

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

James Stauffer
Chairman
Allegheny Director

Leroy Barnes
Vice Chairman
PREA Director

Cindy Bigelow
Secretary

Randall Huntsman
Treasurer

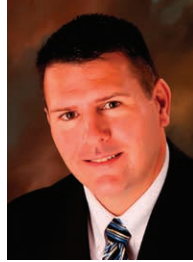
Gregory Henry
Linda McMath
Kenneth Soder
Kevin States
Joanne Whitsel

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

Huntingdon/Martinsburg/Shade Gap
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Outages & Emergencies
1-800-432-0680

Human Connections Keep Us Plugged In



DOUG ROLES

I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW many times in recent weeks I've had to prove to a computer that I'm a real person. Ever had to do that? Prove your humanity to a machine?

Websites often ask users to click a box to declare, "I am not a robot!" And then there are the sites that provide a sectioned-up photo — it could be of a bridge, a motorcycle or a crosswalk — and ask you to click on each of the squares that contains part of the object or scene. If just the motorcycle's taillight or handgrip appears in a square, I guess you still have to check that box.

Some sites make you re-type a series of provided cursive numbers and letters into a box. Maybe robots can't read cursive? One website exclaimed, "Prove your humanity," and then offered up a simple math problem. Turns out 12 (9+3) is the value of humanity — at least for that online platform.

I understand the need for CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) and the worry that "bots" and hackers will gain access to secure information. I also agree something must be done to keep the robot horde at bay, but in an age of automation — when computers talk back and artificial intelligence is trying to outsmart us all — it's nice to be part of an organization that keeps human contact at the center of what we do.

Although we stay abreast of the latest technology — to operate efficiently and provide power as safely and affordably as possible — Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is not some faceless corporation headquartered in a distant city. We're your neighbors, and we pride ourselves on our many touchpoints with our members.

If you choose, you can still come to our front counter to pay your bill or ask a question of our consumer service representatives (CSRs). If you need to call us, you'll talk to a live person. Yes, when the phone picks up, an automated system will let you know you can dial an extension at any time. And that same "robot" will provide you with our pay-by-phone number, in case that's all you need. But after those two notices, someone here is picking up your call. And if you call us after hours, you'll speak with someone from our call response center.

Our knowledgeable CSRs staff the front counters of our locations, but we also refer to our lineworkers and staking engineers as the "front line" of the co-op. They're in the field every day, conducting service work, maintaining power lines and preparing new services. Talking to members is all in a day's work for them.

As a co-op, we also see value in being out in the community. We provide electrical safety and energy efficiency presentations to civic groups and schools. We staff a table at two county fairs, and we continue to offer fire hall suppers for our district nominating meetings. These events give us opportunities to stay plugged in to the people we serve.

As an electric utility, we're all about high tech. As a co-op, we know we exist to serve you. We encourage our members to connect with us, no CAPTCHA required. 🤖

DOUG ROLES

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

Co-op Connections: Your Link to Savings

AS A CONSUMER-MEMBER OF VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative, 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.



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.

Fink Brothers Supply

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

G.B. Wineland & Son, Inc.

201 S. Railroad St., Martinsburg
Offers: 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 more

than 450 square feet (50 square yards).

Mount Union Lumber & Supply, Inc.

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 Mount Union Lumber & Supply, Inc. 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-2 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 and Saturdays, on holidays, or with any other discount; excludes tax, alcohol, and 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 any menu item.

ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Bowl

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

Isett Heritage Museum

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

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 free. Not valid for special events.

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Angelina's Spa Motion

250 First Ave., 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 or 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: 10% off powder coating 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

Offers: \$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.

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: Fifty 4-by-6, photo-lab quality prints from your digital camera for just \$10; next-day pickup required.

Huntingdon Offset Printing Company

1515 Penn 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) and 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 2B, Bedford

Offer: \$10 discount on tax return preparation.

One-Stop Communications

126 Electric Ave., Lewistown

Offers: \$10 off any wireless phone and 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 for families 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.

