

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
10700 Fairgrounds Road
P.O. Box 477
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477
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1-800-432-0680
www.valleyrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Stauffer
Chairman

Leroy Barnes
Vice Chairman

Kevin States
Secretary

Clair McCall
Treasurer

Robert Holmes
Allegheny Director

David Wright
PREA Director

Cindy Bigelow
Mervin Brumbaugh
Earl Parsons

CORPORATE OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HUNTINGDON/MARTINSBURG/SHADE GAP OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

1-800-432-0680

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD Board responsibilities



by James Stauffer
Chairman of the Board

MOST OF US would agree that it's tough sometimes to manage everything in our busy lives — work, household responsibilities, children, church and civic duties ... the list goes on. Imagine being responsible for a business with assets worth more than \$85 million. That is the duty shared by the elected members who

serve on the Valley Rural Electric Board of Directors.

Many complex issues face those in the electric industry. Controlling expenses while ensuring quality service is a constant struggle, particularly in these uncertain economic times. But armed with knowledge and common sense, we directors strive to act in the best interest of the co-op membership.

Did you know that your board members are also cooperative members? That means every decision we make affects us as much as it affects you. We are chosen by you, our fellow members, to serve as your representatives. And you trust us to keep your best interests at heart. It's a job we don't take lightly.

Ensuring that our co-op is run in a cost-effective manner — without sacrificing service quality — is the obligation of each of the directors. Acting as one body, we must carry out a number of key assignments.


Most importantly, we are responsible for formulating co-op policy. Over the years, the board has established general principles to guide the operation of the business, and we have hired management to carry them out. Although we realize we must allow co-op personnel to freely handle day-to-day functions, we

keep our fingers on the pulse of the organization. And we take active steps to keep you informed of what's happening.

Of course, everyone involved in a cooperative — the members, employees and directors — contributes to its success. In the best of all possible worlds, every member would take part in making decisions that have an impact on the business. However, for an organization that serves nearly 22,000 consumers, we realize this is impossible and impractical. So, just like our democratic system of government where representatives are elected to speak for their constituents, board members are elected from the co-op membership to serve in that role.

The process of electing co-op board members ensures member control of the utility as well as self-regulation of the business. But without member participation, the system can weaken. That's why it's so important that you exercise your right to vote! Don't forget to attend the co-op's annual meeting April 15 at 7 p.m. at Huntingdon Area High School. This year, elections will be held in co-op districts 1, 3 and 5. (The co-op has nine director districts. Each year, board seats in three districts come up for re-election.)

Just as we directors are responsible for making decisions that will benefit the co-op and all its members, you have the responsibility to support your co-op by participating in the election process. Whether you realize it or not, you have a personal stake in the continued success of Valley REC. With your input and ideas, we can do our jobs more effectively.

For more information on co-op directors and districts, visit www.valleyrec.com and look under Quick Links. 

2011 BOARD CANDIDATES

IN FEBRUARY, Valley REC held nominating meetings in co-op districts 1, 3 and 5. The members featured on this page were nominated for positions on the board of directors. Their names will be placed on a ballot and members attending the annual meeting at 7 p.m. April 15 at Huntingdon Area High School can vote for the candidates of their choice.

Entertainment for this year's annual meeting will feature award-winning singer and songwriter Chris Collins, who will perform a tribute to John Denver. Children may also attend. They will enjoy

a big-screen movie, snacks and a dairy promotion presentation.

Each member who attends will receive a \$15 credit on his/her electric bill and a stainless steel coffee mug. Those registered will also be eligible to win one of two \$250 co-op gift certificates. In addition, attendees may bring to the meeting any spent compact fluorescent lightbulbs (compact spirals only, please). Co-op staff will properly dispose of them. Plus, each family that brings a CFL will receive a free replacement (while supplies last).

Please plan to attend — **April 15, 7 p.m., at Huntingdon Area High School.**

District 1

Timothy A. Knepp

275 Knepp Road
Martinsburg, PA 16662-7048

For the past five years, Timothy Knepp has served as a financial controller for J.C. Orr & Son Inc., a construction firm based in Altoona. Prior to that, he spent 20 years as a controller for McLanahan Corporation, a local design and manufacturing company that specializes in aggregate, mineral and agricultural equipment.

A native of Martinsburg, Blair County, Tim graduated from Central High School in 1980. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1985 from Penn State University.

