

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

# Great turnout for 73rd annual meeting

## New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
P.O. Box 75  
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075  
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177  
FAX 814/766-3319  
Website:  
www.newenterpriserec.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Leroy D. Walls, President**
- David Bequeath, Vice President**
- John R. Dively, Secretary**
- Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary**
- Dean Brant, Treasurer**
- Timothy Newman**
- Ellis Sollenberger**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

814/766-3221  
1-800-270-3177



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**THERE WERE** 662 family-style turkey dinners served by the Northern Bedford High School Band members and parents on June 14, 2011, at the co-op's 73rd annual meeting. There were 292 memberships represented.

Entertainment was provided by the Heirsmen Quartet.

The business meeting followed the meal and included reports from myself and board President Leroy Walls, who reported on some of the activities during the past year, along with director elections.

There are seven directors that equally represent the service territory of the system. Ellis J. Sollenberger from New Enterprise, Timothy R. Newman from Waterfall and Dean L. Brant from Harrisonville were re-elected for three-year terms by the members of the cooperative.

My remarks included information about how annual line maintenance projects keep the service reliability at the high level it has been for the past decade. Technology has automated the office operations and provides options for members. A variety of automatic payment options and the ability to view the use history on the cooperative website are examples.

A smart meter deployment program has been under way for the past four years, and by the end of 2011 more than 80 percent of the system will have smart meters installed. This will enable accurate and consistent readings, as well as the ability to record and monitor hourly use levels.

Other topics discussed include: continued rate stability with no rate increase on the horizon, a shifting of director area boundaries that reduces the size of the board from eight to seven members, and information about the co-op's capital credit program.


The membership was reminded of how a rural electric is a wonderful business model for fair treatment for everyone with all members having a vote as to who represents them on the board. The employees and directors are committed to passing the system on to the next generation in a financially and operationally healthy condition.

A reorganization board meeting was held June 16, 2011, with the following officers being appointed: president, Leroy D. Walls of Saxton; vice president,



**LEADERSHIP:** Directors re-elected for another three-year term are, from left, Timothy Newman, Dean Brant and Ellis Sollenberger. General Manager/CEO Rick Eichelberger is pictured on the right.

David A. Bequeath of Everett; secretary, John R. Dively of New Enterprise; assistant secretary, Robert L. Guyer of Woodbury; and treasurer, Dean L. Brant of Harrisonville.

Director Timothy R. Newman of Waterfall was selected to represent the cooperative as a director on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in Harrisburg. 

# Keep food safe during a power outage

**A QUESTION** we seem to be asked during a power outage is, “How long will it be out — I have a freezer full of food?” After doing some research, I was able to come up with some answers. Please continue to read on.

We’ve all been there: a summer storm rolls through, toppling trees and damaging power lines. The lights go out. And although it may only be a matter of minutes or hours before your electric co-op gets things up and running again, thawing food in the refrigerator and freezer can make that relatively short time seem like an eternity.

It’s important to keep cold food safe during a power outage, and a little advanced preparation and know-how can keep your family safe from food-borne bacteria. First and foremost, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature: if unopened, a refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about four hours; a full freezer will do so for about 48 hours (24 hours if it’s half-full).

A sure-fire way to know if food is safe is to monitor its temperature. Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs should be refrigerated at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and frozen food at or below zero degrees Fahrenheit. If the power goes out, a digital, dial, or instant-read food thermometer and appliance thermometers will help you know if the food remains at safe temperatures.

If the power stays out for a prolonged period, there are a few ways to aid your refrigerator and freezer in the fight to keep things cold. The simplest tip is to keep your freezer full. If it’s not full, group items close together to preserve the cold.

Dry ice can help keep freezers chilly: find it by scanning for “ice” or “carbon dioxide” in the phone book. It will take 25 pounds or so to keep a full, 10-cubic foot freezer safe for three to four days. Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18-cubic foot full freezer for two days. Wear heavy-duty gloves or use tongs when handling dry ice — the temperature of dry ice is minus 216 degrees



Fahrenheit — and separate it from food with cardboard to prevent freezer burn.

During cold months, it may be tempting to store food outside. Although this may work for cold drinks, food can spoil in direct sunlight. Curious animals may also take advantage of an outside stash.

