



STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

A Message From The General Manager

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From all of us at your Cooperative, may the spirit of the season be with you and your family today and throughout the New Year. We are grateful to have you as a member, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

As members of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, it is important to remind ourselves that we all share collectively in the values of: Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, Members' Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and Concern for Community.

BROADBAND OR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS:

As we discussed at the Annual Meeting, which took place on October 14, 2017, Armstrong Telecommunications has received a grant from the New York State Broadband Program office to bring high-speed internet access to under-served and unserved portions of western NY.

To begin with, Armstrong will be concentrating on the southern part of Steuben County as well as the Cherry Creek area. Because Armstrong will be attaching fiber to many of our utility poles, we have begun the process of evaluating each pole, to ensure that Armstrong's attachment will meet specifications of the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC"), the National Electrical Code ("NEC"), the Occupational Safety and Health Act ("OSHA") and Rural Utilities Service ("RUS").

Although this evaluation process will be time-consuming, our line department employees take satisfaction in knowing that their efforts will be contributing to many of our members finally having

access to high-speed internet. I have listed just a few of the ways rural communities benefit from having high-speed internet access:

- ◆ Our member-farmers gain real-time access to vital information such as crop prices or weather forecasts.
- ◆ Our members gain access to on-line information about resources in their communities. Members also have direct access to educational opportunities, and telemedicine, which will help them avoid traveling long distances for college courses and medical treatment.
- ◆ Our rural or home-based businesses, can expand their market reach across the nation and even the world.

WHO OWNS THE POLES:

At the Annual Meeting of the Membership, some members conveyed their belief that they own the Cooperative's poles located on their property and because of this, the members have a right to refuse a company like Armstrong to attach to those poles. It was also suggested that should a member allow attachments to the poles on his/her property, this member would be entitled to receive pole attachment fees directly from Armstrong. After reviewing the legalities, by-laws and policies surrounding these matters, I have attempted to provide a clarification of the issues below:

- ◆ Members collectively own the Cooperative, which includes our infrastructure of 22,000 + poles and 1,100 miles of line. No individual member owns an individual pole, whether it is located on their property or not.
- ◆ Members collectively benefit from the expansion of broadband within our system's territory, because the pole attachment fees that the Coop-

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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

erative receives help offset the operation and maintenance costs of our poles and equipment. Pole attachment fees currently represent approximately 2.1% of the Cooperative's annual revenues, which helps reduce the amount of revenue the Cooperative must collect from members through monthly electric bills.

In conclusion, the Governor has directed that utilities cooperate in this initiative to bring high-speed internet access to all NYS citizens by the end of 2018. For the betterment of the membership collectively, the Cooperative Directors made the decision to allow Telecommunication companies access to our infrastructure.

Annual Meeting Highlights 2017

On October 14, 2017, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 73rd 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, colored, 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: Brandon Cole of the New York Power Authority; Mark Schneider, CEO Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Rusty Pick, Director, Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Keith Pitman, General Manager, Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Bill Moss, former SREC Director; Carol Ellis, wife of former SREC Director Butch Ellis; Jim Foote, Director of Technology and Member Solutions Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Gary Potter, President, Otsego Electric Cooperative and NYS NRECA Director; and Tim Johnson, CEO Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Cooperative members listened to the Board and General Manager reports that provided an update on the Cooperative's right-of-way program; projects included in the four year work plan; updates on the landfill gas project; new employees; patronage capital retirements; implantation of technology; broadband; and outage updates.

The following directors and employees received service awards: Gordon Foster, Director 35 year pin; Jennifer Thurber, Director 5 year pin; Dana Robinson, Crew Chief 35 year pin; Dick Swift, Crew Chief 35 year pin; Doug Hilsdorf, 1st Class Lineman 35 year pin; Johnny Badeau, 1st Class

Lineman 15 year pin; Kim Cruse, Bookkeeper 5 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; Gordon Foster, District 6 Thurston, Campbell.

Traci Gardner-Porter from Canisteo was the winner of the raffle for an electrical appliance valued at \$400 from Sears.

Two hundred seventy-four members from the eastern districts and twenty-four members from the western districts registered at the Annual Meeting. There was one proxy submitted.

We urge you to mark your calendar for October 13, 2018. 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.



226202



Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out? Store these items at home in case of an outage.



☐ Water

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



☐ Tools

Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.



☐ Food

Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.



☐ First Aid, Medicine

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.



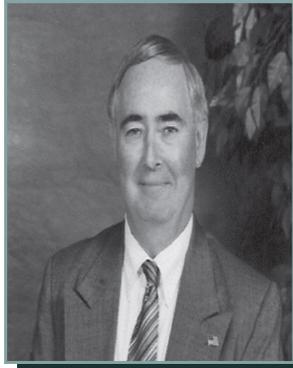
☐ Documents

Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

Learn more at www.Ready.gov 

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

President's Christmas Message



As another year comes to a close, I would like to extend my appreciation to our members. I am grateful to live and work in a beautiful rural area such as ours, and honored to help provide the electricity that benefits all of our daily lives.

This year, our employees have faced many challenges. I am proud of how they have delivered service to our members and we, as Board of Directors, offer our gratitude to them for the work they perform.

We pause to remember the damaging storms and tragic events that have interrupted so many lives this past year, highlighting just how important and essential electricity can be in our lives. We hope that recovery in these regions continues.

As members of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative you are a part of a larger organization of 900 electric cooperatives throughout the country. Together, these cooperatives are in 46 states and provide electricity to 75% of the land mass of the United States. The rural electric cooperative business model has been and continues to be a very successful approach to serving much of rural America.

My wishes for joy and peace to all during this holiday season and in the coming year.

