



STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Patronage Capital

One of the most unique and rewarding benefits of cooperative membership is patronage capital. Unlike investor-owned utilities, Steuben Rural Electric is a not for profit member-owned utility.

As a not for profit member-owned utility, any revenues that are in excess of expenses and losses associated with providing electric energy are allocated back to members as patronage capital equity in the Cooperative. The Cooperative recently allocated \$579,130 from the 2017 fiscal year. This allocated equity is a form of capital that the Cooperative uses as working capital to maintain and improve its electric distribution infrastructure. Member equity is essential to maintaining good financial health and a reliable electrical distribution system.

Patronage capital is eventually returned to members as new member equity comes into the Cooperative. This return of equity is often referred to as a patronage capital retirement. Based on the Cooperative's equity management policies, patronage capital retirements are made on a first in, first out basis. That means patronage capital credits that have been invested in the Cooperative for the longest period of time are retired first. The Cooperative typically retires a percentage of patronage capital on an annual basis in September. This year, the Cooperative will likely be retiring all of the remaining patronage capital from the 1992 fiscal year.

For more information, please visit www.steubenrec.coop/content/capital-credits-0 or call your local Cooperative office.

Pole Inspection Notice

The Cooperative is currently in the process of conducting routine pole inspections. As such, the Cooperative has contracted with Alamon to provide the inspection services. Alamon is an industry leader in the use of resistograph technology for wood pole inspections. Resistograph testing provides for non-subjective, verifiable pole condition data.

Members residing in the towns of Thurston, Rathbone, Addison, Tuscarora, Canisteo, Greenwood and Jasper may notice crews riding on four-wheelers or walking along power lines. All Alamon personnel will be wearing a Cooperative issued badge and have a Steuben Rural Electric logo on their vehicles.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire if there will be testing conducted on your property, please call your local Cooperative office using the contact information located on page 4 of this newsletter.

Improving Member Communication

At Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, we are dedicated to serving our members. Member communication is a critical component in providing our members with the best possible experience and most up to date information. In this era of rapid change, we must innovate to stay connected with our members. Steuben Rural Electric is currently in the process of making several improvements to the way in which we connect with our members.

The Cooperative is currently in the process of enhancing the use of notification features that are available through our SmartHub platform. We urge members to update us with their most recent contact information and e-mail addresses by calling your local Cooperative office or through the use of your SmartHub account.

The Cooperative is also currently in the process of redesigning our website, www.steubenrec.coop, in order to provide more information for our membership and to allow different ways in which you may connect with us. Please look for the release of our new website in the beginning of September of 2018.

Another great way to stay up to date with what is happening at your Cooperative is through Facebook. Please "like" our [Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. page](#) to begin receiving updates via your Facebook feed.

As always, your feedback is important to us. Please feel free to call either of our office locations if you have any comments, concerns or questions that are related to communication with our members. We value our members' opinions and are committed to providing the best experience possible.

Board of Directors:

James R. McCormick - President
Jennifer Thurber - Vice President
Janice L. Hoad - Secretary
Robert V. Nichols - Treasurer
Gordon Foster
Joseph Hauryski
Gary Brockway
William H. Moss, III
Randy Stankey

Upcoming Office Closings:

September 3, 2018
October 8, 2018
November 22-23, 2018

Help Keep Utility Poles Clear

Drive down the road and you'll see utility poles covered with a wide range of signs. You'll see everything from no parking to directions to a graduation party, balloons or a local yard sale.

You think to yourself, "What's the harm?" because you plan to take the sign down after the event is over. While we all have good intentions, it's obvious that many signs have been left attached to poles not just for a few days, but months, perhaps years!

Staples or nails can snag climbing equipment, causing linemen to fall or tear their high-voltage gloves, leaving them useless. In addition, to signs, poles have been found to have bird houses, satellite receivers and even deer stands attached to them.

Anything attached to a pole can hold water, increasing rotting time on the pole. Bird

houses can attract bees, resulting in a possible sting area. Help keep our linemen safe by not attaching anything to our poles.

Fixtures not belonging to the Cooperative will be removed by co-op line personnel. The co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during the process.



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- Pledge to be a co-op voter
- Find key election information
- Learn about the issues
- Register to vote

223205

VOTE.COOP

Food Safety Tips During A Power Outage

Recently, we've seen that storms often have much more serious consequences, such as power outages from wind and water damage. If you've lost power and have a refrigerator full of food, make sure time and temperatures are on your side.

