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**Michael J. Bertolino**



**Sam Eckenrod**



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**David Muir**



**J.R. "Rick" Shope**



**Wayne Stiles**



**Tom Borusiewicz**  
Co-Manager



**Gary Grindle**  
Co-Manager

## REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

### REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

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Indiana, PA 15701-0070

724/349-4800 • 800/211-5667

#### Ebensburg District Office

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Ebensburg, PA 15931

814/472-8570

Website: [www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com)

Email: [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com)

#### CO-MANAGERS

**Thomas Borusiewicz**  
**Gary Grindle**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

1-800-332-7273

724/463-7273

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday - Friday

## Making progress by moving forward

BY CHAD E. CARRICK  
*Business Development Manager*

**REA ENERGY** has been working on many projects throughout most of 2009. Some of these projects include: rebuilding and upgrading substations, the implementation of advanced technology in reading electric meters, and the evaluation of making broadband internet access in rural areas a possibility. The following are some updates on these different projects and how they are progressing.

### Parkwood Substation rebuild completed

REA Energy recently energized its new Parkwood Substation. This substation was rebuilt to improve reliability in the Parkwood and West Lebanon areas and to accommodate a new large electric load for CNX Gas.

This state-of-the-art substation, located along Parkwood Road, is REA's first new substation to be built in the last 30 years. The new installation increased load capacity from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts. This additional capacity allows REA to deliver electrical service to large commercial, industrial and manufacturing members.

We appreciate the patience of our members served by the Parkwood Substation during this construction process.

### Belsano Substation being upgraded

By the time you read this article, we will have already started upgrading our Belsano Substation. We are increasing capacity by installing three new transformers with a capacity totaling 7,500 kVa, which replace three older transformers that only had a capacity of 2,500 kVa total.

This upgrade is part of our strategic plan and will improve reliability for years to come. The upgrade will also allow for continued growth in the Belsano area.

### Automatic meter reading project under way

We have started to install new automatic meter reading (AMR) meters on accounts served from our Cherryhill Substation. The first installs have been so successful that our board has decided to fast track the installation so all AMR meters will be installed within two to three years.

To accomplish this aggressive installation program, a contractor will be used. Following the Cherryhill Substation, the Parkwood Substation and then the Belsano Substation will have the AMRs installed.

When your meter is changed, you will receive a door hanger with instructions, and you can also call the cooperative with any questions.

### Broadband internet access

Earlier this year, a survey was sent out asking members about their interest level in REA Energy possibly offering broadband internet access. Results show that interest is very strong, especially in areas where only dial-up connections are currently available. We are still considering all options, which include broadband over power lines and WiMaxx technologies.

While we are actively evaluating the best technology for our members, the evaluation process and implementation (if the cooperative decides to move forward) will take over one year to complete.

We appreciate your patience and know our rural members are eager for a solution. The cooperative will use *Penn Lines* to keep the membership informed on the progress of any potential broadband offering.

If you would like any more information on any of the projects, visit our website or feel free to call our office. ☎

# Enjoy the autumn events our area has to offer

BY TERRY NEELY  
Marketing Specialist

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of fun things to do in our region. One of the benefits of living in southwestern Pennsylvania is the number of seasonal events and activities one can find. Each season of the year offers its own distinctive venue for active people.



As the cool weather of autumn blows in, the region comes alive with color as our hardwood forests turn to bright yellow, orange and red. This brings out the leaf-peepers, people who come, many from out of state, to see our beautiful autumn leaves. Good roads to see the colors from are those that cross the mountain ridges, such as Routes 422, 22 and 30.

For those who want to relax and leave the driving to someone else, Kiski Junction Railroad in Armstrong County offers Fall Leaf Rides, Halloween Rides, and later, Snow Dog Express Rides. Just bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenic views along the Kiski River.

Our region has a history as colorful and awe inspiring as the autumn leaves. If your road trip takes you by one of our area's many historic attractions, be sure to stop and take advantage of the opportunity to learn about our region's history. Some attractions you might pass include the Johnstown Flood National Memorial, the Allegheny Portage National Historic Site and Staple Bend Tunnel Site (the first railroad tunnel built in the United States), or Tunnel View Hill and the Main Line Canal at the Conemaugh Dam Recreation Area.

And, for those who are more adventurous, pack your picnic lunch in a knapsack and take a hike in one of the many parks in our area. Prince Gallitzin, Yellow Creek and Laurel Mountain state parks, along with Blue Spruce and Pine Ridge county parks, all offer improved hiking trails. Another option is to hop on a bike and cycle one of the newly expanded bicy-

cle trails such as the Ghost Town Trail or West Penn Trail, both of which are renowned for their history and natural beauty. Our resident outdoors enthusiast (ROE) tells us that the prettiest fall (and spring) hike is from the warming hut in Laurel Mountain State

Park through the rhododendron and mountain laurel along Summit and Laurel Run trails with a lunch stop beside Laurel Run. In addition to the spectacular forest colors, hikers may come across mountain bike riders, horseback riders or even a train of llamas packing picnic lunches.

