

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephan Paul Brady - CCD/BLC/Gold***
Chair

David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold
Vice Chair

Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold
Secretary

David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold
Karen Beinlich - CCD

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.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Members



JOHN LYKENS

AS ANOTHER YEAR IS QUICKLY coming to an end, we are reminded to be thankful for the many blessings in our lives. Our family, friends, co-workers and jobs are just a few that come to mind. Here at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC), we are especially thankful for all our members.

At the cooperative, we pride ourselves on being more than a utility provider; we are a community and a family. As a member-owned electric cooperative, our primary mission has always been to serve our consumer-members with reliable electricity and outstanding service. At our booth at the Sullivan County Fair this year, we heard great feedback. Many members commented on our quick outage response and excellent communication through social media posts. We appreciate this positive feedback, and to that end, we are extremely thankful to you, our members, who make everything possible.

SCREC is built on community. The cooperative has been serving this region for decades, and throughout that time, one truth remains constant: we exist because of our members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, where profits go to shareholders, your cooperative operates as a not-for-profit entity. This means every decision we make and every dollar we spend is focused on providing value to you. When the cooperative succeeds, you succeed.

We are thankful for the trust you place in us to power your homes, farms and businesses. The connection we share with you goes beyond our role as a service provider; we're committed to building relationships with our members and making sure we're always there for you when you need us. Whether it's responding to outages, upgrading infrastructure, or rolling out new technologies, we do it with our members' best interests at heart.

We believe the key to the cooperative's success is member involvement, and we are grateful for your active participation. It can be by attending the annual meeting, participating in board elections, or engaging with us in person or over the phone, your involvement helps shape the future of our cooperative. Every vote, every suggestion, and every interaction matters!

Our members are also our advocates, helping us grow and improve by spreading the word about the benefits of cooperative membership. Many of you have shared your positive experiences with neighbors, family, and friends, and for that, we are deeply appreciative. And some members have gone as far as joining America's Electric Cooperatives PAC, a grassroots lobbying organization that serves as an advocate for rural electric cooperatives nationwide. We sincerely appreciate those of you who have chosen to join the PAC.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to serving you with the same dedication that has long been the foundation of SCREC. We are investing in various energy solutions, improving the efficiency of our grid, and working hard to ensure that we can continue to provide affordable, reliable power for generations to come. We wouldn't be where we are today without the continued support, trust, and partnership of our members, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

All of us at the cooperative offer a sincere "thank you" for your trust, your involvement and your continued support. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to light up our community. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

Shopping Small is a Big Deal for Local Businesses

Mountainside Handmade, Muncy Valley

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

ONE OF THE MANY BLESSINGS of living in a rural area is that our tight-knit community supports one another, whether it's lending a helping hand or supporting local, small businesses. Thankfully, for Mountainside Handmade entrepreneur Carissa Gavitt, the community has helped her little business flourish.

Mountainside Handmade began as an artistic outlet for Carissa, who would paint and draw for family and friends. She also enjoys knitting and other crafts.

"I was already making the items, so I thought, 'Why not try selling them on Etsy?'" she recalls.

Her online shop opened in 2020. While starting the Etsy shop was daunting at first, the platform is very user-friendly, and she figured it out quickly.

"Opening the Etsy shop gave me a reason to do more with my art, too," Carissa adds. She began thinking of other things to make and sell, especially pieces that people would want to keep buying, which is how she got into jewelry.

Her shop features beaded earrings and necklaces and gemstone pieces made of jasper, quartz, labradorite, and turquoise, and she recently began dabbling in creating wood-burned earrings. She isn't limited to jewelry, though. She also offers painted picture frames and wine glasses, wood-burned bookmarks, smart watch bands, and an ever-rotating inventory of other creations.

"One time, I bought a beautiful piece of amethyst that I broke and wrapped each individual piece in wire to create jewelry with," she recalls. "That was really challenging and a lot of fun."

Creating a pair of earrings with a few gemstones doesn't take too long, but beading is a meticulous process, and evenly spacing bracelets is too.

"Each piece is different," she says. "I love how each one turns out ... sometimes I keep them for myself."

Carissa is a full-time substitute teacher at Muncy High School and has leaned on the high school's art teacher for inspiration. She wants to try embroidery next, so keep an eye on Mountainside Handmade's social media pages and Etsy shop for these new pieces.

Carissa grew up on Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative lines and still lives in the area. Her husband, Kanen, children, Layla and Archer, and pup, Boone, call Muncy Valley home and fully embrace rural living, including enjoying the outdoors, hiking, and spending time with her family.

Carissa also likes to attend in-person events as a vendor. She says it's a great opportunity to support other small-town vendors. Plus, she gets to meet her customers in person.

To shop Carissa's products, visit Mountainside Handmade on Etsy or check out her Facebook and Instagram pages. Her next in-person event is the Christmas Village at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds in Forksville. Vendors will be there on back-to-back Saturdays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, and the light display will be illuminated evenings during the first week of December. Carissa also has items for sale at the Dushore Pharmacy.

Carissa began stockpiling items for the holiday season in September. Jewelry is often a well-loved gift for the women in our lives, and she will also be offering her popular painted and wood-burned Christmas ornaments. If you're looking to give something more personal, she enjoys doing custom

CARISSA GAVITT



GAVITT FAMILY: Mountainside Handmade's Carissa Gavitt is shown with her husband, Kanen, and children, Layla and Archer.

paintings and drawings or jewelry sets.

