

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.
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814-472-8570

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- Barry Baker**
Indiana Operations Manager
- Erin Bauer**
ACRE Coordinator
- Shane Cribbs**
Network & Systems Manager
- Dave Daugherty**
Safety & Right of Way Manager
- Jeff Dishong**
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor
- Lisa Gardill**
Accounting & Finance Supervisor
- Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC**
Communications & Marketing Supervisor
- 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

Guest Column



Petitions for director candidates due by June 22

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

THE board of directors for REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. is comprised of nine cooperative members who are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis.

In 2018, Districts 7, 8 and 9 are up for re-election. District 7 consists of White Township in Indiana County. District 8 consists of Barr, Blacklick, Clearfield, Dean, East Carroll, West Carroll, and White townships in Cambria County, and Beccaria Township in Clearfield County. District 9 consists of Plumcreek, Kiskiminetas, and Southbend townships in Armstrong County; Armstrong, Burrell and Conemaugh townships in Indiana County; and Derry and Loyalhanna townships in Westmoreland County.

Also in 2018, a special election will be held for the director representing the members in District 4 to choose a director to complete the balance of an unexpired term that will be up for re-election in 2020.

Qualifications

To be eligible for director candidacy, individuals must meet the following criteria and all other guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws:

- ▶ Be at least 18 years old
- ▶ Signed and submitted an application for service at primary residence
- ▶ Received electric service at primary residence continuously for the past year
- ▶ Not be employed by, or financially interested in, any business in compe-

tion with REA

- ▶ Have never been an employee of REA or any electric cooperative or association
- ▶ Not a close relative of a director or employee of REA
- ▶ Have paid all balances due REA within 90 days of billing during the previous one-year period
- ▶ Have not been convicted of theft of services from REA
- ▶ Have not been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony or crime of moral turpitude

Complete director qualifications are detailed in the cooperative's bylaws in Article III, Section 2. (a). Packets containing all the necessary information and forms are available at the cooperative's offices, or by emailing reaenergy@reaenergy.com.

Important dates to remember

This year, the first day that members can submit petitions to run for director is March 23, 2018. To register as a candidate, you must reside in District 4, 7, 8 or 9.

Interested applicants will need to have their petitions submitted and received at the cooperative by 3 p.m. on June 22, 2018.

A ballot containing the names of all the nominees will be mailed to members in Districts 4, 7, 8 and 9 in early September. Election results will be announced at REA Energy's annual meeting on Sept. 20, 2018. 

The importance of right-of-way maintenance

By Brendan Short
Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor

REA ENERGY is committed to and strives toward providing the highest quality service to our members. Right-of-way (ROW) vegetation maintenance plays a major role in achieving this commitment, so that REA can provide safe and reliable electricity to its members.

There are benefits of having a well-established Vegetation Maintenance Program (VMP). The first benefit is public safety. Distribution lines are high-voltage lines that can be a danger to society. If trees are allowed to grow into any form of high-voltage line, this can create a very dangerous situation for utility personnel, landowners and the public.

Electrical energy is always trying to find its way to the ground, but it needs a conductor to get there. An example would be a healthy looking tree, which is a conductor. When tree limbs are touching distribution lines, there is the potential that the distribution energy is using that tree to find a path to the ground, which has the potential to energize a portion of that tree. If landowners notice this situation, they should not take matters into their own hands. Instead, call REA Energy and report the situation. Trained professionals in the industry can assess the situation and resolve it.

The second benefit of a well-established VMP is storm restoration time. With a proper VMP in place, storm restoration times may be reduced dramatically because a properly maintained ROW allows utility personnel to have better access to the lines and be able to see where the outage is located. This allows personnel to more easily assess the situation and determine what tools and materials may be needed to properly restore the line.

With a non-maintained ROW, utility lines can become entangled within brush and tree limbs. When ROWs are in this form, restoration times may increase because personnel have to spend

more time looking for the outage location. Once the location of the outage has been determined, utility personnel may be engulfed within an overgrown ROW. Untangling the utility lines is very time consuming for vegetation management crews. This makes it very hazardous for utility personnel and the public.

Landowner notification

REA uses various methods of landowner notification before any vegetation management work takes place on the property. Numerous attempts will be made to notify landowners. Methods of notification that are being used to notify landowners of the pending work are: automated phone calls, letters, newspaper ads, *Penn Lines*, Twitter and Facebook posts. Final notification will be a personal notification from a representative of the professional tree contractor, who will explain the scope of work that must be accomplished on the given property. Landowners at this time should ask questions so they have a complete understanding of the work that will be performed within their property limits.

REA cycle trimming program

There are approximately 2,600 miles of electric line to maintain in the cooperative's territory. REA Energy requires tree trimming, tree removal and herbicide treatment on a cycle basis. Currently, the cooperative has adopted a five-year vegetation management cycle to take care of the entire ROW in our service area. Adequate trimming and spraying programs make it possible to provide reliable electric service and reduce outage time.

