

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

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STAFF

John Lykens, CEO
Todd Molyneux, Manager,
Electric Operations
Heidi Roupp, CFO
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Stephan Paul Brady - CCD*/BLC/Gold*****
Chair

David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold
Vice Chair

Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold
Secretary

Karen Beinlich - CCD

Jeff Hamilton - CCD/BLC/Gold

Ann B. Henderson - CCD/BLC/Gold

Jim Lambert - CCD

Jay Lewis - CCD/BLC/Gold

David R. Rakestraw - CCD

***Credentialed Cooperative Director**

****Board Leadership Certificate**

*****Director Gold Certificate**

OFFICE HOURS

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

Your Board Ensures Your Voice is Heard



JOHN LYKENS

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, we have spotlighted a member of the cooperative's board of directors in *Penn Lines*. It's a diverse group, and each director brings unique talents and skills to the boardroom, where they offer their perspectives and insights with one goal in mind: to ensure the cooperative successfully meets the electrical needs of all members in a fiscally responsible manner.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative is driven by seven core cooperative principles. One of these is **democratic member control**. The cooperative is a democratic organization, controlled by you, our consumer-members. Elections are held every year to select cooperative members to serve on the board. These elected members — your directors — are there to act as your voice at the table.

Hopefully, the monthly director spotlights in *Penn Lines* have raised awareness about the board's responsibilities. Primarily, the board oversees the cooperative's governance, including, but not limited to, establishing the cooperative's vision, developing its strategic plan, and providing financial oversight and policy development.

The board and senior management work together to develop and refine the cooperative's strategic plan. This involves setting long-term goals and establishing a clear vision that aligns with the cooperative's mission and values. This ensures the cooperative remains focused on its objectives and is responsive to the evolving needs of our members.

The board also creates policies, which set clear guidelines for directors, employees and members, and establishes financial metrics for the cooperative to meet. Directors regularly review and adjust these policies to ensure the cooperative operates transparently and remains accountable to our members.

Fiscal oversight is another critical board function. This involves studying the cooperative's financial performance and making strategic investments to improve infrastructure and member services. Prudent financial management safeguards the cooperative's long-term viability as well as its ability to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to consumer-members.

Directors serve as a direct link between the cooperative and you. They advocate for all members' interests, regardless of member classification or energy usage, which ensures the cooperative remains attuned to consumers' evolving needs.

Lastly, the board provides guidance and support to the cooperative's CEO and management team. We all need direction from time to time, and navigating the challenges that lie ahead for the cooperative won't be easy. Your board is "on board" to provide essential support to make sure the cooperative continues to successfully fulfill our mission.

Your board of directors does an excellent job overseeing your electric cooperative. They ensure the cooperative remains responsive to your needs and operates transparently. By dutifully carrying out the responsibilities outlined above, your cooperative board will ensure the cooperative is successful and sustainable for all future generations. You can count on that! *Semper Fidelis.* 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

Heinrich Aviation Goes to New Heights

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

THEY SAY IF YOU DO what you love, you never work a day in your life. For Bob Heinrich, that means one thing: working on airplanes.

A Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative member from the Nordmont area, Bob spent two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, followed by eight years as an aviation electric technician in the U.S. Navy. He also took a two-year course at Penn Tech to become a certified aviation mechanic. After leaving the military, he worked odd jobs — logging, a little carpentry, and mechanical work — before seeing a help-wanted ad for the Bradford County Airport.

Since 2013, he's been keeping the planes running, even leasing his own garage for his business, Heinrich Aviation. Joined by his youngest son, Barret, the duo typically spends their days working on general aviation maintenance: annual inspections, skin repairs, engine work, replacing windshields, painting, fixing radios, and more.

"Whatever the plane needs," Bob says, "we can do it."

Building an airplane from scratch

In his spare time, Bob has been working on a project that most people can't even fathom: building his own

airplane from scratch. The project is a three-quarter-scale replica of an F4U Corsair WWII fighter plane, used in the Pacific theater. The actual plane weighed 5 tons; this one will weigh around 2,800 pounds.

Bob has cut all the pine used to frame the plane and cut, epoxied, and sanded the foam in place by hand. He has also done all of the internal wiring. Barret helps, too, by welding the metal parts of the frame and the retractable landing gear.

Bob has been thrifty throughout the process, collecting, reusing, and building as many of his own parts as he can. The fuel tank came out of a Ford F-250 pickup truck, for example. The plane is powered by a 300-horsepower Continental 520 engine. Once the interior work is complete, the plane will be wrapped in a fiberglass skin.

Bob has been working on the plane for five years and is hoping to have it completed in two more. But that's just the beginning before it's considered air legal.

It will first be deemed an "experimental plane," and need to be inspected by designated engineering representatives. These engineering and flight-test experts will

AN INSIDE LOOK: A bird's-eye view? More like a pilot's-eye view from inside Bob Heinrich's hand-built plane.

