

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Chad Carrick
President and CEO

STAFF

Barry Baker
Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer
PAC Coordinator

Shane Cribbs
Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty
Safety & Right of Way Manager

Steve Malesky
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Lisa Gardill
Director of Finance &
Accounting Services

Nick Hartman
Manager of Engineering

Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKAE
Communications & Marketing Manager
Local Pages Editor

Renee Spalla
Supervisor of Consumer Services

Chris Weller
Load Management Supervisor

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
844-920-3395

OFFICE HOURS
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Ebensburg Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Guest Column

The Season of Giving



STACY HILLIARD

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES and the air turns crisp, we are reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It is a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another. At REA Energy Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You have probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase; it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities. We are here to keep the lights on and make life better for the people we serve: our members, our neighbors, and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our cooperative family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, keep our community strong and build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

This year, in the spirit of generosity, the cooperative is conducting a coat drive. New or gently used coats of all sizes for adults and children — along with new scarves, hats, and gloves — will be accepted through the end of this month at both REA offices: 75 Airport Road, Indiana, Pa., 15701; and 127 Municipal Road, Ebensburg, Pa., 15931. Donations will be given to the Community Action offices in Indiana and Cambria counties for distribution.

Another program we offer is Operation Round-Up. Thanks to the generosity of members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we are able to help local families who may need assistance in paying their electric bill. Every little bit adds up, and it makes a big difference.

REA Energy is also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action. Youth Tour represents giving in the most meaningful way by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

Also, because we care deeply about safety, we present our hot line safety demonstrations in the community and at local schools, teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity.

You may also find our employees out in the community, coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards and partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to help keep our local economy strong.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce energy bills or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our employees by calling 800-211-5667. We are here to help — not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At REA Energy, we believe concern for community is more than a value, it is the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we are especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at REA Energy Cooperative, Inc., we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe, and bright holiday season. 🎁

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

Annual Meeting Wrapup

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC. held its 88th annual meeting Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Kovalchick Complex in Indiana, Pa. There were 356 members who attended in-person and virtually.

The Credentials & Elections Committee members who witnessed the annual meeting were: Robert Fairman, John Shrift, Dennis Gillespie, R. Michael Keith, John T. “Tom” Brady, Chair Virginia Farabaugh, Shelby Miller and Paula Hencel.

Election results

This year, board Districts 5 and 6 were up for regular election. In District 5, incumbent Robert Neese ran unopposed and was re-elected. In District 6, incumbent John Learn also ran unopposed and was re-elected.

Cooperative updates

Board Chairman Michael Bertolino and President & CEO Chad Carrick held a town hall-type presentation for their reports about the cooperative. Communications & Marketing Manager Stacy Hilliard moderated.

Carrick shared questions most frequently asked by members. One of the most popular addressed the broadband rollout through REA’s subsidiary, In The Stix Broadband (ITX). The three main fiber phases, as well as ITX’s existing infrastructure, were discussed.

Upon completion, the REA Energy fiber ring build will have more than 750 miles of connectable fiber, giving those in Indiana and Cambria counties an option for high-speed internet.

“We’re always looking out for what

Your Newly Elected REA Energy Directors



Robert Neese
District 5



John Learn
District 6

our members want and need, and a lot of them were in need of reliable, high-speed internet,” Carrick said. “This fiber ring will also help connect our substations with intelligent devices to make our grid more reliable.”

Carrick also answered questions about the historic outage that occurred when a windstorm swept through REA’s service territory April 29.

“We had the biggest storm we have ever experienced at the co-op,” Carrick said. “Upward of 90% of our system was affected at the peak of the outages. We essentially tripled our outside workforce to get power restored, while dealing with subsequent storms and additional outages. We were able

to restore the majority of members in five-and-a-half days, which is a testimony to the hard work that was done.”

When asked about his thoughts on the storm restoration, Bertolino praised the workforce’s efforts.

“We are reminded how fortunate we are to have a dedicated team to serve our members,” he said. “As board chairman, I want to thank our staff for their continuous and tireless hard work to get the power restored.”

Carrick’s final topic focused on the rising cost of electric service.

“REA Energy does not generate or transmit electricity. We can only control the costs from our substations to your homes,” Carrick said. “The cost of generation and transmission (G&T) is a pass-through rate from our G&T supplier to REA Energy members. Back in 2019, it took \$72,000 to build a mile of single-phase electric line. Today, it costs upward of \$91,000 to build the same mile of line. Those are the costs we’re up against.”

Other business

Immediately following the business meeting, the board held a reorganization meeting and elected officers for 2025-2026. They are: Bertolino, chairman; Wayne Farabaugh, vice chairman; and Neese, secretary/treasurer. Neese was elected to represent the cooperative on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) board for a two-year term, and Farabaugh will serve as the alternate Allegheny director. Allegheny is the cooperative’s wholesale energy supplier. 🗣️

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Tom Beresnyak
District 2 Rick Shope
District 3 Michael Bertolino

District 4 Thomas Aurandt
District 5 Robert Neese
District 6 John Learn

District 7 Anthony Enciso
District 8 Wayne Farabaugh
District 9 Sandra Dill

Serving up Compassion: How Community Action Agencies Bring Hope and Warmth

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON NEARS, Community Action agencies in western Pennsylvania are working diligently to ensure that families in need are provided with nourishing meals and support. Two local agencies, the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) and the Community Action Partnership of Cambria County (CAPCC), are gearing up to offer much-needed services.