Small Business Saturday is held the Saturday after Black Friday, which traditionally kicks off the Christmas shopping season. Shopping small throughout November or, even better, throughout the entire year, supports local families — your friends, neighbors, and community members. Carissa Gavitt is just one example of the many talented folks in our area who we can support. 📍

CARISSA GAVITT



ARTIST AT WORK: Above, Carissa Gavitt traces lines on a deer skull in preparation for painting. Below, she shows off one of her wood burning pieces.

CARISSA GAVITT



SARAH PARRISH

EASY GIFT-GIVING: It's no secret: Women love jewelry. If you need some inspiration while shopping this holiday season, visit Carissa Gavitt's Mountainside Handmade Etsy shop.

Notice of 2025 Director Elections

Candidates Sought for Districts 2, 6, 9

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (SCREC) will hold director elections for Districts 2, 6, and 9 in 2025.

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 at screc.com by clicking on "SCREC Center" and "Bylaws." All directors attend in-person meetings once a month.

Residential members from Districts 2, 6, and 9 interested in running for a position on the board must be nominated by a petition signed by at least 10 members living in the candidate's respective district. Contact Diane White at 570-924-3381 or dianewhite@screc.com for petition nomination forms and additional information. Petitions can be requested starting Nov. 18 and must be received by 3:30 p.m. Jan. 16, 2025, 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 screc.com.

Director districts up for election in 2025 (all three-year terms) are:

- District 2:** Elkland and Hillsgrove townships, Sullivan County
- District 6:** Mill Creek, Shrewsbury and Wolf townships, Lycoming County
- District 9:** Cascade, Gamble and Lewis townships, Lycoming County

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Directors

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

"I KNEW FROM MY FIRST BOARD meeting that this was something I wanted to be a part of."

Dave Aumen has been the director representing Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative's (SCREC) District 8 for 21 years. His position is unique: he's one of two directors to only serve one municipality, Plunketts Creek Township in Lycoming County, and 48% of his members are seasonal.

"My district covers the Loyalsock Creek, State Forest, and Game Lands," Dave says. "A lot of cabin folks stay here because of it's a recreational area, and that's one of the reasons I love it, too."

Dave joined the board in 2003 after the passing of John Anstadt. He was contacted by Ed Keller, who urged Dave to sit in on a board meeting to see if it would interest him. Dave was hooked, and the board appointed him to complete the remainder of John's term. He won re-election and has been on the board since.

"Everyone gets along, we all agree to disagree when we have to — and we've gotten into some pretty lengthy discussions," Dave says. "I'm so lucky to be part of a great group of people."

Not only is our nine-member board a great group to work with, but the co-op family also extends nationwide. Dave enjoys meeting with other directors from across the country to hear what they are facing and how they are managing it.

"Our co-op is small and extremely rural ... if our board doesn't stay on top of trends, we can be left out of the 'big picture,'" Dave explains, noting the importance of statewide and regional meetings that pool information and knowledge from other electric co-ops and leaders. "This is especially necessary with the recent power supply and environmental changes being talked about in the Environmental Protection Agency."

Like the other directors, Dave

attends training, which not only helps him perform his duties better, but also helps him in his everyday life.

"I enjoy every aspect of being a director," he says, "especially getting the education and then putting it in place and doing it."

Dave is honored to pass this knowledge down to new board members, too.

"I learned so much from former directors such as Curt Rakestraw and Wayne Gavitt, and my senior directors," he says. "I want to be able to give the guidance they gave me to new directors."

Dave has earned the status of Credentialed Cooperative Director as well as Board Leadership and Director Gold credentials. To maintain his Director Gold status, he has to complete three courses every two years. His seniority and knowledge earned him a place on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) Board of Directors, which has 14 directors who represent the 13 electric co-ops in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey. Dave is chairman of Allegheny's Power Supply Committee and is also on its Ethics & Disclosure of Interest Committee.

At the local level, Dave serves on the cooperative's Broadband Committee and Policy and Bylaw Committee and is chairman of the Facility Committee. He's proud of the progress SCREC has made in improving its system, which has included constructing new three-phase line and updating substations, all of which has increased reliability for members.

"Every decision the board makes is for the direction of the co-op," Dave explains. "Craig Harting started the progress when he was CEO, and now John Lykens is following in his footsteps."

Dave's involvement doesn't stop at



MEET DAVE AUMEN: This month's director spotlight shines on Dave Aumen, who represents members in Plunketts Creek Township in Lycoming County.

the co-op board. Aumen's Forest and Wildlife Management Service keeps him busy outdoors as a tree, forest, and wildlife (especially whitetail deer) habitat consultant. He advises clients on timber sales, does invasive species control, plants food plots, and offers other services.

He's an avid archer and loves traditional bowhunting. In his 20s and 30s, Dave was a competitive compound bow archer for Hoyt and one of the top 10 archers in Pennsylvania for several years. He builds his own arrows and loads his own ammunition. He also loves hunting and fishing.

Dave is president of the North-central Pennsylvania Branch of the National Deer Association and a tree farm inspector. He and his family are members of Loyalsock Baptist Church.

Dave, his wife, Annie, and son, Larry (a Youth Tour alum), live in Barbours. Larry has a beagle, Lea, and 10 beef cows and aspires to operate a small farm. Dave's family has a history in the beef industry, and he's happy to help his son follow this passion.

"I've made many good friends over the years serving on our board of directors, especially [the late] Craig Harting," Dave says. "It's been a blessing to serve our members."

The co-op is just as blessed to have such dedicated directors. 🍷