

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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 Forksville, PA 18616
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 1-800-570-5081
 Email: screc@epix.net
 Website: www.screc.com

Staff

Craig A. Harting, CEO
Dennis Klem, Manager,
 Finance and Administration
Walt Tubach, Manager,
 Electric Operations
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David L. Aumen – CCD*/BLC**/Gold***
 Chairman
Jay Lewis – CCD
 Vice Chairman
Kathy A. Robbins – CCD/BLC/Gold
 Secretary
Stephan Paul Brady – CCD/BLC/Gold
Jeff Hamilton – CCD/BLC
Ann B. Henderson – CCD/BLC
Jim Lambert
David R. Rakestraw

*Credentialed Cooperative Director
 **Board Leadership Certificate
 ***Director Gold Certificate

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

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting

Notice of the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members

Tuesday, May 17

Online via Zoom

The annual meeting of the members of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Forksville, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, online via Zoom.

You must register in advance to attend the annual meeting.

Note: You will need to download the Zoom meeting app before the annual meeting at zoom.us/download (you do not need a Zoom account).

Please register by going to this site by May 16 and entering your name and email address:

<http://bit.ly/screcAnnual2022>

AGENDA

6:30 p.m. – Call to Order

Report of 2022 Director Election (Attorney Chappell)

Board Chair Report (David Aumen)

CEO Report (Craig Harting)

Introduction of New CEO (David Aumen)

Q&A (submitted online during the meeting)

7:15 p.m. (approximately) – Adjournment

We hope you can join us!

Please send in your ballot

The 2022 director election ballots were sent out for Districts 2, 6 and 9. Please vote for all districts and send your ballot back to us by Tuesday, May 17, in the gold envelope that was enclosed with the ballot. You may also drop ballots off at the office, provided they are received by 10:30 a.m. May 17 and are in the special gold envelope.

Do not include any payments or other correspondence because the gold envelopes will not be opened until May 17.

2022 election districts up for election are:

District 2 – Karen F. Beinlich

District 6 – Jay O. Lewis

District 9 – Stephan P. Brady

Remember: All members can vote for directors in all districts. Thank you for your participation in this important activity.

From the operations department

By Walter Tubach

I'M SURE some of you remember the TV shows, like "M*A*S*H," "The Waltons" and "Gunsmoke," that aired throughout the 1970s. I like watching the old shows for a number of reasons.

Mostly, I like to relax and try to remember the different episodes. In a recent episode of "M*A*S*H" I watched, a wounded soldier was recovering from surgery and trying to sell annuities.



Walter Tubach
Manager, Electric
Operations

Evidently, this is what he did before he was drafted to serve his country.

This GI's punchline to get others to purchase annuities was, "People don't plan to fail — they fail to plan." This quote is true in every aspect of life. We feel we can put things off until tomorrow, no matter the scenario. I want to talk about this saying in relation to having a plan for outages that occur.

I know whole-house emergency generators are very expensive to purchase, but that is not the only way to prepare for power loss. While outages occur on cooperative lines, the supply lines that cross this area are susceptible to outages as well from possible terrorist attacks, equipment malfunctions, severe storms, animals and a range of other causes.

I suggest getting a small portable generator of 5,000 watts if you have a smaller budget. These little generators are available for less than \$600 and will really save you and your home. What you will need to do is run an extension cord from the generator into your home so that you can plug in your refrigerator, freezer, water pump, furnace fan for heat, air conditioner or whatever you need. You can only run one item at a time.

Yes, you will have to continually move the cord from appliance to appliance because the generator is

small, but this will keep your home from freezing up in the winter and keep your refrigerator/freezer cold for food. It is much better to save your items and your home doing this than to lose food, have your water pipes freeze and burst, or have a heat stroke. These items will cost much more than \$600 to replace in a long outage that may or not be something Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) can control.

Alternately, the co-op sells a generator transfer switch that connects your generator to your home. The switch will carry 30 or 40 amps of generator power, and it comes with a removable cord that plugs into the switch and your generator. The co-op sells these switches at

cost and installs them for free.

In 2021, the cooperative experienced 824 outages. Power supply to our five substations accounted for 70 of these outages and 135 hours of outage time was accrued, with 105 of those hours at the Kellyburg substation alone. I am so thankful that every one of our substations was able to be backfed from another substation. The ability to backfeed all the substations helps keep the outage time per member down, and Sullivan County REC is not at the mercy of power supply to be restored.

