

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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Email: info@screc.com
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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/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.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Guest Column

NISC Software Update

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (SCREC) team has been very busy the last few months. We have been gearing up for a new software program update with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The SCREC and NISC teams started from the ground up, building files and member accounts and introducing options that were not available to us with our old software program. The SCREC team has also been participating in many hours of online and in-person training each week. We want to be prepared and ready to serve our members.

As we move forward, these are some of the updates that will be affecting the membership:

► **Nov. 30:** Online payments via ACH and credit/debit cards will no longer be accepted on invoiced.com after midnight Nov. 30. We will still accept cash and checks, but all payments will be held until Dec. 8.

► **Dec. 2:** SCREC will run our last bill print.

► **Dec. 8:** Our conversion from the old system to the new system will take place.

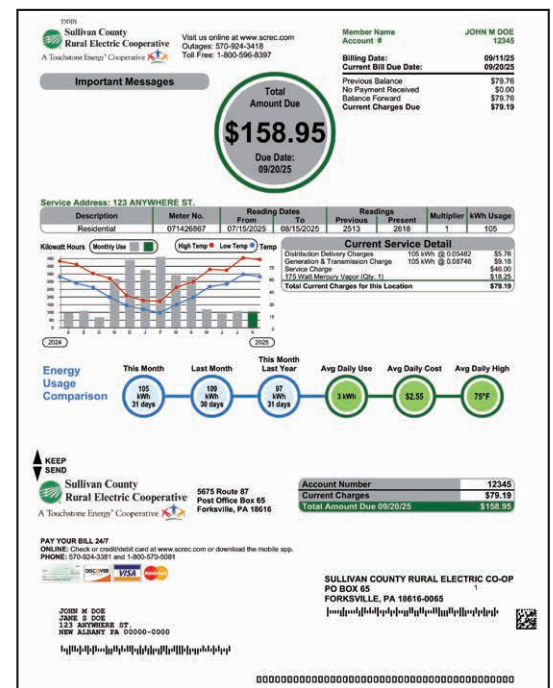
Invoiced.com will no longer be our payment platform; members can access our SmartHub site at screc.com. Members who use automatic payments will need to create a SmartHub account and sign up for automatic payments through that system, starting Dec. 8. We are unable to move bank and credit card information from one system to another; however, our team will be available to assist members with the payment transition.

In addition to automatic payments, members can use SmartHub to make one-time payments, view bills, track kilowatt usage, and report outages. SmartHub also has an app that can be used on both Android and Apple phones for our members' convenience. A preview of SmartHub is available at screc.com.

We have provided a sample of how a basic electric bill will appear. (See the example at right.) You may notice the updated design with vibrant colors. We have added features, too, such as meter reading dates, your monthly kilowatt usage over the past 12 months, and a graph of the average high and low temperatures for each month. You will also see a comparison of the average kilowatts you used during the current month, past month, and the same month last year. This indicates if you are using more or less electricity in any given month, year over year. The bill will also show your average daily use and the average daily cost. Members will have more information available to them with the new software program update.

Submitting forms will be easier, too.

With the new system, members will be able to sign and submit them electronically, which will speed up processing times and eliminate postal delays. New payment methods for capital credits returns will also be available in the future. While members



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It's a Bird, It's a Plane... It's a Drone Inspecting SCREC's Electric Lines

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

IF YOU ASK ANY LINEMAN who currently or previously worked at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) about line patrol, you'll likely be met with a groan or an eye roll.

The annual inspection is mandatory to stay on top of any broken or cracked equipment across our service territory. The best way to stop an outage is preventive maintenance.

While this is a great idea, it is also a very time-consuming task for our linemen. Miles of line must be walked — through forests, over rocky cliffs, up steep mountainsides, and through brush — and lines and equipment must be inspected at each pole with a

pair of binoculars. Their comments are written on paper, which is then turned into the operations department.

But, as the saying goes, "Work smarter, not harder," and SCREC began looking for a way to save our linemen time so they could get back to their daily tasks and not be interrupted by line patrol.

The answer came from Zeitview, a company that uses drones to take photos of our electric lines, which are then analyzed for defects.

A drone's eye view

Zeitview was in our service territory in August and September, inspecting our entire three-phase system.

