

# Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

10700 Fairgrounds Road  
P.O. Box 477  
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477  
814-643-2650  
1-800-432-0680  
www.valleyrec.com

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## From the President & CEO



### Summer season

By Rich Bauer

WHERE has this summer gone? Every year, I look forward to the nicer weather and the ability to get some things done around the house, but in a blink of an eye, it is August. Of course, only about half of those outside jobs got done and here we are, ready for the new school year to start. Like most of you, I felt I had plenty of time, but between ball games, family get-togethers, and all the rain, August snuck up on us, and it's time to start preparing for fall.


On the other hand, your cooperative has been very busy this summer continuing with our normal line maintenance and tree cutting, but we also have some new and exciting programs. One of those is Valley Rural Energy Services. I have talked to you about our home electrical maintenance program, but our Bosch heat pump and Generac generator installations also have been going extremely well.

No one at your cooperative likes to talk about power outages, but they do happen. No matter how well we are prepared, we are no match for Mother Nature. We have been fortunate over the past several years, but the high wind and rain we had in early May brought back the reality of the power of nature and reminded many of our members what it is like to be without power for a few days. If power is an absolute necessity for you or your family, you may want to consider a standby generator for those rare times when your power is out. We partnered with Generac to sell, install and service whole-house, 22-kilowatt generators

with automatic transfer switches. Even if you aren't home, the generator monitors the incoming power, and if there is an outage, it will automatically turn on. When the main power is restored, it will automatically turn off. The best way to describe it is like having an insurance policy. Hopefully, you will never need it, but if you do, it is absolutely worth it. Please give one of our three certified electricians a call to get an estimate for your home or business.

We have also been busy installing Bosch heat pumps. These units are extremely economical to run and are very efficient down to zero degrees. As a cooperative member, if we install one of these units for you, you will get a \$500 rebate, as well as receive an extremely economical and efficient way to heat and cool your home. If you have been thinking about upgrading your heating or cooling system, let us give you an estimate.

Please stop by our booth at the Huntingdon, Juniata or Fulton county fairs to see what programs we are offering or just to say "Hi." We will also be conducting a bloodmobile drive at our corporate office across from the Huntingdon County fairgrounds on Aug. 8, so if you would like to donate blood, just give us a call.

As always, thanks for being a part of your cooperative. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope you have a wonderful end to your summer and get to finish all those "honey-do" projects on your list. Thank you, and God Bless. 

# Valley REC sponsors 7 area students on Youth Tour 2017

By Doug Roles  
Vice President, Member Services

VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative sponsored seven high school students from five school districts on the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 11-16. The teens, all of whom just completed their junior year, spent their time in the capital meeting legislators and learning about the cooperative business model.

They joined 1,800 other juniors and seniors from electric cooperatives all over the country who participated in the event. Ninety-six participants were sponsored by Pennsylvania co-ops.

The annual all-expenses-paid trip is packed with activities, including meetings with lawmakers and rural electric cooperative leaders, visits to historic monuments throughout Washington, D.C., and tours of the Smithsonian museums, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Zoo, and Arlington Cemetery. The agenda also included a cruise on the Potomac River and a parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Youth Tour participants are dependents of co-op members. Each year, they learn about the principles that govern rural electric cooperatives and other cooperatives. Recommended by guidance counselors at their respective schools, the students were selected for the trip on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in extracurricular activities and community service.

"I had a wonderful time and experienced a lot while making friends and memories I'll never forget," says Emily Buseck, a Tussey Mountain student. "Some of my favorite parts of the trip included: visiting the Newseum, going on the Potomac River Boat Cruise, visiting the Holocaust museum, visiting the Pentagon Memorial, and, of course, the shopping we got to do."

Emily is the daughter of Richard and Pam Buseck of James Creek. She sees

herself becoming a physical therapist or a teacher. Emily, a National Honor Society (NHS) student, is a cheerleader, and serves as class president. She participates in Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership and student council. She was the 2016 Marklesburg Fire Company fire queen.

Williamsburg High School (WHS) had three students on Youth Tour this year. They were: Olivia England, daughter of Barry and Gwen England of Williamsburg; Olivia Hostler, daughter of Daren and Alice Hostler of Williamsburg; and Nathan Ross, son of Clair and Melissa Ross of Williamsburg.

The three WHS students have much in common. They are NHS students and participate in band. Additionally, they are involved in the Creative Compassions community service outreach program through their high school.

