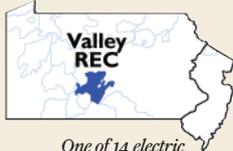


**Valley
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Stauffer
Chairman

Leroy Barnes
Vice Chairman

Kevin States
Secretary

Clair McCall
Treasurer

Robert Holmes
Allegheny Director

David Wright
PREA Director

Cindy Bigelow
Mervin Brumbaugh
Earl Parsons

CORPORATE OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HUNTINGDON/MARTINSBURG/SHADE GAP OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

You have the power to help control energy legislation



by **Edward A. Dezich**
President & CEO

FOR MORE than three decades, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who understand the important issues affecting rural electric co-ops. They speak for and protect the interests of rural electric consumers and their coop-

erative distribution systems. ACRE was organized to support legislators who are in Congress now and those running for Congress.

Through Co-op Owners for Political Action, you, as a co-op member, have the ability to help strengthen this support and join the more than 27,000 contributors to ACRE nationwide.

The time to participate in this program could not be more critical. You don't have to look past the morning headlines to see that energy issues are at the forefront of political discussions. In fact, there is climate change legislation on the horizon that could greatly impact the electric industry and ultimately your electric rates. We need your help to shape this debate in favor of electric cooperative consumers.

The process through which candidates are chosen to receive ACRE contributions is rigorous, requiring the approval of state and national ACRE

committees made up of cooperative directors, employees, and statewide and national association staff members. Contributions are made to political candidates regardless of party affiliation.

Of course, we know that monetary contributions are only one portion of the political process. That's why ACRE members also receive information on important electric cooperative issues through political education workshops and publications. They also routinely write letters and visit legislators in their district offices to voice concerns.

ACRE's strength comes from you and your commitment to the rural electric program. It is each individual's membership that helps us stand together and allows ACRE to remain strong and promote our legislative objectives.

You can join Co-op Owners for Political Action today with a yearly contribution of as little as \$25. With the exception of a federal tax payment of less than 1 percent, all of your membership contribution to Co-op Owners for Political Action goes directly to the campaigns of federal candidates who support rural electrification and to your state political action committee to aid in state and local elections.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the member services department at Valley REC at 814/643-2650 or toll-free 800/432-0680. Our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this vital program. ☀



Co-op difference stressed

during Valley REC Annual Meeting

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
*Communications Specialist,
Member Services Department*

“Many private power companies will soon raise consumer electric rates by 30-60 percent when rate caps are lifted in Pennsylvania. Valley Rural Electric and other Pennsylvania co-ops will not be affected by the rate cap removal. The cooperative model helps protect us from paying too much for electric service.”

Jim Stauffer, chairman of the board of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, made these remarks April 18 to Valley REC members attending the cooperative’s annual meeting at Mount Union Area High School.

During the meeting, Stauffer, along with Valley REC President and CEO Ed Dezich, spoke about the accomplish-



MEMBER APPRECIATION: All registered members at the annual meeting received a \$10 credit on their electric bills and two energy-saving compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

ments and goals of the cooperative and shared information about electric industry issues affecting the world today.

“Environmental concerns about carbon emissions are at the forefront of political discussions,” Dezich noted. “Government leaders and much of the general public are demanding that we add more renewable energy sources to our generation mix.”

“Pennsylvania co-ops already get 70 percent of their power from sources that produce no carbon emissions. And for more than two decades, our coordinated load management program has helped us not only meet but surpass green energy requirements,” he added. “We will continue to support initiatives that encourage efficiency and earth-friendly power production. Unfortunately, we



LEFT: Members cast their votes April 18 during the Valley REC Annual Meeting at Mount Union Area High School. There were 359 voting members in attendance; the crowd numbered more than 700.

ABOVE: Country band Joe Bonson & Coffee Run entertains guests at the event.

also know that renewable energy, as the technology exists today, cannot provide enough power on its own to meet our growing requirements.”

Following Stauffer and Dezich’s remarks, the 359 voting members in attendance at the annual meeting elected three incumbent directors to represent the cooperative’s 23,000 consumers.

Chosen to serve on the co-op’s board of directors for a three-year term were:

District 1 — Mervin G. Brumbaugh of Williamsburg, Blair County;

District 3 — Kevin R. States of Heston, Huntingdon County; and

District 5 — Robert (Bob) Holmes of Huntingdon.

Phillip (Phil) Pheasant of Martinsburg, Blair County, ran against Brumbaugh. The other two candidates ran unopposed on the ballot.

The annual meeting drew a crowd of more than 700. Other highlights included a national anthem tribute to America’s military and entertainment by country band Joe Bonson & Coffee Run. Pastor Phil Harris of the Mount Union Christian and Missionary Alliance Church offered the invocation.

