

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

Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold
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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.

Powering Through Outages – The GenerLink Solution



JOHN LYKENS

IN THE WAKE OF SEVERE weather events like the July storm that left more than 3,400 Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) members without power for as long as four days, many members considered purchasing a generator.

Portable generators – a flexible power solution

For those seeking a more affordable option to a standby generator, portable generators can keep essential systems running during outages. However, safely connecting a portable generator to your home's electrical system requires a properly sized and installed transfer switch.

The importance of transfer switches

A transfer switch is not just a convenience; it's a critical safety device that isolates your generator from the co-op's supply lines. This isolation is essential to protecting line personnel who are making repairs. Traditional transfer switches, while effective, can be costly, often exceeding \$1,000 for installation by a certified electrician.

Introducing GenerLink: a cost-effective, user-friendly alternative

SCREC offers a solution: the GenerLink transfer switch, which has advantages over other transfer switches.

- 1. Easy installation:** The GenerLink is a collar, about the size of an electric meter, that fits into your existing meter base. A crew from SCREC will install it at no additional cost.
- 2. No home modifications:** Unlike other transfer switches, the GenerLink requires no wiring changes.
- 3. Simple operation:** Each GenerLink comes with an interlocking power cord for easy generator connection.
- 4. Automatic switching:** Once connected and started, the GenerLink automatically disconnects from the co-op's lines and connects your generator to your home's loads.
- 5. Safety features:** The GenerLink will not automatically reconnect to the co-op's system once power is restored. Only after the generator is disconnected will power resume flowing from the co-op's lines.

GenerLink options and pricing

The cooperative offers two GenerLink models:

- 1. 30-amp transfer switch:**
 - ▶ Suitable for generators up to 7,200 watts
 - ▶ Priced at \$662.50, includes a 20-foot cord
- 2. 40-amp transfer switch:**
 - ▶ Suitable for generators up to 9,600 watts
 - ▶ Priced at \$795, includes a 20-foot cord

Portable generator safety

When using a portable generator, always follow these crucial safety guidelines:

- 1. Ventilation:** Operate generators in well-ventilated outdoor areas, away from doors, windows, and vents.

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Many Hands Aid July Outage Restoration

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

MANY OF YOU WILL REMEMBER the widespread outages our cooperative faced the week of July 15-19.

A rain and wind storm the evening of Monday, July 15, caused approximately 3,400 outages throughout our service territory — that’s half of our membership. Our line crews were immediately dispatched, but by Tuesday morning it was clear there was more storm damage than Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative’s (SCREC) nine linemen and three operations staff could handle.

New Enterprise REC sent Journeyman Linemen Roman Dell and Kyler Fink to aid in outage restoration; Indiana-based REA Energy Cooperative sent Chief Lineman Wayne Buterbaugh and Journeyman Lineman Chad Empfield; Huntingdon-based Valley REC sent Crew Leader Rob Shook and Fourth-Year Lineman Dane Diehl; and Northwestern REC sent Chief Linemen Aaron Butler and John Mailliard and Journeyman Linemen Blaze Pietrowski and Dylan Thomas.

Contracted crews from Everhart & Hoover — Crew Chief Corey Lomison, Journeyman Linemen Mason Lomison, Titus Sheets, and Bob Hamilton, and Apprentice Lineman Braxton Phillips — also lent helping hands along with our contracted tree crews from Spako’s Tree Services: Jared Bogart, Kyle McEwan, Cody Moon, Tyler Rider, Jake Rittle, Jeff Spako Sr., Kyle Spako, Logan Wiles, and David Youmans. In total, there were 35 men working to restore power.

Fallen trees and limbs

Trees and wind caused most of the damage on our 900 miles of line.

“Contrary to what people believe, most tree damage comes from live trees, not dead ones,” Operations Manager Todd Molyneux explains. “The leaves catch the wind, which pulls them over. Wind passes right past dead trees.”

Fallen trees and limbs caused downed lines, broken poles, busted crossarms, and equipment damage. After clearing the storm damage, five poles, two step-down transformers, and four transformers needed to be replaced. Plus, dozens of crossarms and insulators and a lot of lines needed to be spliced.

The hardest-hit areas were along Route 87 in the Barbour area, Huntersville, and Lungerville. Crews worked for more than 70 hours that week restoring power to members.

“It’s easy to get a few hundred back on fairly quick [3 to 4 hours is ‘quick’ in linemen terms],” Operations Assistant I Jeff Spako says. “It’s a hard topic to explain to our members. We’re very grateful for their patience.”

