

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Claverack REC

570-265-2167
1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com

Website: <http://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Luce, Zone 6
Chairman

570-833-5668

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7
Vice Chairman

570-280-8470

Steven T. Sliwinski, Zone 9
Secretary/Treasurer

570-364-5250

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1
Vice Secretary/Treasurer

570-265-3599

Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2

570-574-3531

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3

570-756-4979

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-247-7233

Vacant, Zone 5

Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8

570-553-4385

Bobbi Kilmer

President & CEO

Staff

Annette Bender, *Executive Assistant*

Steve Allabaugh, *Director, Engineering*

Doug Nichols, *Director, Operations*

Shelley Young, *Director, Financial Services*

Brian Zeidner, *Director, Member Services*

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, CCC, *Local Pages Editor*

From the President & CEO



A commitment to community care

By Bobbi Kilmer

IF YOU read *Penn Lines* regularly, you sometimes see photos of Claverack representatives making donations to local organizations. If you're wondering how we can give away money without impacting your electric bill, I would like to tell you more about our community-care initiatives.

Because "Concern for Community" is one of the guiding principles of the cooperative program, Claverack has always maintained a small budget for donations. But following passage of Pennsylvania's Act 187 in 2006, our ability to contribute to community organizations and programs increased significantly. This legislation allows the state's electric cooperatives to retain unclaimed property as long as the funds are used specifically for member assistance programs, civic donations or educational programs.

For electric co-ops, unclaimed property can really add up because it includes capital credits retirements to members who are deceased or who we are unable to locate.

Most of the unclaimed funds are utilized through our HOPE program, which provides grants to income-eligible members for use toward unpaid electric bills. The HOPE program, which is supplemented with member donations through our Operation Round-Up program, also helps qualifying low-income members pay for upgrades or repairs to their electric equipment in order to remedy a hazardous situation.

We have also used unclaimed capital credits to establish an endowment fund that provides annual scholarships to

students taking part in area technical education programs. In addition, we have upgraded the educational displays and materials we use in our school safety presentations.

The ability to use unclaimed property for civic purposes has allowed us to donate thousands of dollars to more than 100 community organizations. Our employees are able to direct donations of up to \$250 to organizations of their choice through our Employee Directed Giving Program. This has put money in the hands of animal shelters, fire companies, food pantries and youth organizations. Your board of directors authorizes larger donations to worthy organizations and projects. We spread the funds throughout our service territory, and we have touched a variety of groups — hospitals, ambulance and fire companies, regional arts programs, food banks, libraries, programs for special needs children, and service organizations such as Interfaith, Trehab, Grace Connection, and the American Red Cross.

The best part is that we can donate to these worthy causes without impacting your electric bill. These funds are specially earmarked, and we are required to report to the state how the funds are used.

Of course, we continue to maintain a list of members with unclaimed capital credits on our website and in our office. Members whose names appear on this list can contact our office and arrange for payment of any unclaimed amount. We are grateful for the opportunity to help our members and give back to our communities. 

Official notice of director elections

Candidates sought for Zones 7, 8 and 9

ELECTION by majority — it's what makes America a democratic nation. It's also one of the hallmarks of membership in a rural electric cooperative.

As a member, you can take an active role in democracy at Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative by running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors. Or you can exercise your democratic rights by simply voting in the director elections.

This year, Claverack will hold director elections for Zones 7, 8, and 9, currently served by directors Charles R. Bullock, Charles R. McNamara, and Steven T. Sliwinski, respectively.

