



THE ENERGIZER

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

December 2014



Gordon Foster's 2014 Christmas Message

On behalf of your employees and directors of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the membership a very Merry Christmas. The last few years I have used this message to communicate with the membership regarding any pressing current issues. This year I would like to present a portion of the report from the Board and Management that was presented at the annual meeting in October.

This year the Board was able to report to the membership that in 2013 the landfill gas project realized a profit of approximately \$250,000. The profit has been shared equally with Steuben County benefiting the membership as a member of the Cooperative and also as a tax payer. As of this writing, production of methane has dropped a bit, but the sales of the renewable energy credits continue with contracts for the sale of these renewable energy credits through 2015. The profit will depend on market prices for energy throughout the year. Through July 2014, the Cooperative has shared around \$500,000 with the County.

The financial condition of the Cooperative remains sound even with the high power bills received so far this year due to the extremely cold weather last winter over most of the country. The energy charges that are seen on your bill each month reflect your portion of the cost of power (based on kilowatt hours used) to recoup the cost of power purchased by the Cooperative. Because of the Cooperative's current financial condition and the fact that the Cooperative is on a budget billing with the New York Power Authority for our power bill, the Cooperative was able to spread this power cost out. We have been able to recoup these extremely large costs over a period of approximately seven months rather than having to recoup the costs as they were incurred (on a monthly basis). If we had recouped these costs monthly, you would have seen your energy charge increase from the 2013 average cost per kWh of \$.035 to \$.082 for January, \$.057 for February, and \$.06 for March before returning to a more normal rate. Power costs for the first seven months of 2014 are 70% higher than they were for the same period in 2013, an increase of over \$1 million. It is anticipated that power costs will remain volatile over the next several years. Realizing the cost of power has been a hardship for all, the Board continues to explore avenues that hopefully help control the cost and reduce the burden of higher than normal electric bills to the members.

In keeping with our promise to provide the most reliable, lowest cost electricity to our members, the Board, with the assistance of an outside consultant, performed a detailed review of the internal structure of the Cooperative. Based on the result of this review and the consultant's recommendations, a decision was made to restructure the organization. Although this was a very difficult decision to make, the Board felt it would be in the best interest of the Cooperative to move forward in the future. Adjustments have been made in positions to correspond with the future needs and goals of the Cooperative.

Cooperative employees have continued to fill in during the transition period and have been working on many other projects, including installation of hot water load control switches; retired several idle services, helping to reduce the property taxes and line losses paid by the Cooperative; web site development and GIS mapping. Line relocation, maintenance, and pole replacements have become a high priority with the Cooperative and we will be moving forward with many of these projects.

Concentration of the right-of-way program was out of the Marshall Warriner and Conewango in 2014 with 2015 work planned for the north circuit of Marshall Warriner and Conewango substations in 2015. 389 spans of distribution line was mechanically cleared with 2619 hand-cut tree and brush units removed. Additionally, approximately 95 acres of tall growing vegetation was controlled with the use of low-volume, broadleaf herbicide.

The Cooperative is aware of the up and coming push for installation of solar projects, either individually or as community project together with renewed interest in providing broadband internet access to rural areas. The Board continues to monitor development of these projects and associated legislation and the effects they may have on our members.

In closing, I would like to thank the employees for another year of dedicated service to the Cooperative and thank you, the members, for your continued support and wish everyone a Happy New Year.



Gordon Foster, President
Board of Directors

Closings:

December 24, 2014

December 25, 2014

January 1, 2015

January 19, 2015

February 16, 2015



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Annual Meeting Highlights 2014

On October 11, 2014, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 70th Annual Membership Meeting at the Bath Haverling High School in Bath, New York. Members enjoyed the Stearns Poultry Farm chicken barbeque and door prizes together with early morning donuts, coffee, cheese and milk punch. Day care was provided free of charge to members attending the meeting. The children painted pumpkins, watched movies and played an assortment of games. Each child went home with a Halloween goody bag.

Once again this year volunteers assisted our employees at the meeting. Other guests present were: Congressman Tom Reed; Assemblyman Phil Palmessano; Gary Potter, Statewide Director and President of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Jerry McLoughlin of the New York Power Authority; Mark Schneider, General Manager of Delaware County Electric Cooperative; Greg Moon, Director Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Keith Pitman, General Manager of Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Phil Dickson, former director; Bill Moss, former director; Jan Kropp, wife of former director Dean Kropp; and Dick Moyle, former general manager.

