

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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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/BLC

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.

Guest Column

Shining the Light on Cooperative Member Benefits



DIANE WHITE

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY if someone who receives electricity from an investor-owned utility asked you what Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) does for our members? They would probably say, “provide electricity,” but our consumer-members have a lot more benefits, and I want to touch on a few that you may or may not know about.

As a consumer-member, you cannot only vote in a director election, but you can also run for a seat on the board of directors.

There is an “applicant” and “co-applicant” section on your membership application to sign, and you might ask why a co-applicant is needed.

Technically, a co-applicant isn’t needed — the applicant and co-applicant are joint consumer-members on their accounts, and therefore, they count as one membership and have only one vote in a director election. The same holds true for a person running for a director’s seat who needs a signature on his or her petition — only one person on an account can provide a valid signature.

Another benefit of being a consumer-member? High school juniors who are children of SCREC consumer-members are eligible to go on an all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C., for a week of fun and information. The event is called Youth Tour, and it’s sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association.

Sen. Lydon Baines Johnson inspired Youth Tour when he addressed the NRECA Annual Meeting in 1957. The former senator and future president declared, “If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital, where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Last year, students from 44 states attended Youth Tour. The 2024 Youth Tour was my first time as a chaperone, and I returned home with a sense of excitement and pride after being with the students on the trip. Please see the article in this issue of *Penn Lines* for information on this year’s Youth Tour.

While our youth are learning about electric cooperatives and their relationship with our country’s political process, our consumer-members can support SCREC and other co-ops throughout the country by being a member of America’s Electric Cooperatives PAC. Because of the PAC’s efforts, rural co-op consumer-members have been represented in many federal and state legislative initiatives, such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, “Move Over” legislation, and the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act.

For just a small contribution each month, your voice is added to hundreds of thousands of others, giving you the power to make a difference. For more information, reach out to me at 570-924-3381 or dianewhite@screc.com.

Lastly, every one of us at the cooperative is here to serve you — and remember that when you call our office, you actually speak to a real person. May you have a blessed New Year! 🍷

DIANE WHITE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Kathy and Tom Robbins Named 2025 Sullivan County Citizens of the Year

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

“Don’t work for recognition, but do work worthy of recognition.” — H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW who volunteer to be on call, spend their weekends helping others, sit on multiple boards, and are always ready to lend a helping hand without expecting anything except a “thank you” and a smile in return?

There aren’t many folks who fit that description, but in Sullivan County, a pair of cooperative members certainly do.

Tom and Kathy Robbins of Muncy Valley were recognized by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce as the county’s 2025 Citizens of the Year — and they are a very deserving couple.

Tom, originally from the Unityville area, and Kathy, a life-long resident of Muncy Valley, have been married 52 years and currently live on North Mountain near Muncy Valley with their cat, Myrtle.

Since graduating Hughesville High School, Tom has been involved in the automotive industry. He worked at various dealerships in master tech and management positions, retiring in 2017 as service manager at Murray Motors in Muncy.

Kathy, a graduate of Sullivan County High School, has held various positions in the county: a teacher’s aide, library clerk, and office clerk at elementary schools; the Sullivan County Commissioners’ deputy chief clerk;

deputy treasurer for treasurers Leona Bendinsky and Alice Taylor; a teller at C&N Bank in Laporte; and lastly, as Sullivan County treasurer from 1988 until her retirement in 2019.

The couple has spent decades serving their community in numerous ways.

They are both extensively involved with the Muncy Valley Area Volunteer Fire Company (MVAVFC). Kathy was previously an EMT, first responder, first-fire police captain and secretary, and president of the MVAVFC Auxiliary. She is currently a firefighter, second fire police captain, treasurer, Relief Association treasurer, and co-chair of the MVAVFC Auxiliary. Tom was previously a firefighter, first responder, vice president, treasurer, trustee, Relief Association president, and fire police captain. He is currently the president and first-fire police captain of MVAVFC.

In addition to their work with MVAVFC, they have both been active in the Sullivan County Fire Department, Nelson Armes Post 601 Sonestown and American Legion Auxiliary, North Mountain Sportsman’s Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the PA Bow Hunters Festival. Kathy has also served on the Sullivan County Action Board since 1976 and was instrumental in implementing the Sullivan County 911 Emergency Program. In what spare time they have, the couple enjoys boating and camping. They are also members of Hemlock Methodist Church on North Mountain.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is proud to boast that Kathy is director of District 5, serving our members in Davidson and Shrewsbury townships in Sullivan County and Franklin, Jordan, and Penn townships in Lycoming County. She was appointed in December of 1985 and became the first female to serve as a director for our co-op. At the time, she was the youngest director, too.

Kathy has dedicated extensive hours to training, classes, and learning more to best serve her district’s members. She obtained her Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold certificates through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. At SCREC, she has served as chairman of our board and currently is secretary. She also serves on the executive, marketing, and audit committees and is our representative

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: Tom and Kathy Robbins, center, were named Citizens of the Year for 2025 by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. Kathy serves as the cooperative’s District 5 director. Standing with the awardees are PA State Rep. Joe Hamm and Janenne Goliash, who represents Sen. Gene Yaw’s office.



on the PREA Community Service Network.

All this dedication, generosity, and leadership was commended at the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Citizen of the Year Ceremony held on Dec. 14, 2025, at the Eagles Mere Country Club. The couple received two proclamations acknowledging their involvement in the community on behalf of Pennsylvania State Rep. Joe Hamm and Sen. Gene Yaw.

The third recipient of the Craig Harting Spirit Award was also announced at the chamber’s dinner. Craig served as CEO of our cooperative for 32 years before retiring in 2022. He passed away on Nov. 30, 2023, after battling cancer twice.