Duties of a director

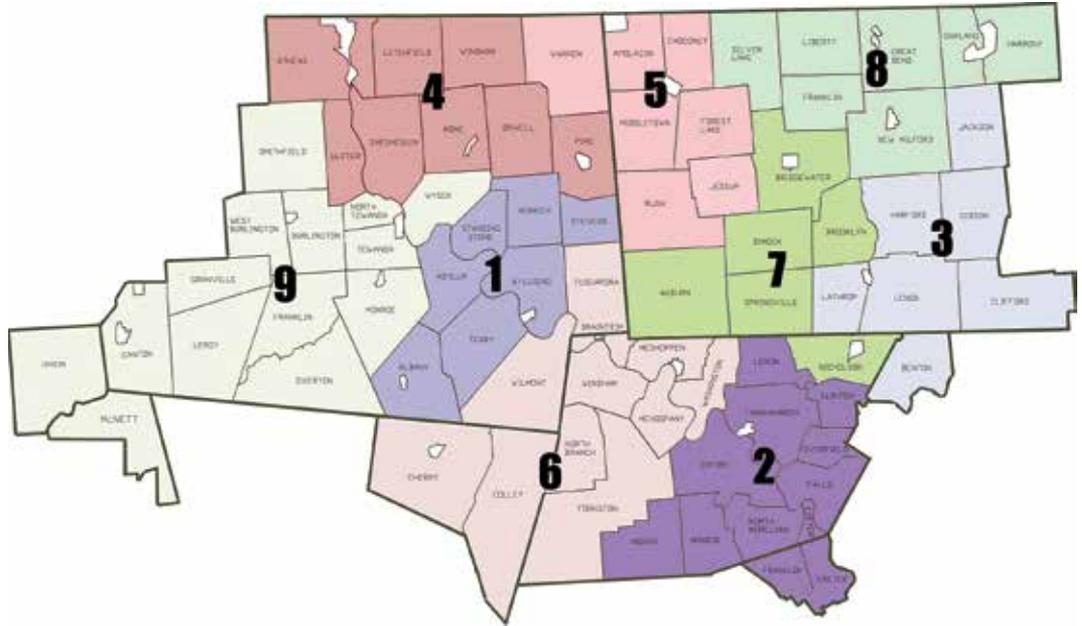
Directors are responsible for developing co-op policies and long-range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Claverack's management staff.

Nine directors comprise Claverack's board. Each board member represents a specific area within the utility's service territory.

Directors serve three-year terms. Elections take place on a rotating basis, with director seats in three of the co-op's nine zones up for election each year. The board meets at Claverack's headquarters in Wysox on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

To be eligible for director candidacy, you must meet all guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws, which may be viewed online at claverack.com. A copy of the bylaws can also be obtained by contacting the cooperative or visiting the co-op's Wysox office.

To serve on the board, you must be a member and a bona-fide resident of



the zone you seek to represent. You cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business, or be a close relative of an employee or board member.

Election procedures

Residential members from Zones 7, 8 or 9 interested in running for a position on the cooperative's board of directors must be nominated by a petition signed by at least 15 members residing in the candidate's respective zone. Petitions and further instructions are available by contacting Annette Bender at the Claverack office at 1-800-326-9799 or 570-265-2167 or by email at mail@claverack.com.

Petitions must be received by Monday, March 11, 2019, in order to be considered. The election of directors will be conducted via mail-in ballots; therefore, adequate time is needed for the petitions to be received and reviewed by the cooperative's Credentials and Election Committee.

Qualified candidates will also be asked to submit a brief biography, which will be included with the official ballot and published in *Penn Lines*. 

Townships scheduled to elect directors in 2019

Zone 7: Auburn, Bridgewater, Brooklyn, Dimock, and Springville in Susquehanna County; Nicholson in Wyoming County.

Zone 8: Franklin, Great Bend, Harmony, Liberty, New Milford, Oakland and Silver Lake in Susquehanna County.

Zone 9: Burlington, Canton, Franklin, Granville, LeRoy, Monroe, North Towanda, Overton, Smithfield, Towanda, West Burlington, and Wysox in Bradford County; McNett in Lycoming County; and Union in Tioga County.

Sliwinski to step down from board

LONGTIME Claverack director Steven Sliwinski of Troy has announced his intention to step down from board duties when his three-year term expires in July.



Sliwinski, a resident of Troy, has represented Zone 9 on the Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1980. He has held various leadership posts on the board over the years. He served as chairman of the board from 2012 to 2015, and currently

serves as the co-op board's secretary/treasurer.

A retired educator of the Troy School District, Sliwinski says he plans to devote more time to the pursuit of his favorite activities: traveling, golfing, gardening, camping and spending time with family.

"We wish Steve the best in his retirement endeavors and thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the cooperative," said Claverack President & CEO Bobbi Kilmer. "Steve's experience, knowledge and creativity will be missed." 🌟

PAiD program saves time, stamps and late-fee worries

IF YOU are looking for ways to simplify your life, Claverack's Payment Automatically Drafted (PAiD) program may be for you.

By signing up for Claverack's automatic bill payment program, you can avoid the hassle of searching for stamps, licking envelopes and worrying about whether your payment arrives on time.

When you participate in the PAiD program, the payment for your electric bill is automatically drafted from your checking or savings account or charged to a credit or debit card each month.

Even if you are out of town, your bill will be paid on time. You'll never have to worry about paying a late fee again.