Tim is a member of the Memorial Church of the Brethren in Martinsburg and the Martinsburg Booster Association. He also serves on the board of the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park.

Tim and his wife, Christine, have two children. In his free time, Tim enjoys camping, boating, fishing, hunting and assisting with his children's sporting events.

Tim is 48 years old. He has been a member of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative for 11 years. He was a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative for 10 years prior to that.

Tim's name will be listed first on the ballot for District 1.



Mervin G. Brumbaugh

265 Mill Hill Road
Williamsburg, PA 16693-7636

Mervin Brumbaugh has served on the Valley REC board of directors since 1972. He has held the office of vice chairman of the board two times for a total of five years.

The owner of a 190-acre farm, Merv rents out 100 acres and farms 40. He raises 20 head of beef cattle and 600-700 laying hens, delivering eggs to 40 customers. In addition, he has operated a cattle-hauling business for the past 15 years.

A 1954 graduate of Williamsburg High School, Merv is a member of the Heritage Baptist Church in Martinsburg. Formerly, he was a director of the Williamsburg Farm Show Association and a member of the Williamsburg Young Farmers Association. Since 1995, the Brumbaugh property has been the site of a hymn sing, open to the public during the last weekend in July.

Merv and his wife, Betty, are the parents of seven children. They also have seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The Brumbaughs have been married 56 years.

Merv is 74 years old. He has been a member of the co-op for nearly 55 years; his father was a charter member.

Merv's name will appear second on the ballot for District 1.



District 3

Kevin R. States

12817 Redstone Ridge Road
Hesston, PA 16647-8608

A 49-year-old native of Hesston, Huntingdon County, Kevin States works on his family's 200-acre dairy farm with 100 milking cows and another 100 head of young stock. The operation utilizes the services of Land O' Lakes cooperative in addition to Valley Rural Electric.

Kevin is a 1979 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School. He is a member of the National Holstein Association and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. He was formerly involved with the Huntingdon County 4-H dairy and beef clubs, and was a member of the Rural Electric Youth Tour delegation in 1978.

The States' farm has received electric service from Valley REC since 1952; Kevin has been a member of the cooperative since 1982. He has served on the co-op's board of directors since 1999, and has held the office of secretary for the past nine years.

Kevin and his wife, Sarah, were married in 1996. Kevin has one son, one daughter, one stepson, one grandson and one granddaughter. In his free time, he follows NASCAR racing.

Kevin is running unopposed on the ballot for District 3.



Robert (Bob) Holmes

4684 Cold Springs Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652-3108

Bob Holmes was principal at Huntingdon Area High School for 19 years, and was assistant principal for five years prior to that. From 1997 through 1999, he served as acting superintendent for the Southern Huntingdon and Huntingdon Area School Districts.

A graduate of Turtle Creek High School, Bob obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Bucknell University. He also earned 40 graduate credits in educational administration at Penn State. During his tenure in the U.S. Army Reserves, Bob attained the rank of captain.

Bob is an active member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Huntingdon. He is a past president of the Huntingdon County chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. Bob is 75 years old. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married 53 years. They have four children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Bob has been a Valley member since 1969. He has served on the co-op board for five terms, and held the office of secretary for one year. He has represented Valley REC on the board of Allegheny Electric Cooperative for the past nine years. Bob is running unopposed on the ballot for District 5.



Meet your employees

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services

HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS COLUMN

is a welcome addition to the Valley REC team, Judy Schawe. Judy came to the co-op last March. She works full time as a cashier in the office services department at the corporate headquarters.

Judy's main responsibilities include processing electric bill payments, sorting and processing mail, and handling web-based transactions.

"I also provide customer service by answering phones and assisting members at the front counter," Judy explains.

Judy came to the co-op with a wealth of experience in customer service, finance and technology.

For five years, she was a bank teller at Clearfield Bank and Trust. She also spent 18 years as a computer program-



Judy Schawe

mer for a South Carolina-based company that prepares insurance and government accounting packages for Western Area Power Association, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The daughter of a naval non-commissioned officer, Judy traveled extensively due to the demands of her military family. She graduated in 1975 from Nathan Bedford Forrest High School in Jacksonville, Fla. She then earned a bachelor's degree in math from Mercer

University in Macon, Ga., and completed two years of graduate work in math at Clemson University, S.C.

