

# 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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James Stauffer**  
Chairman  
Allegheny Director

**Leroy Barnes**  
Vice Chairman  
PREA Director

**Cindy Bigelow**  
Secretary

**Randall Huntsman**  
Treasurer

**Gregory Henry**  
**Linda McMath**  
**Kenneth Soder**  
**Kevin States**  
**Joanne Whitsel**

**Corporate Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Huntingdon/Martinsburg/Shade Gap**  
**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Outages & Emergencies**  
1-800-432-0680

## GUEST COLUMN

# Communication is Key with Valley's Members



**VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC)** continues to give its members the best customer service possible. To do so, we need your help. Over the next several days, you will be receiving your electric bill via mail or email. I encourage you to look over the address, phone number and service description (if it is listed on the bill).

The billing address and phone number are vital for communication with our members. Valley REC uses automated phone software to contact you for upcoming events, planned outages and billing. We still use the U.S. Postal Service to send information regarding the nomination and annual meetings.

The redesigned electric bill is not only easier to read but also provides members with weather temperatures and billing dates. We offer several methods of payment. You can mail your bill, drop it off at our offices, pay online or use our automated phone system. When mailing your payment, please use black or blue ink only. The payment is scanned through our payment system, which reads black and blue ink best. Refrain from stapling or taping the stub and check together. If paying multiple accounts with one check, enclose all stubs to ensure the correct amount is applied to each account. Payments can be made 24/7 through our automated phone system or at valleyrec.com.

Valley REC is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric distribution cooperative. The co-op's mission is to provide safe, reliable electric service to consumers at the lowest possible cost. Last year, more than \$2.35 million in capital credits refunds were distributed to eligible members and former members. A return of capital credits occurs when a portion of margins (revenues in excess of expenses) from previous years of operation is disbursed to members and previous members. Since then, some members' checks have been returned by the post office because of incorrect address information.

Valley goes to great lengths to make sure every member receives the capital credits refunds they are due. Every year, a few members, mostly former members who have moved away, fail to provide a forwarding address. This is where communication is key with Valley's members.

The next page lists the former members we have been unable to locate. We need a current address or phone number for these previous members. If the member has passed away, we need the information of the executor of the estate or next of kin. If you have any information, please contact us at [capitalcredits@valleyrec.com](mailto:capitalcredits@valleyrec.com) or call 800-432-0680. 📍

**TERRI BRUMBAUGH**  
OFFICE SERVICE CLERK/RECEPTIONIST

## Co-op needs your help locating members



Do you have a missing piece of this year's capital credits return?

**LISTED BELOW ARE CONSUMERS WHOSE** capital credits checks were undeliverable. If you recognize a name and can provide an up-to-date address (or information about the executor of the estate or nearest relative, if the member is deceased), please contact us at [capitalcredits@valleyrec.com](mailto:capitalcredits@valleyrec.com) or call us at 814-643-2650 or toll-free 800-432-0680. You can also write to the Capital Credits Department, Valley REC, P.O. Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. LOOKING FOR NEXT OF KIN:

Beatty, Roy M. and Mary L.  
119 Lloyd St, Apt B,  
Altoona, PA 16602

Bennett, William and Judy  
1374 Little Greenbriar Rd,  
McVeytown, PA 17051

Brown, Carl E.  
2917 Pine Ave, Altoona, PA 16601

Byers, Henry  
110 7th St, Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Custer, Stan  
4421 Fargreen Rd,  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

DeShong, Henry M. and Maxine E.  
PO Box 522, Hustontown, PA 17229

Forshey, William T.  
310 N Railroad St,  
Martinsburg, PA 16662

Free, Gail B.  
142 Birch Dr, Lewistown, PA 17044

Henderson, Gladys E.  
2001 S Richard St, Apt 305,  
Bedford, PA 15522

Hess, Karen S.  
711 Church St, Apt 211,  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Imler, Gerald D. and Shirley L.  
PO Box 102, Westover, PA 16692

Leberfinger, Patricia  
2166 Reservoir Rd,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Lemley, Dearald and Nancy  
85 Camp Ridge Rd,  
Harrisonville, PA 17228

Lingenfelter, Orville E.  
PO Box 110, Claysburg, PA 16625

Luckett, Mary M.  
300 Spring St, Apt 109,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Martin, Shirley M. or  
Shirley M. Zimmerman  
1910 Technology Pkwy, Apt 3003,  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

