

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Guest Column



Good people and good things

By Doug Roles, *Vice President of Member Services*

IF YOU'VE followed our *Penn Lines* pages, browsed Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) website or attended our annual meetings, you've surely noticed we tend to talk about our principles — the Seven Cooperative Principles: open and voluntary membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Though they're all important, the summer season particularly highlights the seventh one — concern for community — for Valley REC. It seems from the end of the school year to the start of another, we're especially focused on our friends and neighbors.

At the end of this school year, we had the privilege of presenting Brighter Future Scholarship certificates to seniors at several area high schools. Each year, Valley REC awards 15 of these \$1,000 scholarships. We wish all the best to these graduating seniors and our two adult learner recipients.

We're happy to report our Annual Benefit Golf Outing was back in full swing after COVID-19 either delayed or reduced the size of the event over the past two years. We want to thank all our donors and sponsors for making this a success (see pages 14b-d for more information).

Normally, the summer sees us send a group of high school juniors to Washington, D.C., for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour. COVID-19 also curtailed this program in 2022, but we have our fingers crossed for a return to normal for next summer. Keep an eye on your *Penn Lines* pages this fall for recruitment information.

Summer also means county fairs. As usual, we have a booth at the Huntingdon County Fair and the Juniata County Fair. If you go to either of these expositions, stop by and say hello to our staff. Getting out to fairs gives us one more way to meet members while supporting these longtime community gatherings. We're always eager to see old friends and meet new members of the community.

Concern for community is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but also by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too. It's been said that cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. ❁

Annual Valley REC golf tournament benefits two local youngsters, co-op lineworker

By Doug Roles

Vice President of Member Services

EMPLOYEES and friends of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) took to the golf course in June for a tournament benefiting two local youngsters and a co-op lineworker.

The cooperative closed its corporate office and all three district offices on Thursday, June 23, as employees joined golfers and other supporters at Valley's Annual Benefit Golf Outing, held at the Huntingdon Country Club. The event benefited 9-year-old Karmyn Scott of Huntingdon, who is being treated for a brain tumor; 9-year-old Sylus Fellman of Petersburg, who has a rare disorder that damages nerves; and Curt White, a Valley REC lineman from Mount Union, who is battling multiple myeloma, a plasma cell cancer.

The co-op held a scaled-down version of the golf outing in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's



CONCERN FOR CO-WORKER: Valley REC lineman Curt White, right, is among those who benefited from the co-op's recent golfing fundraiser. He is shown here with his son, Andrew, middle, and Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer. Curt is battling multiple myeloma, a plasma cell cancer.

“Each year, I’m amazed by the generosity of our sponsors and golfers as well as the effort put forth by our employees to make this tournament a success.”

— Rich Bauer, Valley REC President & CEO

event was mostly back to normal. The only difference was that it was held in August as the pandemic created continued uncertainty about event planning.

“Each year, I’m amazed by the generosity of our sponsors and golfers as well as the effort put forth by our employees to make this tournament a success,” Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer says. “We want to thank our longtime supporters and those new to our event for, hopefully,

creating a good day on what has been a long road for Karmyn, Sylus and Curt and their families.”

The cooperative's 11th annual golf event raised approximately \$45,000. The recipients will split the proceeds after expenses. Valley's golf outing has raised nearly \$285,000 to date.

The shotgun-start best-ball tournament saw a flight of morning and afternoon golfers take to the links. The morning group teed off at 8, while the afternoon flight began play at 1.

The winning team for the morning flight was the Ed Strickler Team, comprised of Ed Strickler, Ryan Strickler, Noah Strickler and Al Weyant. The afternoon flight winning team was the Marks Brothers Team, comprised of Lantz Thompson, Luke Thompson, Scott Ulrich and Pat Goodman. Both winning teams shot a 49 score. Players were able to purchase “cheats” — such as an extra swing or ball move — as part of the fundraiser, which included a silent auction of a wide variety of donated items.

Karmyn is the daughter of Tony and Jessica Scott. In November 2021, she was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma, a brain tumor that affects the primary nervous system. She immediately had surgery and weeks of radiation treatment followed by chemotherapy. As sometimes happens after tumor removal, Karmyn developed a syndrome

that impacts speech and motor skills and requires occupational and physical therapy. Karmyn has seven siblings, five of whom were adopted by the Scotts, including a special needs child. She continues to undergo treatment, traveling to Pittsburgh for infusions.

Sylus lives in Petersburg with his mother, Heather. He has juvenile metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a rare hereditary disorder that destroys the myelin sheath around nerves, particularly in the brain and spinal cord. Sylus has undergone chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, and has a difficult road ahead. Treatments have impacted his speech. Sylus was diagnosed in June 2021.

Curt joined Valley REC's employee team in 1990, starting on a tree-trimming crew and working his way up to journeyman line-man and crew leader. He often assisted the Member Services Department in presenting career day and safety demonstrations to local elementary school students. In spring 2020, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Curt and his wife, Lois, live near Mount Union and have six children.

All Valley REC employees lend a hand in lining up sponsorships and donations or helping with tournament activities on the day of the event. Valley's previous tournaments have benefited two high school classmates battling cancer; an adult who sustained serious injuries in a car accident; infants and toddlers with congenital conditions; a high school senior with a life-altering digestive disorder; and a young man who was paralyzed in a swimming accident. Valley REC plans to host its next tournament in June 2023. 🌻



ABOVE: Tony, Jessica and Karmyn Scott.



RIGHT: The morning winning team members were, from left, Ed Strickler, Ryan Strickler, Noah Strickler and Al Weyant.

BELOW: The afternoon winning team members were, from left, Lantz Thompson, Luke Thompson, Scott Ulrich and Pat Goodman.



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