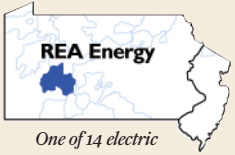


REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Tom Borusiewicz
Co-Manager



Gary Grindle
Co-Manager

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- Leslie Kluchurosky**
Executive Assistant/Records Analyst
- Pat Lieb**
Engineering Supervisor
- Chris Masterson**
Reliability Supervisor
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- Paul Roach**
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OFFICE HOURS

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

Stacy Patterson, Local Pages Editor

GUEST COLUMN

Have you lost your voice?



by Leslie Kluchurosky
Executive Assistant

A MEMBER ASKED an interesting question last year at the annual meeting. "If the cooperative is member-owned, why can't we, the members, have a say about how things are done?" This got me thinking about how the members actually participate in making decisions.

Do members have a say in every decision made at the cooperative? No, not directly. It is just not possible or practical for more than 18,000 members to make all cooperative decisions. Instead, members exercise their voices by electing an individual, residing in their district, to serve a four-year term as their representative on the board of directors.

This year, directors will be elected to represent districts 7, 8 and 9. Directors are elected to serve staggered four-year terms with two or three districts electing directors each year. All members are encouraged to get acquainted with the director representing them and to convey any concerns to them. This nine-member board is then responsible for making the important decisions about the future of the cooperative.

If this voice is not loud enough for you and you want to take a more active role in your cooperative and be nominated as a candidate for director this year, there are some things to keep in mind. First, you must be a resident of District 7, 8 or 9. District 7 is comprised of White Township in Indiana County. District 8 includes Barr, Blacklick, Clearfield, Dean, East Carroll, West Carroll and White townships in Cambria County and Beccaria Township in Clearfield County. District 9 encompasses Plumcreek, Kiskiminetas and South Bend townships in Armstrong

County; Armstrong, Burrell and Cone-maugh townships in Indiana County; and, Derry and Loyalhanna townships in Westmoreland County.

Second, to qualify as a director, you must:

- ▶ be a current member of REA,
- ▶ have signed an application for membership for your primary residence and received service at your primary residence for at least one year,
- ▶ have, during the past year, paid all amounts due the cooperative within 90 days of billing, and
- ▶ be at least 18 years of age.

You are not eligible to be a director if you:

- ▶ are an employee, or financially interested, in any business that is in competition with REA,
- ▶ are an employee of REA, or a close relative of a director or employee of REA,
- ▶ have been convicted of theft of services from REA, or
- ▶ have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or crime of moral turpitude.

To be nominated as a candidate, simply submit a petition signed by at least 15 REA members residing in your electing district. The petition must state the residence and directorate district of the nominee and must be submitted to REA between April 19 and July 16, 2010.

Packets containing all the necessary forms and additional information for candidates are available at REA's Indiana office at 75 Airport Road as well as the Ebensburg office located at 127 Municipal Road. If you have any questions or you want to have a candidate packet mailed to you, please call Leslie Kluchurosky at 724/357-5840.

So, if you reside in District 7, 8 or 9, please be sure your voice is heard this year. It's all up to you as to how loud that voice will be. ☀

Blackleggs Creek Memorial Park ready for first day of fishing season

BY STACY PATTERSON
Communications Coordinator

IN THE PAST few years, we have been bringing you different stories about Blackleggs Trout Association's endeavors and events. A previous article was about a project that was under way to build a memorial park at a section of Blackleggs Creek that was a hotspot for anglers, young and old alike.

Nestled in a quiet, shaded spot, this section of the creek has been used for years by the Blackleggs Trout Association for stocking trout seasonally and fishing. Over the years, countless people have enjoyed the first day of trout season along the creek, many of them pitching tents and enjoying the camaraderie of camping out near the banks of the creek, waking with the sun to claim their spot for landing a prize trout.

In August 2009, Blackleggs Creek Memorial Park was officially dedicated to past and present members of the association. Visitors to the park can enjoy a picnic in the new pavilion after a morning of

fishing while reading a sign honoring the past members and volunteers of Blackleggs. They can read the names of those past members along headers of the pavilion, where there's also room to add more names. There are picnic tables situated throughout the park and several camping areas with fire rings situated on either side of the stream. There are plans to install a comfort station at the park.

