

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

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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.

From the CEO



Thankful but planning

By Craig A. Harting

We have many reasons to be thankful this year at the cooperative. While we experienced many storms this summer, it could have been a lot worse if we had been hit with hurricanes like our sister cooperatives down South.

Like last year, we have been very busy with new services and upgrades. Fortunately, we were able to continue our maintenance programs and complete some system improvements. But most of all, we are thankful for a safe and healthy year.

Planning

We develop plans each fall for projects both in the office and the field. We then work through the budget process to balance costs and set priorities. We are always looking to hold down costs, yet provide excellent service and make improvements over time.

This fall, the board updated our co-op's strategic plan, which was last developed in 2017. We used a facilitator from one of our national organizations and began with a survey of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and potential future issues.

The responses were then distributed before the board's meeting, at which point we broke into teams and further refined the survey answers. We then focused on defining strategic topics and finally strategic goals.

Strategic goals

Our strategic goals for the next several years will be in the following

areas: succession planning, financial planning, cyber and physical security, and member engagement. We will also continue to monitor broadband deployment and safety.

With a number of baby boomers working here in the office, we will experience some retirements over the next few years and, therefore, will need to plan for their replacements. Financial plans will include balancing equity goals and capital credits cycles with capital improvements and retail rates.

Cyber and physical security are unfortunately timely topics for today's world. Member engagement is also more demanding as we serve a continually changing and more diverse membership. We continue to observe the availability of broadband and ever-evolving technology.

Our culture of safety is one we take very seriously. The Safety Committee is the hub of this commitment and meets monthly. The committee consists of five members from the office, lineworkers, and management (including me). We monitor progress, investigate accidents, discuss near-misses, inspect our facilities and make unannounced crew visits in the field.

Thankful

We have a lot to be thankful for during this pandemic- and storm-filled year. From all of us here at the cooperative, we would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving this year. 🍁

Rededication keeps memory alive

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

On Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m., representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the public gathered at Worlds End State Park to rededicate a plaque honoring two individuals: Abraham Lincoln Cox and John Annable.

The plaque honoring the two men states the following:

“Abraham Lincoln Cox (1866–1932) First Sullivan County Game Protector, Conservationist — Nature Lover — Philosopher. Created respect for game laws, developed desire for conservation of natural resources, was a friend to all who knew him.

John Annable (1878–1940) First Sullivan County Forest Ranger. His untiring efforts are reflected in the development of Whirl’s End Park (as it’s been called in the past). His work as a forest ranger and conservationist bears a tribute to his memory.

Both men were faithful and trustworthy servants of the public — were by nature, lovers of wildlife and forests and firmly believed in their conservation.”

The plaque was originally erected and dedicated to their memory on Oct. 15, 1941, by their many friends. The plaque’s first location at the park became less traveled and less visible over time. Thankfully, the grandnephew of Cox began an effort to have it moved.

“Roy Cox was the catalyst for the monument being moved. Previously, it was located in a picnic area of the park,” noted Michael Scott, deputy state game warden for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. “Over time, the marker was claimed by weeds and trees. We couldn’t have done it without the help of Kenny Jones, maintenance supervisor, and his maintenance crew at Worlds End. They were responsible



A REDEDICATION: In September, representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the public gathered at Worlds End State Park to rededicate a plaque honoring two individuals, Abraham Lincoln Cox and John Annable.

for it being relocated.”

Bill Williams, game commission educator, spoke about the two men and the role they played in protecting the wildlife and forested lands of Sullivan County.

Williams explained that both men were pioneers in their respective fields and outstanding conservationists. According to Williams, it’s unusual to have individuals from different agencies recognized on one plaque.

“It’s rare that two men are recognized for their achievements on the same plaque — one was a game protector, and the other a forest ranger,” he said. “They’re two similar professions with each having a different emphasis.”

Cox was tasked primarily with the protection of wildlife through the enforcement of game laws. Annable was charged with conserving and enhancing the state forest habitat where wildlife is dependent.

‘A very interesting man’

Williams spoke briefly about Cox, the man and his dedication to duty.

Cox, who was from Dushore, began a career as a “game protector” in November 1919. While he was a



CONSERVATIONISTS HONORED: The plaque honoring Abraham Lincoln Cox and John Annable was originally erected and dedicated in their memory on Oct. 15, 1941, by their many friends.

dedicated protector of wildlife and a friend to many, it was noted that he could be “hard-boiled” when needed. Anyone committing a serious game law violation wouldn’t have gotten any sympathy from Cox and shouldn’t have expected to get off easily.

“He was a truly religious man, but saw no harm in sprinkling a few colorful metaphors in his talk if the occasion called for it,” Williams noted. “He was

well-loved by a multitude of friends. In short, he would have been a very interesting man to meet.”

Cox retired from the game commission on Sept. 17, 1932, and passed away one month later on Oct. 17, 1932, at the age of 66.

Retired Game Warden Bill Bower spoke about the life of early game wardens and how it all started.

To begin, it's important to go all the way back to England. At one time, much of the land was owned by the elite: kings, lords and barons. To keep an eye on their property and the wildlife that lived there, men were hired to protect the game. Because game became their “ward,” these men became known as game wardens.