SARAH PARRISH



FATHER-AND-SON PROJECT: Bob Heinrich, left, with help from his son, Barret, is building a three-quarter-scale replica F4U Corsair fighter plane in his shop, Heinrich Aviation, at the Bradford County Airport.



SARAH PARRISH

ensure the plane complies with the appropriate standards. Bob will have to record the building process for them to review, map all the wiring and switches, and mark its weight and balance to calculate its center of gravity. The plane will then receive a temporary registration and require 40 hours of flying before receiving its permanent airworthy certificate.

Bob has gone through all the training to become a pilot. He has taken a written and oral exam, ridden and flown for 40 hours with a certified flight instructor, and taken a solo cross-country trip.

“Anybody can fly,” he says, “but getting back on the ground is the hard part.”

For more information about Bob’s business and project, visit heinrichaviation.com, where you’ll find a timeline of the plane’s build process under “Work in Progress.”

We all have our own niches and hobbies, but not many folks can boast they’ve hand-built an airplane. Keep an eye on the sky over the next few years; you might see Bob flying to and from work! 🛩️



IN THE MAKING: So far, Bob Heinrich’s plane has been under construction for five years, but he hopes to have it completed in two more. It will then need to go through an inspection process before being deemed airworthy.



HANDIWORK: Bob Heinrich, left, shows Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative employee Jeff Spako all the wiring he has done by hand for the plane. The system will power things like the retractable landing gear and the wing flaps.

2025

Sullivan County REC
Craig A. Harting
Memorial Scholarship

Applications are due

APRIL 18, 2025

Visit screc.com/scholarships for requirements and the application.

Contact Cooperative Communicator Sarah Parrish at 570-924-3381 or sarahparrish@screc.com with questions.

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Directors

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

A MIND FOR COMMUNITY IS often what drives folks to lend a helping hand, whether that is volunteering, joining a board, donating, or assisting the local church. Most of these deeds happen behind the scenes without any publicity or credit.

Jim Lambert is the fifth generation of his family to be born and raised in Sullivan County. Jim and his wife, Melanie, live in Forksville and are proud that their daughters — Meredith Lambert-Haring and Bethany — are part of the sixth generation to live and work in the county. Jim worked for 20 years on the family farm in Forks Township and has spent the following 20 years as a land surveyor. He's currently employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and performs his own surveying on weekends.

Helping the county and community is second nature to Jim and his family. A member of the Sullivan County Planning Commission, Jim also served eight years on the Sullivan County School Board and several years on Forksville Borough Council.

He is a member of St. Basil's Church in Dushore, where he is a lector, and the Knights of Columbus, St. John Neumann Shrine Council 12406. The family is also very involved in the Sullivan County Library and 4-H.

"I like to be involved in the community," he says, "and trying to make things better."

So what does all this have to do with being a director for Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC)?

Our directors ensure that the cooperative continues to provide reliable and affordable service to our members, who also are their family, friends and neighbors. It's another way of giving back to the rural communities we live in and support.

Jim joined our board in 2021, running in a contested election. He replaced his father-in-law, Wayne Gavitt, who retired after 45 years of service to District 3, serving members in Overton Township in Bradford County and Forks Township and Forksville Borough in Sullivan County.

Helping in the community is a family tradition and so is supporting SCREC. In addition to his father-in-law, Jim had an uncle, Bob Lambert, who was a clerk for the co-op in its early years. Jim's dad, George, at the age of 17, also performed manual labor for the co-op. Jim notes he is the first generation of his family to have electricity for his entire life — and he doesn't take it for granted. He says electric service is more reliable now than in the past, even as we continue to work to improve it.

"As with most things," Jim says, "there's more to serving on the board than you would think."

Directors face a steep learning curve, with all the financial data, policies, and electrical engineering terms they need to understand. But the work is very worthwhile and interesting to him.

"It gives a sense of doing good for the community," he adds.

Jim is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and is working to earn a Board Leadership Certificate. The training and other director duties allow Jim to travel and meet other board members from across the state and nation. It's a great way to get new ideas, discuss difficulties or challenges a co-op may be facing, and to praise others for their successes.

When he isn't busy, Jim is an avid biker and enjoys cross-country skiing when the weather cooperates. Jim and Melanie enjoy going for hikes on Sullivan County's trails and participating in historical landmark scavenger hunts.

"We are so lucky to call this home," he boasts. "We live where people vacation."

Home is where the heart is, and it's safe to say that Sullivan County is home to Jim and his family. The community and SCREC are appreciative of their hard work and for all the other folks who volunteer their time. 🍷



MEET THE LAMBERTS: District 3 Director Jim Lambert and his wife, Melanie, celebrate their wedding anniversary at the Sullivan County Fair.