

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

Bryon Roland

Purchasing & Facilities Supervisor

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



Why I'm thankful for my co-op

By Chad Carrick

AT MY family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we're grateful for. My list is usually about the same — good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people of Western Pennsylvania.

I'm thankful to be a part of REA Energy Cooperative. Our employees are some of the hardest workers I know. Not only is it our mission to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for REA because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on

the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family. I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy — partly because we are local. That means REA is invested in the future of its communities.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. From programs such as Members Sharing with Members and the Rural Electric Community Assistance Program to reaching out to members with information that will help them save energy and money, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there would be no REA Energy Cooperative.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op. 



Be a helping hand this Thanksgiving

- ▶ Invite someone over; no one should spend a holiday alone
- ▶ Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- ▶ Donate leftovers to a local place of need
- ▶ Respect your elders
- ▶ Teach a child to cook

2016 annual meeting wrapup

By Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC
Communications Coordinator

REA ENERGY Cooperative, Inc. (REA) held its 79th annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex, Indiana, Pa. More than 305 members, their families and guests attended the meeting.

Members of the Credentials and Elections Committee, who registered members for the meeting, included: Chairman John Stahlman, John T. (Tom) Brady, Karl Emerich, R. Michael Keith, Richard Knapko, Shelby Miller, C. LeeRoy Vatter and Michael Wirfel.

This year, Board Districts 3 and 4 were up for election. In District 3, incumbent Michael Bertolino and in District 4, incumbent James Harteis both ran unopposed and were declared re-elected for their respective districts.

Board Chairman Herman Blakley and President & CEO Chad Carrick gave presentations regarding the cooperative.

Blakley thanked the members for attending the annual meeting and the Allied Milk Producers for providing

an ice cream treat for attendees. REA Energy allows Allied Milk Producers to use cooperative facilities during their butter and cheese sales, and they wanted to return the favor to the cooperative.

Blakley reported the cooperative has been going through a transition phase with the adaptation of new technologies and numerous employee retirements in the last several years. The most recent change was the retirement

“...the new system will offer many modern conveniences, such as online account management, bill payment and outage reporting...”

of former President & CEO Gary Grindle on Sept. 6 after nearly 43 years of service. As a token of the cooperative's gratitude for his years of service, Blakley presented a personalized clock to Grindle.

Carrick thanked the members for attending the meeting, expressed his

gratitude for being selected as the new president & CEO, and highlighted some of his past experience.

Reporting on the cooperative's Right-of-Way (ROW) Management Plan, Carrick stressed that to maintain the ROW, the cooperative must properly manage healthy trees so they survive during storms, remove the problem trees, and keep the floor of the rights-of-way clear so there is less future growth. He also stated the cooperative is planning to restore the system's ROW to the original condition, a process he expects will take five to six years. This effort can save money for the cooperative; without a maintained ROW, one bad storm can cost a year's worth of tree management.

Turning to the cooperative's financial report, Carrick said 2015 was a good year for the cooperative financially. He noted the rate to compare has stayed low throughout the years, thanks in part to expense management at not only the local level, but also at the generation and transmission level.

Next, Carrick highlighted the conversion to our new operating system, saying members should notice their new bill has a familiar look to it with the addition of a few items, such as a graph of the previous year's electricity use.

Replacing a decades-old system, the new system will offer members many modern conveniences, such as online account management, bill payment and outage reporting. This may lessen the need for members to come into the office or call on the phone, saving them time. The portal is very easy to use and navigate, and is designed to be secure with password protection and other identity security enhancements.

Carrick also updated members on major improvements made in the last year to improve reliability and increase capacity on our system. This included completion of a new line that now allows us to backfeed power to an area when we have an extended outage situation.

Carrick discussed products offered



CO-OP LEADERSHIP: Front row, from left: John Learn; Herman Blakley; Jack Rising; and Sam Eckenrod. Back row, from left: Chad Carrick, president & CEO; Rick Shope; Robert Neese, secretary/treasurer; Michael Bertolino, chairman, (re-elected to District 3); Wayne Farabaugh; and Jim Harteis, vice chairman (re-elected to District 4).



