

# 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

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### OFFICE HOURS

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

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

## A New Year Means New Rates



**JOHN LYKENS**

**IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE** we are starting a new year. 2025 seemed to present significant fiscal hurdles to both the state and federal government. Most notable was our state legislative leaders' inability to pass a state budget on time — it took them 135 days past the due date to get things done.

Unlike the state, it is imperative that Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) develop and pass its budget before the beginning of the fiscal year. Your cooperative establishes a budget in the fourth quarter of each year and sets rates for the next 12 months after the board has examined income and expenses. That said, your board passed the 2026 budget at its November meeting.

I am happy to report the budget passed with no increase to the cooperative's distribution rate. Both the fixed charge and the variable distribution rate remain unchanged for 2026. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the generation and transmission rate.

While your cooperative makes decisions that impact distribution costs and ultimately figure into the distribution rate, generation and transmission costs are outside our control. The cooperative must purchase generation, which includes energy, demand, and transmission and capacity costs, from a generation supplier.

Our generation supplier is Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), which has done a great job of keeping the energy price as low as possible for our cooperative and the 13 others it serves in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Allegheny provides 70% of our energy requirements and purchases the remaining 30% by bidding and entering into contracts with other generation owners. Because of this, energy costs are set to increase by only 5% in 2026.

Allegheny also does a fantastic job of controlling demand costs by lowering peak demand through its Coordinated Load Management System. This program shifts the use of electric hot water heaters and other appliances and controls high-voltage electrical equipment in our substations when demand for electricity is at its highest.

Despite Allegheny's best efforts, demand charges will increase 20% in 2026. Getting the electrons from the generation source to the cooperative's substation depends upon the electrical grid's transmission system, which has numerous owners. FirstEnergy, PPL, and Allegheny are among the companies that own transmission assets, and the cost to use the transmission system has risen significantly. In 2026, transmission costs will rise 45% and since 2020, transmission costs have risen 282%.

All combined, generation and transmission costs will increase by 20% in 2026. This increase, which will impact all members' electric bills, will be reflected in the February bill for January's electric consumption. A member using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity over the course of a month before the generation and transmission rate increase would have paid \$188.28. Today, this same amount of electric use will cost \$205.77 — or just over 9% of the previous amount.

Even with this increase, we continue to be competitive with our investor-owned neighbors that surround our service territory. For those members living close to the PPL Electric service territory, your neighbors will be paying \$198.28 for the

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# PREA Recognizes Kim Phillips with Community Service Award

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** (SCREC) is proud to announce that Kim Phillips was presented with the 2025 Winston Donaldson Community Service Award during the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Annual Meeting in October.

PREA established the award in 1994 to recognize a Pennsylvania or New Jersey electric cooperative employee for their involvement as a volunteer in church, civic, school, and/or hospital activities; an act of heroism; and/or cooperative-related activities with the community receiving the benefits. Donaldson, a Central Electric director and a PREA director, served as chairman of the statewide organization's board from 1980 to 1981.

The award is given only when someone is deserving of it, making Kim's accomplishment even more meaningful.

She began her employment at SCREC in 2001 as a member service representative and recently moved to the position of billing clerk. She has served on the cooperative's safety committee for nearly two decades.

Outside of work, Kim is dedicated to her community.

She has been a member of the Sullivan County Agricultural Society for 13 years and has served as President of the Fair Board for four years. She's also a 4-H leader for the livestock, gardening, poultry, rabbits, and cooking clubs, and is a member of the Sullivan County 4-H Advisory Committee.

Kim has helped oversee and organize the annual Christmas Light Spectacular at the county fairgrounds in Forksville since 2019. She also served on the Sullivan County School District Board for 22 years.

"Kim has the heart and dedication to help and support the community around her," says Heidi Roupp, SCREC's chief financial officer. "We at Sullivan County REC are overjoyed with her accomplishments and proud to call her family."

Kim and her husband Randy live outside of Dushore. They have three sons, Bob, Jesse and Noah.

"I am so appreciative and thankful not only for this award but also for my family, co-op family, and friends," Kim says.

"I'm sure this came as a total surprise to Kim, but it didn't come as a surprise to her Sullivan County REC co-workers," SCREC CEO John Lykens notes. "Her

dedication to serving the greater good has made a real impact in Sullivan County. She is certainly deserving of recognition and the Winston Donaldson Community Service Award."

Cooperatives are governed by seven principles, one of which is "concern for community." SCREC is proud that our employees emulate this principle not only in their careers, but also in their daily lives. Congratulations, Kim! 🎉

**CONGRATS, KIM!**: Kim Phillips, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative billing clerk, was recently presented with the 2025 Winston Donaldson Community Service Award by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the statewide advocate for rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Shown with Kim are her sons Noah and Jesse, husband Randy, and son Bob.



# Co-op Welcomes Kevin Johnson as Apprentice Lineman

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

## SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL

Electric Cooperative (SCREC) would like to introduce Kevin Johnson, newly hired first-year apprentice lineman.

Kevin recently moved to Forksville with his wife, Shanea, 1-year-old daughter Wrenlee, and two dogs, Oden and Diesel. His journey, however, did not begin in our service territory.

Kevin grew up in Minnesota, and after graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Army. His military career took him to North Carolina for three years, to Italy for three years, back to North Carolina for three years, and finally to Georgia for three years.

