

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

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 W. Fearnley, Zone 5
570-278-2288

Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6
570-833-2320

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9
607-765-2615

Bobbi Kilmer
President & CEO

Staff

Annette Koder, 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, Local Pages Editor

Guest Column



Know the risks with portable generators

By Pete Yastishock, *Director of Safety & Compliance*

CLAVERRACK REC has excellent experience in reliability. However, Mother Nature sometimes shows her power and is the No. 1 cause of major outages for all electric providers.

While we work hard to provide reliable service, there will always be occasional power outages. When outages do occur, some members turn to portable generators to meet their electricity needs.

It's important for anyone who uses or is considering purchasing a generator to be aware of the serious potential hazards involved in using portable generators.

If connected and used properly, they can be a blessing during a prolonged outage. But improperly installed or operated generators can have deadly consequences.

If you are thinking of using a portable generator, please take a moment to review some of the basic facts and risks associated with generators:

- ▶ Know the capability of your generator, the size and what load it can actually power in your house.
- ▶ Never set up a generator indoors or in garages. Using a generator inside of a building is one of the top causes of carbon monoxide fatalities.
- ▶ Make sure your generator is turned off and cool before you refuel the engine to prevent the potential of

fire while refilling.

- ▶ Most portable generators are not meant to run continuously, so give your generator a break.
- ▶ For tractor-driven units, be sure to always turn off the tractor and PTO control to service the generator. Set the tractor brake before starting the generator.
- ▶ Avoid using generators in wet areas to avoid electrical shock.
- ▶ Only connect loads to the generator when it is fully running. Disconnect the loads before starting the generator and before stopping it. This protects your generator, as well as your appliances, from damage.
- ▶ Make sure to use heavy duty cords sized for your power needs to prevent fires or shock.
- ▶ Most importantly, NEVER connect the generator into your breaker panel or into your house outlet without a transfer switch.

The transfer switch isolates your generator from the electric service and distribution lines. This keeps workers and the public from getting shocked by the electrical output of your generator, and it prevents your generator from burning up or shorting out.

For more information about emergency generators, please contact Claverack's member services department at 1-800-326-9799 or 570-265-2167. 

Director elections slated for Zones 1, 2 and 3

DEMOCRACY will take center stage at Claverack's 2020 annual meeting, with director election results highlighting the agenda.

Board seats are up for election in Zones 1, 2 and 3 this year. The 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 in early August. 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 Monday, Aug. 31.**

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 Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1; incumbent Robert R. Faux, Zone 2; and incumbent Angela Joines, Zone 3. A profile of each candidate follows.

Zone 1

Zone 1 serves members in Albany, Asylum, Herrick, Standing Stone, Stevens, Terry and Wyalusing townships in Bradford County.



Danise Fairchild
Zone 1

Danise C. Fairchild
826 Cemetery Road
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Danise C. Fairchild was appointed to the Claverack board of directors in February 2013 and holds the position of vice secretary/treasurer of the board. In addition, Fairchild serves on the C&T Enterprises and Valley Energy boards of directors.

Fairchild is a Credentialed Cooper-

ative Director and has earned Board Leadership and Director Gold certificates through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

A longtime resident of Standing Stone Township, she is an accounting manager at Global Tungsten & Powders Corp. in Towanda. She has over 35 years in finance at Global Tungsten & Powders Corp. and its affiliates. Fairchild holds a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in business administration from George Mason University.

She and her husband, Terry, have three daughters: Teresa, Kate and Allison. The Fairchilds are black Labrador retriever fans and always have one in the family. Fairchild enjoys traveling, camping, gardening, and community service activities.

Zone 2

Zone 2 serves members in Clinton, Eaton, Exeter, Lemon, Monroe, North Moreland, Noxen, Overfield and Tunkhannock townships in Wyoming County; and Exeter and Franklin townships in Luzerne County.



Robert Faux
Zone 2

Robert R. Faux
154 Faux Lane
Tunkhannock, PA
18657

Dr. Robert R. Faux was elected to his first term on the Claverack board of directors on July 19, 2008. Since that time, he has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates offered by NRECA.