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 (one item only 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

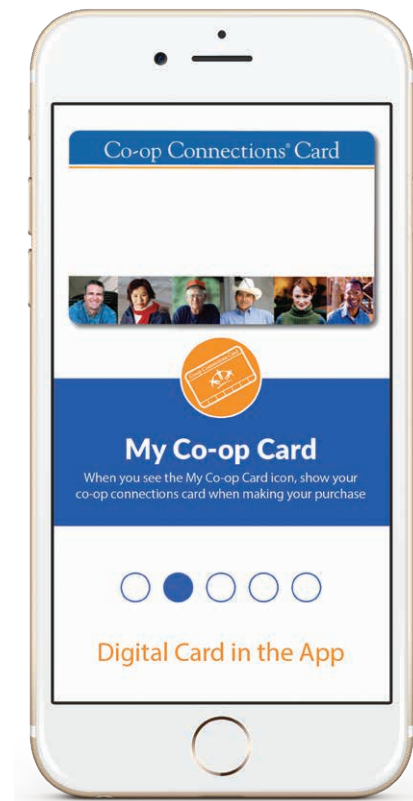
Offer: 20% discount.

TRAVEL

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

215 Innovation Blvd., State College

Offer: Complimentary guestroom upgrade (based upon availability).



DIGITAL SAVINGS: Forgot your Co-op Connections card? No problem! Search "Co-op Connections" in the Play Store (for Andorid users) or App Store (for iPhone users) to download the Co-op Connections app and access your member benefits the same as you would with the card.

Meet Your Employees

DOUG ROLES, VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS COLUMN IS a recent addition to the Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) team, James Storm Vaughn. James joined Valley REC in October 2022 and works as a fourth-year lineman in the co-op's Huntingdon district office.

A native of Shade Gap, James lives in Orbisonia, Huntingdon County. He is a 2015 graduate of Southern Huntingdon County High School.

James attended Allegheny College of Maryland for a year, where he played baseball and had planned to pursue a degree in criminal justice. After the first year, he decided to change plans and worked several jobs close to home before going to work for Henkels & McCoy, Inc. installing aerial and underground fiber-optic line throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts. James worked for Henkels for nearly four years.

James says he decided to get into electrical utility work because he wanted to grow. He thought "What's next?" He started an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers apprenticeship and went to work for MJ Electric, working on transmission lines in Allentown. He then joined a team with Tri-M Group, LLC. His time with Tri-M introduced him to distribution cooperative lines.

"I mostly worked on Tri-County REC property," he says of the contracted work Tri-M performed for Valley's sister electric cooperative headquartered in Mansfield. "I got two years of experience working on a co-op system."

James came to Valley when he heard about an opening from some



SOMEONE TO COUNT ON: James Vaughn is a fourth-year lineman at Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and works at the Huntingdon district.

of the co-op's lineworkers. The timing worked out well. His second child had been born just a few months earlier, and the move to Valley REC got him closer to home.

James says there are many similarities between Tri-County's and Valley's systems but says there is a great difference between being a contracted worker versus being an actual power company employee.

"There is so much to this job that you don't think about when you're setting poles and wire for a contractor, such as troubleshooting," he reflects. "There is so much to learn."

James says his goal is to continue learning and eventually being promoted to journeyman lineman. He adds that he appreciates his fellow lineworkers.

"It's been great," he says. "It's a tight-knit group. The guys are very

knowledgeable. A lot of the guys and I are in the same age group, at the same place in life, but they all bring their own experiences to the job."

Though he once considered becoming a high school gym teacher, James is glad he got into line work and appreciates that the industry offers a family-sustaining wage.

"I cannot imagine doing anything else," he says

When he's not working, James enjoys hunting, golfing and being outdoors.

"I have very young kids, so they get most of my time," he says.

James and his girlfriend, Liz Scott, have two children, Ailee, 4, and Trace, 2. Liz works as a traveling nurse in the area.

James's co-workers are glad he took a swing at line work. He's one of the people you can count on. 🍷