

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



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Monday - Friday

Guest Column



Our history, our future

By Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC,
Communications & Marketing Supervisor

ONE OF my favorite quotes has always been, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Cooperative Month in October, it is a great time to take a look back — and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative.

Once established, annual meetings were the “must-attend” event of the year. The co-op — on behalf of the owner-members — committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today — and tomor-

row. REA Energy currently serves nearly 18,650 members, and 2,660 miles of line. In January 1938, the membership stood at 91 and there was only 35 miles of line. All this time, one item has remained unchanged: the \$5 membership that one pays to join the cooperative.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the

future, you can be confident that REA Energy will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community.

Over the last 80 years, as

we’ve listened to you and your fellow co-op owner-members, we know we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future. ☀️



Rural Electric Youth Tour – An unforgettable experience

IN JUNE, a group of more than 1,800 high school students descended upon Washington, D.C., to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. This tour, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), gives students who are entering their senior year of high school the opportunity to see the sights of Washington, D.C., and to learn about our nation's government and the role of rural electric cooperatives.

In 2017, REA Energy was represented by 14 excellent students from throughout our service territory. The students are very active in school and civic activities, and all knew a great deal about electric cooperatives. The best way to describe their experience is to let them tell it from their point of view. The following is a few of the students' recaps of their experiences:

Charlie Beatty

I had the amazing opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., this summer, thanks to the REA board of directors.

This was actually my first time being in D.C., and I got to witness many great things D.C. had to offer, such as its great monuments and museums. I think the best part about the trip was how the chaperones let us explore and discover new things for ourselves. This helped me to create new friends who I wouldn't have met unless I went on Youth Tour.

I got to experience so much in D.C. this summer and hope many more people will have the same opportunity I had for years to come. Thanks again to the board of directors for giving me the opportunity to go on this trip.

Matthew Behe

My REA cooperative invested in the area's rural youth to give small town kids an opportunity to experience sights and places they may not have otherwise seen. My mom had read in the *Penn Lines* for years about Youth Tour, and in the years leading up to my junior year of high school, continually urged me to apply for the opportunity to participate. I was nervous about the

trip, but did apply.

Once I was chosen, it quickly became evident the trip would be an educational networking opportunity. I made new and lasting friendships and had no worries under the guidance of our chaperones. The educational experiences of visiting the Holocaust Museum and Smithsonian provided more meaningful information than any textbook. As a student in an electrical vocational program, it was interesting to learn about the cooperative.

This experience made a positive and lasting impression on me. I am thankful for the chance REA provided me, and I will have to say my mom was right.

Adam Bobak

Youth Tour was one of the best experiences of my life. I made so many new friends who I will never forget and will keep in touch with for years to come.

The learning experiences were never-ending. I learned about everything from presidential dogs to the overlapping of pop culture and politics. I was able to see and experience so many interesting monuments and attractions that I would not have been able to experience on my own time and resources. Before going on the trip, I was a little nervous that boredom would set in or that I would have trouble finding people to talk to. My fears never even came close to becoming a reality. All in all, I will never forget Youth Tour and the memories that I made. I wish I could go back!

Logan Crooks

The D.C. Youth Tour was such an amazing learning experience. I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to go and see our nation's capital. I

really enjoyed touring the museums and monuments. The play and Potomac boat cruise were also a lot of fun. I met a lot of great people and made some lasting friendships and definitely recommend that future youth apply for this awesome experience.

Mariah Farabaugh

REA Youth Tour was a week jam-packed with so many exciting adventures and good times with new friends. It is a week I will never forget. All of us were given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore D.C. and its monuments and talk with our representative at the Capitol, all the while being surrounded by great, down-to-earth students who were our age. These new friends have helped me become a more confident and outgoing person than I was coming into the tour.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime trip that I was grateful to be a part of and would recommend to anyone.

Rachel Hall

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to



YOUTH TOUR CAPITOL: REA Energy Youth Tour 2017 representatives pause for a photo in front of the Capitol Building.

PHOTO BY NEIL C. JONES



SEEING IT ALL: REA Energy's 2017 representatives, along with REA Energy chaperone, Marissa Cronauer, take advantage of the scenic view for a group shot with the Washington Monument.

taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience." This year, I was fortunate to have been chosen to represent REA at Youth Tour, as well as to experience the teaching and excitement of the entire week.

If I had to choose one activity that was my absolute favorite, I would probably say the Potomac boat cruise. The sights of the city were breathtaking and as the night went on, it became more exciting.

Later on in the week, we got to meet with U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster. One of the things that really stuck out to me was how personable he was with the students. I really enjoyed hearing from him and his opinions on some of the situations going on today.

Overall, I would, without a doubt, say this week at Youth Tour was the most amazing week of my life.

Benjamin Johns

Youth Tour 2017 was the highlight of my summer. Being able to make new friends while learning the history of Washington, D.C., was a very

fun experience, along with learning the inner makeup of how government works. I would recommend this trip to anyone and everyone, whether you are on the fence about it or don't even want to do it at all. You will make friends, and you will have a lot of fun. I thank REA for the opportunity to go on this trip.

Evan Marino

The Youth Tour was a tremendous experience for me. From the beginning, our schedule was packed with a plethora of events that kept us busy for the entirety of the trip. Some of my favorite parts of the trip included our

visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the Newseum, the Kennedy Center, and meeting U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster in the Capitol. It was clear to me that all of the students and chaperones on the trip had a love of our nation and its history.


I am grateful that I was selected by REA to attend this trip because it exposed me to all the wonderful aspects of our history, our government and the importance of electric cooperatives like REA in our nation.

Gina Miller

Going to Washington, D.C., on Youth Tour was one of the best experiences of my life. Youth Tour gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience and see so much of Washington, D.C.

I would recommend this opportunity to all high school juniors. I would also like to thank REA Energy for giving me this opportunity.

Experience Youth Tour 2018

REA would like to encourage all high school juniors to enter for a chance to go on the 2018 Youth Tour. Information to apply for the trip will be available in an upcoming edition of *Penn Lines*. 

Want to learn about our subsidiary? Visit www.reaservices.com



REA Energy Services, Inc. (REA ES) encourages members to visit our new website to learn more about the subsidiary. The new site is up and available for you to access. The home page, shown above, is what you will see when you visit www.reaservices.com.

From the home page, you can explore the different products and services that are offered. You can also send emails directly to the subsidiary with your questions by clicking on the link or sending it to reaservices@reaservices.com.

We will continue to make the site more user-friendly and add information on REA Energy Services. Check back often!

Thank you to all members who attended REA Energy's Annual Meeting on Sept. 21.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

On Thursday, October 19, REA Energy's Ebensburg and Indiana Offices will be closed. Both offices will reopen at 7 a.m. on Friday, October 20. Please call 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273 to report any power outages. Payments can be placed in the drop box at both locations, or via our online Member Portal at www.reaenergy.com.

RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT/FACILITY CONSTRUCTION NEWS

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 Belsano, Kenwood and Strongstown Substations areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. Crews from Penn Line Service will be trimming the right-of-way of the St. Augustine Substation area.

Notification of work will be made using our automated phone system to members in the areas affected.

Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800, or you can view the specifications online at: www.reaenergy.com. All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

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