Faux serves on the boards of directors of Citizens' Electric Co. of Lewisburg, C&T Enterprises, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. Allegheny is the power provider for Claverack and the other electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania.

Faux is a teaching professor with Penn State University and has been a member of the faculty since 1986. He has taught and continues to teach courses in statistics, energy, and electrical engineering. He has taught courses on alternative en-

ergy systems and continues to evaluate emerging energy technologies.

Faux holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in engineering science from Penn State University. He also holds a doctoral degree in human development with a concentration in instructional leadership from Marywood University.

A lifetime resident of Claverack's Zone 2, he and his wife, Laura, have one son, Christopher. Faux and his son operate a small fourth-generation farm. Faux is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys the opportunities for hiking and fishing provided by living in a rural part of Wyoming County.

Zone 3

Zone 3 serves members in Hop Bottom Borough and Clifford, Gibson, Harford, Jackson, Lathrop and Lenox townships in Susquehanna County; and Benton Township in Lackawanna County.



Angela Joines
Zone 3

Angela S. Joines
1661 Stearns Lake
Road
Jackson, PA 18825

Angela S. Joines was appointed to the Claverack board of directors in July 2012. She also serves as a director for Citizens' Electric Co. of Lewisburg. Joines has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director curriculum, the Board Leadership Certificate and has received Director Gold status through NRECA.

She was recently appointed to an advisory board position at the Honesdale National Bank, Honesdale, Pa., (Susquehanna County branch). She has been re-elected for a six-year term as auditor for Jackson Township.

A resident of Jackson, Susquehanna County, Joines is the sole owner of Summit Workwear, New Milford, Pa. She is a graduate of Broome Community College with an associate degree in business/accounting.

The mother of two children, Joines enjoys spending time doing outdoor activities. 🌞

Claverack teams up with Tri-County, CoBank to support Food Bank

By Jeff Fetzer

CLAVERRACK Rural Electric Cooperative teamed up with Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative and CoBank to provide \$20,000 to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to assist families in need of food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A \$5,000 donation from each of the electric cooperatives, matched by a \$10,000 donation from CoBank, one of the cooperatives' lenders, will be used to purchase food to fill crisis response boxes the Food Bank is providing to its distribution partners across Northcentral Pennsylvania.

"We are so thankful to these three organizations for providing much-needed support to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank," said Joe Arthur, executive director of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, our team has distributed more than 120,000 crisis response boxes and millions of pounds of fresh produce, milk, eggs, frozen meats and more to our charitable food network, enough to provide more than 14 million meals. Support like this helps us provide the healthiest foods available to those in need in our communities."

In response to heightened demand for nutritional assistance due to COVID-19, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank began packing crisis response boxes filled with non-perishable food to meet the needs of its charitable food network in the 27-county area it serves.

This network includes local food pantries, soup kitchens, churches and community organizations that provide nutritional assistance to the public. There are more than a dozen of these partners receiving crisis response boxes in the cooperatives' service territories across the state's Northern Tier.

"Electric cooperatives are committed to supporting our local communities," said Bobbi Kilmer, president & CEO of Claverack Rural Electric



COMMUNITY: Mindee Lyon, left, development manager for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's Healthy Food Hub in Williamsport, accepts a \$20,000 check from Bobbi Kilmer, president and CEO of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, and Craig Eccher, president and CEO of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative. The donation will be used to fill COVID-19 crisis response boxes with food products that the Food Bank will distribute to area food pantries. The donation included \$5,000 from each electric cooperative, along with \$10,000 in matching funds from CoBank's Sharing Success program. CoBank is a cooperative bank that offers financial services to cooperatives, including Claverack, across rural America.

Cooperative. "With so many people out of work and experiencing financial hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic, we wanted to help ensure families in our region have food on their tables during this unprecedented time of need."

Claverack funded its portion of the Food Bank donation through the use of unclaimed capital credits refunds, which all electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania are permitted to retain and use in support of community and low-income energy assistance programs.

Jennifer Sands, communications and marketing manager for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, said the Food Bank distributed 44% more food during the month of April than it had in April 2019.

She said the Food Bank's demand for food continues to increase, and it is expected that crisis response boxes

will be provided to central Pennsylvania food distributors through at least the end of September.