Judy is the daughter of the late Bill Seymore and Mazie Beasley. She has a 21-year-old daughter, Kate, who is a junior at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, studying occupational therapy. She also has a 19-year-old son, Jeff, who is a freshman at Clemson University.

In her spare time, Judy serves as a deacon and trustee at Huntingdon Pres-

byterian Church, where she regularly attends. She also serves as the treasurer for the Huntingdon Elks Club.

When she's not working or volunteering, Judy enjoys golfing, hiking and boating on Lake Raystown. She also loves to sew.

"I particularly like making costumes," she says.

Judy's fellow co-op employees look forward to working with her for a long time. She's one of the people you can count on.

Need a loan?
Think outside
the box.

Get up to
\$15,000
at **5%**
fixed

Let us help you pay for upgrades that will boost the energy efficiency of your home or business.

Valley Rural Electric offers low-interest loans to its members for insulation, storm door, thermal window and heating system replacement projects that qualify. For more information, call 800/432-0680 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com.



Learn to save energy at www.valleyrec.com

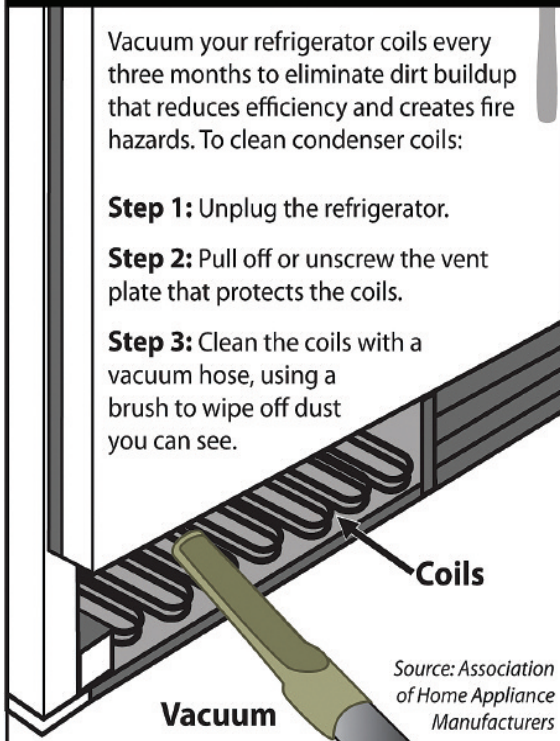
Clean Cold Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency and creates fire hazards. To clean condenser coils:

Step 1: Unplug the refrigerator.

Step 2: Pull off or unscrew the vent plate that protects the coils.

Step 3: Clean the coils with a vacuum hose, using a brush to wipe off dust you can see.



Vacuum

Coils

Source: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

How to survive accidents involving power lines

INSTINCTS TELL US to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, what comes naturally can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings down a power line, stay in your vehicle and wait until electric utility personnel arrive on the scene and ensure that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their newfound knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. They also helped others who approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be viewed on www.SafeElectricity.org.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive; you must be aware of the right actions to take afterward.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should peo-



ple exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, then shuffling away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why getting out should be a last resort.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

Lee and Ashley are grateful to White County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, the electric cooperative that sponsored a live line demonstration program at their school. The students are encouraging

SAFETY SAVES: Thanks to a demonstration by their local electric cooperative, the teens in this car crash knew to stay in the car until the power lines that had fallen were de-energized.

everyone to learn from their experience.

To learn more, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Visitors can also check out a live power line demonstration, just like the one the Indiana teens saw at their school.

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative also offers free high voltage demonstrations to schools and community organizations. For more information, email memberservices@valleyrec.com or call 800/432-0680.

Information and photo courtesy of the Energy Education Council and SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization that seeks to educate the public about electrical safety and energy.



Deadline for Brighter Future Scholarship applications: APRIL 15

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? We thought so. That's why Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will award up to 25 \$1,000 scholarships this year to eligible students who apply. The money to fund this scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state. Thanks to the efforts of our political advocates, we can now keep those funds in our local communities. Students must be members or dependents of co-op members to apply. High school seniors as well as college students and adults returning to school may qualify. For more information or to download an application, visit www.valleyrec.com and click on Scholarships under Quick Links. Or call 800/432-0680.