

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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1-800-570-5081
Email: info@screc.com
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STAFF

John Lykens, CEO
Dennis Klem, Manager,
Finance and Administration
Todd Molyneux, Manager,
Electric Operations
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann B. Henderson - CCD*/BLC**
Chairman
Stephan Paul Brady - CCD/BLC/Gold***
Vice Chairman
Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold
Secretary
David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold
Karen Beinlich
Jeff Hamilton - 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.

Annual Meetings Keep Communications Open



SINCE THE INCEPTION OF YOUR cooperative on Dec. 3, 1936, it has held an annual meeting of its members. Over the last 86 years, the annual meeting has taken place at several venues. From 1937 to 1978, the annual meeting was held at the Sullivan County Courthouse in Laporte. As the cooperative grew in membership, attendance outgrew the courthouse. From 1979 to 2018, these meetings were held at the Sullivan County High School, but since 2019 when a fire rendered the auditorium unoccupiable, and then again in 2020 when COVID-19 necessitated a change, the annual

meeting has been held online.

Over the years, both the location and the format the cooperative's annual meeting has changed. During the 40 years at the high school, meals were served, entertainment was provided, reports were given, directors were elected and members listened to a keynote speaker. In fact, for the first 77 years of the cooperative, directors were nominated and elected at the annual meeting. In 2015, directors began being nominated by petition (candidates must obtain a minimum of 10 valid member signatures from the candidate's district) and elected by mail-in ballots from all members in all districts. In 2019, the annual meeting transitioned to an online meeting, and this is the format we continue to use.

So why does the cooperative hold an annual meeting in the first place? An annual meeting of members of an electric cooperative is required by PA Consolidated Statute Title 15, Section 7325, and the cooperative's bylaws. Both stipulate financial and business reports be given for the prior year at the annual meeting. The annual meeting is not a business meeting per se, but summary reports are presented, director election results are communicated to the membership and members are given the opportunity to ask questions. Business meetings are conducted monthly by the board of directors at the cooperative's headquarters in Forksville.

While an in-person meeting had a more personal feel to it, only 3% of the membership on average participated. When your cooperative started operations in the late 1930s, the annual meeting was an effective way for members to voice concerns, ask questions or even give accolades for a job well done. Communication, for the most part, meant face-to-face, by radio or landline telephone, or a letter drafted by hand or by typewriter. Meetings were conducted in person or via phone conference.

Today, we communicate by text messaging, email, video, social media, cellular phones and computer VOIP, and hold meetings virtually with applications such as Zoom and Teams. Communication occurs instantaneously today. Your cooperative keeps members up to date using texts, emails, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our website. Our employees, including myself, answer questions from members electronically and verbally at the front counter or over the phone daily. We encourage members to ask questions or voice concerns when they come about and not wait until the annual meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite all members to join us for our 86th annual meeting, which will be held online at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16. Details, including how to register and the meeting agenda, can be found on page 16C. I hope you'll take the opportunity to join us on May 16. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

From the Operations Department: Understanding Outage Restoration Time

JEFF TRUESDALE, FORMER MANAGER OF ELECTRIC OPERATIONS

IN THE PERFECT WORLD, THERE would be no power outages. Unfortunately, that world does not exist. When an outage occurs, there are many steps to go through before your power is restored.

After you call our outage number (570-924-3418), the dispatch center contacts our on-call lineworker(s). Once given the information on the outage, whether it be a single outage or a section of line, the lineworkers will check their devices to see where they will need to start looking for the outage cause. Although quick restoration is important, the safety of all lineworkers is most important.

Lineworkers need to take numerous steps to protect themselves before starting the restoration process. They will first check to make sure the stretch of line they will be working on is not energized. Next,

they will install tags on connected poles to indicate any attached equipment should not be operated at all by anyone. Finally, lineworkers install personal protective grounds on each side of the working area. Crews are not permitted to work outside of these protective grounds. The lineworkers must wear rubber gloves, eye protection, fire-retardant clothing and hard hats during this process. And now they can start the process of repairing the damaged line or equipment.

