

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 & 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

From the President & CEO



Our future rests in your hands

By Chad Carrick

FOR FOLKS new to REA Energy (and for those members who might need reminding), let me introduce you to the second cooperative principle, “Democratic Member Control,” which is one of seven guidelines that govern cooperative operations. That means you, as a member of REA Energy, ultimately selects who represents you on the co-op’s board of directors and determines the strategic direction of our local, not-for-profit business.

One of the main duties of directors involves hiring a CEO. Since being hired for this position in 2016, I’ve been responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of running REA Energy and ensuring that you receive a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power.

But my hiring is not where the directors’ duties end — by no means. Your directors must constantly consider policies affecting the co-op. For example, how much must we spend on maintenance? If we need a new substation, how will we build it? How will we finance it? How often do we update our technologies and facilities to stay efficient?

It’s not an easy task. Responsibilities stack up, and time commitments are considerable. Besides attending hours of meetings every month, each director must continuously educate himself or herself about the complex business of electricity production and distribution. Directors also spend lots of their free time learning about the intricacies of strategic planning and financial deci-

sion-making. Our directors must take a series of courses and receive their Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and Board Leadership Certificate to serve on the board.

But the learning doesn’t end there. Numerous other classes and seminars cover topics that must be part of each director’s pool of knowledge. And after all of that education, sorting through difficult choices remains.

Like any successful democracy, this decision-making process does not operate in the dark. We keep you informed about the financial condition of the co-op, tell you when situations arise that could affect your bill or service, and educate you about the issues involved. We do this through these pages in *Penn Lines*, in letters or other communication included with your bills, and, most importantly, during face-to-face conversations, whether at our annual meeting or other events, or even just a conversation in the local supermarket.

In a democracy, member participation is crucial. That’s why it is important for you, if you care about how your co-op operates, to attend our various meetings and let us know when issues arise that need our attention. Consider giving your time, whether in service on the board or on various committees.

Co-ops are different than other forms of businesses because of you, our members, and because of the way decisions are made. We welcome and encourage your involvement. After all, it’s YOUR co-op. 

Director Michael Bertolino obtains certification

District 3 Director and board Chairman Michael Bertolino was recently recognized for obtaining his Director Gold credential for coursework completed through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) credentials and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board.

Upon obtaining the CCD and BLC, directors must earn a minimum of three additional credits to obtain the Director Gold status. To maintain Director Gold status, directors must earn three credits from NRECA within a two-year (24-month) period from the time their last Director Gold credential was awarded.

Congratulations, Michael, on a job well done! 🌟



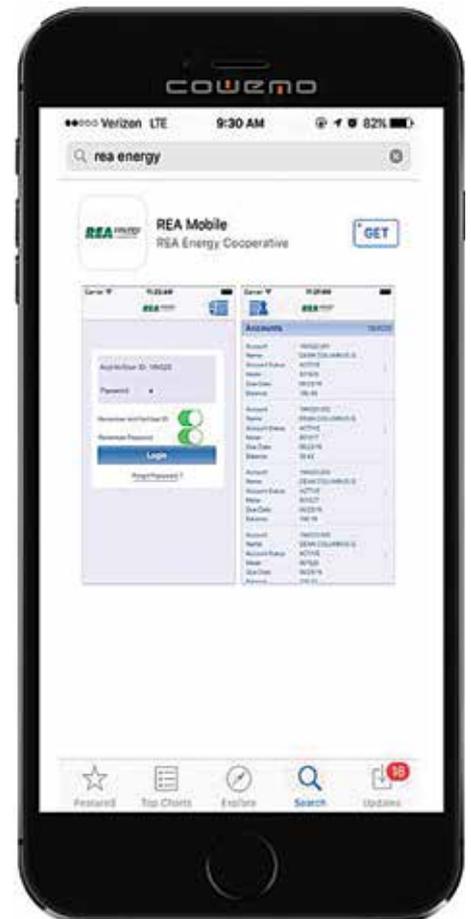
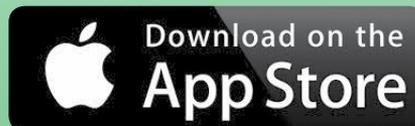
RECOGNITION: District 3 Director Michael Bertolino, left, is congratulated by Chad Carrick, president & CEO of REA Energy, for completing the coursework necessary to obtain Director Gold status.