Overall, approximately 100 miles of line and 2,138 poles were digitally photographed with drones.

The process began with Operations Assistant Tyler Worthen, who sent Zeitview a map of our three-phase system. Zeitview transferred it into its mapping system, which is used by its drone technicians when they're on-site.

Once in our service territory, technicians reference their map (**Figure 1**) and then begin the photography process. They fly drones (**Figure 2**) to each pole top, where they get a comprehensive visual inspection (**Figure 3**). All four quadrants of the pole are photographed, including shots from the top down, level, base, and underneath (**Figure 4**). The whole process takes 30 seconds. Once completed, the technician marks the pole complete on the mapping system and they're off to the next one.

That, however, is easier said than done. Per safety guidelines, the drone needs to be kept within the technician's line of sight, which requires them to walk through our forested and mountainous rights of way. The drone's battery lasts about 30 minutes, so the devices must be swapped and charged frequently throughout the day.

There are hazards with the job, too. The drones need to fly close to live electric lines and equipment to capture the most accurate photos possible. Any contact with the lines would destroy the drone and cause an outage.

Drone pilots receive several weeks of training from Zeitview before they go out in the field. They are also licensed through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and they renew their certification every two years.

Figure 1

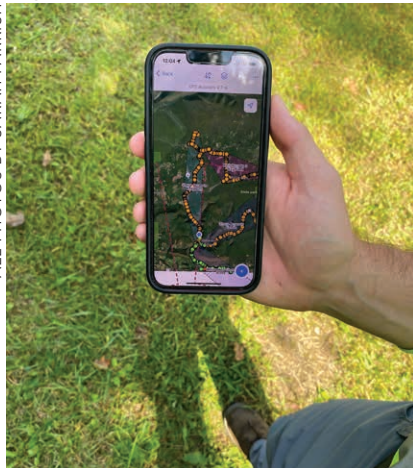


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



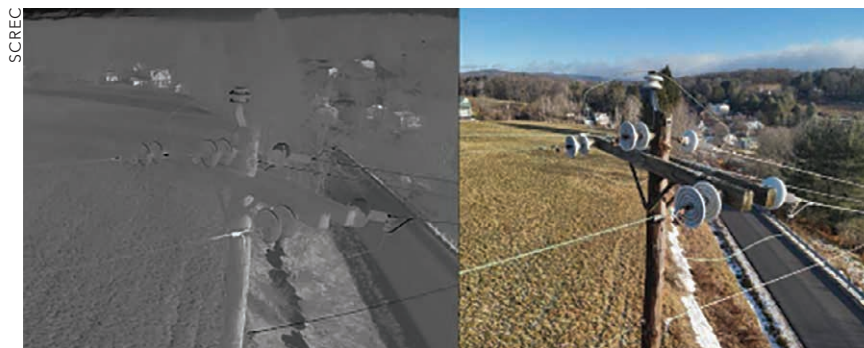
ALL PHOTOS BY SARAH PARRISH

Each drone is registered with the FAA, too.

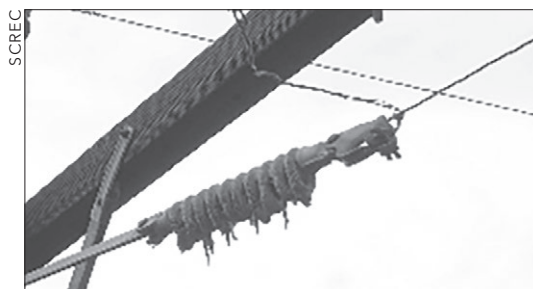
After the photography process, the images captured by the drones are uploaded to Zeitview's software and inspected by experienced electric line professionals. They look for potential outage causes like hanging branches, cracked fuses and cut outs, hot lightning arrestors, and damaged cross arms, pole tops, and insulators. If drone technicians discover an emergency while in the field, they contact our operations department immediately.

Once the photos are analyzed, our cooperative receives the images and notes. Anything that needs to be replaced or fixed is passed along to our linemen who can remedy the problem.