McDonald, Michael D.  
218 Heavenly Acres Ridge Rd,  
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Otto, Steven D.  
359 Antler Dr, Ste 1,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Pheasant, Robert R. and Louella D.  
109 E Penn St, Martinsburg, PA 16662

Potter, JP  
PO Box 322,  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Rauhauser, David L. and Linda  
195 Rhonda Dr, York, PA 17408

Reed, Robert W. and Doris M.  
438 Freemason Dr,  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Ritchey, Laura J.  
PO Box 750, Duncansville, PA 16635

Sadtler, Charles and Jean  
19100 Dunn Dr, Saxton, PA 16678

Scheetz, Regina P.  
138 Letort Rd, Millersville, PA 17551

Sipes, Dorothy L. or Joyce Wright  
270 Reunion Ground Rd,  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Smith, Joanne H.  
655 Hilltop Rd,  
East Freedom, PA 16637

Snell, Marilyn E.  
PO Box 294, Fayetteville TN37334

Sunderland, Jack  
2712 8th Ave, Altoona, PA 16602

Sweeney, William A. Jr. and Lois K.  
152 Indiana Dr, Altoona, PA 16602

Szabo, Richard W.  
664 Siegfried St, Harrisburg, PA 17113

Wallick, Jeff  
PO Box 128,  
McConnellstown, PA 16660

Walter, Edward D.  
1053 Pennsylvania Ave,  
Tyrone, PA 16686

Way, Genevieve  
1015 Saint George Barber Rd,  
Davidsonville MD 21035

Whiteman, Carl R.  
1500 Sylvan Dr,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

## LOOKING FOR UPDATED ADDRESS INFO:

Caldwell, James V. and Nancy M.  
2017 Harmony Dr,  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Conestoga Wireless Co.  
27599 Riverview Center Blvd, Ste 201,  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Gongloff, Greg A.  
2754 Fouses Crossing,  
James Creek, PA 16657

Hagelston, Kirk D.  
PO Box 158, Calvin, PA 16622

Hall, Tyson  
RR 4 Box 369N, Tyrone, PA 16686

Kemble, Norman E. Jr. and Sharon L.  
854 Manna Way, Cosby, TN 37722

Kennedy, Mary M.  
800 Church St,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Kline, John L. and Linda L.  
84 Seafarer Ln, Berlin, MD 21811

Lakemont Medical Center  
1400 Logan Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602

Milliken, Harry L. and Joan  
2257 Middle Rd,  
Honey Grove, PA 17035

Rhodes, Steven T.  
9 Woods Ln, Lewistown, PA 17044

Ramsey, Leslie J.  
251 Iron St, Orbisonia, PA 17243

Smith, Austin M. and Karen P.  
PO Box 96, New Baltimore, PA 15553

# Valley Rural Electric is Committed to Job Safety

**TODD ROSS**, VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS

**JOB SAFETY AFFECTS EVERYONE** IN some form. The job you perform may



**TODD ROSS**

not be considered hazardous, but the environment can make your workplace a hazard. Situations in an office setting can create hazards, such as exposed extension cords over walkways, wet floors, closets stuffed with unstable material, slippery parking lots and walkways, uneven pavement, loose carpet, paper cutters, and utility knives for opening boxes. These are just a few issues that can impact whether a person leaves the workplace in their personal vehicle or in an ambulance. Take a moment and walk around your workplace to see what you find that could lead to an accident.

The line personnel at Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) deal with job safety from the time they arrive at the workplace until they leave. Their job is to provide electricity to the membership 24/7. The lineworkers are building, rebuilding or restoring electrical power lines daily. For the line personnel to perform these duties, safety plays a huge role.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Lineworkers wear PPE from head to toe: hard hats, safety glasses, flame-retardant (FR), long-sleeved shirts and pants, leather gloves, and safety boots. All the clothing a lineworker wears daily pertains to safety. Due to working with electricity, a lineworker is required to wear flame-retardant clothing to protect against an arc flash, which happens when a large amount of current is generated by some type of electrical fault. This could happen

because of equipment failure or human error.

When lineworkers are going to be working on energized electric lines, they also need to protect themselves by wearing rubber gloves and sleeves. The rubber sleeves are placed over the FR clothing, covering the lineworker's arms and shoulders. Then the rubber gloves are placed over the hands, extending part way up the arm just below the elbow. The rubber gloves and sleeves allow a lineworker to safely handle energized conductors and protect himself against accidental contact with another electrical conductor or ground. Along with the use of rubber gloves and sleeves, lineworkers also use rubber hose and blankets. The rubber hose is placed over the energized conductor, and the rubber blankets are placed on other equipment to protect a lineworker from accidental contact.

