

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: <https://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

570-574-3531

**Angela S. Joines, Zone 3
Vice Chairman**

570-756-4979

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

570-553-4385

**Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6
Vice Secretary/Treasurer**

570-833-2320

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7

570-280-8470

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1

570-265-3599

Robert W. Fearnley, Zone 5

570-278-2288

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-247-7233

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9

607-765-2615

**Steve Allabaugh
President & CEO**

Staff

Annette Koder, Executive Assistant

Nick Berger, Director, Engineering and 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



Taking control of electrical hazards

By Pete Yastishock, *Director of Safety & Compliance*

ELECTRICITY is one of the most effective and safe power sources available. But when uncontrolled, that power can be an unseen and unpredictable hazard.

Let's look at some simple examples of the hazards of uncontrolled electricity, starting with downed electric lines.

It is a myth that if a power line is not arcing or buzzing it is not energized. That downed wire on the ground very well could be fully energized. Even a lineworker cannot tell if it is energized just by looking at the conductor.

Since electricity can flow through the ground as far as 30 feet away from a downed line, that means you need to stay far away from any downed wire you encounter. If you come across a wire on the ground, make sure people and pets keep at least 30 feet away from it and call Claverack or another local electric utility immediately.

Did you know that if a tree comes to rest against an electric line it can be energized? Not only can the tree touching an electric line carry current, the ground around the tree can be energized as well. The tree can act as a conductor, and electricity can flow through it and energize the ground around the tree.

So if you see a tree that's touching an electric line, stay back at least 30 feet and call the co-op to report the hazard. Also note that the reason the co-op uses insulators on its poles is because those wooden poles holding up our lines will conduct electricity.

What if your neighbor offers you the use of a portable generator to keep your freezer running during

a power outage? Have you thought about the electrical hazard you can be unleashing? Never just plug a generator into an outlet. That uncontrolled 120 or 240 volts will backfeed through your home's wiring and electric meter and travel through the transformer to the pole distribution wires, putting thousands of volts of electricity back to that tree or damaged line on the ground.

A lineworker doing repairs or a neighbor who needed to move his car or tractor is now exposed to unleashed electricity, backfed from that generator running your freezer. By the way, this can burn up the generator, too. This is why the National Electric Code requires the installation of a transfer safety switch to prevent backfeed from a portable or backup generator.

There is another uncontrolled electricity scenario to be mindful of this time of year when we are getting back outside for spring projects. That hazard involves placing farm equipment, ladders, antennas or siding too close to power lines. Too many times, the person trying to get work done at the farm or complete a house project doesn't give the electrical wires the respect they need.

And moving an object, including wooden or fiberglass ladders, too close to electrical lines creates an uncontrolled electrical hazard. Keep all objects a minimum of 10 feet from distribution lines and services — and make sure the object can't fall or blow into the lines, too.

Look up and be aware. You can help control electricity. ❁

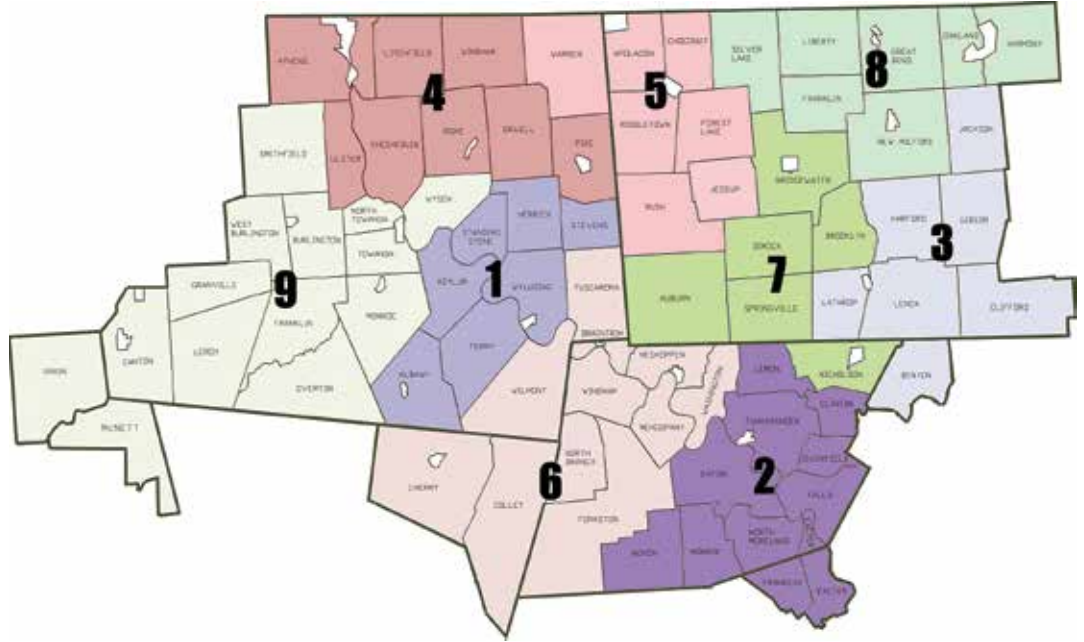
Official notice of director elections

Candidates sought for Zones 7, 8 and 9

ELECTION by majority is 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 Anthony J. Ventello, 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 our 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 by visiting 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 and 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 Koder at the Claverack office at 800-326-9799 or 570-265-2167 or emailing mail@claverack.com.