Olivia England hopes to major in biomedical sciences after high school and sees herself becoming a doctor. She plays on the school volleyball and softball teams, and is involved in student council, Library Club and Health Careers Club. She is also active in her church.

Olivia Hostler is considering a career as a physical therapist. She plays on the volleyball team. Her school activities include Ski Club, student council and Library Club. She enjoys skiing and reading.

Nathan's career goal is to become a surgeon. His activities include student council, Health Careers Club, Spanish Club and Library Club. Nathan plays basketball for the WHS team. He is involved in his church and has participated in the Blair County Youth Leadership program.

Jennifer Shaffer, a student at Huntingdon Area High School,

is the daughter of Kenneth and Sarah Shaffer of Hesston. Jennifer's career interests include physics, music and law. Like the co-op's other Youth Tour students, she is involved in band, including marching band, concert band, jazz band and the student-run pep band. She also plays with the Raystown Wind Orchestra. Jennifer has also participated in her school's mock trial program.

Mount Union Area High School had one student on Youth Tour this year. Katrina Bliss is the daughter of Timothy and Jacquita Bliss of Huntingdon. Katrina plans to major in biomedical

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VALLEY YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative sponsored seven area high school juniors on the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 11-16. The students are, front row, from left: Katrina Bliss, Olivia England, and Olivia Hostler, and back: Emily Buseck, Jared Gaylord, Nathan Ross, and Jennifer Shaffer.


engineering and go to medical school. Her school activities include Drama Club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and The Daily News Press Club. Katrina is Huntingdon County's dairy princess and enjoys exhibiting dairy cattle at the Huntingdon County Fair.

"I would definitely recommend Youth Tour to other students," Katrina says. "It's not only a ton of fun, but you also learn so much — about our gov-

ernment, electric cooperatives, history and current issues our world is facing. Youth Tour is just an awesome experience that will better prepare any young person for the future in an amazingly fun way."

Juniata Valley High School's Jared Gaylord, the son of Susan Lingle of Tyrone, hopes to pursue a career in petroleum engineering. He serves as class treasurer and vice president of his school's FBLA chapter. His activities

also include track and field.

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is a member-owned utility that serves more than 21,000 consumers in Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Mifflin counties. For more information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, contact the member services department at Valley REC at 814-643-2650, toll-free 800-432-0680 or email [memberservices@valleyrec.com](mailto:memberservices@valleyrec.com). 

## Valley Rural Electric Cooperative awards 15 \$1,000 scholarships to local students

VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative recently awarded 15 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors as well as students already enrolled in post-secondary institutions.

The co-op's Brighter Future Scholarship Program was established in 2010 to assist eligible students who are cooperative members or their dependents. To date, Valley has conferred nearly \$180,000 in scholarship grants. Selection criteria include academic



achievement, financial need, school activities and community service.

The money to finance this initiative comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. But thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, these resources can now be kept in co-op communities and used to assist consumers facing financial hardships, to support civic organizations, and to fund educational programs.

The following 14 high school seniors were awarded scholarships from Valley REC:

Bedford County: Tussey Mountain High School – Teddi E. Weimert of James Creek, daughter of Ted and Elizabeth Weimert, attending Penn State University; and Karah L. Dickson, also of James Creek, daughter of Scott and

Diana Dickson, attending Penn State Altoona.

Blair County: Central High School – Anna M. Ormsby of Martinsburg, daughter of Craig and Nina Ormsby, attending Geneva College; and Lauren N. Kensinger of Williamsburg, daughter of Denny and Jody Kensinger, attending Penn State Altoona; Williamsburg High School – Patrick M. McCauley of Williamsburg, son of Tim and Lisa McCauley, attending Saint Francis University; and Joshua T. Allison, also of Williamsburg, son of Mark and Linda Allison, attending South Hills School of Business & Technology.

Fulton County: Southern Fulton Junior/Senior High School – Olivia M. Mottern of Warfordsburg, daughter of Brian and Carolyn Mottern, attending Millersville University; and Lindsey D. Palmer of Needmore, daughter of Christopher and Karen Palmer, attending Wilson College; McConnellsburg High School – Bronwyne E. Mellott of Harrisonville, daughter of Howard and Karla Mellott, attending Penn State Altoona.