If you think getting a fine or a hunting license revoked due to breaking the law is harsh, you should be grateful you didn't live in times gone past.

Game wardens in England had a lot of power, according to Bower.

“If a man was caught with game in the woods or with blood on his hands (thus the phrase, “caught red-handed”), he was hung right on the spot, generally with his own bowstring.”

As our country grew, more and more people came to America seeking work and a better life for their families and themselves. Of course, we didn't have grocery stores like we do today. You couldn't simply walk in and pick up a half-gallon of milk, a pound of bacon or some lunch meat. Instead, people had to look to the land and wildlife for sustenance.

“The people that came here were hard-working and needed meat,” Bower said. “The country couldn't raise enough food for these workers, so they turned to the bountiful supply of wildlife. This era lasted for 50 years. By the end of this period, the wildlife population was depleted.”

Game protectors were not well-liked

To help save wildlife, the Pennsylvania Game Commission was formed in 1895. In 1901, the commission was able to hire game protectors. Later, their



MONUMENT MOVED: Roy Cox, the grandnephew of Abraham Lincoln Cox, was responsible for initiating the effort to have the monument moved to an area that's more visible to those visiting Worlds End State Park.

title was changed to game wardens.

No one likes to be told what to do, and many were unhappy with the restrictions placed on them by the Game Commission. According to Bower, early game protectors were very unpopular.

“To say that these new officers were unpopular would be an understatement,” he said. “In 1904, three officers were shot. In 1906, 14 officers were shot at, seven were hit, three were killed, three seriously wounded and one civilian who came to the aid of a game protector was killed.”

Besides not being liked, game protectors worked alone and had no way of contacting anyone if help was needed.

Things have improved for game war-

dens since those early days, but at times it can still be a difficult and dangerous position.

“One of the responsibilities of a game warden is to go out at night and keep an eye out for people shooting deer,” Bower noted. “It's a hard time to work, it's boring, and if you happen to encounter someone, they always have a gun. You might encounter someone who's been drinking or on drugs, and then you have your hands full.”

If you happen to be traveling by Worlds End State Park, stop in at the office and see the monument dedicated to the memory of two individuals who spent their lives protecting the land and wildlife of Pennsylvania. 🌞

Notice of 2022 director elections

Candidates sought for Districts 2, 6, 9

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative will hold director elections for Districts 2, 6 and 9 in 2022.

To be eligible for director candidacy and to serve on the board, you must be a bona-fide resident of the district you seek to represent and have been a member at the cooperative since Jan. 17, 2021.

Residential members from Districts 2, 6 and 9 who are 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 who live in the candidate's respective district. Petition nomination forms and further instructions are available by contacting Diane White at 570-924-3381 or emailing de.white@frontier.com. Petition nomination forms can be requested starting Nov. 18, 2021.

Petitions must be received by 3 p.m. Jan. 17, 2022, 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 web page.

Director districts up for election in 2022:

District 2 (three-year term): Overton and Elkland Townships, Sullivan County

District 6 (three-year term): Shrewsbury, Wolf and Mill Creek Townships, Lycoming County

District 9 (three-year term): Cascade, Lewis and Gamble Townships, Lycoming County

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Do you have difficulty finding a Christmas gift for a friend or relative? If you do, why not get them a Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative gift certificate?

Gift certificates are available in any amount. Just give us a call or stop by the office, and we will credit their account. A gift certificate will be printed that shows how much was credited to the account and who purchased the gift certificate. You can give it to them or we can mail it for you – it's as simple as that. We can even keep your name anonymous if you don't want them to know.

So if you know someone who is having a hard time making ends meet or aren't sure what to give them for the holidays, why not consider giving them a gift certificate from Sullivan County REC?

Security lights will light the way

By John Zelewicz, *Penn Lines* Writer

I remember my mother telling me that the older she got, the faster time flew. Being just a wee lad at the time, I had no idea of what she was speaking about, but I began to notice this phenomenon in my mid-50s. And now, as I am reaching my mid-60s, I know exactly what she's talking about.

It seems like only yesterday that I was getting the lawn mowers ready to cut grass. It seems like only a moment ago that my wife and I were planting our small garden. Now, however, it is November, and while spring will surely come once more, we have to pass through the dark and dreary days of winter.

When you wake up on winter mornings, you'd think it was the middle of the night. The smell of freshly cut grass is gone, replaced by the smell of wood smoke borne upon the wind as people throw another log on the fire to keep warm.

Besides cooler days and nights, the amount of sunlight decreases a few minutes every day, too.

There's nothing we can do to have more sunlight except wait until next year, but there is something you can do to help brighten your nights. Why not have a security light installed to illuminate your sidewalks and driveway and add security to your property?

Your cooperative offers a security light program as an additional service to members. For a monthly fee, the cooperative will install and maintain the outdoor lighting equipment on a treated pole at a location mutually agreeable to both the cooperative and the consumer.

The lighting equipment is electrically connected so that the power for operation of the light does not pass through the member's meter.

The co-op currently offers a 48-watt LED security light at the cost of \$16 per month. For more information, contact our office at 570-924-3381 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