Sands also noted the Food Bank has seen an outpouring of support from businesses, industry, charitable organizations and individuals since the pandemic began.

"The community has stepped up big time to help us out," she said.

Sands said the primary need for the Food Bank at this point is financial donations to support its mission to provide nourishment to families throughout central Pennsylvania. The Food Bank is currently not accepting direct food donations from individuals or community organizations.

To make a contribution to the Food Bank, or to find your nearest food pantry, visit the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank website at centralpafoodbank.org or call 1-877-999-5964. 🌱

Join us at the 2020 Claverack REC Annual Meeting*

**Wyoming County Fairgrounds
Meshoppen, PA**

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020

Registration: 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting: 3 p.m. in Claverack tent on midway

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Chance to win \$1,000 electric bill credit
- ▶ Director election results
- ▶ \$25 in food vouchers per registered member
- ▶ \$10 bill credit for all registered members

***Editor's Note:** At the time of this writing in mid-June, uncertainty remains regarding whether public gatherings such as county fairs will be permissible under the state's COVID-19 guidelines. Claverack is developing contingency plans in the event that the fair is canceled or modifications to our annual meeting format become necessary. We will keep members updated about the status of the annual meeting through our website, claverack.com, Facebook and *Penn Lines*.

Operation Round-Up

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Financial hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic have caused many cooperative families to struggle to keep up with their energy bills.

You can help some of your neighbors in need by participating in Claverack's Operation Round-Up program.

This voluntary program allows you to assist members of the cooperative experiencing difficulties paying their electric bills. Participating in the program is inexpensive – less than \$1 a month – and allows you to help make a difference in a neighbor's life.

CONTRIBUTING IS EASY

The concept is simple. Claverack rounds up your monthly electric bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the round-up amount and your actual bill amount goes into our member assistance fund.

For example, if your electric bill is \$100.32, then you would pay \$101. The extra 68 cents goes into our member assistance fund for needy families of the cooperative. The average yearly donation is \$6.

CAN YOU SPARE MORE THAN CHANGE?

If you'd like to help your fellow members even more during this unprecedented time of financial uncertainty, we have created additional options for you to contribute more than the traditional round-up amount.

Members can add an extra dollar amount to their monthly donation. Simply enter the even dollar amount that you would like to add to the Round-Up form that can be found on our website, claverack.com, or call our office and ask your member service representative to make the change for you. Your bill will reflect the total amount donated each month.

If you would prefer to make a one-time donation to Operation Round-Up, that option is also available. Enter the one-time amount in the associated field on our online Round-Up form, and we will add that to your account. With the next bill you receive, the amount of your donation will be added to the total amount due, and you will see it listed as "Roundup Amt."

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

If you would like to help others, Operation Round-Up is an easy way to do so.

Sign up today to start helping others by calling us at 1-800-326-9799, or sign up through the Claverack website by clicking on Operation Round-Up under the "Your Bill" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.

SmartHub: Manage your account from anywhere

SmartHub, Claverack's online bill payment and account management program, lets you manage all aspects of your account online or with your mobile device.

WITH SMARTHUB, YOU CAN:

- ▶ View bills online
- ▶ View billing history
- ▶ Change account information
- ▶ Receive billing notifications
- ▶ Pay your bill online using your checking account, credit or debit card
- ▶ Receive a paperless bill
- ▶ Access your account info on your smartphone or tablet with free mobile app
- ▶ Report power outages



Signing up for SmartHub is easy. Visit our website, claverack.com, click on the "Pay Bill" button on the left side of your screen and follow the registration instructions. The SmartHub mobile app is available for download through your app store.

Even out your payments with Levelized Billing

You can avoid large fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by participating in Claverack's Levelized Billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year.

Levelized Billing is available to members with at least one year of electric use, provided they have fewer than two late payments in the prior 12 months.

This plan is particularly helpful to members with electric heating or central air conditioning systems, since their electric bills tend to increase significantly during the heating and cooling seasons. It's also convenient for those on fixed incomes.

If you are interested in a Levelized Billing plan, please call the member services department at 1-800-326-9799.