The award was created in 2023 to honor individuals like Craig who have supported the chamber and its efforts. Recipients of the award are dedicated to supporting chamber events and local businesses, as well as volunteering in

Sullivan County. The first award was posthumously given to Craig. In 2024, the second recipient was Carol Ferrell, and 2025’s recipient was Wendy Hastings.

“The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Kathy and Tom as the Sullivan County 2025 Citizens of the Year,” Camelia Peguero, the chamber’s managing director, said at the event, “by honoring a lifetime of service defined by dedication, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to others. Their decades of volunteer work, leadership, and quiet acts of generosity have shaped our community in immeasurable ways.”

Kathy and Tom continue to work behind the scenes at many organizations, including right here at our cooperative. SCREC would like to personally thank Kathy for her many years as director and Tom for supporting his wife’s efforts. Their actions do not go unnoticed by our co-op or its members. 📍



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) Billing Clerk Kim Phillips was recently awarded the 2025 Winston Donaldson Community Service Award on behalf of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. To further honor her achievement, PA state Rep. Joe Hamm presented Kim with a proclamation in November. The Winston Donaldson Community Service Award was established to recognize a Pennsylvania or New Jersey co-op employee for their involvement as a volunteer; an act of heroism; and/or a co-op-related activity. Kim is extremely dedicated to her community, serving on the Sullivan County Agricultural Society and Sullivan County 4-H Advisory Committee. She is also president of the Fair Board, a 4-H leader, and helps to oversee the annual Christmas Light Spectacular. She also served on the Sullivan County School District Board for 22 years. Kim has been at SCREC since 2001. Congratulations on some much deserved recognition, Kim!



SUCCESS CHECKLIST



SmartHub will help you save time and money by managing your account anytime from anywhere. This is a checklist to put you in control of your account from day one.

To register for SmartHub, you will need an email address and your account number, using either your current SCREC account number or your new account number found in your welcome email or message.

REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT IN SMARTHUB

You have two options to register your account: through our mobile app or web portal.

ACCESS THE MOBILE APP

- Open up the Apple or Google Play store or scan the QR code to the right.
- Search for “SmartHub” in the app store.
- Download and install the SmartHub app on your mobile device.



ACCESS THE WEB PORTAL

- Visit our SmartHub support page at screc.com/smarthub and click on the “Register” button.

Find step-by-step instructions for how to register on our SmartHub support page at screc.com/smarthub.

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| <p>AUTO PAY SIGN UP</p> <p>Securely automate your monthly payments. Set it and forget it by signing up for Auto Pay in our new SmartHub payment system!</p> <p>Find step-by-step instructions for how to re-register for Auto Pay on our SmartHub support page at screc.com/smarthub.</p> | <p>SET UP NOTIFICATIONS</p> <p>Stay informed on important account events via email or text messages. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.</p> <p>Find step-by-step instructions for how to manage your contacts and activate notifications on our SmartHub support page at screc.com/smarthub.</p> |
| <p>ACTIVATE PAPERLESS BILLING</p> <p>What if you could save some time and a tree at the same time? Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to instantly access your bill.</p> <p>Find step-by-step instructions for how to activate paperless billing on our SmartHub support page at screc.com/smarthub.</p> | <p>BOOKMARK OUR SUPPORT PAGE</p> <p>We will add new features and information for how to get the most out of your SmartHub experience on our SmartHub support page.</p> <p>Bookmark screc.com/smarthub in your web or mobile internet browser.</p> |

NEED ASSISTANCE? WE ARE HERE TO HELP
 1-800-570-5081 | 570-924-3381

Know a High School Junior? Send Them to Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

WE ALL WANT TO GIVE THE BEST vacations and memories we can to our family and friends. So, what's stopping you? I can think of a few things. For one, hotels, meals, travel, and tickets are extremely pricy. Plus, taking a week off work isn't always feasible, and coordinating vacation itineraries can be a nightmare.

Luckily for the high school junior in your life, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) has you covered because we want those students to join us for a jam-packed, fun-filled week in Washington, D.C., with more than 1,800 of their closest peers from across the country.

Youth Tour is a unique opportunity provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. The two parties partner to provide an all-expense paid trip (you read that right; your student gets to go for free!) for high-schoolers to experience our nation's capital, meet students from across the country, learn about history, sightsee, dine, and make memories that last a lifetime.

To be eligible, students must be a high school junior (public or private school, homeschool, or cyberschool) during the 2025-2026 school year and their guardian must be an SCREC member.

This year, Youth Tour will be held Monday, June 15, to Saturday, June 20. Students will be picked up from a designated meeting location on June 15 via motorcoach

and they will return to the same location on June 20. A chaperone from SCREC will join students on the week-long trip, too.

Fan-favorite Youth Tour activities that happen throughout the week include tours of the Smithsonian museums, Capitol Hill Day, a dinner and dance party with students from across the nation, visits to Arlington National Cemetery and the National Zoo, and the ability to trade pins with other students.

Interested students can contact Sarah Parrish, Cooperative Communicator, at 570-924-3381 or sarahparrish@screc.com to receive an application and the necessary paperwork. Complete and notarized forms are due back to the office by Wednesday, Feb. 18. More information can be found on our website, screc.com/yt.



CAPITOL DAY: Students from Youth Tour 2025 met with congressional staffers in our nation's Capitol building.



MONUMENTS & MORE: Youth Tour students will be able to visit and sightsee at the many monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C.



TRADING PINS: A fan-favorite activity on Youth Tour is trading pins with students from different states.