

# 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](http://www.northwesternrec.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



## See you at the annual meeting

By Ryan Meller, *Interim President & CEO*

MOST OF us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multi-tasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time.

Invitations to attend cooperative meetings are weighed carefully as we decide whether our time to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending, even virtually, Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative’s (REC) annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no-benefit-to-me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Northwestern REC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and serve the long-term interests of our communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable — and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges as well as the financial health of the co-op for the coming years. The annual meeting is also the time to elect board members who will represent you — the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Northwestern REC is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting the health of the co-op and well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Northwestern wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

During COVID-19, our past two annual meetings were closed to the public, but were broadcast live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. We won’t be completely back to our pre-COVID-19 setup this year, but our meeting is open to those members who would like to attend in-person. It will also stream live on our social media pages. Staff will be available to answer your questions, both in-person and online.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been a while, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! Our 86th annual meeting is Saturday, Aug. 20, at the New Beginnings Church of God on Leslie Road in Meadville. The drive-thru registration event begins

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# Thank You! to our **SPONSORS**

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## August events ready to raise funds for Member-to-Member



### Erie Gives 2022

Day and Time: Visit [eriegives.org](http://eriegives.org). The online event takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 9. You have 12 hours to make your donation between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST.

Gift Amount: The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit on the amount of money you may give or on the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction.

Only Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted. The credit card processor charges a nominal fee per transaction. The Erie Community Foundation does not receive any fees.

### Crawford Gives 2022

Day and Time: Visit [crawfordgives.org](http://crawfordgives.org). Online gifts can be made between 12 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29, and 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30.

Gift Amount: To make a gift with your credit card, simply visit [crawfordgives.org](http://crawfordgives.org) and select the organizations you wish to support. Set a gift amount for each organization. Enter your credit card information and submit your donation.



# CAST YOUR VOTE

Director Elections  
Close On

AUG  
17, 2022

There is still time to vote online, with SmartHub, or by mail-in ballot (must be received by Aug. 17, to count). Ballots were emailed/mailed on June 21. For a replacement ballot, contact us at [info@northwesternrec.com](mailto:info@northwesternrec.com) or 800-352-0014.

Results will be announced at the 86th Annual Meeting on Sat. Aug. 20, 2022.

### From the President & CEO

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at 9 a.m., and the hour-long business meeting begins at 11 a.m. All members who register at the drive-thru event will receive a \$25 electric bill credit and a complimentary LED garage lightbulb. Unfortunately, there will not be a meal or entertainment provided, but we will have goodies for your children and fur babies at the drive-thru.

This annual meeting will also mark our Sixth Annual Food Drive. We will be collecting nonperishable food items to benefit the food pantries in our service territory. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world. \*

# Riddle: What's hot or cold and makes a big impact on your energy bill?

WHAT ACCOUNTS for almost half the energy use in a typical U.S. home?

It's not that fridge in the garage that predates texting (although that's a good guess). And it's not your hot water heater that warms the water your teenagers like to use up.

It's your HVAC — or heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Keeping your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter draws a mighty share of your energy budget. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), a typical home eats up a whopping 48% of the energy pie just to heat and cool it.

Aside from replacing your furnace and central air unit with newer, higher-efficiency versions, there are some things you can do to increase HVAC efficiency and reduce your energy bills.

Our Energy Solutions Department offers the following tips:

## Overall HVAC

1. Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help HVAC components run more efficiently.

2. Change all filters regularly for increased efficiency. Invest a little more

in filters that trap smaller particles.

3. If you have an energy-intensive, large system that gets a lot of use, consider retrofitting it, which means adding or replacing certain parts. Homeowners can save up to 35% annually by retrofitting, according to the DOE.

4. Get a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to Energy.gov.

5. Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

## Air Conditioning

1. Keep heat-producing appliances and lamps away from your thermostat, which can cause the system to run longer and work harder.

2. Keep curtains and blinds closed during the hottest part of the day.

3. Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.

4. Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.

## Furnace

1. Instead of turning up the thermostat, use blankets and wear sweatshirts or sweaters to stay warm.

2. Don't let warm air escape. Keep your windows and doors shut, and if you have a fireplace, make sure the flue is closed and glass doors are shut when not in use.

3. Reverse the direction of your ceiling fans to force the warm air that rises downward.

4. Make sure your vents and radiators aren't blocked by rugs or furniture. Air will circulate better, and it's safer.

5. If there are rooms you're not using regularly, shut the vent and close the door.

6. Keep curtains and blinds closed at night to help insulate your house; conversely, open curtains and shades on south-facing windows during the day to let the sunlight in.

If you ever have any concerns or questions about a high bill, contact us weekdays, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., at 800-352-0014. Or chat with us at NorthwesternREC.com. For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org. \*



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