Many local communities celebrate Autumn Fest and October Fest with special events and crafts. A couple of better-known festivals are the Smicksburg Fall Festival and the Seven Springs Autumn Fest.

Fall is an exciting time for children also. Many area farm markets will construct a corn maze or haunted pumpkin patch to delight children. One of the better-known farm market festivals is at Reeger's Farm Market near Indiana.

Children of all ages can enjoy the autumn weather while learning about nature with special presentations sponsored by Yellow Creek State Park. Presentations include "Pittsburgh and Its Countryside," "Fall Foliage by Boat," "Birds of Prey" and for the bravest, "Night Hike." Our ROE says that these free presentations given by qualified experts are very informative and worth attending.

Families and individuals who are even more adventurous can learn to navigate their way through the fall woods with a map and compass at one of the "orienteeing events" at Camp Seth Mack, Pine Ridge Park and Deer Lakes Park, sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club of Indiana. Our ROE says this is a great way for the family to get some fun exercise and learn something new.

Wrap up the fall season with a trip to the Festival of Lights at Blue Spruce Park to see over a mile of Christmas light displays and visit with Santa.

There is so much to see and do this autumn in our region that no one should get bored. Many more events and activities are happening than can be listed here. For more information to plan your autumn adventure, check your local community's bulletin board, visit these websites or call the organizations listed below:

- ▶ Indiana County Tourist Bureau, 877/746-3426  
web: [www.visitindianacountypa.org](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org)
- ▶ Greater Johnstown Visitors and Convention Bureau, 800/237-8590  
web: [www.visitjohnstownpa.com/](http://www.visitjohnstownpa.com/)
- ▶ Armstrong County Tourist Bureau, 888/265-9954  
web: [www.armstrongcounty.com](http://www.armstrongcounty.com)
- ▶ Laurel Highlands Tourist Bureau, 724/238-5661  
web: [www.laurelhighlands.org](http://www.laurelhighlands.org)
- ▶ Indiana County Parks and Trails, 724/463-8638  
web: [indianacountyparks.org](http://indianacountyparks.org)
- ▶ U. S. Army Corps of Engineers web: [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/conemaugh.htm](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/conemaugh.htm) ☀

**REA Energy will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2009, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 26, 2009, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.**

## Cooperatives hit the mark with consumers in national playground – October is National Cooperative Month

Playgrounds are flooded with games during school recess. A great example is hopscotch. The game can be played by one child or a large group, and the rules are simple. A course is laid out, typically drawn in chalk on pavement. Blocks are numbered in the order they must be hopped in, with a home, or safe, spot at the end. Then players toss a marker into designated squares and hop through the course.

In some ways, the game reflects how cooperatives were formed. Co-ops – not-for-profit, member-owned businesses – may serve a few people or large groups. But all co-ops use the same “course,” following seven key principles. By “hopping” on each principle, co-ops provide an efficient consumer resource focused on service, not profit.

October is National Cooperative Month. To celebrate, we’re taking a look at the important role co-ops play in our community.

### WHAT ARE CO-OPS?

Cooperatives are owned by their members – the people who receive services from them – and are found in many industries. For example, more than 900 electric co-ops serve 42 million Americans. According to the National Cooperative Grocers Association, 30 percent of farmers’ products are marketed through more than 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives in America. Familiar brands like SunKist, Land O’Lakes, Cabot Creamery, Ocean Spray and Sun-Maid are all co-ops formed to help farmers distribute products.

In banking, 10,000 credit unions provide financial services to 84 million members across the nation. Co-ops have also been formed to provide child care, insurance and housing. Nearly 30,000 cooperatives operate at 73,000 locations nationally.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The cooperative movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale, England, in 1844. The Rochdale model revolved around a set of guidelines drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the United States by the

National Grange in 1874, these “Rochdale Principles” fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

1. **Voluntary And Open Membership:** Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex or economic circumstances.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.
3. **Members’ Economic Participation:** Cooperatives provide services “at cost” and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid – margins – belongs to the members. Each member’s share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op’s services.
4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.
5. **Education, Training and Information:** Keeping members, directors, managers and employees up to date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op is essential. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.
6. **Cooperation among Cooperatives:** Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.
7. **Concern for Community:** Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

To learn about electric cooperatives, visit [www.nreca.coop](http://www.nreca.coop). For details on different types of cooperatives, visit [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop).