When Mother Nature strikes our service territory with high winds, flooding, heavy snow, and ice, our linemen fight back by replacing poles, hanging new transformers, and splicing electric lines together. While severe weather cannot be prevented, routine maintenance of our electric system can prevent blue-sky-day outages. Drone inspections are just one way our cooperative is maintaining electric reliability for our members. 📡



THERMAL IMAGING: At left, a loose splice connector seen through the lens of Zeitview's thermal imaging drone. The touching, spliced electric lines generate heat, which can create power quality issues.



MELTED INSULATOR: This image, photographed by a drone, shows an insulator damaged by ultra violet light, which broke down the polymer, allowing electricity to generate heat and melt the insulator.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW: This image, captured by Zeitview drones in 2024, shows a broken conductor tie wire (right insulator), which holds the electric line to the insulator, and two areas of decay on the crossarm. From a ground inspection, the decay would not have been visible.

NOTICE OF 2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Candidates Sought for Districts 1, 5, 7

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative will hold director elections for Districts 1, 5 and 7 in 2026.

To be eligible for director candidacy and serve on the board, you must be a legitimate, permanent resident of the district you seek to represent. Additional qualifications are found on our website, screc.com, by clicking "SCREC Center" and "Bylaws." All directors attend in-person meetings once a month.

Residential members from Districts 1, 5 and 7 interested in running for a position on the cooperative's board of directors must be nominated by a petition signed by at least 10 members residing in the candidate's respective district. Petition nomination forms and further instructions are available by contacting Diane White at 570-924-3381 or dianewhite@screc.com. Petition nomination forms can be requested starting Nov. 21.

Petitions must be received by 3:30 p.m. Jan. 21, 2026, to be considered. The petitions will be reviewed by the cooperative's Credentials & Election Committee. The election of directors will be conducted via mailed ballots. Qualified candidates will also be asked to submit a brief biography, which will be included with the official ballot and published in *Penn Lines* and on our website.

2026 Director Election Districts:

(all three-year terms)

District 1: Canton Township, Bradford County; McNett Township, Lycoming County; and Fox Township, Sullivan County

District 5: Penn, Franklin, and Jordan townships, Lycoming County; and Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County

District 7: Upper Fairfield Township, Lycoming County

The Principles of Co-op Membership

Cooperative Principle 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES is a brotherhood about which other businesses can only dream. It's a mutual agreement to back each other up for the overall good of our members and our communities.

One of the primary examples of this principle is giving and receiving mutual aid during mass outage restoration.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) has received help from numerous other cooperatives when outage restoration has been too big for our nine-lineman crew. Lineworkers from cooperatives in Pennsylvania and other states have left their families to stay in hotels near our service territory to help our operations department get the lights back on for our members. Without cooperation among cooperatives, outage restoration caused by damaging storms would take days, weeks or even longer.

Our linemen like to lend a helping hand, too. When they are able, SCREC linemen have packed their bags in a bucket truck and gone on the road to assist other cooperatives with their outage restoration efforts.

This is how the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) describes this principle: "By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs."

Our participation in the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Touchstone Energy Cooperative, and NRECA provides us with unlimited resources in political lobbying, training for employees and directors, member engagement, financial assistance, and purchasing power — and those are just a few of the benefits we receive from these cooperatives. Without them, SCREC could not secure power delivery rates, reliability, and safety as well as we currently do.

Many hands make light work, and the many hands that support SCREC enable us to best serve our members. 🍂

GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 14A

with active accounts will still be able to receive their capital credits return in the form of a check, they can also opt to apply their return directly to their electric account. It will always be up to the member how they receive their capital credits return.

As we draw closer to the change, we are undergoing extensive training on the new system. Members who have called the office with questions or concerns may have experienced slower responses; we apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience. After the new system begins Dec. 8, we are asking for patience and understanding as we navigate forward. We expect members will have questions when setting up accounts in SmartHub and that will increase our call load. Even so, we will continue to work with each member, giving them the time they need to feel comfortable with the new system. 🍂

HEIDI ROUPP

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The Sullivan County
Rural Electric
Cooperative office
will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 27,
to Monday, Dec. 1,
for the Thanksgiving
holiday. Normal
business hours,
7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
will resume
Tuesday, Dec. 2.
To report an outage,
please call
570-924-3418.
Happy Thanksgiving!