Have you signed up for REA Energy's member portal?

Members can now download a mobile app to make payments for FREE on the go!

To sign up for the member portal, members must initially sign up on a desktop computer. Upon signing up, members are offered many exciting features!

To sign up today, visit www.reaenergy.com. Inside the website, there is a green, square button reading "Member Portal." Click here. After signing up, members can simply log in each month on their desktop computer or visit the Google Play or App Store to download the mobile app.



Are you saving with your Co-op Connections Card?

In May 2012, members received their Co-op Connections Card, allowing them to save money locally, nationally and online. Great discounts are also available on prescription drugs at over 60,000 pharmacy stores nationwide; in the time since receiving the cards, REA Energy members have saved over \$42,000 on prescriptions!

Shop local and save

One of the ways your REA Energy supports small businesses is through the Co-op Connections Card program. Currently, there are over 120 local discounts that members can take advantage of when shopping throughout the area. We hope local businesses participating in the program benefit from increased traffic from REA Energy members. With the card, you can save on many different products and services, including dining out and home décor, and just about everything in between.

What is even better, the Co-op Connections Card is accepted at nearly 23,000 businesses nationwide. But that's not all; there are many more opportunities to save online as well. To search for discounts or to find out more about your card, visit www.reaenergy.com and click on the Co-op Connections Card link or call us at 724-349-4800.

Save on everyday prescriptions

Perhaps one of the biggest benefits of the Co-op Connections Card is the prescription discounts you can receive on your next trip to the pharmacy. That's because with your card, you'll be able to get anywhere from 10 percent to 85 percent off your prescription drugs at over 60,000 locations, including national and regional pharmacy chains. Many local independent pharmacies also accept the card. In the past year alone, REA Energy members have saved nearly \$2,800 at the pharmacy just by showing their card.

More ways to save in 2018

Who doesn't like to save money? In 2018, the newest addition to the Co-op Connections Card program helps you save more money while shopping. Co-op Connections is teaming up with iBennie, an exclusive membership that gives you access to incredible savings on travel, groceries, restaurants, events, insurance and more.

Teaming up with iBennie will give a new web platform (still www.Connections.coop), a state-of-the-art smartphone app, hotel savings, event ticket offers, new dining and event options and 400,000 new discounts in all. Stay tuned for additional information in an upcoming edition of *Penn Lines*.

For more information or to locate a list of providers in your area, visit www.reaenergy.com and click on the Co-op Connections Card link or call our office at 724-349-4800.



Statement of non-discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax to 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

REA's safety internship program



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: Gavin Ewing is REA Energy's safety intern.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) student Gavin Ewing started in the position of safety intern on Jan. 8.

Some of his duties will include: reviewing/auditing REA Energy's safety programs and implementing necessary revisions, assisting with hazard identification, evaluation and control, incident investigation, safety training and education, and compliance with applicable regulations, as well as assisting with facility and crew audit/inspections.

Gavin, a graduate of Purchase Line High school, is currently a senior at IUP.

In his free time Gavin enjoys hunting, fishing, lifting weights and playing basketball.

Right-of-way management and facility construction news

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

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights-of-way of the Kenwood substation area, 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.



Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3



Wayne Farabaugh
Vice Chairman
District 8



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



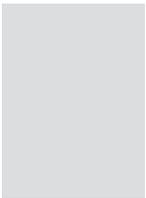
Herman Blakley
District 9



Sam Eckenrod
District 1



Anthony Enciso
District 7



Vacant
District 4



John R. Learn
District 6



J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2