Distinguished guests in attendance included state Sen. John Eichelberger (R-Blair), state Rep. Mike Fleck

RIGHT: Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Ashley Morgan of Mount Union teaches children about the dairy industry. In addition to education, children at the annual meeting enjoyed movies, refreshments and balloons.

(R-Huntingdon) and state Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair), Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Member Services Specialist/Activities Coordinator Anita Leitzel, *Penn Lines* Magazine Associate Editor/Writer Kathy Hackleman and Adams Electric Cooperative Community Services Coordinator Cindy Brant.

Children attending the event enjoyed movies, refreshments, balloons and a presentation by Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Ashley Morgan of Mount Union.

Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church of Shade Gap and Harvey and Lois Hutchison of Petersburg each won a \$250 co-op gift certificate. Members in attendance received a \$10 electric bill credit and two compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

At next year’s annual meeting, members will elect directors from Valley Rural Electric Districts 2, 4 and 6.

INCUMBENTS REELECTED: Valley REC President and CEO Ed Dezich (far left) and Board Chairman Jim Stauffer (far right) congratulate (from left to right) Mervin Brumbaugh, Kevin States and Bob Holmes on their reelection to the Valley REC board of directors.



Power take off: Useful – or lethal – tool

A POWER TAKE OFF (PTO) transfers power from a tractor to another implement. Used in the right way, it can safely power grain augers, manure spreaders, mowers, feed grinders, etc. Used in the wrong way, it can dismember body parts, crush skulls or sever spines.

PTOs operate by turning at speeds of 9-16 rotations per second. If you toss a 6-foot rope over a spinning PTO, it will wrap around the shaft in less than a second. Now imagine that rope is your shoelace or sleeve. Is it any wonder why PTO entanglement nearly always results in devastating injury or death?

Fortunately, there are safety precautions you can take to guard against injuries from PTOs.

Proper shielding

Missing or damaged shielding is the main reason for drive-line entanglement.

A tractor's master shield prevents accidental contact with the tractor stub shaft and the front universal joint of the attached machine's drive line. Never operate a tractor with a missing or damaged master shield and keep the tractor's

master shield in place at all times.

Integral-journal shields completely enclose the power shafts of PTO-operated machines. Check frequently to confirm that integral shields are in good condition. With the power shaft stopped, you should be able to look for nicks, dents or bends that could catch clothing. Damaged shields or bearings must be repaired immediately. Don't operate the machine until damaged parts are fixed or replaced.

The power shaft must also be shielded at the point of attachment of the driven machine. Both the universal joint and the machine's stub shaft must be well covered. If this shielding is missing or damaged, talk to your dealer about a replacement.

There are still some older machines in operation that have tunnel shields over their power shafts. This design offers only limited protection. Because tunnel shielding is still open at the bottom, clothing, shoelaces, hair, etc. can be caught by the shaft or universal joints. If this equipment must be used, power shafts and shielding should be replaced with safer components.

Operator vigilance

Always disengage the PTO, shut off the engine and remove the keys before leaving the tractor seat. You can't be injured by the PTO or other machine parts if the drive line isn't rotating. Taking the keys with you prevents unexpected start-up by another person while you are cleaning, lubricating, adjusting or making repairs.

Never step across a rotating power shaft. Some equipment must be operated in a stationary location where you are working. When such machines are running, always walk around the revolving shaft. Safety devices are usually reliable, but could malfunction.

Dress for safety. Wear close-fitting clothes and keep long hair tied up in a neat bun or tucked tightly under a ball cap. Do not wear frayed clothing or sweatshirts with drawstrings. Avoid wearing shoes with laces or tuck laces tightly inside footwear.

Of course, you must **NEVER** allow young children to play near a PTO unit or work area. ☀

Information courtesy of The Farm Safety Association.

Vertical volunteers

Line workers from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Huntingdon district hang netting at the Huntingdon Soccer Club's field along Route 26. The safety barrier is designed to prevent soccer balls from reaching the road.



PHOTO BY LUANNE H. ECKENRODE

Refrigerate efficiently

Recommended temperatures for refrigerators are 37 to 40 degrees F for the fresh food compartment and 5 F for the freezer section.

Separate long-term storage freezers should be kept at 0 F.

Make sure refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out easily, the latch may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.

Cover anything that's stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.

Look for the ENERGY STAR when buying a new refrigerator and select a new refrigerator that is the right size for your household. Top freezer models are more energy efficient than side-by-side models. Features like ice makers and water dispensers, while convenient, will increase energy use.