In 2018, the following

cycle trimming, mowing and herbicide projects are scheduled:

- ▶ Uniontown Substation – 186 miles
- ▶ Parkwood Substation – 143 miles
- ▶ Washington Substation – 138 miles
- ▶ Indiana North Substation – 66 miles
- ▶ Kenwood Substation – 86 miles
- ▶ St. Augustine Substation – 113 miles

Reliability

Our focus this year is on reducing tree-related outages. This is achievable with proper maintenance and the cooperation of members working with the cooperative to maintain ROW. REA Energy appreciates your cooperation with ROW tree-trimming and vegetation control. Working together, we will reduce outages, keep the system safe for employees and landowners, and reduce outage time. If you have any questions regarding ROW issues, you can visit our website at www.reaenergy.com to see proper specifications for ROW clearance, or contact the Indiana office at 724-349-4800 or the Ebensburg office at 814-472-8570. 🌳

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES	MEDIUM TREES	SMALL TREES
<p>Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple • Birch • Oak • Sweetgum • Spruce • Linden • Pine 	<p>Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington hawthorn • Goldenrain tree • Eastern redbud • American arborvitae • Dogwoods 	<p>Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.</p> <p>Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star magnolia • Crabapple • Lilac

Sources: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Be prepared for storms

SPRING is coming and that means increased thunderstorm activity. These thunderstorms can contain lightning that has the potential to knock out electrical power. While restoration of power can be a complicated process, REA Energy has a plan in place to turn the lights back on in a quick and efficient manner.

REA Energy will spend thousands of dollars this year, and in years to come, to provide members with a reliable source of power. Part of the money is used for maintenance and tree-trimming to reduce the number of outages, but sometimes situations are beyond our control, such as the weather.

There is a specific order that must be followed when restoring electricity. Electricity comes from the substation, and then the first line feeds into the second, the second into the third and so on until the end of the line. When performing repairs, the same order must be followed. It would be worthless to repair a service line to a house if the distribution lines were not working yet.

Repairing problems at a substation is REA's top priority. Sometimes power is lost to the substations that are supplied by transmission lines. If the lines are the

cooperative's property, we can fix them; if not, we have to wait until another utility repairs them. The substations are readied for power before the transmission line is energized.

Next on the repair list are three-phase main distribution lines. They are the main "artery" in transmitting power. The power has to go through them to reach consumers.

In an outage, some members will receive power when the substation or three-phase lines are re-energized. Sometimes, however, the damage is more extensive, and major work will need to be done to a single-phase distribution or tap line.

A tap line comes off the main line. It may feed a single home or many homes. Tap lines with the most consumers on them will be repaired first. Individual services will be repaired last.

Sometimes a tree or branch may rip wires from the home, and the homeowner will need to contact an electrician to re-establish a safe wiring connection.

You can help REA get your power back on as quickly as possible by checking your circuit breakers or fuses in your fuse box to make sure none are

tripped or blown, and seeing if your neighbors have power.

Call REA Energy's outage number at 724-463-7273 or 1-800-332-7273, and our automated phone system will automatically record your name, account number, location, and the time you called. If you choose to leave a message, stay on the line and your message will be recorded for our dispatcher's use. With the outage reporting system, it is not necessary to call the system and/or office phone multiple times.

If your power is restored and then goes out again, call our office to report the problem again.

Most importantly, be patient. If the outage occurs during a storm, many people are trying to call at the same time. After reaching us, please don't continue to call; we need the phone lines available to hear from everyone who has an outage.

REA Energy appreciates your patience as an affected consumer during an outage. REA Energy recognizes the inconvenience experienced by all affected members. REA Energy's dedicated employees, work 24 hours a day to restore and maintain power to all consumers. If your phone number has recently changed, please call 724-349-4800 or email reaenergy@reaenergy.com. ☀

Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.



Mark and Melza Kirsch were chosen as the winners in REA Energy Services 2017 contest. Customers whose REA Energy Services job or product was \$500 or more were entered into a drawing for a prize valued up to \$500. Shown in the photo are, from left: Mark Kirsch and Chad Carrick, REA Energy Cooperative president and CEO. Congratulations, Mark and Melza, and thank you for choosing REA Energy Services.

In 2018, those whose REA Energy Services product or service is \$500 or more will be entered to win a prize. Stop by REA Energy Service's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Builders Association Home Show in the S&T Bank Arena March 16-18 to learn more about all of the products and services we offer.



REA Energy Services offers the following products and services:

Electrical Contracting • Heating and Air Conditioning

Geothermal Heat Pumps • Backup Generators

Home Heat Loss Estimates • Portable Generators

Tree Trimming and Removal • Water Heater Service Program

Right-of-way management and facility construction news

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

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights-of-way of the 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 Uniontown Substation area.

Notification of work will be made to members in the areas affected. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry employee identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name.

If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800, or view the specifications at: www.reaenergy.com.

Don't forget to stop by REA Energy's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Home Builder's Show at the S&T Arena March 16-18. Members who visit the booth will receive a free gift.



REA Energy offices will be closed on Friday, March 30, 2018, in observance of Good Friday. Power outages can be reported by calling 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273.

Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3



Wayne Farabaugh
Vice Chairman
District 8



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



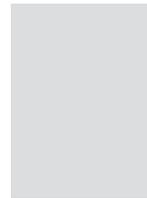
Herman Blakley
District 9



Sam Eckenrod
District 1



Anthony Enciso
District 7



Vacant
District 4



John R. Learn
District 6



J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2