Petitions must be received by Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 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 2022

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.

All About Eve

The cold, hard facts about EV battery range in winter

By Brian Zeidner

Director of Member Services

WHEN the co-op began considering the purchase of an electric vehicle, one of the questions we had was how the car would perform during the winter months.

Since we didn't know any EV owners in the area when we bought our Tesla Model 3, which we call Eve, we were going to learn for ourselves how cold weather impacts the battery range of the car.

The distance an EV can travel on a single charge is referred to as its range, and range is a critical concern in rural areas like ours, where charging stations are few and far between. This concern is often referred to as "range anxiety," and to help alleviate the anxiety, we purchased the extended range option for Eve, which gives us a range of 287 miles when fully charged.

It is 17 miles from my house to the cooperative's main office in Wysox. In the summer, I can make the trip using 14 miles of range going to work as I drive down a lot of mountains. My return trip normally uses 20 miles of range as I drive up those same mountains. The round-trip average is 34 miles (17 miles each way) of range.

Because of the car's regenerative braking feature, which recharges the batteries, hills have a bit of an impact on the range. Other things impact the range, like having a heavy foot — Eve is incredibly quick and fun to drive — and, we assumed, correctly, cold weather conditions.

Eve gets charged with electricity and stores that energy in the batteries. Anyone who has experienced a dead battery on a cold winter morning understands that low temperatures negatively impact batteries.

Let me share some hard data about our experiences during a cold stretch in January. On Jan. 10, Eve showed a range of 264 miles at the end of the work day. The EV remained in the Claverack



parking lot overnight, exposed to the elements. Over the next 24 hours, with high temperatures in the 20s and lows in the single digits, Eve's available range decreased from 264 miles to 251 miles just from being parked outdoors.

On Jan. 11, I wanted to drive Eve home to test its range in cold weather, as it was 12 degrees. I turned on the climate control using my smartphone, set the interior temperature to 72 degrees, and turned on the heated seat. After 10 minutes of warm up, the range had dropped from 251 miles to 246 miles as the energy in the battery was expended to warm up the car's interior.

I drove home as I normally would. I ran the defroster for a short time and kept the thermostat at a comfortable 72 degrees, with the fan blowing the warm air on my feet. Under these conditions, Eve used up 30 miles of range to get home. I knew from testing during the summer that it typically takes 20 miles of range to make the same trip.

It was 10 degrees when I got home, dropped to a low of 8 degrees

overnight and was 16 degrees early the next morning. Eve had lost about 10 miles of range overnight in the driveway. I lost another 6 miles of range warming the car up before I left for work, with the heater set at 72 degrees again. Eve used 17 miles of range to get to work, which is about 3 more miles of range than would have been consumed during the summer.

Interestingly, I had to drive to Mansfield for a meeting that day. It was 20 degrees when I left, and we used 67 miles of range to make the 43-mile trip, using the heater and the heated seat the entire time. The return trip only used 43 miles of range, but the outside temperature had risen to 46 degrees, and we didn't run the heater as much.

As you can see, cold weather really does have an impact on range, with as much as a 50% reduction when warm up time and sitting out in the cold is taken into account. I was also surprised by how much difference 30 degrees made on the battery performance. ❄️

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 this 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.

To sign up for PAiD, please complete the online application that can be found on our website, 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 800-326-9799.

Co-op offers scholarship to MU students

Applications are being accepted for a \$1,000 scholarship that is available for the 2022-2023 academic year to a Mansfield University student who is a Claverack member or dependent.

To be eligible for consideration, students must:

- ▶ be enrolled full-time at Mansfield University
- ▶ demonstrate financial need
- ▶ be a member or dependent of a member of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative
- ▶ demonstrate the highest traits of leadership, citizenship and character

Students can also apply online by visiting our homepage, claverack.com, and clicking on "Scholarships" under the "Your Community" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.

Claverack endowed the scholarship fund at Mansfield University in 2000, with a goal of providing financial assistance to any Claverack member or dependent pursuing a degree at the university.

A member of the State System of Higher Education, Mansfield University attracts many students from throughout the cooperative's service territory.

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 information on your smartphone or tablet with a 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 800-326-9799.