The longest a resident was without power was from the evening of July 15 to the morning of July 19 — 86 hours. A three-phase pole that needed to be replaced kept a



MANY HANDS: Many hands make light work ... as light of work as storm restoration can be! Eight linemen work on fixing a section of line, owned by Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, that was damaged during severe storms in July.

seasonal member out longer.

“Replacing a three-phase pole is a big job,” explains Todd, who was managing his first large-scale outage since becoming operations manager.

“SCREC linemen did an excellent job managing more than 100 separate outages, as did Todd Molyneux, who was in the office dispatching crews to each trouble location,” CEO John Lykens says. “All personnel, including [mutual-aid and contract] crews assisting with our restoration efforts, worked tirelessly to restore power to those affected by the storm.

“Additionally,” he added, “all SCREC employees worked to support the restoration effort. From answering member calls to identifying trouble locations ahead of the linemen, everyone pitched in to help. Everyone should be commended for their efforts.”

Preparing for the next one

The week following the storm, crews replaced equipment and tools in their trucks, cleaned up remaining storm damage, and cut danger trees. The work of our line crews never stops, and it’s these little tasks that help prepare them for the next major storm.

When an outage does occur at your home or cabin,

please contact the co-op using our outage number: 570-924-3418. You may also call our office at 570-924-3381 to ask questions during office hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Please note: In the event of widespread outages like those in July, answers may be limited.) Members can also visit the outage viewer at screc.com, which shows outage locations, how many members are affected, and if a crew has been assigned or dispatched to the area. The website also has tips on how to prepare for and what to do during an outage. You'll also find information about GenerLink, which is a quick and safe plug-in for generators.

SCREC is lucky to have a dedicated group of lineworkers, willing to work 24/7 for our members. Please keep these men in mind the next time your power goes out: Kendall Achey, journeyman lineman; Nolan Chase, senior lineman; Josh Heess Jr, apprentice lineman; Darrick Higley, journeyman lineman; Dave Kepner, crew chief; Shane Kline, apprentice lineman; Alex Laudermilch, journeyman lineman; Tom Livezey, journeyman lineman; Todd Molyneux, operations manager; Chad Phillips, senior lineman; Jeff Spako, operations assistant I; and Tyler Worthen, operations assistant II. 📍

POWERING THROUGH OUTAGES

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2. Refueling: Never refuel a running or hot generator.

3. Maintenance: Regularly service your generator according to the manufacturer's instructions.

While power outages are an unfortunate reality, a portable generator with a GenerLink transfer switch can significantly reduce their impact on your life. For GenerLink details, call our office at 570-924-3381. 📍

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

Nine Students Begin College Careers with SCREC Scholarship

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION for students throughout our service territory, from kids just starting kindergarten to those beginning their college careers.

To promote education and give back to our members and their families, the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) Scholarship was introduced last year for graduating high school seniors. Now in its second year, the scholarship has been renamed the SCREC Craig A. Harting Memorial Scholarship in honor of our former CEO of 32 years, the late Craig Harting.

During the 2023-2024 school year, 14 scholarship applications were received. Each one was reviewed anonymously by our Scholarship Committee members — Directors Karen Beinlich, Steve Brady, and Dave Aumen — who selected nine students, each of whom received a \$1,000 scholarship.

To be considered for the scholarship, students had to meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Student's parent or guardian must be an SCREC member;
- ▶ Student must be a graduating high school senior;
- ▶ Student must attend either a public or private school while living in the cooperative's service territory, or be homeschooled/cyberschooled in our service territory;
- ▶ Student must be obtaining a post-secondary education (e.g., university/college, trade school, electric lineworker school, etc.) or opening a small business; and
- ▶ Student cannot be an immediate relation to any employee or director of SCREC.

To apply, students had to fill out an application, which included answering eight questions, submit academic proof (high school transcript, SAT/ACT results, and post-secondary acceptance letter or proof of entrepreneurial business venture), and write an essay of at least 500 words.

