

# 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](mailto:mail@claverack.com)

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7**  
**Chairman**

570-280-8470

**Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2**  
**Vice Chairman**

570-574-3531

**Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

570-265-3599

**Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8**  
**Vice Secretary/Treasurer**

570-553-4385

**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**  
**570-364-5562**

**Anthony "Tony" Ventello, Zone 9**  
**570-364-5562**

**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

## Guest Column



# The greatest engineering feat of all time

By Steve Allabaugh, *Director of Engineering*

WHAT is the greatest engineering feat of all time? That's like asking who's the best football player ever, or the greatest musician.

Is it the Colosseum of ancient Rome? How about the International Space Station? I think many of the youngest generation would say it's the cellphone!

I'll admit to a little bias, but I think it's the electrical grid. Think about the fact that virtually anywhere in the United States you can safely and reliably flip a switch and energize a light or power an appliance with energy generated far away. We take it for granted today, but it was nothing short of a miracle when cooperatives started expanding the grid to people living in rural areas 80 years ago.

The grid is a complicated interconnected system of nearly 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission line and millions of miles of distribution line. A good analogy I've heard is to compare the electrical grid to our highway system.

The grid starts with many types of generation, including natural gas, nuclear, coal, hydroelectric, solar and wind. These energy sources create the current that is transported over the grid, delivering power to our homes and businesses, much like cars travel our highway systems to their destination.


To get all of this power from distant generation sources to where it's needed is the job of the transmission system. You can think of the transmission

system like our network of interstate highways. Our interstates are designed to move many vehicles over long distances. They have multiple lanes and higher speed limits, much like our transmission system operates at high voltages, creating a sort of electron super highway.

Finally, our local roadways and country dirt roads take travelers to their final destinations, much like the 2,700 miles of electric distribution lines here at Claverack transport electricity from the transmission lines to our homes and businesses.

Just like our highway and roadway network, the grid is interconnected. If an interstate is closed, you take a detour on another highway. When a transmission line is out, the electric current is carried along another path in the grid automatically.

The grid, which is really made up of four mostly separate networks in North America, is operated by 10 regional transmission operators and other utilities whose job is to ensure reliability of the network and optimize pricing on the bulk power market.

While the grid has been an amazingly reliable system, major efforts are being made to modernize it. These efforts include new methods of monitoring its operation, improving cybersecurity, accommodating new generation sources and increasing automation, all so the grid can continue to reliably provide safe electric power to our homes and businesses well into the future. 

## Claverack seeking letters of interest for Zone 6 director seat

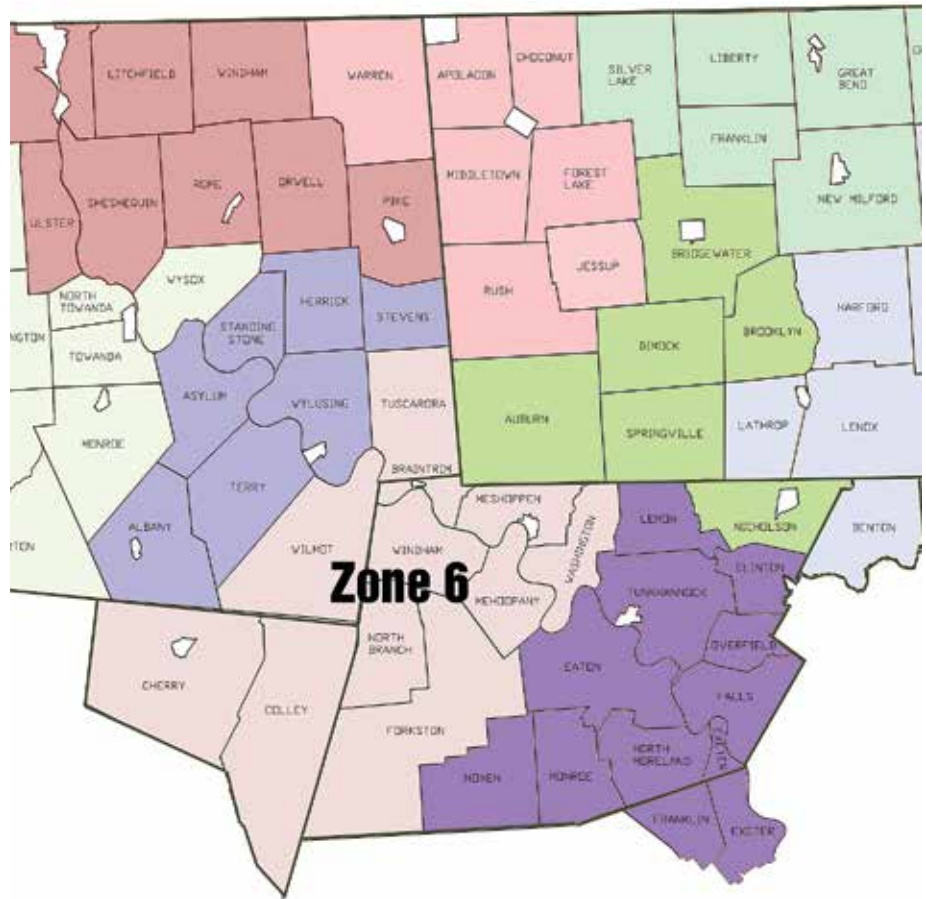
CLAVERACK is accepting letters of interest from members of Zone 6 who are interested in serving on the cooperative board of directors.