Also included in the overall relaxation that the park offers is the sound of the water flowing downstream and through the abandoned mine drainage (AMD) system, located just a short walk away from the pavilion. This AMD assists with the task of keeping water-polluting iron from entering the stream, allowing the creek to be sustainable for the fish and other aquatic life.

Located at the intersection of Cribbs and Shrokmans roads, the entrance to the park includes an archway welcoming

visitors. Visitors can read about those who helped to make this endeavor a reality and then enter into the park for an enjoyable day with family and friends.

Thank you to the Blackleggs Trout



WELCOME: The entrance to the park has information about those persons who had a hand in making the memorial park a possibility plus background information about the Blackleggs Trout Association.

Association and its volunteers and donors for sharing their interesting stories with us.

If you have an interesting hobby or business that you would like to share with your fellow members, please call 724/349-4800 or email reaenergy@reaenergy.com.

REA Energy Services offerings

Professional electrical contracting services

REA Energy Services offers professional electrical contracting service for industrial, commercial and residential jobs. Our technicians have many years of combined working experience. Some of the services offered include:

- ▶ Professional electrical contracting service for individuals, commercial and residential jobs,
- ▶ 24/7 emergency service, and
- ▶ Free estimates.

Call our Indiana office to discuss updating your electrical wiring needs or to request a free estimate.

Generator sales and installation

As a result of widespread damage and power outages caused by a rash of storms in recent years, emergency electric generators have become a very useful item. These generators are a must for members who are in poor health, want safety and security, or who operate a home-based business. Based on their

features, quality and value, REA Energy Services has chosen to sell Generac's Guardian brand generators.

All of our generators come with electric starters and high-surge output for handling appliances and pumps. Gasoline-powered portable models, propane and natural gas-powered standby systems are available. REA Energy Services can also install your generator systems and the transfer switch following the National Electric Code.

Always read and follow the safe operating instructions for your generator. Remember to always turn your generator off to refill the gas tank, never operate your generator where the exhaust will enter an enclosed space and always connect the grounding terminal to your home's ground rod.

Heating and cooling solutions

REA Energy Services recently started to offer exciting new ways to heat and cool your home. We offer everything

from geothermal heating and cooling to boilers and furnaces. We also offer highly efficient products with efficiency ratings up to 400 percent!

- Some advantages to changing your existing heating system:
- ▶ Financing available to those who are qualified,
 - ▶ Twelve months same as cash to those who qualify,
 - ▶ It pays for itself,
 - ▶ Indoor comfort,
 - ▶ It's easy to maintain,
 - ▶ Lower utility costs, and
 - ▶ Efficiency up to 500 percent!

REA Energy Services offers many high-efficiency heating and cooling solutions. Some products can be integrated into your existing furnace. Installations are available for new construction.



Be careful when tackling home wiring projects

If spring sends you into remodeling mode, consider checking with professionals before you visit the nearest hardware store. While do-it-yourself (DIY) projects can be very satisfying to complete, they pose risks when it comes to electricity.

“Mistakes can be costly — or even deadly,” warns John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL), a Chicago-based, not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items. “The first and best safety tip is to call in an expert rather than be your own electrician.”

An ongoing study by the Quincy, Mass.-based Fire Protection Research Foundation has given UL engineers a better understanding of typical DIY wiring mistakes. The most common:

1. Working with a live wire

It may seem perfectly obvious, but thousands of DIYers receive electric shock injuries each year. To avoid becoming a statistic, always turn off the circuit breaker (or remove the fuse) before working on or replacing electrical equipment. If you have a pre-1940s home, be mindful that you probably have more than one breaker box, or panel board, as electricians call them.

2. Using the wrong lightbulb

Most lighting fixtures feature a sticker on the socket that tells you the proper type and maximum wattage of the lightbulb to use. Installing a different type of

bulb, or one with higher wattage, will not only make the room brighter, but could also damage the lights and cause a fire. Heat is usually the catalyst in this case: the higher the wattage, the hotter the bulb and the hotter the wire that goes to the lighting fixture.

3. Not being grounded

For optimal safety, receptacles should be wired with the proper grounding and polarity. Generally, three-pronged outlets signify an effective ground path in the circuit. However, homes built before the mid-1960s probably don't have a grounding path, and simply replacing the existing outlet with a three-pronged outlet won't give you one.

“You see instances of this in homes with older wiring,” Drengenberg says. “It's no worse than if you plug your two-pronged device into a two-pronged outlet. But it does give the homeowner a false sense of security.”

