

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

## Another year of living within our means

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**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

**WHAT A** concept — decide what you need to do and make sure you have the money to do exactly that. New ideas can tempt all of us. But, everything comes at a price. Your board and management determine if the benefits are worth the cost when new ideas are considered.

Consistently, your cooperative has lived up to “living within its means.” The 2012 budget and work plan distribute dollars in a manner consistent with providing a reliable source of power at a reasonable price to members.

### Tree removing increases, smart meter program nearing completion

Additional dollars will be spent on tree removing and trimming along the power lines because a heavy wet snow, ice storm, or high winds can cause costly damage to poles and wires. The damage can be system-wide and leave thousands without power for days. It is impossible to have crews at every damage location at the same time to make repairs. We will get our turn again someday with a crippling storm where outages will be lengthy. But we intend to minimize the damage by taking as much preventative action as possible, just as each member must decide whether the risk of a lengthy outage is worth the investment of a portable generator for the day the “big one” hits.

The smart meter conversion program continues and by year-end 2012, 95 percent of the system will be complete. Members repeatedly tell us how much they appreciate not having to remember to read their meter after having the smart meter installed. An added benefit is the ability to research daily use when a higher-than-expected bill occurs. This helps the member track down

a faulty water heater, well pump, etc. that may be causing the higher use.


### Distribution rate remains unchanged

Roughly 40 percent of your bill is for the distribution costs, which are the local operating costs. These costs include tree cutting, smart meter installations, computer and office costs, poles and wire purchases, trucks, buildings, and employees. For 2012, the distribution part of the bill will not change. As we review our costs in 2013, we may need to increase the \$17-a-month customer charge a few dollars.

### Generation from Allegheny increases from 6.5 cents to 7.2 cents per kWh

The remaining 60 percent of your bill goes directly to Allegheny Electric Cooperative to pay for the generation and transmission of kilowatt-hours (kWhs) to your cooperative’s three substations. These costs from Allegheny have risen and will be passed on in January 2012 with an increase from 6.5 cents per kWh to 7.2 cents per kWh. The rate was last changed in 2008. An average house using 900 kWhs a month will see an increase of \$6.30 beginning with the bill received in February.

The generation cost from Allegheny represents the costs associated with owning and operating the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant, owning a 10 percent interest in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (a nuclear power plant), purchasing the remaining one-third of our needs from the market along with all overhead costs at Allegheny. Allegheny Electric Cooperative provides 100 percent of the electricity needs of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey rural electric cooperatives.

Please be assured that “living within our means” will continue to play a role in the decision process of distributing electricity to members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative. 

# A story idea or not

BY WENDY CONLEY  
*Penn Lines Coordinator*

**GREETINGS** to our New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members! I was asked a few months ago to take over New Enterprise REC's section in *Penn Lines*.

"Wow, what an honor," I thought. However, my first statement when I was asked to do this was, "I don't write." Yes, some of you may have received a letter from me in the mail from time to time, but please understand that it may have taken me a half hour or more to write your one-page letter because I have much better verbal skills than writing skills. Therefore, to get me through the past few months, I have either looked for a pre-written article or had our correspondent, Kelly Baker, write an article or two for me.

As part of my New Year's resolution, I

have decided to take the task by the horns and write my own articles. But as I tap my pencil on my desk, I decide I don't have enough subjects to write about. Suddenly, the lightbulb comes on (get it — no pun intended!).

I know I want to write about our members, so I am asking you to please share your stories. What are your interests? Do you have a talent, hobby or collection you would like to share with others? Most of our members live in rural areas where there is a lot of history — is there some of that history from your town/area that you would like to share with the rest of us?

I throw my challenge to you, our members. Contact me with your ideas. Send them by mail or phone, or email me at [wconley@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:wconley@newenterpriserec.com). I'm hoping to be overwhelmed by ideas, so please be patient with me about contacting you for an interview. ☀

## Tip of the month

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Source: *Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives*

## Attention high school juniors

**ARE YOU** a high school junior from Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon or Tussey Mountain?



Are your parents or legal guardians consumer-members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC)? If your

answers are "yes" to both of these questions, you have fulfilled all qualifications for the 2012 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

New Enterprise REC, along with rural electric cooperatives from all across the country, sends students on this trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital — Washington D.C. The dates for this all-expenses-paid adventure are June 17-22, 2012.

### So what is the rural electric Youth Tour?

The Youth Tour provides high school juniors with an outstanding opportunity to learn about democracy and leadership

in Washington, D.C. You will learn firsthand about politics, community development and today's social issues while touring historical sites. There also will be an All-State Dance, a trip down the Potomac River, and a night at the theater.

### A little history

Over 50 years ago, U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

What started out as a few young peo-

ple working during the summer in Sen. Johnson's office is now an event that brings more than 1,400 high school students from across the United States to Washington, D.C.

### Support of New Enterprise REC directors

New Enterprise REC directors believe it is important to teach students why electric cooperatives were created and how government works. Students come away from this outstanding trip with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Still not sure if this trip is for you? Why not check out the Youth Tour's website at [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)? On this website, there are student, parent, educator and alumni sections.

If you are interested in this great trip, contact Brawna at the cooperative's office at extension 224 or by email at [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com). You can get the necessary paperwork from Brawna or your high school guidance counselor. ☀



## Solar power for outages

After receiving the following email from a friend, I thought this would be a good idea to share with our consumer-members.

“Recently, due to a thunderstorm, we lost power for about five hours. We were



scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, flashlights, etc. We looked outside and noticed our solar lights shining brightly all around our patio, stairs, dock, etc. They were beautiful. My wife walked outside and brought several of the solar lights inside.

“We stuck the solar light pipes into plastic drink bottles containers and they made the nicest, brightest, safest lighting you could ever imagine.

“We put one in the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, etc. There was plenty of light. There are all types of solar lights available. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. We put them all around our yard. They look nice and they do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

“The lights we have fit into the small (20-ounce) water bottles and they also fit into most of the larger liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, you can put a few of the pretty colorful ‘flat marbles’ used in aquarium and vases. (You

can also use sand, aquarium gravel or whatever you have available).

“The lights we have were perfect inside our home. They burn all night long if you need them.

“The next day, you just take your solar lights back outside and they will instantly recharge and be ready for you to use again any time you need them.”

### January co-op calendar

Jan. 19 - Board meeting

Jan. 24 - Install service load limiters on past-due accounts. Last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna is on Jan. 20 (call Brawna at extension 224)

Jan. 27 - Regular payment-due date

## Family in Need Fund

The Family in Need Fund is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. The Center for Community Action determines eligibility for these funds. Your contribution to this worthy program assists ONLY New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative consumers. Members volunteering for this round-up program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra few cents going to the Family in Need Fund. This tax-deductible donation will amount to less than \$1 a month. The billing statement

you receive in January will have the total amount of contributions for the previous year. This can be used when filing your federal income tax return.

To join the Family In Need Fund, just complete the form and then mail it to our office. If you need more information, please call our office at 814/766-3221 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Should you need help paying your electric bill, please call Brawna Sell at extension 224.

### FAMILY IN NEED FUND Authorization form

YES, I wish to contribute to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. I understand my electric bills will be rounded up to the nearest dollar. I also understand this will be effective with my next billing. Should I wish to stop contributing to this fund, I simply need to inform New Enterprise REC.

No, I do not wish to have my monthly electric bills rounded up, but enclosed is a lump sum donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This is a one-time donation. (When making a lump sum donation, please mark FAMILY IN NEED FUND on the check.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: NEW ENTERPRISE REC



# Connect dot-to-dot