It was the privilege of SCREC to award scholarships to the following Sullivan County High School students:

- ▶ **Benjamin Carpenter**, Bloomsburg University, pursuing a degree in criminal justice to become a Pennsylvania State Police officer;
- ▶ **Derrick Finnegan**, California State University of Los Angeles, pursuing a bachelor's degree to become a stock broker;
- ▶ **Cloe Immel**, Lock Haven University, pursuing a master's degree to become an athletic trainer;
- ▶ **Zakkary Mingos**, Bloomsburg University, pursuing a master's degree in biology to become a medical doctor;
- ▶ **Ryan Nolan**, Southeast Lineman Training Center, to become an electrical lineworker; and
- ▶ **Brock Wettlaufer**, Wilkes University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

The co-op was also honored to award scholarships to the following Montoursville Area High School students:

- ▶ **Madison Cohick**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, pursuing a nursing degree to become a pediatric nurse practitioner;
- ▶ **Maizy Havens**, University of Pittsburgh, pursuing a biological sciences degree to become a physician's assistant; and
- ▶ **James Kehrer**, Bloomsburg University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science.

The open period for 2025 scholarship applications will be announced on our social media (Facebook and Instagram) and screc.com, and in area newspapers, *Penn Lines*, and high schools by guidance counselors.

The staff and board of directors at SCREC wish all students the best of luck during the new school year. 📍

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Directors

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is lucky to have 19 dedicated employees who work for the betterment of its membership. But behind the scenes is our board of directors, consisting of nine men and women elected by our members to serve the districts they represent. It's important our members have the opportunity to meet these folks who advocate for them at the co-op.

Our first director to be introduced is Kathy Robbins, who has represented District 5 (Franklin, Jordan, and Penn townships in Lycoming County, and Davidson and Shrewsbury townships in Sullivan County) for 39 years. When she first joined in December 1985, Kathy was the first female and youngest director to ever serve on the board.

Kathy has dedicated hundreds of hours to attending SCREC, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association meetings, plus she has taken courses to obtain her Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, Board Leadership Certificate, and Director Gold credential. A former board chair, she currently serves as secretary and is a member of the Executive Board, Marketing, and Audit committees. Kathy is also a member of the PA/NJ Rural Electric Community Service Network, which raises funds for charities.

As part of her board duties, Kathy and her fellow directors review and set cooperative policies, set membership rates, review and allot capital credits, review reports, and follow the seven cooperative principles.

"It's a good idea [for our members] to have a better understanding of how the cooperative operates, the problems involved, and why the cost

of power is what it is," Kathy says.

"One of my priorities is trying to keep the rates and reliability reasonable."

During her tenure, Kathy has worked with three different chief executives. When she started in 1985, Ed Dezech served as CEO, followed by Craig Harting from 1989 to 2022, and now John Lykens. She's also faced other changes and challenges along the way.

"I was leery to join the board when Wayne Gavitt [a former director] asked me," she notes. "I didn't know anything about electricity — but Wayne told me that would change, and boy was he right! There's a lot more to the position than I ever guessed. It has been a real learning experience that I have enjoyed very much."

Kathy says these learning curves have been well worth it, though.

"I try to do what's best for the co-op, and I like working with the other directors and our employees," she says. "Our employees are outstanding."

Safety is another priority for the board. Kathy is a strong advocate for sending employees to training and always trying to make the right and safe decision.

"Safety during outages is a big concern, too," she adds. "I'd like to thank the co-ops that sent crews to help get power back on during our widespread outages in July." (For more about the recent outage restoration efforts, see the article on page 16B.)

Kathy is a lifelong resident of Sullivan County and has worked in many positions throughout the community. She's been a teacher's aide, library clerk, and part-time office clerk at Sullivan County and Sonestown elementary schools; deputy chief clerk, deputy treasurer,



DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION: Now that we've introduced you to all the employees serving you at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, it's time to meet our directors. Up first is Kathy Robbins, director for District 5.

and cashier at C&N Bank; and, finally, she served for 32 years as Sullivan County treasurer until her retirement in December 2019.

Kathy says she needs to stay busy — and that is an understatement. She volunteers for the Sullivan County Department of Emergency Services, where she was instrumental in getting 911 services for the county, and is a certified volunteer emergency dispatcher for fire and ambulances. She is also involved with the Muncy Valley Area Volunteer Fire Company, serving as treasurer and as a fire police responder. She is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Post 601, where she is co-chair, North Mountain Sportsman Association, and Sullivan County Action. She and her husband, Tom, are members of Hemlock Methodist Church on North Mountain. The couple will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary this month, and they have a cat, Myrtle.

In the following months, our goal is to give you a better understanding of the directors working for SCREC, their involvement in the cooperative, and the roles they serve in our communities as well. 🐾