The successful candidate will fulfill the unexpired term of former director James Luce, who passed away in April. The term expires at Claverack's 2021 annual meeting.

To be eligible, the candidate's primary residence must be within Zone 6. Zone 6 encompasses the following townships: Cherry and Colley in Sullivan County; Braintrim, Forkston, Mehoopany, Meshoppen, North Branch, Washington, and Windham in Wyoming County; and Tuscarora and Wilmot in Bradford County.

Candidates must meet and comply with the following general qualifications as stated in the Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article IV, Section 5. A complete list of director qualifications can be found on the cooperative's website, [claverack.com](http://claverack.com), by clicking on the Bylaws link, which is located under the "Your Co-op" tab. The successful candidate:

- ▶ Must be a United States citizen receiving electric service from the cooperative at their primary residence within Zone 6 for 365 consecutive days.
- ▶ Must be a member in good standing. A member in good standing shall not include any member who: has any cooperative accounts in a delinquent status; has pleaded guilty to or is lawfully convicted of a crime of dishonesty that by statute carries a possible sentence of one year or more in prison; has been declared of unsound mind by an order of a court; or has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.
- ▶ Is not a close relative of a Claverack director or Claverack employee. A close relative is a person who, by blood or in law, including step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent,



grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, or a person living within the household of the principal.

- ▶ Is not a Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative employee or was not a Claverack employee within the last three years prior.
- ▶ Is not a close relative of an individual who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing business selling energy or supplies to Claverack, or a business primarily selling electrical energy, electrical or plumbing supplies, appliances, or fixtures to Claverack members.
- ▶ Will comply with any other reasonable qualifications as determined by the board.

The successful candidate must be able to attend monthly board meetings held in the co-op's Wysox office the fourth Wednesday of each month. In

addition, the director must be available to attend various training courses and educational workshops, as well as state and regional director functions. Directors are compensated for their time and reimbursed for cooperative-related travel expenses.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and a resume outlining their education and work experience by Friday, Aug. 23, to Annette Bender, executive assistant, Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, 32750 Route 6, Wysox, PA 18854. Letters of interest and resumes may also be sent via email to [annetteb@ctenterprises.org](mailto:annetteb@ctenterprises.org).

Upon receipt of the letter of interest, the cooperative will send prospective candidates a questionnaire that will need to be completed and returned to the cooperative. For more information about the directorship opening, call Annette Bender at 1-800-326-9799. ☀

# Promoting the growth of pollinator habitat

By Joshua Baublitz, *Right-of-way program manager*

THERE has been a lot of publicity about pesticides and their various effects on our world lately.

The term pesticide is thrown around quite a bit, and it is a general term that has a stigma attached to it. Some folks contend that pesticides are the primary killer of insects and pollinators, while others claim they can cause cancer.

In this day and age, we use pesticides for everything from keeping warehouses free from rats to keeping ants out of the house. When used properly, pesticides are a convenient and safe way to control many types of pests in many different environments.

Two types of pesticides that people often confuse are insecticides and herbicides. Insecticides control unwanted insects. Herbicides control unwanted plants.

