

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Claverack REC

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1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7
Acting 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

Robert Fearnley, Zone 5
570-278-2288

Vacant, Zone 6
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



It's a great time to be a co-op member

By Bobbi Kilmer

THERE'S a lot to love about this time of year. Warm weather, blooming flowers, extended daylight hours and a full season of summertime outings, get-togethers and outdoor activities lie ahead.

With the return of capital credits this month and the annual meeting coming up in July, it's also a great time of year to be a Claverack member.

In March, your board of directors approved a \$1.7 million return of capital credits to current and former members of the cooperative. This marks the ninth straight year that a capital credits retirement has been authorized, and since 2011, we have returned close to \$11 million in capital credits to members and former members.

Current members who were actively receiving electric service from Claverack in 1986, 2007, 2008 and 2018 will see a capital credits retirement reflected on their June electric bills.

Members who received service during the retirement years but who are no longer on our lines will receive a capital credits retirement check in the mail. We will also be returning capital credits to the estates of 198 deceased members who have requested a discounted return of capital credits in order to close out the member's estate.

We are able to return capital credits to our members due to our positive financial results. At the end of each year, if we collect more in revenue than we need to operate the cooperative, those excess margins are allocated to our members based on the members'

purchases during the entire year. These allocations are recorded in each member's account, and the allocations are paid to the member during the retirement process.

Another terrific event that takes place each summer is the Claverack Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held Tuesday, July 9, at the Elk Lake High School in Springville. Doors will open at 4 p.m., and members can enjoy barbecued chicken dinners in the gym from 4 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

In addition to learning about your co-op's activities of the past year, plans for the future and director election results, members who attend also receive a \$10 bill credit and a chance to win some great door prizes at the beginning and end of the business meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

We have also invited popular performer Van Wagner to take the stage in the auditorium again this year. Van, a talented singer, songwriter and teacher from central Pennsylvania, will perform at 5 p.m.

If you attended either of the last two annual meetings, you had a chance to experience Van's music, photography and passion for Pennsylvania history. If you haven't attended in recent years, please join us July 9 to see what you've been missing. ☀

Claverack will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day

Director elections slated for Zones 7, 8 and 9

DEMOCRACY will take center stage at Claverack's 2019 annual meeting, with director election results highlighting the agenda.

Board seats are up for election in Zones 7, 8 and 9 this year. This year's election of directors will be conducted via mail-in ballots. Each member will receive a ballot listing the names of all candidates seeking seats on the co-op board.

Members can expect to receive the ballots this month. The completed ballots should be returned in the addressed, stamped blue envelope included with the annual meeting notice. **Claverack must receive members' completed ballots no later than Saturday, July 6.**

The announcement of election results will take place during the business portion of the annual meeting.

In accordance with Claverack's by-laws, director elections take place on a rotating basis, with three zones up for election each year. Elected candidates serve three-year terms. Directors are responsible for establishing co-op policies and overseeing business operations.

Candidates who have filed petitions to run for board seats are: incumbent Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7; incumbent Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8; Anthony "Tony" Ventello and Frank Bertrand, Zone 9. A profile of each candidate follows:

Zone 7

Zone 7 serves members in Auburn, Bridgewater, Brooklyn, Dimock and Springville townships in Susquehanna County; Nicholson Township in Wyoming County.



Charles R. Bullock
Zone 7

Charles R. Bullock
3132 State Route 267
Meshoppen, PA 18630
Charles Bullock was elected to the Claverack board of directors in July 2007 and serves as acting chairman of the board.

A retired banker, he is active in the St. Joachim & St. Mary's Catholic Church, where he is a member

of the Holy Name Society, a former parish council president, and the current chairman of the finance committee. He is former treasurer of the Crescent Lake Association, and formerly served as the service unit chairman for the Wyalusing unit of the Salvation Army.

A former Susquehanna County jury commissioner, he serves on the boards of directors of C&T Enterprises, where he holds the position of board secretary, and Wellsboro Electric Co., serving as acting secretary. Bullock also serves on the finance committee of Claverack's board of directors.

Bullock is past president of the Bradford-Sullivan County Bankers' Association and a former Auburn Township auditor. He is a member of the American Legion Post 510 and the Meshoppen Rod & Gun Club. He is also a former coach for the Auburn Baseball Association.

Raised on a family farm in Auburn Township, Bullock graduated from Elk Lake Joint Schools and attended Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, N.Y., and Bucknell University.

Bullock has a son, Matthew Simon Bullock.