Wiring with a grounding path usually sports a copper grounding wire with the cable. If you are uncertain about whether your home's wiring is grounded, inexpensive UL-listed outlet circuit testers are available to check for proper grounding and polarity. If your outlet is improperly grounded, call an electrician before moving forward in any project.

4. Splicing, splicing, splicing

Always make sure your wiring size and type match. Splicing wires by simply twisting them together and covering

them with electrical tape is rarely a good idea. Instead, use wiring suitable to your home's wiring and place wiring connections in metal or plastic boxes made for this purpose to decrease fire risk.

Also keep in mind that circuits protected by 15-amp fuses or breakers should be wired with No. 14 AWG copper wire minimum. For 20 amps, use No. 12 AWG minimum size copper wire. Other guidelines apply, so if you expect to do any splicing, seek professional help before you begin.

5. Hooking new lights to old wires

Most light fixtures are marked with instructions for supply connections, such as “Use wire rated for at least 90C,” which refers to the maximum temperature — 90 degrees Celsius or about 200 degrees Fahrenheit — under which a wire's insulation can safely be used. Again, if you have an older home (pre-1984, in this case), wiring may have a lower temperature rating than a new luminaire.

“This isn't something most DIYers even think to consider,” Drengenberg cautions. “It probably won't burst into flame immediately, but it does increase the risk of a fire.”

To avoid that risk, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range. ⚡

Article courtesy of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

Automatic meter reading project status update

Installation of the automatic meter reading (AMR) devices has been completed in the Parkwood, Indiana North and Fairview substation areas. The next areas scheduled for AMR installations are the Washington, Birtle and Latimer substations, in that order. As of March 15, 2010, over 7,100 AMR meters have been installed on the system.

When an old meter is changed out for the new AMR meter, a door hanger showing the final reading of the old meter will be placed at the residence along with instructions on how to read the new AMR meter.

As REA Energy changes out old meters for the new AMR meters, members will be notified of any faulty services and what actions will need to be taken to correct the problem. Failure to repair the service will result in disconnection of your electric service. In severe cases, we may disconnect the service immediately. If a faulty service is disconnected, it will not be reconnected until it is fixed and inspected.

Any damage done to a member's service while changing the meter will not be the responsibility of the cooperative.

REA Energy will be closed Monday, May 31, 2010, in observance of Memorial Day

REA Energy will be rebuilding underground lines in Evergreen Manor starting around the middle of April. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this process and any temporary service interruptions.

Keep electricity from going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures — faucets and shower-

heads — or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10-degree F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees F, most households usually only require them set at 120 degrees F. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of 130 F to 140 F for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A

tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, H2O Conserve.org



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District 4



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District 5



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District 2



Wayne Stiles
District 8

From the Boardroom

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

- ▶ Heard a 2009 year-end summary for REA Energy Services by Business Development Manager Chad Carrick that included reports on fourth-quarter activity, 2009 financial information, future plans and the status of pending work.
- ▶ Scheduled a date for management and directors to hold a planning session for REA Energy Services, Inc.
- ▶ Received extensive information from Business Development Manager Chad Carrick about internet service and authorized management to move forward in partnering with an internet service provider (ISP) to provide internet service to cooperative members residing in Cambria County.
- ▶ Received and reviewed Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Forms completed by all directors and employees to assure that no conflicts of interest exist.
- ▶ Accepted the Audit Arrangement Letter provided by the auditors outlining the services to be provided during the annual audit.
- ▶ Decided to invite the President & CEO of Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), Frank Betley, to speak at this year's annual meeting. Also selected an alternate

speaker from PREA should Mr. Betley not be available.

- ▶ Adopted a change to board policy that will prohibit candidates running for director from using any REA logo or materials that would imply endorsement by the cooperative. A copy of the policy will be provided to all candidates for director.
- ▶ Received an annual report from Co-Manager Tom Borusiewicz regarding compliance with REA's policy to take all reasonable steps to prevent the theft of its members' personal information.
- ▶ Authorized management and officers to sign any documents necessary to refinance some loans at lower interest rates if the opportunity exists to save money.
- ▶ Heard a legal update from the cooperative's attorney, David Serene.
- ▶ Accepted new members.
- ▶ Reviewed management reports.
- ▶ Heard reports from the co-managers Tom Borusiewicz and Gary Grindle.

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.