

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

10700 Fairgrounds Road
P.O. Box 477
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477
814-643-2650
1-800-432-0680
www.valleyrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Corporate Office Hours
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7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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Office Hours**
Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Outages & Emergencies
1-800-432-0680

Guest Column



Remembering lollipops and much more during National Co-op Month

By John H. Bookwalter Jr., *Special Projects Coordinator*

I FIRST heard of electric cooperatives in the fall of 1972. My parents moved our family from the former village of Aitch, razed for the expansion of Raystown Lake, to our newly built home in a fledgling housing development three miles away. Prior to that, we had lived in a home served by the local investor-owned electric utility.

Almost immediately there were differences with Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). My parents had to read our electric meter every month. Sometimes, they would let us kids write the numbers on the card. When we accompanied our parents to pay the light bill and drop off the reading, the ladies at the front counter gave us lollipops — I often chose orange. My parents received annual invitations to meetings and checks for something called capital credits. Also, two publications, *Penn Lines* and *Valley News*, regularly arrived in our mailbox.

An avid reader, I would read these magazines, especially as I grew older. I learned our electric company was truly OUR electric company. My parents were members of an electric cooperative. This meant they were part owners.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month, it's important to note that this is the main defining feature of a cooperative; it's a business owned by the members it serves. This membership is voluntary and open. Anyone who can reasonably use its services can join.

Members democratically control their cooperative, voting for directors

chosen from among the membership. Members contribute money to the co-op via membership fees and timely payments for services. The cooperative, guided by the elected directors, operates in a not-for-profit manner; returns excess money, called capital credits, to the members; and strives to be an independent, self-sustaining organization. While maintaining this autonomy, the co-op cooperates with other cooperatives, offering mutual support and forming alliances to work together.

A co-op offers training and education to its members and employees to develop and maintain the business. It also provides information to the public, especially young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperatives and cooperation. This concern extends to the local areas served by the co-op. Policies and programs approved by the directors improve the quality of life for folks in these communities.

Valley REC is just one of 831 distribution cooperatives that supply power to 42 million Americans in 48 states, covering 56% of the nation's landmass and reaching 21 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms. More than 60 generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, including our own Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Harrisburg, produce or purchase power on behalf of their member distribution co-ops. G&Ts draw from a diverse mix of energy sources to

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Co-op Connections: your link to savings

As a Valley Rural Electric Cooperative member, you can use the free Co-op Connections app or your free Co-op Connections card to receive valuable discounts at the local participating businesses listed on these pages, as well as at numerous national retailers.

Keep this directory handy to identify local participants. Also, keep an eye out for the Co-op Connections card decals on doors or cash registers where you shop.

To see an up-to-date list of participating businesses and their discounts, along with many other offerings and savings, visit valleyrec.com and click on the Co-op Connections card icon on the homepage. Once on the Co-op Connections site, scroll down to get the app, or sign up and log in to see all of the benefits available to you.



We're a participating business

AUTOMOTIVE/MOTORCYCLE

J&P Auto Mart

1906 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona
Offer: \$1,000 off purchase of any vehicle. Limit one per vehicle. Can't be combined with any other offer/sale. Not applicable for prior purchase.

Pro-Trans

2400 Commercial Blvd., State College
Offer: 5% off transmission service and repair.

CONTRACTORS/BUILDING SUPPLY

Adams Electric, Inc.

870 31st St., Altoona
Offer: 10% off electrical estimates.

Center Region Stone Supply

3462 Birmingham Pike, Tyrone
Offer: 10% off retail prices on Appleridge Stone, FireRock fireplaces and Holland grills.

Dennis A. Heeter,

Heating & Air Conditioning.
7583 Bridge St., Alexandria
Offer: \$100 off installation of new heating or cooling unit.

Fink Brothers Supply

961 Pennsylvania Ave., Tyrone
Offer: 20% off in-stock PPG paints.

G.B. Wineland & Son, Inc.