Zone 8

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



Charles R. McNamara
Zone 8

Charles R. McNamara
321 Brown Road
Friendsville PA 18818

Elected to the cooperative board in 2010, Charles R. McNamara earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification in 2011 and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Board Leadership Certificate in 2012.

McNamara operates his own business as a "green" building contractor, with over a decade of experience in OSHA-trained commercial/industrial

construction safety. He specializes in the restoration, repair and relocation of antique timber frames used for private residences and businesses.

In addition, McNamara was recently a part-time employee of Stantec, a consulting group and an international engineering firm, providing technical support and coordination for a multi-disciplined engineering team.

A graduate of Montrose Area High School, he holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Binghamton University.

He is an active member of the Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Company. He is also active in the St. Brigid Parish, serves as board vice president on the St. Augustine Cemetery Association and is a member of the Valley Energy board of directors.

A lifelong resident of Silver Lake Township, McNamara built his own energy-efficient home utilizing electric load management control and thermal storage.

McNamara and his wife, Barbara, have two sons.

Zone 9

Zone 9 serves members in Burlington, Canton, Franklin, Granville, Leroy, Monroe, North Towanda, Overton, Smithfield, Towanda, West Burlington and Wysox townships in Bradford County; McNett Township in Lycoming County; and Union Township in Tioga County.



Anthony "Tony" Ventello
Zone 9

Anthony "Tony" Ventello
1175 Grange Road
Towanda PA 18848

Anthony "Tony" Ventello is a resident of Franklin Township in Bradford County.

He has served as the executive director of the Progress Authority, the local economic development provider for Bradford and Susquehanna counties, for nearly 26 years. Prior to that, he was the Bradford County planner from 1983 to 1993, and assisted

in establishing the first Agriculture Security Zone in Pennsylvania (Athens Township).

Ventello's experience with economic development and project management is diverse, with an emphasis on small business development and rural infrastructure. He is currently focused on improved broadband development for Bradford and Susquehanna counties, with public safety as a critical component.

He serves as a board member for the Bradford County Conservation District, and Sayre Enterprise Center. He is a member of the Bradford County and Susquehanna County Farm Bureaus. He is past vice president of the Towanda Area School District Board of Directors, past district chairman for the Five Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a former member of Northern Tier Hardwoods Association, and past vice president of the Bradford County YMCA. The Ventello family is a 20-year participant in PennDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program.

Ventello holds a bachelor's degree in geography and regional planning from Mansfield University and a master's degree in public administration from Marywood University. He also holds a certification from the American Economic Development Council through Penn State University.

Ventello and his wife, Trudy, have two daughters, one son and a recent grandson. He enjoys his rural lifestyle, traveling, outdoor activities, hunting, fishing and spending time with family.

As a 36-year Claverack member, Ventello says he appreciates the high level of service, reliability and the fact that you can always talk to a person, not just a recording, when contacting the cooperative. He says he will view rates in a fiscally responsible way to benefit all of the members as a rural utility provider. The cooperative's membership model allows for rural utility delivery that does not put profit before people.

Frank Bertrand
355 Mulcahy Road
Towanda, PA 18848

Frank Bertrand of Monroeton has



Frank Bertrand
Zone 9

resided in Bradford County since 1977.

He is a retired lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps, specializing in logistics and intelligence.

While serving active and reserve duty from 1967 through 1992, Bertrand and his wife, Sue, owned and operated a 200-acre, 40-cow dairy farm in Towanda Township. The couple raised their son, Michael, there. They were longtime members of Eastern Milk Producers, and Bertrand had served as president of the USA (Ulster, Sheshequin and Athens) local.

Following a barn fire in 1991, Bertrand transitioned from farming to the real estate industry. He earned both a real estate agent license and his certified general appraiser license in 1997 and continues to be a practicing appraiser.

Bertrand also retired from PennDOT's District 3 in Montoursville in 2009, where he worked as real estate specialist. Prior to that position, he was an income maintenance caseworker for the Bradford County Assistance Office from 1996 to 2006.

Bertrand's community pursuits

include membership in Pennsylvania Farmers Association (now Farm Bureau) as a board member, earning national awards for local affairs efforts. He was appointed by the Bradford County Commissioners as the founding chairman of the County Farmland Preservation Board. He served as the founding president of the Bradford County Heritage Museum located in Troy. He is a member of the Bradford County Common Pleas Court Board of View, the Towanda Rifle and Pistol Club, and Towanda Volunteer Fire Department, serving as a fire policeman.