## Safety during a typical day

A normal daily routine, not involving outage restorations, begins with the crew leaders meeting with workers and discussing what jobs are planned for the day. Line personnel are instructed about their duties before leaving the office.

One of the first safety duties is to perform a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle that will be used that day. Line personnel will check tires, brake lines, engine fluids, headlights, taillights, hazard lights, turn signal lights, and so on. If any problems are found, they are written on the pre-trip paperwork and corrected before the vehicle leaves cooperative property.

When using a bucket truck for the day, the lineworker will perform a pre-trip inspection followed by a safety check on the boom. This is done by a lineworker operating the lower controls on the truck chassis. The outriggers are

first placed in position to stabilize the bucket truck, then the two-stage boom, which has an upper and lower boom, is extended and rotated to make sure there are no hydraulic leaks and all stages of the boom are working properly. If everything passes the pre-trip inspection, the boom is lowered and is placed in its secured position and ready for use that day.

Before leaving the office, material needs to be collected and loaded for the day's work. Loading material can require a forklift or a digger truck. Hard hats, safety glasses and leather gloves are used when using both pieces of equipment.

Forklifts are used daily for handling heavier material and equipment needed for construction. A digger truck is used for lifting utility poles and loading them on a pole trailer for delivery to the job site.

When at the job site, a digger truck is also used for digging the holes needed for setting the utility poles in place. Like the bucket truck, the digger truck also goes through a pre-trip inspection before leaving



**PREFLIGHT:** A lineworker performs a preflight inspection on the aerial lift portion of a bucket truck prior to leaving the office.

the cooperative, making sure the outriggers and the boom for lifting the poles are working properly.

Upon arriving at the job site, the crew leader holds a tailboard meeting. This is an on-site safety meeting with the entire crew, where the crew leader discusses the job, work that will take place and any safety concerns or hazards on the work site. At this time, any issues or concerns are brought up by the crew and then discussed to see what needs to be done to make the job site as safe as possible.

When the tailboard is completed, the lineworkers put on their appropriate PPE and begin their work. Some of the lineworkers will stay on the ground to prepare materials needed by those who will climb poles or work from a bucket truck.

These jobs may be done while lines are de-energized or energized. If the lines are energized, the lineworkers use their rubber gloves and sleeves. Sometimes the work also requires the use of hot sticks — insulated tools used to work on energized line conductors where the voltage level is above the voltage rating of the rubber gloves.

At the end of the work day, the lineworkers return to their designated office and perform a post-trip inspection on the vehicles used for the day. A



**HEAVY LIFT:** A lineworker lifts a utility pole from the pole yard with a digger truck.

post-trip inspection is performed to make sure the vehicle hasn't been damaged throughout the day. Anything found is documented, and the vehicle is scheduled for repair, if necessary. Material is then unloaded, and safety discussions for the day's work take place as needed.

## Training and testing

Throughout the course of the year, lineworkers attend training schools and safety seminars. A lineworker hired as an apprentice will attend training courses over the next four years — from basic climbing school to advanced gloving and sticking schools. During the time frame of roughly five years, an apprentice lineworker will go through many hours of on-the-job training and schooling before advancing to journeyman.

The safety tools and equipment lineworkers use also go through intensive testing. Dielectric testing, a process of running electrical current through equipment to ensure it is properly insulated, and preventive maintenance are performed on all bucket and digger trucks bi-annually. The booms are cleaned and dielectrically tested, hydraulic lines are checked for any leaks, and all hardware is checked for proper security. Insulated hot sticks, rubber hoses and rubber blankets are cleaned and tested annually to ensure they maintain the proper dielectric integrity for their intended use.

Rubber gloves and sleeves are sent to a certified testing company to be cleaned and dielectrically tested every 60 days. A dielectric test checks the integrity of the rubber, ensuring the rubber material still supports the insulation value needed to protect the lineworker. If any wear marks or dielectric failures are detected, the defective gear is no longer usable.

You can see safety plays a major role in the life of a lineworker. From the clothing they wear to the tools they use and the vehicles they operate, lineworkers make job safety a top priority. 🚫

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*

