



# THE ENERGIZER

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

December 2016



## James McCormick's Christmas Message

On behalf of the employees and directors of Steuben Rural Electric Co-op, I wish our membership a wonderful and joyous holiday season.

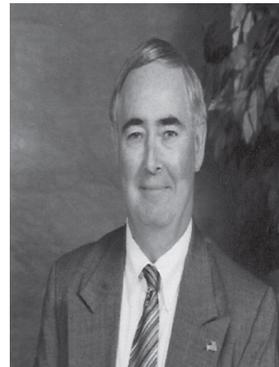
We appreciate all whom we serve and we thank you for allowing us to provide you the highest quality of electric service.

I also offer my gratitude to our dedicated employees—our

strongest asset in meeting our many goals and challenges.

The board of directors continually assesses how we can better serve our members and we hope that 2017 will offer more opportunities for Steuben REC to harness the power of our changing industry.

Once again, my best to all during this holiday season and into the new year.



## Annual Meeting Highlights 2016

On October 8, 2016, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 72nd Annual Membership Meeting at the Canisteo Greenwood High School in Canisteo, 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, 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: Kate Hollis, Assemblyman Giglio Community Liaison; Allison Hunt, District Director for Congressman Tom Reed; Darryl Jacobs, Senior Account Executive Business & Municipal Marketing NYPA; Carol Ellis, wife of former director Butch Ellis; Mark Schneider, CEO Delaware County Electric Coop-

erative, Inc.; Edward "Rusty" Pick, Director Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Ron Masti, former SREC Director; Bill Moss, former SREC director; Keith Pitman, General Manager Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Wayne Sherwood, Consulting General Manager, SREC.

Cooperative members listened to the board and general manager reports that provided an update on the Cooperative's right-of-way program; the completion of a sectionalizing and four year work plan and near completion of a cost of service study. In addition, the reports included updates concerning the New York State Clean Energy Standard Order; the challenges of the landfill gas project; new employees; patronage capital retirements; implementation of outage communication/notification to members and Smart Hub.

The following directors and employees received service

awards: Matt Meyers, 1st Class Lineman - 15 year pin; Lee Ann Hoad, Executive Secretary - 15 year pin; Emily Murray, Staking Technician - 10 year pin; and Lisa Luther, Billing Clerk - 5 year pin.

The following were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors: James McCormick, District 1 Wayland, Cohocton, Fremont, Avoca, Hornellsville, Hartsville, Greenwood, West Union; Janice Hoad, District 2 Cameron, Howard; William (Bill) Moss, III, District 9 Chautauqua County. The following was elected to fill the remaining two-year term for District 8 Cattaraugus County due to the death of Laurence (Butch) Ellis in April 2016 - Randy Stankey.

Edward O'Brochta from Bath was the winner of the raffle for an electrical appliance valued at \$400 from Sears.

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### Board of Directors

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

### Office Locations

#### Bath Office

9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810  
607-776-4161  
1-800-843-3414

#### Office Hours (M-F)

7:30 to 4:00 PM

#### Cherry Creek Office

5966 South Road  
Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
1-716-287-3602  
1-800-883-8236

#### Office Hours (M-F)

7:00 to 3:30 PM

### Office Closings:

- December 23 2016
- December 26, 2016
- January 2, 2017
- January 16, 2017

## A Message From General Manager, Molly Bailey

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The 2016 holiday season will be my first as your General Manager. I am honored to have been selected by your Board of Directors, and I am excited to serve you—the members.

By the time you read this, I will have been at the Cooperative a little over 7 months. Although we face many challenges ahead, I am excited and hopeful about the future. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to highlight some of our accomplishments this past year.

- There was no change in rates for members.
- The cooperative returned \$428,515 in capitol credits to members.
- We implemented a new outage communication and notification process to give members more timely information when you lose power. We are continuing to explore ways of using social media and technology to better communicate during outages.
- We added the technology, Smart Hub, to our website. With this technology, members can make secure payments, view bills, see payment and usage history, report outages, and notify customer service of account and service directly from mobile devices or the web.
- We installed a new system for processing credit card payments, which meets the highest industry standards for security, protecting our members from identity theft.

With regard to our distribution system, we made major improvements this past year, keeping in mind our commitment to you to provide reliable, low cost electricity.

- Beginning in January of 2016 through July, we replaced 198 poles;
- We exchanged 60 meters;
- We installed 11 security lights. And for all new installation or repairs of security lights, we are converting members to energy efficient led lights.
- As of July 2016, we cleared a total of

7,354 tree and brush units in our right-of-way program.

- We completed the rebuilding and upgrading of 4.3 miles of line in Rexville, that had age and condition issues.
- We recently completed the construction of a line that ties the Marshall-Warriner substation with the Quarry substation which will protect members in the case of a catastrophic event.

With regards to staff development and employee issues, we have many things to report.

- We have hired two new line employees; one in Cherry Creek and one here in Bath. These employees came to us after graduating from lineman training school and working in the industry for a few years.
- We continue to provide our line employees with monthly trainings on important topics related to safely performing their jobs – which ultimately ensures your safety as members.
- We are in the process of developing a training program and succession plan that meets the needs of both employees and the organization, and keeps the cooperative growing and changing for the better.

