

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
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann B. Henderson - CCD*/BLC/Gold Chair**

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.

Tips to Cool the Heating Bill



JOHN LYKENS

BY NOW MOST OF US have turned on the heat in our homes. According to the National Weather Service, El Niño conditions will persist through the winter of 2023-2024, creating a slightly warmer-than-normal winter with less snowfall as well. *The Farmer's Almanac*, on the other hand, predicts the mild temperatures we experienced in the winter of 2022-2023 will not be returning this year, and above-average precipitation will accompany the colder temperatures. Whatever the case will be, there is one thing for certain: we are all likely to see an increase in our electric use and bills during these months.


Even for members who do not heat with some sort of electric heating appliance (electric baseboard, electric space heaters, electric thermal storage heaters, or heat pumps), electric pumps and fans are often used to distribute hot water or steam through radiators and baseboard heaters or to circulate hot air through ductwork. For members who heat their homes with an electric heating appliance, winter electric bills can be significantly higher than spring, summer, and fall bills.

Your electric cooperative understands significantly higher bills throughout the winter months can be particularly challenging. Proper annual maintenance will help ensure peak performance of any system. Here are a few suggestions to help save on the energy you consume and keep your household budget in the green.

For homes with centrally located thermostats, lowering the thermostat from 70 to 68 degrees and putting on warmer clothing to stay comfortable will help. But, setting the thermostat back by 7 to 10 degrees every day (at night or when unoccupied) can save as much as 10% on heating costs. This is achieved most effectively by replacing your manual thermostat with a programmable or smart thermostat. The thermostat will adjust the temperature automatically for the days of the week and time, as programmed. For homes with electric baseboard heating units in each room, simply turn the thermostat back for each unoccupied room and return them to normal when the room is in use. These types of heaters generally recover heat to the room fairly quickly.

For forced, hot air systems, leaks in both supply and return ducts result in heat loss throughout the system and cause it to run longer and more frequently to adequately heat the home. Check for leaks, holes, and gaps in the ductwork and seal them properly with a mastic-based, foil-faced tape. In addition to sealing leaks in the duct system, it is equally important to ensure all supply and return registers are not blocked by furniture, rugs or dust. Blocked registers reduce the system's heating efficiency. For the same reason, return air furnace filters should be changed each month.

Hot water baseboard and radiator heating systems also need to be maintained to keep heat transfer from the baseboard and radiators to the room air as efficient as possible. The fins of hot water baseboard units should be cleaned regularly. Radiant systems that use hot water as the heat transfer medium often develop air pockets at different points in the piping system. These pockets reduce the volume of water flowing throughout the system and reduce the system's ability to heat properly. Most radiators and hot water baseboard units have valves to purge the air and bring the system to proper working order.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative is here to help our members use electricity as efficiently as possible. In an era where everything we use has become "smart," together we can apply some simple, smart measures to reduce electric energy consumption and your monthly electric bill. Semper Fidelis. 

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

Giving Back to Our Members and Communities

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

FOR THE SIXTH YEAR IN a row, to show our appreciation for our members and communities, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) has made donations to area volunteer fire companies (VFC).

This year donations were made to the following:

- ▶ Canton Volunteer Fire Department (VFD)
- ▶ Dushore Fire Company No. 1
- ▶ Eagles Mere VFC
- ▶ Eldred Township VFC
- ▶ Eldredsville VFC
- ▶ Endless Winds VFC
- ▶ Forksville VFC
- ▶ Hepburn Township VFC
- ▶ Hillsgrove VFC
- ▶ Hughesville Fire Department
- ▶ Laporte VFC
- ▶ Mildred VFC
- ▶ Montoursville VFC
- ▶ Muncy Area VFC
- ▶ Muncy Valley Area VFC
- ▶ New Albany VFD
- ▶ North Mountain VFC
- ▶ Picture Rocks VFC
- ▶ Plunketts Creek Township VFD
- ▶ Trout Run VFC

ELDREDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



LOOKING GOOD: Eldredsville Volunteer Fire Company staff accept an award for Best Appearing Ambulance at the Laporte Fireman's Carnival in July. Shown, from left, are: firefighter and EMT-in-Training Bill Hunsinger; Assistant Chief Wes Mitchell; EMT Rita Armes; Ambulance Captain, EMT, and Secretary Mariah Fowler; and firefighter and EMT Donald Armes.

FORKSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



FORKSVILLE VFC: Representing Forksville Volunteer Fire Company, from left, are: Second Assistant Fire Chief Randy Rosbach, firefighter and Forksville Mayor Steve Brown, Fire Captain Wes Mitchell, President Russell Bennett, Fire Chief Matt Tubach, and Vice President and Treasurer Len Heaton.

The donations will be used for a variety of services.

At Hillsgrove VFC, the money is being put toward paying the loan on Engine 54, which won the Best Appearing Engine Award at the Laporte Fireman's Carnival in July. Endless Winds VFC in Shunk is putting the donation toward their truck fund, which will be used to satisfy their financial obligation for a new tanker to be obtained with a FEMA grant.

Eldredsville VFC is using the money to pay off its new Ford F-550 truck chassis for its ambulance. The ambulance needed a new chassis following repeated breakdowns in 2022.

"We are so grateful to be part of a rural community where people work together and local services can be mutually supportive," says Mariah Fowler, Eldredsville ambulance captain, EMT, and fire company secretary.

Like Hillsgrove, Eldredsville participated in the Laporte Fireman's Carnival and was awarded the Best Appearing Ambulance Award.

Other fire companies put their donation toward improving their station. Forksville VFC has a list of repairs to be made in spring 2024, which the cooperative's donation will help fund. Repairs include fixing holes in the siding, sealing the roof, repairing broken windows, painting the entire building, installing new gutters, and repaving the entire parking lot.

Both New Albany VFD and Plunketts Creek Township VFD are using their donations to buy new supplies. New Albany purchased a one-and-one-half-inch nozzle to be used on Engine 2. Plunketts Creek will use the donated

money to replace expired medical supplies, such as EpiPens, since the check was made to their ambulance service and EMS.

“We are very appreciative of the donations we receive from SCREC,” Ambulance Captain Bruce Guinter says.

Besides these donations, SCREC also offers a gifting program for all 19 employees and nine directors. This year we had 100% participation, with 12 employees and directors donating to area fire companies, ambulance services, or EMS.

“This most recent donation was only one in a series of significant SCREC donations over the years,” says Laurel Mueller, Eldredsville VFC treasurer, EMT, and firefighter. “Many of these donations were employee-directed, and we are extremely grateful for them.”

“With the passage of Act 187 of 2006, the Commonwealth gave electric cooperatives the ability to use unclaimed capital credits for three purposes: energy assistance, civic purposes, or educational purposes,” SCREC CEO John Lykens explains. “Your board adopted a resolution to use unclaimed capital credits that otherwise would be escheated to the Commonwealth for the aforementioned three purposes.

HILLSGROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



PRESENTATION MATTERS: Hillsgrove Volunteer Fire Company staff accept an award for Best Appearing Engine at the Laporte Fireman's Carnival. Shown accepting the award, from left, are: Chief Operator Will Gudowski, Firefighter Darren Rosbach, EMT Alyssa Mowry, Captain Chase Stabryla, Chief Bill Stabryla, and Firefighter Kian Fenella.



“Through this program, SCREC is able to give back to the civic organizations that do so much for our communities and our members,” he adds. “We are grateful to the Commonwealth for recognizing the importance of unclaimed dollars to remain local to help our members and our community; to all the men and women who serve in these great organizations; and to all past members whose capital investments have made it possible to pay forward and invest in these anchor institutions.”

SCREC is proud of the relationship with its members and the communities they live in, which, in turn, helps us to be the best rural electric cooperative we can be.

“In addition to electric safety training for first responders, SCREC assistance has meant a lot,” Mueller says. “Our co-op loaned their bucket truck to mount the light on our fire company flagpole. When we constructed Station 56 in 2004, they were there to drill the holes for the pole building. We will always remember that.”