Insecticides are grouped into several different categories. Some, like those commonly used in vegetable gardens, kill on contact. Others are absorbed into plants or used on clothing and take longer to affect the insect.

Insecticides can be used in beneficial ways to control everything from ticks and mosquitos to invasive species like the emerald ash borer and gypsy moths. When used improperly, they can also kill pollinators like honeybees and other beneficial insects. Most utilities only use insecticides against stinging pests like wasps, and only on occasions when these insects pose a direct and immediate threat to workers' safety.

Herbicides help control unwanted weeds and vegetation, and they, too, are organized into several categories based on how they act on plants. There are selective herbicides, which act only on certain types of plants based on their cell structure, and there are non-selective varieties, which will kill all the plants they come into contact with, regardless of species.

Extensive research through Penn State University and other organiza-



**THE RIGHT WAY:** Pollinator plants including daisies, aster, birdsfoot trefoil, buttercup, daisy fleabane and crown vetch flourish on this Claverack right of way along Tamarack Road in Standing Stone Township following the use of herbicide spray targeting taller shrubs such as autumn olive and multi-flora rose. Once established in a right of way, low-growth pollinator species like those shown here help prevent regrowth of taller shrubs and saplings, reducing future right-of-way maintenance costs and allowing for easier access to lines and poles by co-op personnel.

tions has shown that utilities' use of selective herbicides is very compatible with insect and pollinator habitat.


By targeting tall brush, saplings and shrubs for removal on rights of way, utilities can create an open, meadow-like landscape on which low-growing plants and flowers will thrive. Species like aster, coneflower, bee balm, and columbine are then able to fill in the spaces that had previously been shaded out by young trees and brush.

Claverack's vegetation management program seeks to promote pollinator habitat.

Utility corridors require low-growing plants that won't interfere with overhead lines and that allow lineworkers easier access to lines and poles when repairs are needed. Once pollinator species take hold on a given right of way, they naturally inhibit re-growth

of shrubs and saplings, which helps reduce future right-of-way management costs.

By selectively targeting incompatible plants like autumn olive and multi-flora rose, we're able to minimize the use of herbicides, encourage pollinator-friendly plants, and remove threats to reliable electric service. We don't spray lawns or active pastures, and we don't target compatible plants like raspberries and goldenrod.

Careful, evidence-based herbicide applications are an essential tool in every utility's management strategy. If you would like to learn more about Claverack's approach to right-of-way management or look into some of the research that is being done in the industry, contact Josh Baublitz at the Claverack main office, 1-800-326-9799, or send an email to [joshb@ctenterprises.org](mailto:joshb@ctenterprises.org). 



## Claverack helps members save even more when buying Energy Star appliances

WHEN you purchase an Energy Star-rated appliance, you are conserving energy and saving money on your electric bill.

To encourage members to practice energy conservation and responsible energy use, Claverack is offering rebates of \$50 to \$100 to consumer-members who purchase qualifying Energy Star refrigerators, washers, and dryers.

Energy Star certification means products meet energy-efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Energy Star-rated products are expected to help consumers reduce their energy bills, conserve energy and help protect the environment.

With Claverack's 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 Claverack Energy Star rebate, members must:

- ▶ Purchase an Energy Star-rated refrigerator, washer or dryer in the current calendar year.
- ▶ Complete a rebate form. The form is available by clicking on the "Rebate" button on the Claverack homepage, [claverack.com](http://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.

Please note that 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. 🌞



**DONATION:** Claverack Director Charles Bullock presents Wysox Fire Co. Treasurer Jack Kilmer with a check for \$2,500 for deposit in the fire company's truck fund. Claverack committed \$1,250 from its Community Services Fund for the contribution and secured a \$1,250 matching grant through CoBank's Sharing Success program to double the donation. CoBank, part of the U.S. Farm Credit System, provides loans and financial services to cooperatives, agribusinesses and rural public utilities, including Claverack. On hand for the presentation were, from left, Claverack President & CEO Bobbi Kilmer, Bullock, Kilmer, Wysox Fire Co. Assistant Chief Evan Barnes and Claverack Director Danise Fairchild.

## 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 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.

To sign up for PAiD, please complete the online application that can be found on our website, [claverack.com](http://claverack.com), by clicking on "Payment Options" under the Your Bill drop-down menu at the top of the homepage. For more information, please call 1-800-326-9799.