If your home's power is interrupted for two hours or less, losing perishable foods shouldn't be a concern. When an outage is prolonged, it's time to decide when to save and when to toss food away.

A digital quick-response thermometer can be one of the most useful tools you can wield in your battle to preserve food. The thermometer checks the internal temperature of the food, ensuring items are cold enough to eat safely.

Use these food safety tips to help you minimize food loss and reduce the risk of foodborne illness:

Refrigerated Food

- Keep refrigerator doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours.
- If food (especially meat, poultry, fish and eggs) has been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours, or has an unusual odor, texture, or color, get rid of it. Remember the American Red Cross food safety rule: "When in doubt, throw it out."
- Never taste food to determine its safety.
- Use perishable foods first, then frozen food.
- To keep perishable food cold, place them in a refrigerator or cooler and cover with ice.

Frozen Food

- A full freezer stays colder longer. Freeze containers of water to help keep food cold in the freezer. If your water supply runs out, melting ice can supply drinking water.
- If you keep the door closed, a full freezer keeps the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, is partially thawed, and has ice crystals on it, you can safely refreeze it.
- Always discard frozen food items that have come into contact with raw meat juices.

Find more tips at www.FoodSafety.gov.

Budget Billing is Available

Budget billing is a convenient way to manage your electric payments. The budget billing plan helps you avoid high seasonal bills by making an even monthly payment throughout the year. Budget billing is available to members with accounts in good standing who have had electrical service at the same address for at least 12 months.

Budget billing does not reduce your overall energy expense, it simply allows you to evenly spread out your annual energy expense, over a 12 month period. With budget billing you'll be able to manage your household finances a lot easier.

The budget billing runs from January to December. The budget billing amount will be reset in the January billing period. If your budget status in December reflects a balance owed, all amounts will be due by January 5th. If your budget status in December reflects a credit balance, this will be reflected in your new monthly budget amount. As part of the budget billing process, we periodically review the status of each budget account and make adjustments, if nec-

essary to the account.

While enrolled in budget billing, your bill will still show you the number of kilowatt hours of electricity you use each month, so you can track your energy usage. In addition, your monthly bill will show two amounts, (1) your actual electric charges for the billing period and (2) the amount you are required to pay according to your budget bill plan. You are required to pay at least the budget amount due each month to remain on the plan.

There is no charge for using the budget billing plan, this is a service that we provide to our members to make it easier to manage their electric bills. Enjoy the peace of mind that comes from planning ahead. Participating members must notify us if they decide to discontinue participation.

For more information on how to sign up for the budget billing plan, please contact our billing department at 607-776-4161 or 1-800-843-3414 during regular business hours to speak with a billing representative.

Why You Should Attend Your Annual Meeting?

It's almost annual meeting time. We look forward to meeting with our members to get acquainted, hear what you have to say and enjoy good fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit, it's also a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening at Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative and get to know your co-op staff.

Your Cooperative is not owned by private, long distance investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. It is run by a democratically elected board whose members are given the privilege to service because of your vote. The directors are members of your community and fellow members of the Cooperative. They are concerned with the same issues as you because they face them, too.

Remember, all Cooperative members are eligible to run for the board, in-

cluding you. A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make your electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. As Americans, we have a voice in who will make major decisions by voting for our state and federal congressional representatives. Not every American, however, can decide who will represent their interests within their electric utility.

You have the right; why not exercise it? Make a point to join us on October 13th. Look for more information to follow in a special newsletter to be issued in September.



Meter Removal....

Electrical safety is a primary concern for Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative.

Removing electrical equipment carries the potential to harm yourself and others. Neighboring members on the same line and utility personnel that work on those lines are all at risk when someone tampers with electricity or electrical equipment. In attempt to prevent these risks, Cooperative employees stress the importance of never cutting the seal on a meter base or removing the meter for any reason.

Technology and metering equipment helps Cooperative employees monitor system reliability. When a member or electrician removes a meter, notification of that break in service is now sent to a Cooperative employee. It is known that sometimes members needing to perform electrical work on their side of the meter will temporarily pull the meter in order to complete that work. That is illegal, unsafe and can result in a tampering charges to the member.

This requires a field visit to investigate why there was a "blink" on the meter and you could be charged a trip fee. You will also then need an electrical inspection done to avoid disconnection of your service.

