

**Valley
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Stauffer
Chairman

Leroy Barnes
Vice Chairman

Kevin States
Secretary

Clair McCall
Treasurer

Robert Holmes
Allegheny Director

David Wright
PREA Director

Cindy Bigelow
Mervin Brumbaugh
Earl Parsons

CORPORATE OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HUNTINGDON/MARTINSBURG/SHADE GAP OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

The co-op commitment to affordable power



by **Wayne Miller**
President & CEO

EACH MONTH you budget for your phone, electricity, house and car payments. Generally you know how much each bill will cost and plan your spending accordingly. But what if you couldn't control your energy costs? What if, each month, they climbed beyond your reach?

At Valley Rural Electric,


we deliver affordable power to you every day. It's why electric cooperatives were created, and it's a commitment we plan to keep. But national energy legislation could force prices higher than many consumers can afford, effectively taking us back to the dawn of the 20th century.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, central station electric service was a luxury that only 10 percent of rural residents nationwide enjoyed. And those who had power paid dearly for it. When Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Warm Springs, Ga., in 1924, he was dismayed to find that electricity for his small cottage cost four times what it did at his estate in New York. After being elected president, he created the federal Rural Electrification Administration to make power affordable for all Americans. As a result, electric co-ops were born.

Innovations in line building pioneered by co-op engineers and the competitive pressure co-ops placed on investor-owned utilities slashed the cost of providing electric service in the countryside by 50 percent or more. In the decades since, co-ops have established a proven track record of offering stable and affordable electric rates.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows that, since 2000, co-op electric rates have consistently run lower than the industry average. This is further proof that we're committed to keeping electricity bills within your means.

But the battle for affordable power that farmers and their neighbors fought three-quarters of a century ago has flared up again. When adjusted for inflation, EIA predicts the price of electricity for residential consumers will climb 14.6 percent by 2030 — and federal energy and climate change policy will likely impact energy prices further. Electric cooperatives are needed once again to make sure affordable power will be available in 2030 and beyond. Our job, on your behalf, is to work closely with Congress to find the best solutions for addressing climate change while keeping the price of electricity within your means.

Your cooperative remains committed to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable power — but we need your help. Through the "Our Energy, Our Future" grassroots awareness campaign, co-op members across the nation are speaking out about the importance of keeping electric bills affordable. New energy and climate change policies being debated in Congress could turn your monthly budget upside-down. Now is the time to ask your elected officials: Will you please work with electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity? Visit www.ourenergy.coop today and send an email sharing your concern to your elected representatives. 

2009 BOARD CANDIDATES



JAMES R. STAUFFER
175 Aultz Lane
McVeytown, PA 17051-8310



CLAIR E. MCCALL
17980 Hares Valley Road
Mapleton Depot, PA 17052-9544



LEROY BARNES
445 Sarah Drive
Portage, PA 15946-4424

DISTRICT 2 - *Huntingdon County*: Brady, Henderson, Juniata, Smithfield and Union townships. *Mifflin County*: Granville, Oliver and Wayne townships

A 1978 graduate of Kishacoquillas High School, Jim Stauffer owns and operates a 57-acre dairy farm with a herd of 140 milking cows. He farms a total of 200 acres, and ships his milk through Dairylea Cooperative.

Jim was employed for 10 years as manager of Brookland Mills, a retail livestock feed and fuel oil delivery service in McVeytown. Prior to that time, he worked as a truck driver for a fertilizer plant in the Belleville area. He also raised beef cattle with his father-in-law.

Jim attends the Locust Grove Mennonite Church. He and his family also participate in 4-H.

Jim and his wife, Carol, are the parents of three children, including twins Ben and Brittney, 22, and Josh, 16. The Stauffers have been married for 28 years.

A native of Belleville, Jim is 49 years old. He has been a member of Valley REC since 1993, and has served on the co-op board of directors since 1997. He held the office of vice chairman for two years, and currently serves as chairman of the board. He is running unopposed on the ballot for District 2.

DISTRICT 4 - *Huntingdon County*: Cass, Clay, Cromwell, Shirley and Springfield townships

Clair McCall has held a position on the Valley REC board of directors since 1982. In addition, he served as secretary of the board for seven years and currently serves as treasurer.

A 1951 graduate of Huntingdon High School, Clair served two years in the U.S. Navy, attaining the rank of third class damage controlman. He was employed as a truck driver and checker for Gateway Foods in Huntingdon for 30 years, until his retirement in 1994. Clair continues to operate a 40-acre farm, where he raises a small herd of beef cattle.

Clair attends the Cornelius Chapel United Methodist Church. A past supervisor of Cass Township for more than 10 years, he is a member of Masonic Lodge No. 688 in Mount Union. In his free time, Clair enjoys woodworking.

Clair is 75 years old. He and his wife, Eva, have been married 49 years, and are the parents of two grown children. Clair has been a co-op member since 1963. He is running unopposed on the ballot for District 4.