I feel so fortunate to be working with such a wonderful group of dedicated and talented employees, and Board Directors, and I look forward to reporting on many more accomplishments in 2017.

### CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

On August 1, 2016, the Public Service Commission issued an order adopting a Clean Energy Standard (CES) in New York State. This order mandates that New York receive half (50%) of its power from renewable energy sources by 2030. In addition, this order will provide billions of dollars in subsidies to the struggling nuclear energy industry.

The costs associated with this standard

will be passed directly on to utility rate-payers, including customers of the New York Power Authority and members like ourselves.

We can be proud of the fact that your Cooperative already receives approximately 85% of its power from the New York Power Authority in the form of clean hydro-power, which means as a Cooperative, we are ahead of meeting the CES standard of 50% renewables by 2030.

Regardless of our current commitment to renewable energy, our members will still be required to pay the costs associated with this order, as will all utility customers and members in New York State.

Members will see the effects of the Clean Energy Standard in the form of two additional charges on your monthly bills. Beginning with your January bill, you will see a line item labeled 'CES RECs,' which represents the costs associated with the development of renewable energy sources in New York. For the first year, the cost of RECs to members will be no more than a few cents per month.

You will see the effects of the second charge beginning with your April 2017 bill. This charge will be labeled 'CES ZECs,' which represents the costs associated with subsidizing the nuclear energy industry in New York. At this point in time, our very rough estimate as to the impact of ZECs on an average residential member's bill is an increase of approximately \$3.00 per month. The impact of ZECs on small and large commercial members is much greater, and it is our intention to provide estimates to these members as soon as they are available.

The problem with both of these charges and the CES in general is that the costs are scheduled to increase substantially for a number of years going forward. To that end, we will be working hard with our legislative and utility partners to do what we can in communicating to the Public Service Commission the high cost of this order and the hardships associated on our membership.



## New Employees at SREC



Evan Wightman joined the SREC team on August 1, 2016 as a lineman in our Cherry Creek office.

Evan graduated from Southeast Lineman Training College in Spring of 2012. He previously worked as a lineman for Irby Line Construction and Cianbro Construction throughout the East coast.

Evan is originally from the South Dayton, NY area and is happy to be returning home. Evan states, " I am hoping to

finish out my career as a Local 10 lineman".

Please join us in welcoming Evan to the Cooperative and wishing him a long and successful career.



Jacob Drake joined the SREC team on August 1, 2016 as a lineman in our Bath office.

Jacob graduated from Southeast Lineman Training College, in Trenton, GA, and worked previously for C.W. Wright Construction Company as a lineman.

Jacob is originally from Shinglehouse, PA and currently resides in Painted Post with his girlfriend, Julienna and their dog, Jax. They are expecting a

baby girl in February 2017.

Please join us in welcoming Jacob to the Cooperative and wishing him a long and successful career.

## New Board Director Elected



At the annual meeting held on October 8, 2016 the members elected Randy Stankey to fill the remaining two-year term for District 8 Cattaraugus County.

Mr. Stankey and his wife, Brenda, reside in the Town of Leon and have been Cooperative members for 41 years.

He is a graduate of Pine Valley

School and Alfred State College. He has worked for Niagara Mohawk, West Valley Disposal and as foreman for Benchley Construction in Dunkirk for 25 years prior to his retirement.

Mr. Stankey enjoys motorcycling, snowmobiling, attending local high school sporting events and spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Stankey looks forward to serving the best interest of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its members as a newly elected director.

Please join us in welcoming Randy to the Cooperative.

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### STATEMENT OF DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7742; or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.



## Refunds of Capital Credits to Long Term Members Uniform Terms and Conditions

1. The Board of Directors will determine a budget for number of significant membership years for refunds.
2. Interested members will be solicited each year in the December issue of The Energizer with a deadline of March 31.
3. Refunds will be paid to natural persons who have been a member of the Cooperative for 50 years, based on application date and continue until the budget is reached.
4. Refunds will not be made to members who are not up to date on their electric bill.
5. All members receiving refunds under this Bylaw section will agree to receive the capital credits discounted based on constant annual payments over the time period of the current effective cycle at the weighted interest rate on the Cooperative's long term debt. The current effective cycle equals the total patronage capital divided by the sum of the budgeted regular retirements, undiscounted special retirements and forfeitures rounded to the nearest year.
6. Members indicating an interest but not receiving a refund will be carried over to the following year's refund list.
7. All members receiving a refund must be an active member at the time checks are issued.
8. Each member is eligible for only one refund in this category.

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### Refunds of Capital Credits to Long Term Members Application

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (If Different): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Steuben REC  
Refund Long Term Member  
9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810

**You must be a member of the Cooperative for at least 50 years to qualify.**

"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."



## Energy Assistance

Times are hard and members may experience higher than usual energy bills as winter nears. Falling behind on electric bill payments can certainly happen to anyone occasionally.

Here at Steuben Rural Cooperative, Inc. we want you to know that there are resources and actions available to help you deal with your electric bills.

