

# 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 W. Fearnley, Zone 5**

570-278-2288

**Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6**

570-833-2320

**Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9**

607-765-2615

**Steve Allabaugh  
President & CEO**

**Staff**

**Annette Koder, Executive Assistant**

**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

## From the President & CEO



### Annual meeting online

By Steve Allabaugh

AS I WRITE this column, it's late May, and we've just heard the news that Pennsylvania has reached the point in the COVID-19 pandemic at which the mask mandate is expected to be fully lifted in late June.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, mandatory mask wearing will be a thing of the past. I say hopefully because if the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is to expect the unexpected.

All of us are excited about getting out to ballgames, concerts, county fairs and movies again, and it's looking increasingly promising we will be able to do many of those things soon. One summer event that we're not going to be able to enjoy this year, at least in person, is Claverack's traditional annual meeting.

As 2021 began and COVID-19 vaccinations were starting to become available, we were optimistic that a return to our traditional annual gathering of members would be possible this year. As you can imagine, planning for our meeting takes a tremendous amount of preparation, and we have to make decisions about where and how to conduct the meeting very early in the calendar year.

As winter turned to spring and uncertainty about the COVID-19 pandemic remained, it became clear that we would need to transition the annual meeting to an online event to ensure that we could protect the health and safety of our members and employees.

While I'm disappointed that we will not meet in person this year, I am excit-

ed about the opportunity to talk to you online about your cooperative during the 2021 annual meeting, which will be held virtually on Aug. 25.

Members will be receiving information about the annual meeting, including how to register to participate, in the mail in the coming weeks. I invite and encourage all members to sign up so they can learn about all of the exciting things taking place at their electric cooperative.

One of the great things that happens at annual meeting time each year is the election of directors. I say great because cooperatives are the only type of electric utility in which the consumers — in our case, members — democratically choose who will represent them. Your directors are members, just like you, and they are committed to making decisions and establishing policies that are in the best interests of the cooperative and its membership.

In the March issue of *Penn Lines*, we announced that elections would be taking place for Zones 4, 5 and 6. Petitions were due on or before May 4, 2021, from eligible members wishing to run. We received petitions from each of the incumbent directors representing those zones but did not receive any additional petitions by the deadline.

Because this year's election is uncontested, our Credentials & Elections Committee modified the election process to forego the unnecessary expense of mailing ballots back and forth. I applaud them for this as it will save the cooperative a significant amount of money.

*(continues on page 12d)*

## Slate of uncontested directors approved for re-election

CLAVERACK members will notice a change to the traditional director election process when they receive their annual meeting notification in the mail near the end of July.

Claverack's Credentials & Elections Committee, which oversees the director election process, had received petitions for candidacy from only the three incumbent directors representing the zones up for election this year. No additional candidates filed nominating petitions to run for the board prior to the May 4 filing deadline.

Because this year's election of board directors representing Zones 4, 5 and 6 is uncontested, the cooperative's Credentials & Elections Committee decided to dispense with formal balloting and cast a unanimous ballot at the annual meeting on behalf of the sole nominee for each zone.

As a result, incumbents Gary L. Hennip, Robert W. Fearnley and Timothy T. Tewksbury, representing Zones 4, 5 and 6, respectively, will stand elected to serve a three-year term effective as of the Aug. 25, 2021, 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.

A profile of each candidate follows.

### Zone 4

*Zone 4 serves members in Athens, Litchfield, Orwell, Pike, Rome, Sheshequin, Ulster and Windham townships in Bradford County.*



Gary L. Hennip  
Zone 4

#### Gary L. Hennip

Gary L. Hennip of Rome was elected to his first term on the Claverack board of directors in July 2015. He also serves on the board of directors of Citizens' Electric Co. of Lewisburg, Pa., and C&T Enterprises,

where he holds the position of vice chairman. Hennip is also Claverack's representative on the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Board of Directors.

Born and raised on a small dairy farm in Orwell Township, Bradford County, Hennip is a Northeast Bradford High School graduate and earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mansfield University.

His work with cooperatives includes 18 years of employment with the Sire Power Cooperative in Tunkhannock, where he was the director of marketing for membership sales and service in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. For 16 years leading up to his retirement, Hennip was employed as a dairy educator and county extension director with the Penn State University Extension Service in Bradford County.

He is the past superintendent of the Pennsylvania Farm Show dairy shows, assistant superintendent of the All-American Dairy Shows, member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, member and administrative council chairman of the North Orwell Union Church, and trustee of the Northeast Bradford Education Foundation. He was also a Northeast Bradford High School varsity softball coach for 19 years. He is a past member of Citizens & Northern Bank's Wysox advisory board.

Gary and his wife, Marianne, have three children and 10 grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, working outdoors and spending time with family.

### Zone 5

*Zone 5 serves members in Warren Township in Bradford County; Apolacon, Choconut, Forest Lake, Jessup, Middletown and Rush townships, and Little Meadows and Friendsville boroughs in Susquehanna County.*

#### Robert W. Fearnley

Robert W. Fearnley of Montrose was elected to the Claverack board following a special election in February 2019. He also serves as a director on



Robert W. Fearnley  
Zone 5

the board of Wellsboro Electric Co.

Fearnley has achieved his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and is currently working toward his Board Leadership Certificate.

