

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Chad Carrick
President & CEO

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.
75 Airport Road • P.O. Box 70
Indiana, PA 15701-0070
724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667

Ebensburg District Office
127 Municipal Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-472-8570

Website: www.reaenergy.com
Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Staff

Barry Baker

Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer

ACRE Coordinator

Shane Cribbs

Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty

Safety Supervisor

Jeff Dishong

Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC

Communications Coordinator

Local Pages Editor

Chris Masterson

Reliability Supervisor

Patrick McAndrew

Manager of Engineering

Byron Roland

Manager of Engineering

Brendan Short

Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor

Renee Spalla

Supervisor of Consumer Services

Chris Weller

Load Management Supervisor

Outages & Emergencies

1-800-332-7273

724-463-7273

Office Hours

Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ebensburg Office:

7 - 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

From the President & CEO



New beginnings

By Chad Carrick

IN RECENT editions of *Penn Lines*, it was announced I will succeed Gary Grindle as the new president & CEO at REA Energy. I am very excited and eager to continue with the cooperative's tradition of member engagement, continued reliability, and excellent service. The opportunity to serve our members, employees, and directors is something I take seriously, and will always strive to accomplish in my career at REA Energy.

Cooperatives, whether an electric cooperative or a cooperative from another industry, are guided by the Rochdale Principles. These seven principles are why we have been in business for so long. Check page 16d to see a chart that explains each principle.

The second principle is my personal favorite, and that is democratic member control. Much like our country's voting process, our members have the ability to elect a board member (who is also a cooperative member) for their district. These board members then represent the interests of our membership. This process is completed at the local level in order to address local concerns. Board members stay knowledgeable on issues and offerings in order to provide members with the latest technology and conveniences at one of the lowest

rates in Pennsylvania.

REA Energy has enjoyed a rich history of serving its members. I am proud to be a part of that history, but more importantly, our future here at the cooperative. I started at REA Energy in 2001, and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I instantly knew I had found a company that encompasses the same beliefs and values I have. The cooperative principles are the reason why we will be celebrating our 80th anniversary next year. There are not too many companies that have the pleasure to say they have been around for 80 years. In order to keep the cooperative going another 80 years, we plan to continue to introduce conveniences, solutions and value.

I would like to thank the board of directors and our members for inviting me into the cooperative family 15 years ago. The cooperative truly is a family that works together to achieve its goals. I also would like to thank our previous leadership for establishing a strong foundation for the future and the tradition of reliability and value. I look forward to hearing from you at our membership meetings. If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to call, email, or stop in to see me. Thank you! 

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

On Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016, REA Energy's Ebensburg office will close at 10 a.m. and the Indiana office will close at 11 a.m. Both offices will reopen at 7 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016. Please call 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273 to report any power outages. Payments can also be placed in the drop box at both locations.

Life on the line

By Marissa Barnouski
Marketing Specialist

WHEN you think vacation, do you think of the beach, camping or family time? If you are lucky enough to receive vacation time at your place of employment, these are normally the things you think of and plan for as a vacation. However, REA Energy Chief Lineman William “Bill”



A TEAM: Bill Wholaver, Bishop Pedro Magahales of Paraguay and Dr. David Stains work together.

Wholaver thinks: missions. For those of you who are not familiar with mission trips, they are voluntary charity trips to developing nations in need of assistance. These trips can be expensive, dangerous and, most importantly, heart-wrenching. It takes a special kind of person to endure this line of “work,” and Bill is that guy.

Foundation of worship

Bill and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of daughters Ali, Skylar, and Kendra, and son Trenton. They are also blessed with two grandchildren, Kinsley and Keagan. With such a large family, one can begin to imagine the support and pride Bill feels when he can help others not only on mission trips but every day in his line of work.

Bill had been a lineman for a number of years before joining the cooperative in 2004, and has since been promoted to chief lineman. On a day-to-day basis, he is responsible for not only lineman duties, but also overseeing his crew and ensuring both they and our members are

adequately cared for.

