


# 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**  
**Harry Johnson, Vice President**  
**John R. Dively, Secretary**  
**Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary**  
**Dean Brant, Treasurer**  
**David Bequeath**  
**Timothy Newman**  
**Ellis Sollenberger**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Friday**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

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

## Open House

An open house is planned for Aug. 21, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All consumer-members are invited to stop by the office for a tour of the new office addition and renovations, plus a look at the warehouse and garage project completed six years ago. Light refreshments will be served. Raffle prizes will be drawn. Why not take some time to see our new facilities?

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

# Be sure your child's dorm room is electric safe



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

**AUGUST IS** back-to-school month. Students start to board yellow buses on their way to elementary, middle or high school. But older students load up the cars, vans or trucks with furniture, household supplies, computers, TVs and all kinds of electronics.

These students are heading for their home away from home, college.

Before sending your child off to college, there are a few things you should know. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that nearly 1,600 fires a year occur in U.S. dorm rooms and fraternity and sorority houses. Older wiring, ill-suited to handle the electrical load from laptops, refrigerators, microwaves, TVs, audio equipment and other appliances students use may well be part of the problem.

The Leviton Institute offers some advice to help college-bound students engage in safe electrical practices while away at school. Even better if you're planning a visit to the campus, make sure your child is educated on the safe use of electricity in the dorm. Start by conducting a visual inspection of the dorm room or suite, making sure to check the following areas:

- ▶ **Overloaded circuits:** Next to candles and cigarettes, overloaded circuits are the second leading cause of campus fires. If an appliance cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately. Let your child know to report any outlets that are damaged or that no longer grip plugs properly to the campus housing staff immediately.
- ▶ **Power strips/adapters:** Most college dorms are equipped with an insufficient number of outlets. To compen-

sate for this, students frequently use power strips or adapters to add more connections. These ramp up the load requirements and can overload the electrical system. Only power strips with an over-current protector (circuit breaker), which automatically shuts off if too much current is being drawn, should be used. To protect electronics like computers, printers and audio equipment from damaging spikes and surges, these devices should be plugged into surge protection strips.

- ▶ **Extension cords:** Use only extension cords with the UL label. These have undergone rigorous safety testing and can be purchased with confidence. Keep in mind that extension cords are designed for temporary use only and should never be used for permanent connections or to provide power to other extension cords. Also, they should never be run under rugs or furniture.
- ▶ **Appliances:** Toasters, microwaves, hotplates, coffeemakers and electric irons should never be situated near bedding, books, draperies or clothing. These items can get hot enough to ignite clothing or paper. Keep appliances away from bathtubs and sinks. Water and electricity should never come in contact. Appliances not in use should be switched off. Do not use any appliance with a damaged or frayed cord. Adherence to the college's rules and guidelines on approved equipment is critical. If the college prohibits the use of certain appliances, it's because they pose a serious hazard. So make sure your child understands these rules.
- ▶ **Halogen lamps:** Halogen lamps can reach temperatures hot enough to ignite blankets or curtains and have been banned from most college cam-

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# Highlights of the 69th Annual Meeting

**NEW ENTERPRISE** Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 69th annual meeting on June 20, 2007, at the Northern Bedford County High School. Once again, the high school band members and parents served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings before the meeting.

Over the past number of years annual meeting attendance numbers have declined. To help encourage greater attendance and get more families involved, we offered something new this year. Each consumer-member was allowed two free adult and two free children's tickets. In years past only one free meal was given. By making this change we received nearly 200 more reservations.

The first 100 members received two compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). These new lights save energy and can last up to seven to 10 years. Each child received a sports bottle with an electrical safety message on.

The business meeting started at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Pastor Chuck Riley of the Woodbury Church of God led the group in devotions. The minutes of the 68th annual meeting were read by Secretary John R. Dively.

## Elections held for three areas

Elections of three director areas were held. The names on the ballots were: Area 1 — John R. Dively; Area 2 — Robert Guyer; and Area 5 — incumbent David Bequeath and Alexander MacPherson. All three incumbents were re-elected to a three-year term.