Cooperative members listened to the board report that provided an update on the landfill gas project and its profit of approximately \$250,000; the financial condition and internal restructuring of the Cooperative allowing it to meet future needs and goals; and the Board's awareness of future installation of solar projects and broadband internet access.

The following employees received service awards: Ernie Jessup, Stores & Facilities, 25 year pin; Candy Weaver, Senior Branch Office Clerk Retired, 15 year pin; and Justin Young, 1st Class Lineman, 10 year pin. The following were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors: Joseph Hauryski, District 3 Urbana, Wayne, Bradford, Hornby, Orange; Gary Brockway, District 4 Bath; and Gordon Foster, District 6 Thurston, Campbell, Rathbone.

Chris Spears from Bath was the winner of the raffle for an electrical appliance valued at \$400 from Sears. Two hundred two members from the eastern district and thirty-one members from the western district registered at the Annual Meeting. There were five proxies submitted.

We urge you to mark your calendar for October 10, 2015. Attend next year's Annual Meeting, exercise your right to vote, let us know your thoughts and concerns, enjoy the chicken barbeque and spend time with fellow members, directors, staff and employees.

Prepare Now for Winter Storms

It's hard to predict the weather, but it's easy to prepare for it. Here's how to plan ahead for unavoidable power outages that can accompany winter storms.

- Listen to weather forecasts every day so you'll know when high winds, heavy snow or ice are on the way. That kind of winter weather is most likely to affect power lines.
- Prepare an outage kit that contains: water, canned food, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra blankets and warm clothing.
- Keep your Steuben REC, Inc. outage magnet on your refrigerator so it will be handy if you must report an outage: 1-866-430-4293.
- If a member of your household is dependent on electricity for life support, be sure to have portable oxygen tanks, backup power and/or a temporary relocation plan.
- Make sure to keep away from fallen or sagging power lines. They could be energized and dangerous, even if the power is out.

Our hope is that the weather will spare us and we won't have any outages this winter. If we do, however, we'll restore service as quickly as possible. Just in case, though, it's better to be prepared than to sit in the dark.

Cherry Creek Senior Branch Office Clerk Retires



We would like to wish Cherry Creek Senior Branch Office Clerk Candy Weaver a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement. Candy retired on August 22, 2014 after being with Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative for 15 years. Thank you Candy for your many years of dedicated service!





154304

SREC Operations Manager Retires after 46 Years of Service



Harold Rodbourn started at Steuben Rural Electric in November of 1968 working as a lineman. He also worked on the construction and Right-of-Way crews. Harold was promoted to Operations Manager in 1998.

Harold states “Retirement wasn’t something that I thought to much about in the past, but it has come to a reality. I think back to when I started working for the Cooperative and the changes that have been made. I have enjoyed my years working for the members and have met many wonderful people. Both as members and employees. It has been a great experience and I will miss the daily operations, members and great personnel I have had the opportunity to be around on a daily basis, but everything comes to a close sooner or later. So I say goodbye to the wonderful opportunity I have had in life. I wish all present employees good luck in your time working at the Cooperative and say thank you to the Board of Directors and manager for the opportunity to work for the Cooperative. Thank you All!”

Best wishes for a very happy retirement Harold! Thank you for everything you have done for the Cooperative, our members and for all of the help and advice you have offered—it has made the Cooperative a better place!

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.

Holiday Safety Tips

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant”.
- Be sure at home to place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces and radiators. Keep the stand filled with water.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Don’t put cords underneath carpets.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use .
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into homes.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.



Source: *Consumer Product Safety Commission*

Need Help Paying and Managing Your Electric Bill?

Times are hard and members may experience higher than usual electricity bills as winter nears. Falling behind on electric bill payments can certainly happen to anyone occasionally. Here at the Cooperative, we want you to know that there are resources and actions available to help you deal with your electric bills. **First and foremost, contact your Cooperative as soon as possible if you can not pay your bill on time.** You may be eligible for a payment arrangement. Other resources that might be able to help you out depending on your circumstances are:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - Schuyler County Phone: 607-535-8303

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - Steuben County Phone: 607-664-2500

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - Cattaraugus County Phone: 716-373-8065

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - Chautauqua County Phone: 716-753-4385



The Trading Post

For Sale

Trapping Supplies, Grandview Fur Center, Bill Bowdoin, Bradford, NY. Call 607-583-4600.