At the heart of both organizations is a mission to advance stability and self-sufficiency for local families in need. This is especially important during the holiday season when food and warmth are essential. These agencies collaborate with volunteers and local partners (e.g. faith-based organizations, local fundraisers and United Way-led coalitions) to fill the gaps.

ICCAP's long-standing food assistance infrastructure includes 17 food pantries, emergency food boxes, power packs for K-6 students, and the Pa. Senior Food Box Program. These resources are the backbone of relief efforts. In past years, ICCAP operated pop-up distributions to hand out turkeys, hams, and other staples — and that work will be repeated this year.

"United Way provides ICCAP with gift cards and food staples from the Turkeython fundraising to supplement our pantries during the holidays," Executive Director Brandi Fleming says. "Businesses, such as Tates, Walmart Distribution, Martins, and Giant Eagle, also donate ham, turkey, chicken, and more for the holidays."

Meanwhile, CAPCC's Women, Infants and Children

(WIC) partnership provides meals through the Early Childhood Nutrition Program. CAPCC also helps struggling mothers and families navigate the WIC program with on-site assistance from case managers at their locations in Johnstown, Carrolltown, and Ebensburg. In addition, CAPCC hosts drives to collect essential baby items for families in need.

Both agencies' support extends far beyond the dinner table. ICCAP hosts the Angels' Wings program, which spreads joy and hope by providing gifts to children in need during the holiday season. CAPCC's Coats for Kids and utility assistance programs bring additional relief and warmth to households as temperatures drop.

ICCAP's latest community-driven initiative is a new homeless shelter in White Township.

"Fifty percent of those needing shelter in Indiana County are families," Fleming says. "Our shelter waiting list averages 400 to 500 applicants. The new facility will have the ability to house larger families and includes offices for social services, job recruitment, and case management.

"These services are not a hand-out; they're a hand-up," she adds. "Our goal is to be known in the community as a place you can turn to in dire need and feel heard, welcomed, and comfortable."

You can join their mission by volunteering at food pantries, donating turkeys or non-perishables, or giving coats, diapers, or other essential hygiene items. For details, visit iccap.net or capcc.us, or contact the organizations directly. 📞



WINTER COAT Drive

This season, let's make a difference by participating in the REA Energy Winter Coat Drive. Donate new or gently used coats and new scarves, gloves and hats to help someone stay warm during the cold winter months.

Both children and adult sizes are needed.

SCARVES | GLOVES | HATS | COATS

 **Items collected through Nov. 30**



REA Energy Indiana Office
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

REA Energy Ebensburg Office
M-W-F 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Recent Changes to REA Energy's Bylaws

At a recent meeting of the board of directors, changes were made to REA Energy's bylaws – Article III, Section III regarding nominations. The petition submission period will now start 135 days prior to the annual meeting of members, instead of the previously established 180 days. The submission period will end at 3 p.m. 45 days later, or 90 days prior to the annual meeting. In addition, primary members, or those whose names are listed on the account, are the persons authorized to sign a nomination petition.

Article III, Section III, Nominations

The directors of the Cooperative shall be nominated by a written petition provided by the Cooperative, bearing the signatures of any 15 or more primary members residing in the electing district. All such petitions shall state the residence and directorate district of the nominee and shall be filed no sooner than 135 days and no later than 3 p.m., local time, of the day which is 90 days prior to the date of a meeting at which directors are to be elected. The secretary, or secretary's delegate, shall promptly post the same at the principal office of the Cooperative. The random selection of ballot position shall be performed by the Cooperative's solicitor, or by a member of his or her law firm, at the office of the Cooperative at 3 p.m., local time, of the day which is two business days after 90 days prior to the election of directors meeting. Each nominee shall be entitled to attend the selection of ballot position. The provisions of this section shall be exclusive, except in the case of a recall of one or more directors as provided in Article III, Section 12 of these Bylaws.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

REA Energy offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please call 844-920-3395 to report any power outages. Payments can be placed in the drop box at both locations, by calling our payment system at 844-920-3395, or via SmartHub at reaenergy.com.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER.

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.
- ✓ Have your electrician call REA Energy before performing any work!



Only REA Energy and our contractors are authorized to remove or alter a meter. Tampering with a meter may result in a \$500 fine. Call REA Energy before any work that involves removing a meter.

724-349-4800

REA energy
Cooperative Inc.

Right-of-way management/facility construction news

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

Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Laurel substation area, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

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

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

Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3

Wayne Farabaugh
Vice Chairman
District 8

Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5

Sandra Dill
District 9

Tom Beresnyak
District 1

Anthony Enciso
District 7

Thomas Aurandt
District 4

John R. Learn
District 6

J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2

REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.