## Board president's report

Board President Leroy Walls opened with remarks on safety accreditation. New Enterprise REC went through its second consecutive National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Safety Accreditation in April 2007. To complete the process, detailed documentation from the previous three years are selected for review. A team of trained safety experts came to the co-op for a two-day



New Enterprise REC General Manager Rick Eichelberger, right, meets with directors re-elected during the cooperative's June 19 annual meeting. From left are John Dively, Robert Guyer and David Bequeath.

on-site visit. They inspected the system, the building and grounds, trucks, tools, and substations. Employees were quizzed about procedures.

To pass the accreditation process, cooperatives must have a score 70 percent or better. In 2007 our score improved to 97 percent, up from 93 percent three years ago.

Scores this high can be credited to the employees who do the legwork on a day-to-day basis. Working with electricity is a dangerous business. Safety is on the minds of our linemen every day. The employees are not only looking out for their own safety but the public's safety as well. Directors also discuss safety-related issues at every monthly board meeting and support the safety efforts our employees put forth.

In the first quarter of 2007, some of the cooperative service fees changed. Along with updating charges, we also included charges for meter tampering and for under-reporting meter readings.

With recent under-reporting losses amounting to hundreds and thousands of dollars, a charge will be applied to

anyone found cheating on their meter readings. Along with a charge, the state police may be called. Under-reporting a meter reading is considered a theft of service crime. Most people report the correct meter readings each month, therefore, this new charge and police involvement will penalize only those cheating.

New Enterprise REC is in fine shape financially. The buildings are in excellent condition and we have budgeted funds to keep upgrading the older power lines. Most importantly, we have not let any of these expenses impact our rate. All of this has been done while keeping your cooperative debt free, with an emergency fund in the bank.

Your board has and continues to keep its eye on local affairs, and Directors Johnson and Guyer continue to do the same with our statewide service at Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC) in Harrisburg.

## General manager/CEO report

General Manager/CEO Rick L. Eichelberger gave the membership an

update on the 3,500 additional square feet of office space construction that started in August 2006. The project included a new business office and lobby. The original office space was converted into a board room and another office.

Along with the additional space, the buildings are now equipped with a new phone system, a digital recording security system that covers the inside and outside of the property, plus an automatic generator.

With the completion of the new warehouse/garage project in 2001, and now the new office addition, nearly a million dollars has been spent. All this was done without borrowing money or increasing your electric rates. We knew these projects needed to be done and prepared for years.

In discussing power costs and electric rates, it was noted that New Enterprise REC spends 62 percent of every dollar to purchase power from AEC, while only 38 percent stays at the co-op to operate the system.

Over the next few years most investor-owned utilities will be increasing their annual electric rates 5, 10 or 15 percent each year to their customers. New Enterprise REC's consumer-members saw their last rate increase in March 2002. Our power supplier, AEC, will be replacing a power contract in 2008. Members may see another rate increase at this time, but nothing compared to the increases of investor-owned companies.

Even though a large amount of money has been spent for the new office space, this doesn't mean that the power lines and right-of-ways took a back seat. Just as we budgeted and planned for our building projects, we also budget and prepare each year for line and right-of-way maintenance, plus replacement of trucks and equipment.

Providing reliable electric service to you, our members, is a high priority to each director and employee. We are consistently upgrading poles and wire, cutting, trimming, and spraying our right-of-ways. Our outage time is good especially compared to Penelec. Our substations are fed by Penelec. Only 17 percent

of the 2006 outages were problems on New Enterprise REC's line. The other 83 percent were on Penelec's lines to our substations.

Yes, our record is good, but this all could change when a heavy, wet snow or ice storm hits our area. All the work of maintaining the lines will help considerably, but we will still have power outages.

In 1999 all electric utilities in Pennsylvania were required to "unbundle" the charges on the bills due to deregulation. By unbundling the bill, consumer-members saw the amount charged for generation and transmission (paid to AEC), distribution (amount staying at the cooperative), and the transition charge or fixed cost recovery charge (paid to AEC).

