

# 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

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Heidi Roupp, CFO  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephan Paul Brady - CCD/BLC/Gold\*\*\*  
Chair

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

Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold  
Secretary

David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold  
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.

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

## Celebrating National Co-op Month



JOHN LYKENS

**COMMUNITIES COME IN ALL SHAPES** and sizes. Some are based on location, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

For electric cooperatives across Pennsylvania and the United States, October is National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set them apart from other types of businesses and, more important, celebrate the power of co-op membership. We invite you to join us and more than 800 other electric distribution cooperatives in commemorating our unique business model this month.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities built by the communities they serve. For SCREC, our mission has always been to provide you with safe, reliable power at a cost-responsible price. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet your evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our community because we live here, too. We work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives, and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including SCREC, are guided by seven principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. The following principles provide a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities, while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative because co-ops are created *by* the members, *for* the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At SCREC, this happens through paying your electric bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure directors and employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart from other businesses. Our mission will always be to provide safe, reliable, cost-responsible energy to the members we serve, but our purpose is people. We're proud to serve the communities made up of our consumer-members. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS  
CEO

# Fall Safety While Hiking

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**ANNE OF GREEN GABLES SAID** it best: “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” And how lucky are we to live in the heart of Pennsylvania’s Endless Mountains to experience fall’s beautiful foliage?

Many folks like to take advantage of the cooler autumn weather by going for hikes to see the colorful leaves. Thankfully, within our service territory, there are miles of trails in Worlds End State Park, Loyalsock State Forest, and the State Game Lands.

While hiking during the fall months certainly has its perks, there are also many hazards to consider. Falling leaves are a nuisance to trails and hikers. They hide roots, holes, rocks, and branches, which can all lead to trips and falls. Downed leaves hold moisture on trails, too, and are slippery themselves or make rocks and roots slippery.

A pile of leaves is also the perfect place for small forest friends — mice, snakes, chipmunks, and salamanders — to hide while soaking up the last few warm days of summer (and they don’t like to be stepped on).

But the last thing I want to do is keep anyone from experiencing our area’s natural beauty. I encourage you to get outside, but please do it safely. Make sure you wear appropriate footwear with tread and traction and use hiking poles if you want a little more stability. Always keep your eyes on the trail in front of you and stop if you need to check the direction of the trail or to look at the scenery.

Consider sticking to trails you know well, so unseen holes, slopes, rocks, or roots won’t be as much of a surprise. If you don’t know many trails and still want to get outside, consider walking some of the dirt roads in the area (just keep an eye out for vehicles).

Hike trails within your ability (length, elevation gain, terrain, etc.), check the weather before you go, make sure to stay hydrated and fed, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Keep these tips in mind when planning your own or your family’s outdoor activities this fall. There’s so much beauty to be seen in our neck of the woods, and it’s even better enjoyed when doing it safely! 🍂

**HIDDEN ROOTS:** Looks like an easy, open trail, right? Any other time of the year you would see this trail is covered by slippery roots – hidden by fallen leaves.



SARAH PARRISH

**ROCK ‘N’ ROLL...ING:** Don’t roll an ankle on hidden rocks. Keep an eye on the trail ahead of you while hiking.



SARAH PARRISH

**GO SLOW:** Trails covered by fallen leaves can be a tripping hazard – full of hidden rocks, branches, holes, roots, and more. Take your time on unfamiliar trails to keep your footing.



SARAH PARRISH

## Former CEO Honored with Memorial Lookout

**CRAIG'S LOOKOUT, A MEMORIAL IN** honor of the late Craig Harting, who served as Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative's (SCREC) CEO for 32 years, was dedicated by the Loyalsock Foundation this past summer.

The lookout is near the foundation's Summit Loop Trail on Meditation Ledge, which Craig spent countless hours clearing. It gives a glimpse of North Mountain in the distance, part of our co-op's service territory. To find the lookout, follow the signs for Meditation Ledge from the Summit Loop Trail

Craig served on the Loyalsock Foundation's Advisory Board and was instrumental in the creation of The Summit: Center for Wellness, a multi-generational, regional wellness and community center with facilities for health, fitness, education, and outdoor recreation in Laporte, Sullivan County.

Guest speakers at the overlook's unveiling included Brian Hoffman, president of the Eagles Mere — Laporte Lions Club; Kathy Robbins, Steven Brady, and Dave Aumen, members of the SCREC Board of Directors; and Mary Blondy, foundation president. The Lions provided financial support for the memorial, County Line Property Worx cleared the lookout, and Ron Kocher installed the plaque.

"We invite you to visit Craig's Lookout anytime, but



LOYALSOCK FOUNDATION

**A NEW LOOKOUT:** The efforts and legacy our former CEO Craig Harting left throughout the community are being memorialized, including Craig's Lookout, which was recently dedicated by the Loyalsock Foundation. Craig served on the foundation's advisory board.

especially when you may need a tranquil place to meditate and look to the horizon beyond to bring inspiration, clarity, and greater focus to your goals and vision forward," says Jessica Pennella, the foundation's community outreach and project manager.