Huntingdon County: Huntingdon Area High School – Sydney M. Barnett of Hesston, daughter of Michael Barnett and Francine Smith, attending Penn State Altoona; Juniata Valley High School – Jordan D. Harnish of Williamsburg, daughter of Melanie and Matthew Hughes and Michael Harnish, attending Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center; Mount

Union Area High School – Emily E. Hollibaugh of Mount Union, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Hollibaugh, attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Southern Huntingdon County High School – Michia L. Whitsel of Shirleysburg, daughter of Marshall and Michele Whitsel, attending Penn State University.

In addition, Rachel E. Martin, daughter of James and Kelli Martin of Fort Loudon, Franklin County, who is a graduate of Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School and plans to attend Penn State Mont Alto, was selected to receive a Brighter Future Scholarship.

One student currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution was also awarded a scholarship from Valley REC for the 2017-18 academic year. She is Samantha B. Shoemaker of Hesston, daughter of Brian Shoemaker and the late Mindy Shoemaker, a 2016 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending Penn State Altoona.

Valley Rural Electric is a member-owned cooperative providing electric service to consumers in eight counties of south-central Pennsylvania, including Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Mifflin.

For more information about Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Brighter Future Scholarship Program, call 800-432-0680 or visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com) and follow the Programs and Services link to the Scholarships section. 

## 2017 golf tourney benefits two local infants

By Doug Roles  
Vice President, Member Services

VALLEY REC employees and friends of the co-op spent a day on the links at Huntingdon Country Club June 29 to raise money for two local infants with congenital heart conditions. The 2017 Valley Rural Electric Golf Outing benefited 14-month-old Dirk Leidy and 9-month-old Kendra Gibson.

Dirk is the son of Robert and Kerri Leidy of Mount Union. Kendra is the daughter of Chris Gibson and Tisa Miller of Huntingdon. Both families make frequent trips to hospitals and face mounting medical expenses.

This year's tournament raised \$32,000. The beneficiaries will split the proceeds.

"Our annual golf outing brings together many golfers and sponsors from across central Pennsylvania and beyond for a good cause," says Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer. "We're grateful for all the support this event receives from our vendors, employees and the community."

Forty-seven teams played in the day-long best ball scramble. The first flight hit the course at 8 a.m. while the afternoon flight began play at 1 p.m. Valley REC employees share the workload of planning and staffing the tournament, and reach out to local businesses and



2017 GOLF OUTING: Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer, left, joins the families of 14-month-old Dirk Leidy and 9-month-old Kendra Gibson, the beneficiaries of the 2017 Valley Rural Electric Golf Outing. Joining Bauer are, from left: Dirk's great-grandmother, Mary Souders; Dirk's parents, Robert and Kerri; Kendra's parents, Tisa Miller and Chris Gibson; and Kendra's brother, Chris. This year's tournament raised \$32,000.

co-op vendors alike for donations and sponsorships.

"All the proceeds from our tournament go directly to Dirk and Kendra," Bauer says.

Kendra was born with an unexpected heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot, where a child has only three chambers in his or her heart. Fortunately, the defect was diagnosed just hours after her birth. Dirk was born with half a heart,

a disease called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. Dirk and Kendra have both had multiple surgeries. The parents say the children are pain-free for the most part. The two families met for the first time at the tournament where the youngsters played together briefly on the floor of the country club lobby.

"I think it's a wonderful event; I never expected anything like this," Tisa says of Valley's 2017 tournament. "It's nice to meet another family in this situation and to hear their story. Hopefully we can keep in touch and give each other support."

"It was amazing to meet another 'heart baby' family and talk to them," Kerri agrees.

The 2017 event was the fifth golf tournament organized by Valley REC. The co-op's health and wellness programs have raised more than \$115,000 for charity since 2010. In addition to the golf outing, Valley's fundraising events have included a walkathon, a horseshoe tournament, a "Kickin It For Cans" food drive, softball tournaments and participation in Relay For Life events. 🌞



MORNING WINNERS: The winning team for the morning flight was Morefield Communications. Preparing to tee off is Nick Spallone as Steve Mamat, left, and Wes Kelly look on. Missing from photo is team member Tom Kozminski.



**AFTERNOON WINNERS:** The winning team from the afternoon flight includes, from left: Scott Eichelberger, Dana Yakimczyk, Ed Strickler and Noah Strickler (not pictured).



**ON THE LINKS:** Valley REC's warehouse manager, Billy Ayers, sinks a putt as Kevin Detwiler, the co-op's forester, looks on. Rounding out their team are Dan Melkey, left, and Bruce Nolan with Power Line Supply.

## Thank you, 2017 Valley Rural Electric Golf Outing sponsors and donors!

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