Here's what happens after you sign up:

- ▶ The first automated payment will be made the second billing period after we receive your completed form. The first month will be a trial run to verify account numbers. No money will be moved.
- ▶ You will continue to receive a monthly bill statement.
- ▶ Your bill statement will alert you to the date that your payment will be automatically withdrawn.

With Claverack's PAiD program, paying your electric bill is simple. There are no sign-up charges or transaction fees. And you can cancel PAiD at any time by notifying us in writing.

For complete details about the PAiD program, please visit our website, claverack.com. Simply click on the Your Bill drop-down menu and select "Payment Options" to learn about all the convenient ways you can pay your bill. For more information, please call 1-800-326-9799.



HEALTHY DONATION: Claverack representatives present a \$5,000 check to officials with the Endless Mountains Health System that will be used toward the purchase of laparoscopy equipment for the Montrose medical facility's surgery department. Claverack donated \$2,500 toward the equipment purchase with money from its unclaimed properties fund, and secured a \$2,500 "Sharing Success" matching grant from CoBank, one of the cooperative's lenders. On hand for the check presentation were, from left, Endless Mountains Health System board member Lynn Joines, Development Officer Rexford Catlin and Chief Executive Officer Loren Stone, and Claverack board Chairman James Luce and President & CEO Bobbi Kilmer. Endless Mountains Health System, located in Montrose, is a licensed 25-bed acute care hospital with a short procedure unit, emergency services and various ancillary services typically associated with a medical facility.



GIVING BACK: Claverack REC employees gather around the office Christmas tree with donations of cold weather gear they collected for those in need. The clothing items were delivered to Helping Hands Food Pantry in Wyalusing.

Sign up for eFlash for co-op news alerts

CLAVERACK is always looking for additional ways to share important information with members. That's what eFlash, our email notification service, is all about.

We will use eFlash to send out special announcements, timely information and important messages about events that can have a direct impact on you as a member of Claverack.

We will use this service periodically, so you can rest assured that we won't



be cluttering your inbox with frequent messages.

Please note we will continue to utilize our website and Facebook to provide you with major power outage updates, energy-efficiency and safety tips, and information about your cooperative's community involvement activities on a regular basis.

If you are not currently receiving eFlash alerts and wish to subscribe to this service, please visit us online at claverack.com and click on the orange "Sign up for eFlash" button at the top right of the homepage. 🌩️

Claverack helps members save even more when buying Energy Star appliances

TO ENCOURAGE members to practice energy conservation and responsible energy use, Claverack offers rebates of up to \$100 to consumer-members who purchase qualifying Energy Star appliances.

With Claverack's new Energy Star Rebate Program, members not only benefit from energy savings generated from the product itself, they get the added benefit of a direct rebate from the co-op for their purchase. For Energy Star-rated refrigerators, the rebate amount is \$100; for washers or dryers, members will receive a \$50 rebate.

To apply for the rebate through the Claverack Energy Star Rebate Program, members must:

- ▶ Purchase an Energy Star-rated refrigerator, washer or dryer in the current calendar year.
- ▶ Complete a rebate form, which can be found on the Claverack homepage, claverack.com, or by calling the office at 1-800-326-9799.
- ▶ Include a receipt or invoice showing the date and purchase price of the Energy Star items.
- ▶ Include a copy of the Energy Star label from the appliance.
- ▶ Mail all documentation to: Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Attn: Appliance Rebate Program, 32750 Route 6, Wysox, PA 18854.

Once all documentation is received, a bill credit will be applied to your account. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of one rebate per appliance type per member account, and appliances must be installed within Claverack's service territory.

Funding for rebates is limited, and the rebate program is subject to change or cancellation without notice.

For more information, contact the Claverack member services department at 1-800-326-9799.



Deadline to apply for Youth Tour nears

High school juniors interested in competing for a chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer have until Thursday, Feb. 14, to submit an application.

The 2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a weeklong sightseeing excursion to the nation's capital that mixes fun and education, will take place June 16-21.

Coordinated annually by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association since 1964, Youth Tour is expected to draw more than 1,800 students to Washington, D.C., this summer. While there, students have the opportunity to explore the capital's historic sites, visit the Smithsonian, make friends with Youth Tour students from throughout the United States, meet with federal legislators, and learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative movement.

Youth Tour is open to all high school juniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative. Complete contest rules and an online application form can be accessed by visiting our website, claverack.com, and clicking on the Youth Tour icon on the left side of the homepage.

For more information about the Youth Tour and 2019 agenda, call Claverack's Wysox office at 570-265-2167 or 1-800-326-9799 or visit your high school guidance counselor.