First and foremost, contact us as soon as possible if you can not pay your bill on time. You may be eligible for a payment arrangement. Your household may also be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), based on household income and size.

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2016-2017 heating season.

This years' regular HEAP benefits opened on November 14, 2016. The emergency benefit component will open on January 3, 2017.

For eligibility, including guidelines and how to apply contact your local Department of Social Services or the NYS OTDA Hotline at 1-800-342-3009. Additional information is provided on <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>.

The program helps prevent the disconnection of electric service, energy crisis and long term energy cost burdens for eligible families.

In Schuyler County call 607-535-8303; Steuben County call 607-664-2500; Cattaraugus County call 716-373-8065 and Chautauqua County call 716-753-4385.



762500

## Meter Removal

You want to remove your electric meter. You have a minor fix to do on your service wire in the circuit breaker panel and want to kill the power first. **STOP!** Under no circumstances is a member or a qualified electrician authorized to cut our seal and pull the meter.

The meter connects energized power lines to your home. Any unauthorized person who attempts to

**“Under no circumstances is a member or a qualified electrician authorized to cut our seal and pull the meter”.**

break the meter seal and remove the meter takes great risk in personal safety and also violates the law.

Unauthorized removal of a SREC meter will result in a tampering charge. You will also then need an electrical inspection done to avoid disconnection of your service.

When a meter has been pulled we receive a signal through our “Blink” monitoring system that there is no power to the meter.

This requires a field visit to investigate why there was a “blink” on the meter and you could be charged a trip fee.

So if your meter requires service or disconnection for any reason, please call our office for free assistance.

## Stay Warm and Save Energy



### CHECK FURNACE FILTERS.

At a minimum, change your heating and cooling system's air filter every three months. A dirty filter clogs the system, making it work harder to keep you warm.

### INSULATE WATER HEATERS AND PIPES.

Wrap water pipes connected to the water heater with foam, insulate the water heater and consider lowering the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

### INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT.

Programmable thermostats can knock up to 10% off heating bills with the ability to automatically turn temperatures down 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours a day.

### BUNDLE UP YOUR HOME.

The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Fix air leaks with weather-stripping, caulk, or expandable foam.

## Annual Meeting Highlights 2016 (continued from front page)

Chris Myers from Addison was the winner of an 85 gallon Marathon Water Heater.

One hundred seventy-six members from the eastern district and seventy-three members from the western district registered at the Annual Meeting. There were no proxies submitted.

We urge you to mark your calendar for October 14, 2017. 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.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We're On The Web  
[www.steubenrec.com](http://www.steubenrec.com)

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.

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ALWAYS CALL  
BEFORE YOU DIG



### For Sale

2008 Tilman dump trailer, 5 ton w/2 back gates, 1 for stone & gravel and 1 to load heavy equipment. Also has firewood racks & new battery. In mint condition - \$3950 firm. Call 315-589-2782.

Monarch add-a-furnace, like new condition- \$425; Jensen wood burning furnace, used - make offer; white oak table with 2 leaves, 1 arm chair & 3 add'l chairs - \$250/set; gate leg table with 3 leaves, opens to 10' - \$200; dark pine hutch - \$75; antique school desks - \$75 each or best offer; pine hutch top headboard with queen size bed frame, double drawers make up bottom frame - \$150. Call 716-257-3342.

Chain saw, middle 70's, light use, STHL 041 Farm Boss, new 24" bar and chain, new 16" chain, good 16" bar and 2-16" chains, 7 new files, tool manual, original owner, never ethanol gas - \$450. Call 607-523-8057.

Antique (1880's) butter churn - \$225; 2009 Subaru Legacy, 4 cyl, automatic, AWD, 150k miles, new timing belt & water pump, has CD, AC, runs good, buying new car - \$7800; smaller black woodstove - \$125; 1985 22' Chevy box van, aluminum body, 454 CI - \$2000 or best offer; boat anchor & 2 paddles - \$35; 1960's 4 cyl low body tractor, good

## The Trading Post

tires, needs clutch fork, w/plow - \$1000; older garden tiller - \$95; 1960 Airstream 26' camper, dual axles, needs TLC - \$2000. Call 607-661-6348. 2003 Ford Taurus, Maroon, 122k, very good condition - runs great. Interior like new, good tires, new plugs, remote start. Ready for winter. Must see, pictures by phone - \$2200 or best offer. Call 585-403-0438.

1940's Era working Singer sewing machine model 15K88 in cabinet, together with button hole attachment, instruction booklet, and various supportive parts. Make offer. Call 607-329-8480 (leave message).

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

Hide tanning product for tanning all fur skins, 8oz. bottle-\$12. Also hunting & trapping supplies catalog-\$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St, Addison NY 14801.

### 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-Jun, T/Th 4:30-8, Sat 10-3 and July-Aug, T/Th 4:30-8, Weds/Sat 10-3. Call 716-397-9478.



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. Also search for me on Facebook.

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.

To advertise in the next issue of The Energizer, please mail or email your ad by January 10, 2017 to:

Steuben REC, Inc.  
9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810  
Attn: Kristen Cleveland  
[kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com)