201 S. Railroad St., Martinsburg
Offer: 5% off Polaris insulated doors and/or 5% off five or more Polaris windows.

Gary's Homes, Inc.

13270 Lincoln Highway, Everett
Offer: 10% discount on parts purchased in our parts store.

ImPressive Floors, Inc.

118 S. Richard St., Bedford
Offers: 10% off any cash-and-carry item from the store. \$20 off any ordered special materials 144 square feet or more. \$20 off any two or more Hunter Douglas window treatments. These offers cannot be combined with any other offer.

Joseph T. Berrena Mechanicals, Inc.

279 Standing Stone Ave., Huntingdon
Offers: 20% off Hydroflow S38 chemical-free water treatment device. 10% off parts and service.

Lewistown Floor Company

518 W. 4th St., Lewistown
Offer: 10% off any carpet purchase over 450 square feet (50 square yards).

Mount Union Lumber & Supply, Inc. (MULS)

114 W. Poplar St., Mount Union
Offer: Receive a \$200 rebate on the purchase of any one of the following Fujitsu mini-split units: 9RLS3Y, 12RLS3Y, 15RLS3Y, 18RLXFZ dual-headed unit, and 24RLXFZ triple-headed unit. Please notify MULS at the time of purchase about the card.

PJs Hearth & Home Heating

2447 Quaker Valley Road, New Paris
Offer: 5% off anything in the store, including installations and cleanings.

Rick Worthy Contracting, Inc.

10321 Sugar Grove Road, Huntingdon
Offer: 5% discount.

Superior Floorcoverings & Kitchens, LLC

393 Beddington Blvd., Suite 101B, Chambersburg
Offer: 7% discount; cannot be combined with other discounts.

DINING/FOOD

Allegro Restaurant

3926 Broad Ave., Altoona
Offer: Buy one dinner entree and receive \$5 off the second dinner entree. Not applicable to alcoholic beverages, lunch menu, family-style menu and dinner-for-two menu. Maximum value \$5. Not redeemable for cash.

Couch's Subs & Groceries

13605 Greenwood Road, Huntingdon
Offer: 5% discount on any menu item.

Hobo's Restaurant

180 Hyndman Road, Hyndman

Offer: 10% off daily special or dinner entree (dine-in only).

J.P. Edward's Grill and Bar

203 S. Logan Blvd., Burnham
Offer: 10% off, excluding alcohol and specials.

Jethro's, LLC

417 Parkview Lane, Altoona
Offer: 10% off. Not valid after 4 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, on holidays, or with any other discount; excludes tax, alcohol & gratuity.

Queen City Fruit & Produce

125 E. Central Way, Bedford
Offer: 50 cents off product not already discounted.

Speck's Deli & Gourmet Pizza

12144 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: 10% off menu-priced items; value meals and promotions excluded.

Wild Annie's

300 Lowry Drive, McConnellsburg
Offer: 10% off your entire order.

ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Bowl

11862 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: Free shoe rental for cardholder.

Isett Acres Museum

11941 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon
Offer: \$1 off admission cost.

Lincoln Caverns & Whisper Rocks

7703 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: \$1 off all adult tickets during regularly scheduled tours. Not valid during special events or in combination with other discounts.

Rockhill Trolley Museum

430 Meadow St., Rockhill Furnace
Offer: Buy one ticket, get one ticket free. Not valid for special events.

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Angelina's Invigorating Hour

103 E. Beaver Ave., Suite 10, State College

Offer: \$5 off any massage service and/or product order or gift card of \$35 or more.

HMJ PATCH Program

900 Bryan St., Suite 5, Huntingdon

Offer: Free quit tobacco program: free support, free resources, free nicotine patches/gum.

Huntingdon Vision Center, Ltd.

828 Washington St., Huntingdon

Offer: 5% off total bill when paid with cash/check at time of service (excludes vision plans).

Modern Family Dentistry

3195 Cold Springs Road, Huntingdon

Offer: \$75 off a new patient exam, cleaning and X-rays (must be a new patient of record).