I had 58 planned outages last year. All of these were for maintenance to replace more than 90 bad poles, insulators, and stranded wires, new construc-



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

APRIL 11

tion jobs to tie in a new pole or equipment, and routine line upgrades needed to continue to improve reliability.

Material and equipment failure resulted in 49 outages. This included cracked insulators, ceramic cutouts and breaker failures.

Severe weather rocked us all year long. Lightning and high wind caused 53 outages. Wind with ice, sleet and other weather-related events caused an additional 120 outages.

Animals and birds coming into contact with the lines caused 33 outages. We are constantly installing guards on transformers and other apparatus to help protect our furry and feathered friends, but somehow they still come into contact with the lines.

Consumer-caused outages from fire, motor vehicle accidents and downed trees over the lines caused 47 outages. There were 17 “other” related outages.

Outages with unknown causes happened 133 times. During these events, the lineworkers were never able to find what happened to knock the line out.

Tree-related incidents caused

244 outages. This included trees falling from outside the rights of way from high winds, falling from ice and snow overload or just falling because they were dead. Our three tree-trimming crews cut and trimmed more than 114 miles of line, cut 11,868 trees and trimmed 8,069 trees. The spray crew broadcast-sprayed 68 miles of foliage and brush. With more than 900 miles of line to clear in three counties, it takes about seven to eight years to get around the entire system. Just think about that: We have enough power line to reach from here to Jacksonville, Florida!

We are working extremely hard to keep the electricity flowing to your homes, cabins and places of work each and every day, and we will never stop working hard for you, our owners.

All of these outages together totaled 37 hours of outage time per member. If we didn't have eight outage hours from the power supplier to the substations, then each member would have experienced 29 hours of outage time. 2021 was the worst year for outage times since 2017, when the severe storms

and high winds that struck us that year caused 56 hours of outage time per member and 46 hours of power supply outages.

Our lineworkers inspected more than 150 miles of line last year. The inspection of lines is very important for the preventive maintenance we do. This helps us find issues on the line and repair them during the day so we do not have issues that can cause an outage at a later time.

We change out approximately 65 circuit breakers each year and have them sent out for testing, oil changes, and settings checks, per the manufacturer's specifications. Once these items are cleared for reuse, we reinstall them for the next three years, and the rotation starts all over again.

The employees at Sullivan County REC do their best to deliver reliable electricity to serve you. If you change a phone number, please let the office know so we can reach you, if necessary.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my article about your electric system, the outages we incur and the problems we face. Please stay safe. ❁

Look up to be safe when working outdoors

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

SPRING IS HERE...well at least according to the calendar. But depending upon where you live, it may not feel like spring for a few weeks yet. Living in Sullivan County, it always seems that some areas around us have signs of spring long before we do. They'll have robins scattered around looking for worms, and trees will begin to bud while we're still moving snow around.

But the fact is that before we know it, warmer temperatures will greet us during the day. People will put away their snow shovels, warm up their lawn mowers and get their gardens ready for planting.

They'll also be eager to get outside and do those projects that had to be put off all winter long.

When working outdoors, members need to be aware of electrical lines. Power lines are everywhere, but like so many things in life, we get used to them and eventually forget they're there. But when working around your home, you need to keep them in mind. Some activities that could put you at risk of accidentally coming in contact with a power line are:

- ▶ Cleaning gutters
- ▶ Working on roof repairs
- ▶ Installing a flag pole or post for athletic equipment
- ▶ Installing a satellite dish or radio antenna
- ▶ Painting

When you have an outdoor project that involves a ladder, it's time to be doubly careful. I've had a few

experiences in my life where ladders seemed to come to life and try to cause me bodily harm, so I now take extra precautions when using one.

Using a ladder not only increases your chances of falling, but also increases your risk of coming in contact with power lines. When using a ladder outdoors, be sure to know where power lines are located. Always look up when raising or moving a ladder to make sure there are no power lines nearby. And use a ladder made from non-conductive materials, such as fiberglass.

I know you're eager to get outdoors and dive into those projects, but when working or playing outdoors, be sure to look up and stay away from power lines. ❁



*Celebrate
with us!*

OPEN HOUSE

*Join us to celebrate our
85th anniversary!*

**Friday, May 27
10 a.m. – 2 p.m**

**Sullivan County Rural Electric Office
5675 Route 87
Forksville, PA**

***Reservations appreciated:
Contact Diane White at de.white@frontier.com or 570-924-3381.***