Rather than putting the food outside, consider taking advantage of the cold temperatures by making ice. Fill buckets, empty milk cartons, or cans with water and leave them outside to freeze.

Then transfer the homemade ice to your refrigerator, freezer or coolers.

Power back on? Make sure your food is still safe by either checking its temperature or looking for ice crystals. If frozen food is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below or ice crystals are visible, it’s safe to refreeze. Discard any perishable refrigerated food (meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 40 degrees for two hours or more. ☀

*Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service*

## Keep electricity from going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

You can significantly reduce hot water consumption in your home by simply repairing leaks in faucets, shower heads or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water-heating costs by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10-degree reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, it may require water temperature within a range of 130 to 140 degrees for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater, if needed, can save around 4 to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 degrees on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket or the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

## Give your home's energy use a vacation when you're on vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here's a tip from New Enterprise REC that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break:

**WATER HEATER.** Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away.



**THERMOSTAT.** During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm. If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

**REFRIGERATOR.** Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

**LIGHTS.** Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

**ELECTRONICS.** Unless you're recording something while you're away, unplug all of your electronic devices, including computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy – and money – visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

## August Calendar

August 24 - Accounts with past due balances will be disconnected. The last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna is Aug. 22 (Brawna can be reached at extension 224).

August 28 - Regular payment and meter readings are due.

# KIDZCORNER

## What is your energy IQ?

Take our pop quiz on your energy knowledge!



1. Most of the energy we use originally came from

- a. The sun
- b. The air
- c. The soil
- d. The oceans

2. Electrical energy can be produced from

- a. Mechanical energy
- b. Chemical energy
- c. Radiant energy
- d. All of the above

3. Which uses the most energy in American homes each year?

- a. Lighting
- b. Water heating
- c. Heating and cooling rooms
- d. Refrigeration

4. The U.S. consumes lots of energy. Which fuel provides the most energy?

- a. Petroleum
- b. Coal
- c. Natural gas
- d. Solar

5. Coal, petroleum, natural gas and propane are fossil fuels. They are called fossil fuels because:

- a. They are burned to release energy and they cause air pollution.
- b. They were formed from the buried remains of plants and tiny animals that lived hundred of millions of years ago.
- c. They are nonrenewable and will run out .
- d. They are mixed with fossils to provide energy.

6. Gasoline is produced by refining which fossil fuel?

- a. Natural gas
- b. Coal
- c. Petroleum
- d. Propane

7. Propane is used instead of natural gas on many farms and in rural areas. Why is propane often used instead of natural gas?

- a. It's safer
- b. It's portable
- c. It's cleaner
- d. It's cheaper

8. What sector of the U.S. economy consumes most of the nation's petroleum?

- a. Residential
- b. Commercial
- c. Industrial
- d. Transportation

9. Natural gas is transported mainly by

- a. Pipelines
- b. Trucks
- c. Barges
- d. All three equally

10. Global warming focuses on an increase in the level of which gas in the atmosphere?

- a. Ozone
- b. Sulfur dioxide
- c. Carbon dioxide
- d. Nitrous oxide

11. Solar, biomass, geothermal, wind and hydropower energy are all renewable sources of energy. They are called renewable because they

- a. Are clean and free to use
- b. Can be converted directly into heat and electricity
- c. Can be replenished by nature in a short period of time
- d. Do not produce air pollution

12. Today, which renewable energy source provides the U.S. with the most energy?

- a. Wind
- b. Solar
- c. Geothermal
- d. Hydropower

13. Electricity is the movement of

- a. Atoms
- b. Molecules
- c. Electrons
- d. Neutrons

14. How much of the energy in burning coal reaches the consumer as electricity?

- a. 1/3 (one-third)
- b. 1/2 (one-half)
- c. 3/4 (three-quarters)
- d. 9/10 (nine-tenths)

15. In a nuclear power plant, uranium atoms

- a. Combine and give off heat energy
- b. Split and give off heat energy
- c. Burn and give off heat energy
- d. Split and give off electrons

Answers: 1. a, 2. d, 3. c, 4. a, 5. b, 6. c, 7. b, 8. d, 9. a, 10. c, 11. c, 12. d, 13. c, 14. a, 15. b