Please contact a Cooperative office to request a meter disconnection. By doing this, time for a maintenance crew to disconnect the meter can be coordinated. Once disconnected, the crew can arrange a time with the member for a return trip to reconnect the meter when the work is complete and inspected by an electrician.



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**STEBEN RURAL
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Bath Office
9 Wilson Ave
Bath, NY 14801

Phone: 607-776-4161
Phone: 800-843-3414
Office Hours: (M-F) 7:30-4

Cherry Creek Office
5966 South Rd
Cherry Creek, NY 14723

Phone: 716-296-5651
Phone: 800-883-8236
Office Hours: (M-F) 7-3:30

We're On The Web

www.steubenrec.coop

312501



Happy Hunting!

In the body of this newsletter are five (5) account numbers. If you find your account number in this newsletter call the office within fifteen (15) days and your account will be credited \$10.00.

To advertise in the next issue of The Energizer, please mail or email your ad by November 21st, 2018 to:

Steuben REC, Inc.
9 Wilson Ave
Bath, NY 14810
Attn: Kristen Cleveland
kcleveland@steubenrec.com

The Trading Post

For Sale

2001 Oldsmobile Alero, 120K miles - \$2000; manmade fur coats, both new, 1-beige mink, 1-white mink - \$150 each (worth \$250-300 each); exercise bike, great value, heavyweight, like new - \$150. Call 607-324-2804 after 4:00pm.

Board & batten vinyl siding, 4 squares, timber wood brown color - \$300; 36' wooded extension ladder - \$100. Call 607-329-4906.

Forester wood stove w/ sand blower & viewing screen, heavy steel construction, will heat a large area & is in good working condition - \$350 or best offer. Call 607-527-8770.

Nice ice fishing shanty, folds up like a big suit case with gas ice auger, fishing poles, tip-ups, fish finder & stove - \$200. Call 607-359-3896.

5' Lawn swing w/canopy - \$100; 1981 14x70 mobile home, buyer must move, needs updating, some repair, Hallmark model 106 - \$1000; 1999 Subaru Forester, 4cyl, auto, AWD, inspected, 300k miles, runs good - \$800; (2) metal ramps, very heavy duty, 5' long, 6 steps, 14" wide, for heavy equipment/car hauler/etc. - \$200; older hard top for (1980 something?), rear window missing - \$200 or

best offer; power converter from camper - \$30; B/S 5hp horizontal shaft for go kart - \$75; Maytag dishwasher (E39927 LR111720) - \$75; power wheels, new beetle model by Fisher Price, model L1114-9993, needs battery - \$35; 9 canvas window awing's, brown & white stripe - \$65. Call 607-661-6348.

Sports Fitness exercise bike, less than one year old - \$250. Call 607-776-4847.

2006 Transport Van, lift in rear for wheelchair entry, great for camper, hunting, for motorcycle or sleeping, just inspected - \$2500; Jalousie storm door, 32"x80", heavy aluminum, glass and screen, great for porch, garage or house - \$150, worth a lot more. Call 607-324-2804 9:00am to 2:00pm or at 8:00pm.

Set of four 275x65R18 Goodyear Wrangler tires, 35,500 miles, good tread - \$200 or best offer. Call 607-382-9492.

Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog - \$1. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St, Addison NY 14801.

Grandview Fur Center, trapping supplies. Bill

Bowdoin, Bradford, NY. Call 607-583-4600.

Miscellaneous

Welder hats & doo rags. Hand made in many patterns including sports. Embroidery also available on plain colored hats. Many designs, including IBEW and fist with lighting bolts. Have your local # and name embroidered on your hat or doo rag. Call or text for pricing, free shipping is available. SEW MANY THINGS By Judy. Call 912-655-8336.

ANN's Housekeeping & Cleaning Service, "Old Fashion Cleaning, We Get In All The Corners". References and reliable! Homes, offices, cottages, parties & seasonal cleaning. Call 607-329-4906. Gift certificates available.

Custom Welding - aluminum, stainless and brazing. Light fabrication & repair. Call for appointment at 607-776-8018.

Wanted

Raw fur and deer hides. Grandview Fur Center, Bill Bowdoin, Bradford, NY. Call 607-583-4600.

Three deer hunters looking to rent trailer or small house within approximately 5 miles from Canisteo, would need available October 15 through December 15. Call 607-382-9492. 738400

In accordance with the provisions of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, the Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is required to permit a residential customer to designate, in writing, a third party to receive a copy of every notice of discontinuance of service to the customer, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive such notices. If you wish to designate a third party to receive these notices, please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.