During that time, he was staff sergeant for the 11C Indirect Fire Infantryman. He also had additional duties as jump master with the 82nd Airborne Division, served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and was senior drill sergeant at Fort Benning, GA.

While serving his country, Kevin met his wife in North Carolina. They married in Georgia and moved near her family in Savona, NY. While in Georgia, Kevin graduated from Southeast Lineman Training Center. He then worked for a local tree crew while in New York. He joined SCREC on Nov. 3.

"I'm not an office person," Kevin jokes. "I like to do hard work, and being a lineman will keep me on my toes."

Kevin was particularly excited to join SCREC for its family-oriented lifestyle.

"My daughter takes up my whole life," he says. "I want to be with her while she's growing up as much as I can."

During his first week of work, the co-op's service territory was battered with high winds and, at one point, had roughly 3,000 members without power. Kevin reported for these outages and lent a helping hand.

"School prepared me well for situations like this," he says. "I'm looking forward to gaining knowledge from everyone at the co-op; I'm taking in everything I can."

Outside of work, Kevin enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking,



**WELCOME TO THE CO-OP:** Kevin Johnson, who was recently hired as a first-year apprentice lineman at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, is shown with his wife, Shanaea, and daughter, Wrenlee.

and sports. He's hoping to take advantage of state game lands, forests, and parks in the area.

"Now that I can provide stabilization for my family, I'm hoping to get back outside more," he notes. "Being a lineman still gives me a sense of serving my country."

He'll be a great asset to serving our membership!

## Power Delivery Program

Part of being an apprentice lineman at SCREC involves participating in our Power Delivery Program (PDP).

Developed by Northwest Lineman College in Idaho and adopted by our CEO John Lykens, it is a four-year

program that helps linemen advance from apprenticeship to journeyman status through self-paced modules. Each year, apprentice linemen must study ten sections, then pass a test for each section, in order to move onto the next module and advance to the next year of their apprenticeship.

The sections cover a variety of information, including transformer banking, proper grounding, personal protective equipment, knot tying, switching, SCADA and automation, basic rigging, electrical theory, OSHA, and other skills and knowledge linemen need to perform the job safely and to the best of their ability.

After completing the first 10 sections, passing the associated tests, and completing 12 months of on-the-job training, Kevin will advance from first-year apprentice lineman to second-year apprentice lineman.

Not only does the position require bookwork, but all linemen must also participate in training provided by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's Job Training & Safety program. These include chainsaw, pole climbing, digger derrick, glove, and hot stick schools.

The No. 1 priority at our cooperative is safety. Giving our linemen the proper training and know-how ensures they can do their jobs correctly and safely every day. ☈



**A SEASON OF GIVING:** One of our seven core cooperative principles is "concern for community." Whenever our cooperative can lend a helping hand to our members and the communities they live in, we're happy to take part in the opportunity. In November, our employees participated in a Thanksgiving Meal Food Drive. Collected items were donated to the Sullivan County Food Pantry and then distributed to those who need assistance. Front row, from left, are co-op employees Lindsay Fitch, Heidi Roupp, Kim Phillips, and Diane White, with Barb Davis, representing the food pantry. Back row, from left, are employees Tyler Worthen, Kevin Johnson, Shane Kline, Tom Livezey, Dave Kepner, Darrick Higley, Josh Heess, Kendall Achev, Lori Williams, Jeff Spako, Nolan Chase, Alex Laudermilch, and Todd Molyneux. Absent from photo are co-op employees John Lykens and Sarah Parrish.

## FROM THE CEO

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1,000 kWhs of electricity they consume. And for those members close to Penelec's service territory, your neighbors will be paying \$227.63.

The cost of everything continues to rise and, unfortunately, the cost of electricity is rising as well. I wish there was a way to insulate the cooperative and our members from these rising prices, but it's just not possible or realistic. While that may be the case, your electric cooperative will do everything we can to keep electric rates affordable for our members.

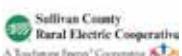
As a non-profit corporation, your cooperative never adjusts rates to pay dividends to shareholders. In fact, the opposite is true. We adjust rates to keep as much money in our members' pockets as possible, to keep the lights on, and to minimize the amount of time your lights are off. That is our commitment to the entire membership.

We wish all Sullivan County REC members a safe and prosperous 2026. Semper Fidelis. ☰

**JOHN LYKENS**  
CEO



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You will need an email address and either your current Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) account number or your new account number, which you'll find in your welcome email or message.

### MOBILE APP DOWNLOAD:

For information on how to download our free, secure SmartHub app from the Apple or Google Play stores, scan the QR code below or visit our SmartHub support page at [screc.com/smarthub](http://screc.com/smarthub).



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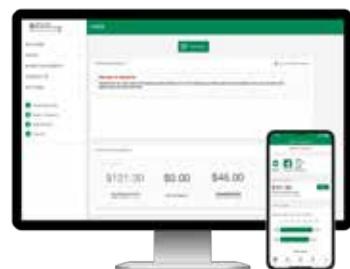
The more features you take advantage of, the more time and money you save!

Instructions for how to register and activate features can be found on our SmartHub support page at [screc.com/smarthub](http://screc.com/smarthub).

### ATTENTION: AUTO PAY MEMBERS

If you are currently registered for Auto Pay using a debit or credit card or savings or checking account, you will be required to re-register for Auto Pay in our new SmartHub billing and payment system. Use either your current SCREC account number or your new account number, which can be found in your welcome email or message.

*Please make note that your new account number will be used for all future logins and payments.*



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