At the time of publication, the Summit Loop Trail is temporarily closed due to driveway construction. For more information, visit [loyalsockfoundation.org](http://loyalsockfoundation.org) or email [info@loyalsockfoundation.org](mailto:info@loyalsockfoundation.org). The Summit Loop Trail is 0.65 miles from the Sullivan County Courthouse, heading toward Eagles Mere on Route 42. Look for signs. Exact coordinates are available on the foundation's website.

SCREC appreciates the ongoing efforts to remember the legacy Craig left throughout the community. 📍



LOYALSOCK FOUNDATION

**REMEMBERING CRAIG:** Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Director Dave Aumen, standing at left, offers a few words at the dedication of Craig's Lookout. Aumen represents District 8.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits.gov](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits.gov) to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



# The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Directors

## A Monthly Spotlight

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**ANN HENDERSON HAS BEEN** serving on the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) Board of Directors since 1997. She represents District 1 (Canton Township, Bradford County; McNett Township, Lycoming County; and Fox Township, Sullivan County).

“I was a Youth Tour student, which introduced me to co-ops and interested me,” Ann says. “I’m very community-minded, so when Wayne Gavitt [a former director] approached me about representing our area, I joined the board.

“I really like working with the other people on our board,” she adds. “They’re such a diverse group; everybody has something to contribute.”

A lot has changed and evolved in the electric and co-op fields over the last 27 years. When Ann first began, deregulation — when members could choose their generation supplier — had just been introduced to the co-op. (Note: Deregulation has since been reversed.)

Now, broadband is a hot topic.

“Just like big companies cherry-picked highly populated areas for electricity 90 years ago, now rural areas are being left behind from high-speed internet,” Ann says. The board, she adds, regularly evaluates broadband possibilities for members and educates themselves on its feasibility for the co-op.

In addition to watching trends, the board has a variety of other responsibilities, including hiring the co-op’s CEO, attorney, and auditors. Directors also have oversight of the budget, finances, and bylaws, and set policies and rates.

“It’s difficult keeping an 80-plus-year-old system up to date and in good working order, plus meeting our members’ usage demands and providing reliable service,” Ann explains. “We’re blessed to live in the



**THE HENDERSON FAMILY:** SCREC Director Ann Henderson, second from left, shares a moment with her family, from left: husband Bob, daughter Lindley, son-in-law Zikos, and grandchildren Apollo, Thaddeus, Leo, and Olympia

woods, but boy are trees sometimes a problem!”

Thankfully, the cooperative’s board of directors is committed to the membership and all work well together — no matter the challenge.

To stay abreast of ever-changing challenges in the energy field, directors take part in training. Ann has her Director Gold credential, which is the highest certification a director can obtain. To receive this, she had to first become a Credentialed Cooperative Director and then receive her Board Leadership Certificate.

“From leadership training to learning about member-owned generation and electric vehicles, it’s a lot to stay on top of,” she explains. “But I like the training; it’s very well done, and I like to learn.

“I really like the co-op model,” Ann adds. “I like working to help our members, which include the members of the board, many of our families and neighbors, and co-op employees.”

Ann served as chair of the board for four terms and as vice chair for three terms. She also serves on the Audit Committee and Policy and Bylaws Committee. She represents SCREC

on the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Board, where she serves on the Policy and Bylaws Committee, the Legislative and Regulatory Committee, and the Scholarship Committee. She enjoys keeping up on political happenings.

“I know people think you shouldn’t talk about politics or religion ... but I like to talk about both!” she says. “What happens in Harrisburg and in D.C. affects our little co-op here in our service counties, so it’s good to stay on top of current events happening down there.”

Ann is a graduate of Sullivan County High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a specialty in accounting from Gettysburg College. She and her husband, Bob, live in Shunk. They have one daughter, Lindley Economides, and four grandchildren, Leo, Olympia, Thaddeus, and Apollo.

Bob and Ann have been employed by L.L. Baumunk & Son since 1981, and currently own and operate Baumunk’s General Store in Shunk, which was purchased in 1934 by Ann’s grandparents. They are elders at New Life Church in Canton, and Ann is the treasurer for the Fox Township Cemetery Association, director in charge of the food stand for the PA Bowhunters Festival (a position she inherited from her father), and a member of the Endless Winds Volunteer Fire Company. In her free time, she enjoys ministering healing, four-wheeling, cross country skiing, reading, and spending time with her family.

“I really want to encourage students to go on Youth Tour,” Ann stresses. “It’s a great opportunity.”

Plans are already underway for Youth Tour 2025, and SCREC is excited to meet the students who will be representing our co-op in Washington, D.C. Keep an eye out for Youth Tour announcements this winter! 📍