SREC Welcomes New Employee



Mike Jackson joined the Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative team on September 11th, 2017 as a

lineman in the Cooperative's Bath office.

Mike is a graduate of the Southeast Lineman Training Center and completed an apprenticeship at Dominion Energy in Virginia.

Mike and his wife reside in the Canistota area. When not at work Mike enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his family.

Please join us in welcoming Mike to the Cooperative.



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 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.

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.

Refunds of Capital Credits to Long Term Members Application

Member Name: _____ Account Number : _____

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."

33701

Lose the Lint to Avoid A FIRE

Each year, an estimated 15,000 fires involving washers and dryers happen in homes throughout the United States. Cloths dryers account for over 90% of these fires, and the leading cause of these fires is failure to clean the unit (specifically, failure to clean the lint filter). Consider the following tips as a way to protect you and your home.

- Read the manufacturer’s operating instructions for safety information.
- Never use a dryer without a lint filter.
- Always clean the lint filter, and any lint that collects around the drum, before and after drying cycles.

- Keep an eye on the vent pipe to ensure that it is not obstructed and is opening during operation of the unit.
- Never overload your dryer or leave it running when you leave your house or sleep.

Here are just a few of the many signs that let you know it is time to clean your vent:

- Your clothes aren’t drying in a normal cycle of 35-40 minutes.
- There is a musty odor coming from your dryer.
- Clothes are extra hot to the touch after they are dry. Your laundry room is excessively hot when the dryer is on.



DON'T LET YOUR DRYER START A FIRE. . .

Say “see ya” to paper bills

Looking to cut back on your carbon footprint while simplifying your life? Consider enrolling in paperless billing through www.steubenrec.coop. Enrollment is simple through the “SmartHub” section of our website. So what are the benefits behind paperless billing to you and your environment?

Here are just a few of the ways paperless billing benefits you:

- Reduction of printing and postage costs
- Convenience of managing bills anytime, anywhere
- Less mailbox, desk, and kitchen counter clutter

Benefits of paperless billing to our environment:

- Less paper every month = trees saved
- Minimize greenhouse gases
- Reduce wastewater from paper production



Home Energy Assistance Program

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

Here at SREC 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, based on household income and size.

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2017-2018 heating season.

This year’s regular HEAP benefits opened on November 13, 2017. The emergency benefit component will open on January 2, 2018.

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.

- Cattaraugus: 716-373-8065;
- Chautauqua: 716-753-4385;
- Schuyler: 607-535-8308;
- Steuben: 607-664-2500

774800

**STEBEN RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
INC.**

Bath Office
9 Wilson Ave
Bath, NY 14801

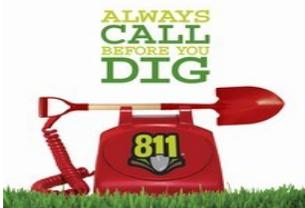
Phone: 607-776-4161
Phone: 800-843-3414
Office Hours: (M-F) 7:30-4

Cherry Creek Office
5966 South Rd
Cherry Creek, NY 14723

Phone: 716-287-3602
Phone: 800-883-8236
Office Hours: (M-F) 7-3:30

We're On The Web

www.steubenrec.coop



Happy Hunting!
In the body of this news-
letter 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
January 10, 2018 to:

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

The Trading Post

For Sale

Meyers snow plow. Frame fits a 1996-1999 Ford - \$575; home made single axel trailer, good condition - \$750; bench seat for a 1996 Ford truck, great condition - \$100. Call 607-382-5270.

Approximately 200 sq. ft. of water resistant laminate/vinyl flooring, good condition. Original cost \$1000 plus. Also cabinet hardware including handles, hinges, etc. - \$200 takes all. Call 607-324-2206.

Set of 70# dumbbells - \$90, set of 80# dumbbells - \$100 separately, if sold together - \$150; weider power twister - \$20; perfect push up - \$15. Call 607-776-2911.

Ariens 2 stage 24" electric or manual start snow blower - model 920014, used 4 times, looks, starts, and runs like new. Purchased for \$799, asking \$500; Northern Industrial framing nailer, new - never used, included box of 2500 3"x .120 smooth 10d nails, asking \$100 for all; Dewalt DW734 heavy duty 12 1/2" thickness planer, brand new - still in unopened box, asking \$250. Call 607-359-4777.

1998 Ford Explorer, V6, 4 Dr, XLT 4WD SUV, Black, almost new tires, mechanically and physically in good shape, inspected, runs great and 4WD works excellent, very reliable - \$1000; (2) 235-60R-18 Michelin tires, a little over half worn - \$20 for both or best offer; (4) 225-65R17 tires - \$10 for all four. Call 607-527-3295.

Basketball backboard, rim, net, on adj. pole w/plastic

base (moveable) - \$30; used 10'x10' wooden w/ glass over head garage door with hardware, track & springs - \$200 obo; used Kenmore electric dryer, large capacity w/cord, white, works great - \$100; used Whirlpool washer, commercial quality, 9 cycles, 4-speed combinations, white, works great - \$110; older Lincoln AC 225 amp arc welder, model AC225 S (red) - \$200 obo; 1960 International Harvester, low boy cub tractor with 5ft. belly mower, 12 volt - \$1800; 1985 Chevy 22ft. Box van, V-8 - \$1500. Call 607-661-6348.

1995 4x4 Ford, F150, 5-speed truck. Call 607-527-8891 or 607-664-7688 for price.

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

Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog-\$1. 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. Country Shop open March-December, Wednesday & Saturday, 10-3 and Thursday, 4:30-8:30. Closed Jan & Feb. 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.

(5) Railroad ties. Call 607-527-3295.

Office Closings:

- December 22, 2017
- December 25, 2017
- January 1, 2017
- January 15, 2017