The process of putting lines back up can be lengthy depending on the terrain. If a bucket truck can be used, it will typically take less time to fix the problem. But if

climbing is involved, it could take a lot longer to restore power.

Before putting the power lines back up, lineworkers inspect the wire for any bad spots and, if they find any, repair them. A device called a sleeve is used to put the wires back together on one end. With a lineworker on the pole, the ground crew will then hoist the wire to him or her to put it together at the other end.

After all the wire is back together, the crew will remove all protective grounds when all workers are clear of all lines. Before energizing the line again, one of the crew members must radio to confirm all workers are in the clear. Once confirmed, the line will then be closed to be energized. The “do not operate” tag will be removed from the pole, and dispatch will be contacted to let them know the job has been completed. Dispatch will then call certain cooperative members

to be sure power has been restored.

There are many different scenarios the workers will run into while restoring outages. Some will be more involved than others. We hope this helps everyone understand why some outages may be lengthy.

Please be patient with all the lineworkers out there. The safety requirements of this job are something that allow everyone to go home safely every day. 📞



RESTORING POWER: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative lineworkers restore power at Worlds End State Park while climbing poles and working out of a bucket truck. Bucket trucks are a faster alternative to climbing poles, but the terrain lineworkers encounter often prevents trucks from reaching poles and requires crews to climb the poles instead.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative **ANNUAL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom **only**.

Prior to the meeting,
please download the Zoom app.

Registration is required
by **May 15**:

- Visit bit.ly/screcAnnualMtg2023

OR

- Contact Diane White at
DianeWhite@screc.com/
570-924-3381.

Agenda:

- 6:30 p.m. - Call to Order
- Report of 2023 Director Election
(Attorney Chappell)
 - Board Chair Report
(Ann Henderson)
 - CEO Report (John Lykens)
- Q&A (submitted during meeting)
- 7:15 p.m. (approx.) - Adjourn

Our co-op's 2022 Annual Report is now available on
our website, screc.com, under "SCREC Center."

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Employees

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

ANOTHER MONTH, another employee spotlight and another community-minded employee at our co-op.

You may recognize Kim Phillips from the front desk of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) or at numerous other organizations throughout Sullivan County.

Kim has been a member of the Sullivan County Agricultural Society for 11 years and has served as president for two years. She's also a 4-H leader for the livestock, gardening, poultry, rabbits and cooking clubs. If that wasn't enough, she served on the Sullivan County School District Board for 22 years, has been the 4-H Advisory Committee president for two years, and — with the help of her family and friends — has been running the Christmas Village at the county fairgrounds in Forksville every December since 2019.

When she has free time, Kim enjoys spending it with her grandkids,

reading and crocheting (a little bit). She and her husband, Randy, live outside of Dushore with their dogs, cats, turtles, chickens and sheep. They have three sons: Bob, Jesse (wife, Sam, and children, Emerson, Corbin, and Josie) and Noah.

Before starting at SCREC, Kim worked at the Eagles Mere Inn for 15 years. Juggling children, going to school to be an accountant and working seven days a week, she needed a steady day job. Thankfully, the position of office secretary opened here, and she was hired in June 2001.

On a typical day, Kim is kept busy helping customers at the front desk, answering the phone, sorting mail, submitting checks to the bank, sending out new member applications and handbooks, writing letters to members for our operations department, and “doing anything else that needs done, that no one else is already doing!” It's a little different than her dream job growing up: Kim originally wanted to be an attorney, make a lot of money, then use it to establish an orphanage for children and a shelter for animals.

Kim loves getting to meet and talk to all the members when they stop in. “There are a lot of nice people. I've really liked getting to know them over the years,” she says. She also appreciates being with a great group of co-workers.

Cooperative Principle No. 7 is “concern for community.” SCREC is very proud of our employees who are dedicated to serving the many different organizations throughout our service territory. 🍷



COMMUNITY-MINDED: If you've ever stopped into the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative office or been to any big event or organization in Sullivan County, you've likely met our office secretary, Kim Phillips.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