S'Hair-Eng Styling Salon

139 Kelly Alley, State College

Offer: 10% discount on all chemical and color services.

HOME, GARDEN & FARM

Antietam Iron Works & Powder Coating, LLC

201 Lincoln Way West, Suite 100,

McConnellsburg

Offers: Powder coating, 10% off order (for first-time customers); 10% off iron fence or railings (max. discount \$200); 10% off gift shop items. Must mention card when placing order.

BluAcres, LLC

12 Black St., Williamsburg

Offers: \$250 discount on pond dredging and permit plan; \$100 discount on wetland delineation.

CCI Cleaning Connection, Inc.

1107 Locust St., Chambersburg

Offers: Save 20% on initial service(s) with signed contract; save 10% on any other service. Not valid with coupon offers.

Chimney Doctor

9608 Lincoln Highway, Bedford

Offer: \$20 off chimney sweep; \$50 off chimney repair.

Envinity, Inc.

25 Decibel Road, Suite 205, State College

Offer: \$100 toward a comprehensive home energy audit. Audit includes a blower door test, thermal imaging, a solar site assessment and a comprehensive report on all energy-saving opportunities in your home.

Hines Feed Store

210 S. Juniata St., Hollidaysburg

Offer: 5% off, excluding feed and fertilizer.

Mid State Chimney Sweeps, LLC

595 Calhoun Road, Everett

Offers: \$10 off any chimney cleanings; 10% off any chimney liner installed.

Mill Hill Farm Supply, Inc.

161 Mill Hill Road, Williamsburg,

and 618 Canal St., Williamsburg

Offer: \$5 off any \$25 purchase.

Potted Memories Greenhouse

5118 Piney Creek Road, Williamsburg

Offer: 10% off purchase of \$50 or more.

Raystown Decorator Fabric

7163 William Penn Highway, Alexandria

Offer: 20% off fabrics in stock.

Roberts Four Season Power Equipment

613 N. Logan Blvd., Altoona

Offer: 5% off purchase of new mower.

Stoudnour Petroleum, Inc.

8853 Raystown Road, Saxton

Offer: 1 cent per gallon discount.

OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

D-Signs

2816 U.S. Highway 522 South, McVeytown

Offer: 10% off all purchases.

Film Center (The)

3415 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona

Offer: 50 4x6 photo-lab quality prints from your digital camera for just \$10; next-day pickup required.

Huntingdon Offset Printing Company

1431 Oneida St., Huntingdon

Offer: Buy 500 full-color, one-sided business cards, get 500 free of the same card.

Julie's K-9 Kuts

14310 Croghan Pike, Mount Union

Offers: 10% off merchandise (except those sold on consignment); 5% off all grooming services.

Manning Photography

560 Oak Lane, Tyrone

Offer: \$50 gift certificate (cannot be combined with other offers).

MJH Services

126 E. Pitt St., Suite 4, Bedford

Offer: \$10 discount on tax return preparation.

One-Stop Communications

126 Electric Ave., Lewistown

Offers: \$10 off any wireless phone; 20% off standard phone accessories.

Paul Prough Photography

59 Lower Country Club Road, Mount Union

Offer: 10% discount off all orders.

Tiny Tots Childcare and Learning Center, LLC

22965 Croghan Pike, Shade Gap, and 55 N.

Riverside Drive, Mount Union

Offers: 5% discount to families that are enrolled Monday – Friday; \$25 per child for date-night care or “Parents Night Out.”

RECREATION/SPORTS

Bear Creek RV

17481 Raystown Road, James Creek

Offer: 10% off regular-priced items.

Chambersburg Skydiving Center, Inc.

3506 Airport Road, Chambersburg

Offer: \$10 off any student training jump: tandem, static line or accelerated free-fall.

Freedom RV Rentals

360 Travelers Road, East Freedom

Offer: 15% discount.

Saxton Outdoor Supply

10520 Raystown Road, Saxton

Offers: 15% off any in-stock bait; 10% off any in-stock Carhartt item (only one item discounted per purchase).

