnola, Maplewood; Sylvia Brawley, Maplewood; Olyvia Carr, Corry; Kimmy Reisinger, Saegertown; Ashley Wenzel, Saegertown; and Hayden Hitchcock, Cambridge Springs.

Coming this fall: Co-op Youth Ambassador Program

By Amy Wellington, *Director of Communications*

BECAUSE OF COVID-19 concerns, Pennsylvania has canceled its participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour again for 2022, so we're expanding the program! Before the pandemic hit in March 2020, Bill Buchanan, our president & CEO, started the discussion about youth joining the board of directors. His goal was to not only introduce today's youth to the cooperative way of business, but also to teach them the functionality and importance of boards — but then the pandemic hit.

So here we are two years later, and the pandemic is still affecting our plans, but this time in a positive way. With the co-op board of directors' encouragement, we are creating a Youth Ambassador Program that will begin in September 2022 and end with the weeklong Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June 2023, or

with a similar excursion.

The goal of our Youth Ambassador Program, as mentioned earlier, is to introduce today's youth to the cooperative way of business. Students will learn firsthand about cooperatives and energy issues, gain leadership skills and participate in community service projects.

We hope to recruit eight to 10 high school juniors, who are also members of Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative. These students will participate in monthly meetings that will be organized around their schedules. This means meetings could take place in the evenings, on the weekends or even remotely. Students will be expected to participate in at least four or five of these meetings to be eligible for a Youth Tour scholarship.

At the monthly meetings, we'll explore the fundamentals of electricity (including a hot-line safety demon-

stration), the importance of the seven co-op principles, various alternative energy sources and the wonderful world of energy efficiency. We'll even delve into the numerous types of electric vehicles. We are also planning a fun energy competition toward the end of the program to recap everything students learned.

This is just a sneak peek into our new youth program. More information will be published in future *Penn Lines* issues, as well as on our website. Applications will be accepted online beginning in August. The first meeting of our Youth Ambassador Program will occur in October to celebrate National Co-op Month.

In the meantime, questions can be directed to my attention at awellington@northwesternrec.com or 800-352-0014. Today's youth are our cooperative members of tomorrow. 🌱

Range anxiety and fuel comparison

DESPITE continued progress in driving range, battery technology and charging station availability, a primary concern among prospective electric vehicle (EV) drivers is range anxiety, or the fear of getting stranded after running out of a charge.

While some of the early entrants into the EV market could travel only relatively short distances, that has quickly changed. Today, most new EVs can go more than 200 miles on a single charge and are able to cover the vast majority of daily commutes. In addition, most charging is done at home, so people often wake up with their car more than ready to go. Workplace and public charging stations also continue to be added across the country, making charging when out and about easier.

If you are interested in going electric but are still worried about having enough range — whether because of a longer commute or frequent road trips — you can consider a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV). PHEVs have a smaller battery than fully electric vehicles (also known as battery-electric vehicles), and therefore, a shorter electric range (typically, somewhere between 10 and 50 miles), but they have a hybrid-gasoline engine that can be used for backup. Still, drivers of PHEVs can often cover most of their trips on electricity and use only a little gasoline each year.

While an EV's range may be what captures most people's attention, its efficiency is also worth noting. In other words, with gas-powered cars, how far they can travel depends on

the size of their gas tank and their efficiency (in miles per gallon, or mpg). The gas tank equivalent in EVs is battery size, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and they too have different levels of efficiency. Here is some lingo to know:

- ▶ **MPGe:** This stands for miles per gallon equivalent and was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a way to relate EV driving to a metric most drivers are already familiar with: mpg. The measurement is intended to depict how far an EV will travel on the energy equivalent of one gallon of gasoline, which is approximately 33.7 kWh. Because of their efficiency, EVs often have very high MPGe ratings compared to traditional mpg vehicles, and it is not at all uncommon to find ones with an MPGe of 100-plus.
- ▶ **kWh per 100 miles:** Some experts consider kWh per 100 miles to be a better efficiency metric for EVs. As it sounds, it illustrates how much energy (in kWh) an EV uses to drive 100 miles. Unlike with mpg and MPGe, where higher numbers are better, the lower the kWh-per-100-miles rating, the better, as this signifies that less energy is required for driving. This rating is displayed on an EV's EPA fuel label along with MPGe and driving range.
- ▶ **Miles per kWh:** Miles per kWh is an alternative way of evaluating kWh per 100 miles. The measure is framed similarly to mpg and MPGe, with higher numbers representing better efficiency. ❁

MOST EFFICIENT EVS

EV	MPGe (City/Hwy/Comb)	kWh per 100 Miles
Tesla Model 3	148/132/141	24
Hyundai Ioniq Electric	145/121/133	25
Tesla Model Y	129/112/121	28
Hyundai Kona Electric	132/108/120	27
Chevrolet Bolt EV	127/108/118	29

Note: Only the most efficient trim of each EV is listed. Data from www.fueleconomy.gov.