## Protect yourself from identity theft

Recently the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has been getting reports from various states where cooperative consumers are receiving phone calls from fraudsters posing to be from the cooperative and asking the consumer to provide credit card or other financial account information and personally identifiable information over the phone. (Cooperatives have not been the only utilities affected by this; all utilities have been affected by this.)

Two types of this scam seem to be prevalent — one is to say the consumer owes on his/her account and will have service shut off unless payment information is provided immediately. The other appears aimed more specifically at seniors. The caller claims the consumer can receive federal stimulus dollars to pay his/her utility bills or some sort of a bill credit, but the consumer must first provide his/her personal information (e.g. Social Security number and utility account number).

REA Energy wants to remind consumers that in regard to an account that is overdue and scheduled for disconnection, the member may receive a phone call reminding them that the account is past due and the date when their payment is due. The only time that a cooperative employee may ask for credit card information is when a member calls to pay a bill to stop a disconnection of service. Members may be asked to verify the last four digits of their Social Security number when they call for information about their account. If this number cannot be provided, information will not be given on the account.

For more information about protecting yourself from identity theft or what to do if you believe you are a victim of identity theft, you can refer to resources through the state attorney general office as well as the Federal Trade Commission’s identity theft site:

[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft). Additional information is available from the Federal Trade Commission’s main site: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/data/idtheft.shtm>.

## Protect children and pets from electrical hazards

Accidents around the home result in millions of injuries to the most vulnerable members of your family – young children and pets – each year. For example, approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment annually for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical receptacles, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

With a few precautions, these and other injuries can be avoided:

- ▶ Install tamper-resistant outlets (TROs) that protect against small children inserting foreign objects into them. Simple plastic caps typically used can be easily removed by some children.
- ▶ Keep electrical cords tied up or out of sight.
- ▶ Unplug all appliances when they are not being used, including hair dryers or coffee makers.
- ▶ Keep appliances out of children's bathrooms.

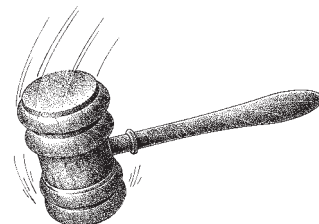
- ▶ Teach children not to touch appliances when they have wet hands and to keep appliances away from water.
- ▶ Teach children other basic safety tips such as staying away from outlets and not touching electrical cords. Some of the same tips apply to pets:
- ▶ Keep electrical cords away from cats and puppies who love to chew on them.
- ▶ Make sure night lights and appliances are fully plugged in. Partially exposed prongs can be a temptation to curious critters.
- ▶ Keep halogen lamps away from pet play areas. If they are knocked over, they could start a fire.
- ▶ Keep appliances in bathrooms away from water. Playful pets can knock radios or curling irons into water, creating a dangerous situation.
- ▶ Discourage cats and dogs from curling up for naps behind electrical equipment such as computers.

## From the Boardroom

Recent board activities and actions taken by the board of directors of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. include the following:

- ▶ Received a second quarter update for REA Energy Services by Co-Manager Gary Grindle that included a recap of activities, year-to-date financial information, future activities and current workload.
- ▶ Received an update on the AMI/AMR project from Grindle.
- ▶ Approved the use of contractors to install automated meter reading (AMR) equipment and awarded a bid for the work.
- ▶ Adopted a formal resolution to authorize the officers and co-managers to sign the necessary loan documents for a construction loan guaranteed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).
- ▶ Revised a board policy to allow director candidates to request and receive mailing lists in the form of lists or mailing labels.
- ▶ Received a quarterly budget update from Co-Manager Tom Borusiewicz.
- ▶ Reviewed key financial ratios that reflect how REA Energy Cooperative compares to other cooperatives in Pennsylvania and similar-sized cooperatives across the United States.
- ▶ Adopted minor changes to update some current board policies.
- ▶ Heard a legal update from the cooperative's attorney, David Serene.
- ▶ Accepted new members.
- ▶ Reviewed management reports.
- ▶ Heard reports from co-managers of the cooperative.

If you have any questions about any of the above items, please feel free to contact the REA Energy Board of Directors by writing to P.O. Box 2002, Indiana, PA 15701. Directors are interested in your input. When writing, please be sure to sign your letter so that directors can follow up with you if necessary.



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E-mail: [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com)

Call 724-349-4800 or 1-800-211-5667

**When you use REA Energy Services between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 and your job is \$500 or more, you are automatically entered for a chance to win a Portable Generator. The drawing will take place in January 2010.**

**\*\*Offer listed above cannot be used in conjunction with any other specials or discounts.\*\***

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