By the first of 2008, the transition charge or fixed cost recovery charge line of your bill will disappear, and the charge will be combined with the generation and transmission charge.

## 2006 Youth Tour Report

New Enterprise REC was represented at the 2006 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., by Forbes Road High School student Dylan Ford, Northern Bedford County High School student Brooke Long and Tussey Mt. High School students Erin Reed and Lindsey Walls.

Dylan, Lindsey and Erin gave reports on their daily activities during this weeklong trip. A big thank you was given to the membership for making this trip possible. Brooke was unable to attend the annual meeting.

With no old or new business the meeting was adjourned. Afterwards 27 door prizes were drawn. The grand prizes were an air conditioner and an electric bill credit of \$150.

We thank all who attended this year's meeting. We hope that you will be able to attend next year. If you have any suggestions on how to make your annual meeting better, please contact Rick or Brawna at our office. ☀

## Co-op hires new customer service rep

Wendy Conley started as our new customer service representative on June 25, 2007. Just a few of Wendy's job responsibilities will be answering the phone, waiting on customers, and accounts payable. Wendy brings many years of customer service experience to the co-op. Before starting at New Enterprise REC, Wendy was office manager at Bedford Motor Sports.

Wendy married Brad Conley on Sept. 3, 2005. They live in Clearville with their daughter, Autumn. Her favorite activities are spending time with her family and friends and shopping. In her spare time she collects snowmen and scrapbooks.

We are happy to have Wendy join our staff. Help us to welcome Wendy to New Enterprise REC.



**FROM THE MANAGER/CEO**

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poses because they're unsafe. If they are permitted on your child's campus, they should be used with extreme caution. Make sure the lamp has a mesh guard that isolates the bulb and

is also equipped with an automatic tip-over switch.

► **Evacuation procedures:** Encourage your child to take on-campus fire drills seriously. Ask him or her about where the nearest exits are and whether or not they know evac-

uation procedures and escape plans. You won't always be there to watch out for your child, so send along a fire extinguisher and a smoke detector if these devices are not available and you can add to your peace of mind. ☀

# KIDZCORNER

## Kite Safety and Fun

When flying a kite, the sky's the limit, but remember to play it safe. Kite lines conduct electricity so do not fly your kite near overhead power lines. Should your kite get caught in the electrical lines or go into a substation, call New Enterprise REC. Do not try to get the kite down or out of the substation by yourself. Our linemen will come and get your kite for you safely.

### Little-known kite facts

- ▶ The world record for the longest "kite fly" is 180 hours.
- ▶ Kite flying was banned in Japan in 1760 because too many people preferred flying kites over work.
- ▶ For centuries kites have been used in wars and battles, for signaling, lifting observers, target practice, as barrage kites, dropping propaganda leaflets, etc.
- ▶ Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.
- ▶ Large kites were banned in East Germany because of the possibility of man-lifting over the Berlin Wall.
- ▶ Approximately 12 people are killed each year in kiting accidents throughout the world.
- ▶ There is at least one kite festival every weekend of the year in some part of the world.
- ▶ More adults than children in the world fly kites.
- ▶ There are many indoor kite festivals.
- ▶ Kite flying is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world.
- ▶ You do not need wind to fly a kite.
- ▶ People were flying kites 1,000 years before paper was invented.
- ▶ There are over 50 million kites sold in the USA every year.
- ▶ Benjamin Franklin used a kite to prove that lightning was electricity.
- ▶ The smallest kite flown was 0.39 by 0.31 inches.
- ▶ In 1847, a young boy won a competition to fly and land a kite on the other side of the Niagara River. They then used the kite line to pull larger cables over the river, enabling them to start work on building the first railway bridge between Canada and the USA.
- ▶ Ben Franklin used a kite to pull himself across a lake.
- ▶ The Wright Brothers started experimenting with kites as gliders in 1899.
- ▶ The only museum in the United States that is devoted to kites is in Long Beach, Wash.