RETAIL

Prospector Jewelers

1514 Cove Lane Road, Martinsburg

Offer: 10% discount.

Raystown Electronics, Inc.

14188 Croghan Pike, Mount Union

Offer: Discount varies with product.

Vintage Jewelry Chest

8493 Woodbury Pike, Hollidaysburg

Offer: 20% discount.

TRAVEL

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel (The)

215 Innovation Blvd., State College

Offer: Complimentary guestroom upgrade (based upon availability).



SMART: Search “Co-op Connections” in the App store and utilize your member benefits the same as you would with the card.

Co-op's head of member services begins third military deployment to the Middle East

VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) vice president of member services is deploying to the Middle East with his Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit. Doug Roles' mobilization begins this month and marks the third time he has been deployed to the region.

It's expected he will return to work at the co-op's corporate office, near Huntingdon, in late summer 2023. Roles is mobilizing with approximately 500 soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division's headquarters battalion, based in Harrisburg.

"I appreciate the support Valley Rural Electric shows to employees requiring military leave," Roles says. "My co-workers are staying flexible and finding new ways to manage the day-to-day work of the member services department in my absence."

Roles serves as editor of Valley REC's local pages in *Penn Lines* magazine. He also plays a large part in planning co-op events, such as annual meetings and district nominating meetings, and directs media relations.

Some of his work for the cooperative mirrors his military service. Roles, who holds the rank of master sergeant, serves as a print journalist in the division's public affairs office.

He will spend most of his deployed time participating in the same mission that required his deployment in 2018. The headquarters battalion will again provide mission command for several thousand troops conducting security operations throughout the Middle East. Additionally, the battalion will conduct battle staff training directly with partner nation military units.

Roles has served in the Pennsylvania Guard since 2002. In addition to the 2018 mobilization, he previously deployed to Iraq in 2008-2009 with the division's 56th Stryker Brigade



PHOTO BY TRAVIS KUJISTOS

DEPLOYED: Doug Roles, Valley REC's vice president of member services, began a deployment to the Middle East with his Pa. Army National Guard unit this month. He plans to be back to co-op offices in late summer 2023.

Combat Team. He has also participated in overseas training in Egypt, France, Lithuania, and South Korea, and earlier this summer spent nearly four weeks at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., as part of a 20-soldier senior trainer team.

"Deployments always come with their challenges, first and foremost being time away from family and balancing the disruption to your civilian employment," Roles says. "I'm excited to deploy, again, with my unit, but I will certainly be looking forward to getting back to normal next fall."

Doug and his wife, Jody, have a 20-year-old son, Hunter. They reside in McVeytown, Mifflin County. ❁

Guest Column

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provide affordable and reliable electricity, with nearly two-thirds coming from low- or zero-carbon sources. Approximately 60% to 70% of the electricity Valley REC delivers to members comes from non-carbon sources.

Many things have changed during the 50 years I have known about Valley REC. Digital meters have eliminated the need for members to submit readings. Automated phone calls inform members of planned outages. Outage management software helps lineworkers pinpoint unplanned outages more quickly. Automated payment systems allow folks to pay their bills from the convenience of their phones or computers.

However, Valley's commitment to the core principles of a cooperative has never changed. The co-op remains member-focused with an emphasis on personal interactions. You can always talk to a real person about your needs or questions. Oh, and the folks at the front counter still hand out lollipops to the kids — and the kids-at-heart. I recommend orange. ❁



ENERGIZED: A crew from Bryce Saylor & Sons, Inc. Crane & Rigging Service places a substation transformer and a substation control building at the new Sinking Valley substation in Blair County in early August. Valley REC employees and crews from Tri M Group, LLC and Hickes Associates, Inc. were on-site to assist. This new substation will be closer to a Penelec 46-kilovolt supply line, reducing the likelihood of a service interruption. Construction should be complete about the time this issue of *Penn Lines* arrives in mailboxes.