DISTRICT 6 - *Bedford County*: Pavia Township. *Blair County*: Freedom, Greenfield and Juniata townships

Leroy Barnes has successfully operated his family's dairy farm in partnership with his brother, Barry, since 1968. They currently milk 220 Holsteins, and raise corn and alfalfa on approximately 600 acres of ground.

A 1966 graduate of Claysburg-Kimmel High School, Leroy holds an associate degree in computer management from the ICM School of Business in Pittsburgh.

Leroy is a member of the Mount Hope United Church of Christ near Blue Knob, where he serves on the consistory. He is a former member of the Blue Knob Fire Company, and served three years as a director for Long's Dairy, a milk marketing cooperative in Tyrone. In his free time, Leroy enjoys hunting.

Leroy is 60 years old. He has three grown children and six grandchildren. A native of Blue Knob, Leroy has been a member of Valley REC for more than 30 years. He has served on the co-op board for nine years, and currently holds the position of vice chairman. He is running unopposed on the ballot for District 6.

Meet your employees

HIGHLIGHTED in this column is a new addition to the Valley team. Adam Atherton came to the co-op in April 2008, as a lineman for the Huntingdon district.

Since then, he has spent much of his time in rigorous training. He has completed climbing school and is scheduled to attend basic and intermediate gloving school in June.

“Soon I’ll be able to work on secondary live electric wires — those between a home’s meter base and the first transformer (240 volts and below),” Adam says.

In the meantime, he is learning the expansive numbering system the co-op uses to mark poles and equipment.

“I’m also replacing controllers in area



Adam Atherton

lights, operating the trucks and serving as a ‘ground hand,’” he explains.

Before his employment at Valley, Adam worked for 14 years in the Mount Union School District as a general maintenance repairman. For five years prior to that, he set poles and ran fiber optic cable as a telephone lineman for Henkels & McCoy.

A native of McVeytown, Mifflin County, Adam is a 1986 graduate of Mount Union Area High School. His wife of 19 years, Bessie, is a teacher at

Rock Hill Elementary School. The couple has two children, Tyler, 17, and Madeline, 12. The Atherton family resides near Shirleysburg, Huntingdon County.

In his spare time, Adam loves to hunt, fish and play golf. He also enjoys coaching his daughter’s softball team, which is appropriately named “High Voltage.”

As for his job at Valley REC, Adam says it’s everything he expected and more.

“Working on power lines was something I always wanted to do. When an opportunity came up at Valley, I knew I had to try for it,” he points out.

“I love my new job,” Adam adds. “I work with the best group of people. The attitude is positive and everyone’s glad to be here. Plus, I’m an outdoor person; I love being outside.”

Adam’s fellow employees at the cooperative look forward to working with him for many years. He’s one of the people you can count on. ☀

VALLEY REC SCHEDULE OF FEES

Type of fee	Previous amount <i>(Prior to March 2009)</i>	Current amount	Description
Account processing fee	\$ 25	\$ 25	This non-refundable fee covers the cost of setting up a new account or transferring an existing an account.
Security deposit	200	200	A security deposit is required from all consumers applying for service. It is refunded when good credit is established, when service is stopped, or when applied to a final bill.
Meter reading fee	20	25	This fee is charged when a member does not read the meter and a co-op employee is required to visit the property to obtain a reading.
Meter test fee	10	50	This amount is refunded if the meter proves to be inaccurate by 2 percent or more.
Collection fee	20	25	If it is necessary for a co-op employee to travel to a member’s property to collect payment, this fee will be added for each trip.
Disconnect fee	20	25	This fee is charged when an account is disconnected due to delinquency or when any meter is disconnected and reconnected under the same account.
Reconnect fee	20	25/60 special trip	This fee is charged when an account is reconnected after disconnection due to delinquency or when any meter is disconnected and reconnected under the same account.
After-hours reconnect fee	50	300 weekdays/500 weekends	This fee is charged when service is reconnected after business hours, requiring the co-op to pay overtime to line personnel.
Returned check fee	25	25	This fee covers the costs when a check is returned due to insufficient funds.
Late payment penalty	1.5%/\$1 minimum	1.5%/\$1 minimum	This amount is charged on any outstanding balance.
Price per linear foot			
Area coverage (line extension)	Previous	Current	
Overhead single-phase primary	First 800 feet free, then \$6.80	First 550 feet free, then \$6.80	
Underground single-phase primary <i>(does not include trenching or backfilling)</i>	First 800 feet free, then \$7	First 400 feet free, then \$9	
Right-of-way clearing	\$2.50	\$2	
Chipping brush	\$1.25	\$1.25	



Wondering how the federal stimulus package will help you?

IT'S YOUR TURN

— to save on your energy bill while improving the environment. —



The economic stimulus package has become a fact. Given the hard times, now it's your turn to benefit. Get a tax credit for up to \$1,500 dollars on the cost of insulating, sealing and weather-stripping your home.

You can be more comfortable and save on your energy bill while improving the environment!

For more information, visit www.eere.energy.gov and follow the link to Energy Tax Incentives. Or contact Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's member services department at 800/432-0680.



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