REA SERVICES: Members engage with Load Management Technicians Jason Griffith, left, and David Craig, right. Throughout the entertainment portion of the meeting, REA Energy Services staff educated members on the water heater program, HVAC, electrical contracting, generators, and tree trimming.

by the cooperative's subsidiary, REA Energy Services, including: electrical contracting, HVAC sales and installation, backup generators, including the Honeywell and Kohler lines, and tree trimming and removal. The cooperative recently expanded its product line to include Fujitsu and Maytag models of HVAC systems.

He also highlighted some of the special products, programs and services members of the cooperative receive, such as *Penn Lines*, Youth Tour, the Co-op Connections Card program, and much more. Most recently, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national organization representing electric cooperatives across the United States, spearheaded "Co-ops Vote," a grassroots initiative organized in response to an 18 percent drop in voter turnout in rural areas. That is more than twice the drop in voter turnout in urban and suburban areas during the 2012 presidential election cycle.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan project of America's electric cooperatives designed to inform members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage our rural residents to vote and support co-ops and rural communities they serve when they go to the polls. For more information, visit www.vote.coop.

Brittany Krug, a student from Bishop

Carroll High School, recapped her experience of the NRECA 2016 Youth Tour. Brittany was one of 11 students from the REA Energy service territory who spent a week in Washington, D.C., with more than 1,700 students from across the country.

Guest speaker Todd Sallade, vice president – power supply & engineering at the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., spoke about the future of electricity and the variety of resources Pennsylvania offers for electric production.

Several lucky members won one of the door prizes, including the grand prize — a large screen television —



WINNER, WINNER: Chris and Susan Long and their daughter, Katelynn, center, of New Florence took home the grand prize, a 55-inch Samsung Smart TV. Join us next year, you could be this lucky!

won by Chris and Susan Long of New Florence. The winners of two \$100 checks for participating in Operation Round-Up® were Clifford and Joan Griffith of Smicksburg and Ronald and Janet Cramer of Indiana.

Immediately following the business meeting, the board held a reorganization meeting and elected officers for 2016-2017. They are: Michael Bertolino, chairman; James Harteis, vice chairman; and Robert Neese, secretary/treasurer. Jim Harteis remained the Allegheny director as part of a two-year term and Rick Shope was elected as the PREA director. ☀



YOUTH TOUR: Students are, from left: Bailey Cribbs, Braxton Dameron, Katelynn Long, Sloan Brocius, Megan Kester, Corey Katrancha, Tia Kirby, Blake Weyandt, Brittany Krug and Michaela Lydic.

New face at the co-op



Max Bodenschatz started in the position of journeyman lineman out of the Ebensburg office on Sept. 19, 2016. His job duties include construction and maintenance of electrical power lines. In his free time, Max enjoys hunting, fishing and anything outdoors.



ONE of REA's very own members recently stood out among students across the state — Samantha Fedorko earned the William F. Matson Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. Samantha, of Ebensburg, Pa., is the daughter of Virginia Hostetter and Steve D. Fedorko. She is a graduate of Portage Area High School, where she graduated seventh in her class. Throughout high school, she always had an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses and excelled tremendously in each of them.



Samantha Fedorko

Samantha was very active in high school, participating as senior class vice president, president of the Environmental Club, vice president of Science Club, treasurer of the marching band, and captain of the Scholastic Quiz Team.

Not only did she excel academically, but she was also a crucial member of the track and field team, and a leader for the local rifle club.

Samantha is further immersing herself in the STEM curriculum as she is a first-year student at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., majoring in biochemistry in pursuit of her dream of becoming a physician. She hopes to give back to children in need in not only her community, but also the rest of the world! Congratulations, Samantha! 🎉

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

REA ENERGY will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, 2016, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016, in observance of Thanksgiving. 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.

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

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

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

Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3



James Harteis
Vice Chairman
District 4



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



Herman Blakley
District 9



Sam Eckenrod
District 1



Wayne Farabaugh
District 8



John R. Learn
District 6



Jack R. Rising
District 7



J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2