Timberline Insert Woodstove, EC, includes surround insert with vent cap, H-22 9/16" X W-28 9/16" Set Back 14 1/2", \$500, Call 607-962-3651.

Hunting and Trapping Supplies, Animal Lures, Deer Lures, Baits, Cover Scents, Supply Catalog \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St, Addison NY 14801.

Hay for sale: \$3 small Sq. this years hay—never rained on, \$10 large rd. last years hay—good & dry. Fire wood for sale: \$45 cord—you come get, \$55 cord—delivered in Cameron. Call Adam at 607-695-2637 or 607-695-2675.

Moving: 4 M&S P215/60R16 studied tires \$100, twin adjustable beds each \$300, 125 gal fish tank/ wooden stand \$300, wedding dress (8?) \$50, upright freezer \$400, Queen mattress set \$100, computer desk with top unit \$100, tub shower unit \$50, NordicTrack Audio Strider \$700, Pro-Form Crosswalk \$400, Lg air conditioners \$50 ea., sm air conditioners \$25 ea., 2 kitchen corner cabinets \$50 OBO. Call 607-962-4578.

74 Yamaha TX 750 for sale \$1600 OBO. Also taking orders for pumpkin rolls & apple pies @ \$4.50 ea. Whirlpool washer 1yr old, moving must sell cost \$500 asking \$250 OBO.

1994 Short Hood 379, Hood-\$1000, Sleeper-\$1000 (63"), Cab-\$1800, Radiator (complete) - \$1000, Front & Rear Rear—cut off Eaton 402 Ratio 3.36 \$1500, Fuel tank—P.S.— 65"x26" \$400, Front axle—Springs & St. Box—\$800. Call Kevin at 607-324-0785.

Wanted

Raw Fur and Deer Hides. Grandview Fur Center, Bill Bowdoin, Bradford, NY. Call 607-583-4600.

Miscellaneous

The Cala Lily Yarn Shop is open! Beautiful yarns, notions, and gift items, 10% off all regularly priced yarn to members with co-op connections card. Open Sept-June T/Th 4:30-8:00, Sat 10-3 and July/Aug T/Th 4:30-8:00, Weds/Sat 10-3. Call 716-397-9478.

Welder Hats, Soft Brim, Sleeves, Doo Rags, Fleece Neck Warmers and Hoods, Bulk Pricing and Free Shipping Available. Call 912-655-8336, or visit website: sewmanythings.vpweb.com

To advertise in the next issue of the Energizer, please mail, phone or email your ad by January 14, 2015 to:

Steuben REC, Inc.
9 Wilson Ave
Bath, NY 14810
Attn: Kristen Cleveland

607-776-4161
kcleveland@steubenrec.com

62001

District Contact Information

Bath District Office
9 Wilson Avenue
Bath, NY 14810
800-843-3414

Cherry Creek District Office
5966 South Road
Cherry Creek, NY 14723
800-883-8236

Office Hours

7:30AM to 4:00 PM
Weekdays

After Hours Outage Number

1-866-430-4293

Website

www.steubenrec.com
Pay your bill and learn about products and services.

Board of Directors

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Laurence Ellis
Janice Hoad
Gary Brockway
Jennifer Thurber
William Moss III

General Manager

Wayne Sherwood

Avoca Career-College Night 2014 Thursday, November 6th 6-8pm

The Van de Graaff Generator

Have you ever wondered what this device is, how it works and why it was invented? Surely it wasn't invented to make people's hair stand on end.....Or have you ever shuffled your feet across the carpet on a dry winter day and gotten the shock of your life when you touched something metal?

The Van de Graaff generator is an electrostatic generator which uses a moving belt to accumulate very high amounts of electrical potential on a hollow metal globe on the top of the stand. We demonstrated how the Van de Graaff generator works at the Avoca Career-College night. Cooperative Employees stated "It was fun to see the look on the kids face's when they received a static shock". The pictures below show a teenager wearing lineman protective gear and a boy using the wand to touch the Van de Graaff generator.