NOTICE OF 2024 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Candidates sought for Districts 3, 4, 8

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative will hold director elections for Districts 3, 4, and 8 in 2024.

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

Residential members from Districts 3, 4, or 8 interested in running for a position on the board 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. 17.

Petitions must be received by 3:30 p.m. Jan. 17, 2024, to be considered. The petitions will be reviewed by the cooperative’s Credentials and Election Committee. The election of directors will be conducted via mail-in 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 webpage.

Director Districts up for election in 2024:

District 3 (three-year term): Overton Township (Bradford County), Forks Township (Sullivan County), and Forksville Borough (Sullivan County)

District 4 (three-year term): Laporte Borough and Laporte and Cherry townships (Sullivan County), and New Albany Township (Bradford County)

District 8 (three-year term): Plunketts Creek Township (Lycoming County)

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Employees

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

LIFE HAS A FUNNY WAY of never going as planned. How many of you ever thought you'd live where you do today, have the hobbies you do, have the pets and/or children you do, or the jobs you go to every day?

Darrick Higley, journeyman lineman at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC), never thought he would be a lineworker. He has an associate degree in automotives from Penn College and previously worked in the coal mines in Mildred and for Spako's Tree Service, which got his foot in the door for line work.

Darrick's first day at SCREC was Feb. 29, 2016. Over the years, he has taken part in hot line, sticking, gloving, and underground training to further his electric powerline knowledge.

"You never have the same day twice" Darrick says.

Our members make the job even



KIDS AND COMMITMENTS: Journeyman Lineman Darrick Higley poses with his daughter, Kayla, who keeps her dad on the go with cheerleading competitions. Darrick also attends his son Nathan's wrestling matches at George Mason University.

better for our lineworkers, too. The crews have had members bring them food and drinks when they're working.

"I really do like storm restoration," Darrick says. "Especially when people appreciate what you're doing. It's a really good feeling ... except you haven't slept in four days!"

The industry presents its challenges, of course. It's an ever-changing career that requires learning how to use and implement new technology, equipment, and safety practices. A challenge particular to SCREC has been the recent employee turnover. Within the last year and a half, the co-op has said goodbye to six employees and shuffled several positions around, while also welcoming five new employees to its Forksville office. Getting everyone settled in and working together has paid off, but it has taken time to get adjusted.

"Look into the job before you do it," Darrick suggests for anyone considering a career in linework. "Do your background work first before you get involved."

Outside of work, Darrick's children and their sports keep him on the go.

His son, Nathan, is a Division I sophomore athlete at George Mason University in Virginia, wrestling at 149 pounds for the Patriots. Darrick tries to attend most of Nathan's home meets, which are about eight or 10 each year. His daughter, Kayla, is a member of Pennsylvania Elite Cheerleading. Competitions take her all over the country — recently to Ocean City, MD, and Orlando, FL.

At home in Laporte, Darrick and his dog, Petey, enjoy working on muscle cars. He has a 1974 Chevrolet Nova under construction in the garage. He also volunteers for local wrestling clubs.

Training, inclement weather, keeping up with technology, late nights, school ... the list of things our lineworkers go through to keep your power on seems endless. This holiday season, we're thankful for our co-op's line crews and all of our dedicated employees! 🙏

Director Henderson Recently Certified

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Director Ann Henderson has recently been certified with Director Gold status. Director Gold recognizes board members who are committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certification.

Ann had to take three courses in the past two years to qualify. Because she achieved her Director Gold status, Ann has demonstrated her ongoing commitment to advancing her knowledge and performing her fiduciary duty to the best of her ability.

Ann is the board representative from District 1, which includes Fox Township in Sullivan County, McNett Township in Lycoming County, and Canton Township in Bradford County. For the last two years, Ann has been serving as chair of the cooperative's board of directors. 🙏



GOLD STATUS: Dr. Stephan Brady, vice chairman of the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, presents board Chair Ann Henderson with her Director Gold certificate.