Fearnley earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Penn State University. He returned to his family dairy farm and ran the business until 2007. He then took a position as the watershed specialist of the Susquehanna County Conservation District, from which he has retired.

A former 4-H leader, Fearnley has served as a board member of Farm Service Agency, Susquehanna County Holstein Club, Susquehanna County Conservation District, Penn State Cooperative Extension of Susquehanna County, YPCA and Friends of Salt Springs State Park. He is a past member of the Susquehanna County Farm Bureau and served on the board of directors for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the Montrose Area Sire Power Advisory Committee and the local board of directors for Dairy Farmers of America.

He currently serves on the Friends of Salt Springs State Park's education committee. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited and Forest Lake Baptist Church, where he serves on the ministry support team.

Fearnley and his wife, Dawn, live in Forest Lake Township. They have two sons.

### Zone 6

*Zone 6 serves members in the following townships: Tuscarora and Wilmot in Bradford County; Cherry and Colley in Sullivan County; and Braintrim, Forkston, Mehoopany, Meshoppen, North Branch, Washington and Windham in Wyoming County.*

#### Timothy T. Tewksbury

Timothy T. Tewksbury was appointed to the Claverack board of directors



Timothy T. Tewksbury  
Zone 6

in September 2019. He has achieved his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and is working towards his Board Leadership Certificate.

A resident of Meshoppen, Tewksbury is senior vice president/ chief information officer for PS Bank, where he has held various management and leadership posts since 2007.

He serves on the board of directors of the Meshoppen Rod & Gun Club and has held a number of officer positions with the club over the years. Tewksbury serves as a volunteer hunter/trapper education instructor and had previously volunteered as a coach with the Auburn baseball and softball association.

Raised on a dairy farm in Wyoming County, Tewksbury graduated from Elk Lake High School and holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Lock Haven University. He and his wife, Lori, have one daughter, Megan. 🌟

### 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.

## All About Eve

# Our path to EV ownership

By Brian Zeidner  
Director of Member Services

MEMBERS sometimes ask why the co-op wanted to purchase an electric vehicle (EV).

That's a good question, and there are several reasons behind our decision to add an EV to our fleet.

In light of the growing interest in EVs and the potential impact large-scale adoption of battery-powered cars could have on energy providers like Claverack, it made a lot of sense for us to take a serious look at them. So after doing our homework and taking a few test drives, we ended up with Eve — short for “electric vehicle evaluation” — the nickname of the co-op's Tesla Model 3.

Eve's purchase is a continuation of the co-op's experimentation with battery-powered equipment. It began a couple of years ago when we purchased an expandable platform of cordless tools for lawn care and maintenance needs at our headquarters location. We continue to be impressed with the power and the battery run-time of those tools.

Last year, we added a cordless electric push mower to the platform. We use this mower for sections of lawn that are not accessible with the riding mower, and we were surprised with the power of the mower and how long it can run on a fully charged battery.

We also added an electric forklift to our fleet recently. We are working on construction of a new warehouse. As we designed shelving, we realized we could maximize storage space and handle materials more efficiently if we replaced the old propane forklift with a space-saving electric model.

The three-wheeled electric forklift we purchased is made by Toyota and has exceeded our expectations. At the current rate of use, the forklift can run about three weeks between charges, and because it's battery-powered, we can work in very tight spaces without worrying about air-quality issues.

Based on our very positive experiences with battery technology in recent years, purchasing and testing an electric car seemed like a natural progression. We added Eve to our fleet to learn more about battery-powered vehicles so we can relay accurate information to our members about owning, driving and maintaining them. We hope to serve as your trusted source of information on the topic and will be sharing our findings with you regularly, right here in *Penn Lines*.

If you have an EV-related topic or question you'd like us to explore, please send an email to: [mail@claverack.com](mailto:mail@claverack.com). 🌟



## Rebates available when you buy 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.

Claverack's Energy Star Rebate Program allows members to benefit from energy savings generated from the product itself and receive a direct rebate from the cooperative for their purchase. For Energy Star-rated re-

frigerators, 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. 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 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 800-326-9799. ☀

### From the President & CEO

*(continued from page 12a)*

There is a notice of the election process in this edition of *Penn Lines* that includes profiles of the incumbent directors who represent Zones 4, 5 and 6. Please take a few minutes to read the profiles and learn about the directors who represent you on the cooperative board. They do a great job on behalf of their fellow members and work hard to make sound decisions for the cooperative.

As a reminder, you, as a member, have the opportunity to take an active role in your cooperative by running for a seat on the board of directors, and we encourage members interested in serving on the board to contact the co-op for more information.

Hope your summer is off to a great start, and I look forward to seeing you "virtually" in August. ☀

*The Importance of Updating Your Contact Information*

*We can contact you about your account or upcoming service-affecting work to be done in your area.*



*You can report outages more easily using our automated phone system or SmartHub with your PC or mobile app.*



*We can send you information about new offerings and programs at your cooperative via phone and email.*



*It's time to take action!*

**Call our office, visit our website, or log on to your SmartHub account to update your contact information - DON'T DELAY!**



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32750 Route 6 • Wysox, PA 18854  
[www.claverack.com](http://www.claverack.com) • 1-800-326-9799