Bill works in all weather conditions, for tiresome hours in extremely dangerous situations. He, along with all of the other linemen, must be constantly mindful of their surroundings. Because of the number of years of dedicated service Bill has given to REA Energy, he has earned vacation time. He is free to choose what

he does with that time, and for part of that, he unselfishly chooses to go on mission trips.

Family is an extremely important and powerful influence in our lives, and Bill could not demonstrate that more. This year, he, like many, packed up and headed to the ocean for a week of vacation, where he relaxed and bonded with those he loves. He spent the week

laughing and watching his children and grandchildren flourish. When the week ended, he returned to work.

Time to shine

As August approached, he planned for his second vacation. Lucky, right? He spent his time leading up to this vacation fundraising and preparing for a trip that many will never take. This time, he left his family, work, and home behind for 10 days and traveled to Paraguay. While this



WARM WATER: Bill Wholaver utilizes his electrician skills to install a 220-volt unit above a youth camp shower in Paraguay. This will be used to heat the water.

is his fourth mission trip, it is the first that he was a jobsite leader.

Bill went on his first mission trip at the mere age of 21 and it was another 21 long years until he was economically stable enough to participate on his second trip, leading him to joke with the pastor to please not wait so long next time to invite him along. And he didn't, as Bill has been on

two more missions since then, where he earned respect and has proven himself to be a leader. Being a leader is part of Bill's everyday life at REA, so it was an honor to demonstrate that leadership



WORKING TOGETHER: Bill Wholaver and his team create a human dolly to haul a “pole” to run the service wire in Paraguay, where trees are often used in place of utility poles.

within his volunteer work.

This trip was his fourth, and the second time he visited Paraguay. He has also been to Nicaragua and Colombia, where he worked in demolition and construction, and created a baptism pool. During his most recent trip, he planned to utilize his practiced skills by wiring and renovating a youth camp. For the majority of Bill's volunteering, he has gathered donated material such as first-aid kits and tools. While this gives him an advantage, he also feels that working within a co-op has taught him how to be personable and appreciative. He knows what it means for someone to get what they need, whether it's electricity or a place of worship, and he thrives on helping provide it for them.

Bright future ahead

At the end of his mission trip, Bill felt accomplishment, strength in his faith and belief, and utter joy. He was away from family, but surrounded by loved ones. The amount of gratitude the people of Paraguay show is unexplainable, he says, as all ages truly make the best of everything. He has learned a few tricks along the way to help show them how happy he is, as well, and that, my friends, is a five-pound bag of Jolly Rancher candy. He provided the candy as a simple gesture at first, but upon seeing how much the children looked forward to something so small, he now makes the candy a priority on the packing list.

Bill hopes that there are more mission trips in his future, and he will participate wherever he is needed in both location and job assignment. He left his family, REA, and the comfort of Hastings, Pa., to change lives — but he has found his life has also been enhanced. ☀

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

STAY FOCUSED ON SAFETY DURING HARVEST

During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines – at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Look up and use care when moving any equipment, such as extending augers, or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- ▶ Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact REA Energy.



REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in October:

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights-of-way of the Curry Run and Amsbry substation areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.
- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be performing herbicide vegetation management work within the Cherryhill and Curry Run, areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-9th), left, is joined by REA Energy Cooperative board Vice Chairman Mike Bertolino of District 3. Shuster spoke at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Eggs and Issues event. Bertolino thanked the congressman on behalf of all of the members for the time he has taken with our students involved in Youth Tour and his longtime support of cooperatives.



Seven Cooperative Principles

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



Your Board of Directors



Herman Blakley
Chairman
District 9



Michael J. Bertolino
Vice Chairman
District 3



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



Sam Eckenrod
District 1



Wayne Farabaugh
District 8



James Harteis
District 4



John R. Learn
District 6



Jack R. Rising
District 7



J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2