A 1969 graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in forest technology, Bertrand was at that time commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. Assignments included Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and various postings throughout the United States. He is a graduate of the Defense Department's Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and his last billet was with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

Bertrand's other pursuits include target shooting, reloading, collecting firearms and gardening. He and his wife of 45 years, Susan, reside in Towanda Township with their French bulldog, Spike. 🐕

Join us at the 2019 Claverack REC Annual Meeting

**Elk Lake High School Auditorium
Springville, Pa.
Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

4 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Barbecued chicken dinner, registration, exhibits

5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Entertainment by musical historian Van Wagner

6:30 p.m. – Business Meeting

8 p.m. – Meeting adjourns

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Guest speaker Van Wagner, musical historian ◀
- ▶ Door prizes ◀
- ▶ Barbecued chicken dinner ◀
- ▶ Educational exhibits ◀
- ▶ Live entertainment ◀
- ▶ \$10 bill credit for all registered members ◀

Six high school students to represent co-op on Youth Tour

SIX high school students from Claverack's service territory have been selected to join more than 1,800 students from all over the United States in June for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, a weeklong tour of the nation's capital.

During the tour, students will visit historical sites including the Vietnam and Korean War memorials, the Smithsonian museums, National Zoo and the World War II Memorial.

Selected on the basis of an application, essay or video, and extracurricular activities, the following students will represent Claverack on the 2019 Youth Tour June 16-21: Mary Stretch of Laceyville, Logan Newton of Wyalusing, Emily Moyer of Wyalusing, Kemuel Lauder-milch of Wyalusing, Dawcin Jones of New Albany, and Katrina Roof of Wysox. All of the students will be entering their senior year of high school this fall.



Mary Stretch

Mary Stretch, daughter of Norman and Frances Stretch, attends Wyalusing Valley Jr.-Sr. High School. She is a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Orchestra/High Wire

Choir, Art Club and the National Honor Society. Her extracurricular activities include 4-H, CEO Food Drive and playing piano. She enjoys drawing, especially black and white portraits, and riding horses. Her career goal is to become an occupational therapist.



Logan Newton

Logan Newton, son of Shawn and Nicole Newton, is a student at Wyalusing Valley Jr.-Sr. High School. He is a member of FBLA, has served on student council and partic- ipates in wrestling,

cross country, and track and field. Logan enjoys hunting, rock climbing and obstacle training. His career goal is to work in the architectural landscaping field.

Emily Moyer is the daughter of Kenneth L. and Deborah Moyer. A student at



Emily Moyer

Wyalusing Valley Jr.-Sr. High School, she is a member of the National Honor Society and plays in the school's orchestra. She is active with Northern Tier Symphony Association, Sanphy Music Academy, Tri-County Gun Club and Towanda Beagle Club. She enjoys playing the viola, guitar, ukele and piano. She plans to pursue a career as a radiologist following high school.



Kemuel Lauder-milch

Kemuel Lauder-milch, son of Jason and Karen Lauder-milch, is home-schooled. He has participated on the Wyalusing Valley Jr.-Sr. High School cross country team and the North Rome Christian soccer team. He has

also been involved with the Braided Cord Presentation Night. Extra-curricular activities include 4-H, serving as a camp counselor at Stony Point, and serving as a leader at the HWC Children's Church. Kemuel enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping and spending time outdoors, as well as running and weight lifting. He is interested in studying to be a chiropractor or physical therapist.



Dawcin Jones

Dawcin Jones is the daughter of Caryn Gesford and Justin Jones, and step-daughter of Matthew Gesford and Amanda Jones. A student at Wyalusing Valley Jr.-Sr. High School, Dawcin is a

member of FBLA and her school's basketball and football cheerleading squads. She also participates in track and field and is a member of the National Honor Society. Dawcin serves as president of her local 4-H club, is a volunteer member of the Wilmot Fire Co. and hosted a youth cheer camp. Her hobbies include agriculture, hunting, fishing, camping and photography. She plans to pursue a

career in criminal psychology following high school.



Katrina Roof

Katrina Roof, daughter of Mary Jane Roof, is a student at Towanda Area Jr.-Sr. High School. She has participated in forensics, Japanese Club, choir and is a member of the National Honor

Society. Katrina has also been active in Girl Scouts, church and Grange. Her special interest area is art and illustration, and she plans to become a storyboard director following high school. 🎨

PAiD program saves time, stamps, 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, filling 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 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.