

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  
814/643-2650  
1-800-432-0680  
www.valleyrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James Stauffer**  
Chairman

**Leroy Barnes**  
Vice Chairman

**Kevin States**  
Secretary

**Cindy Bigelow**  
Treasurer

**Robert Holmes**  
Allegheny Director

**David Wright**  
PREA Director

**Corey Brumbaugh**  
**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 PRESIDENT & CEO

New 'cars' drive power costs



by Wayne Miller  
President & CEO

A NEW CAR arrives with fresh paint, a great smell and often a hefty price tag. After a few years of regular payments, the scent changes, but there's still value in owning an older car that's running well.

Most of America's electric cooperatives bought a fleet of new "cars" — power plants — in the 1970s and 1980s. This ample stock of

generation allowed co-ops to maintain a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power. But current conditions may place affordability and reliability at risk.

Half of the nation's total generating capacity (530,000 megawatts) passed the 30-year mark by the end of 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Association. As with an older vehicle, there are costs associated with maintaining a power plant. And the expenses are now compounded by a slew of new environmental regulations. In fact, these rules could result in a chunk of America's coal-fired power plants shutting down by 2018.


In addition, some co-ops need to head back to the "dealership" to add new generation plants to meet growing demand. However, with required environmental controls coupled with rising prices for construction materials, new power plants, as well as older ones receiving maintenance, are going to be much, much more expensive.

All of these factors will impact our electric bills for many years to come. Our collective wallets are under pressure. More folks around the world are using power; China has surpassed the United

States as the top global energy user, and in just over two decades the Chinese are predicted to consume 68 percent more power than we do. Americans are using more energy, too, despite efficiency measures. It's easy to see why — TVs, laptops and other electronics are crowding power outlets everywhere.

At a time when electricity needs are rising, our affordable power supply is beginning to dwindle. Although Valley doesn't rely on coal for much of its energy needs, nearly 80 percent of the power provided by other electric co-ops nationwide comes from coal. Many coal-fired generation plants are being saddled with heavy regulatory costs. This is placing a heavy weight on the utility industry as a whole and will ultimately affect your pocketbook.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not against clean and green energy. In fact, almost 70 percent of Valley's energy supply comes from carbon-free nuclear, hydro and small-scale renewable resources. But I want to make sure lawmakers in Washington, D.C., keep balance and affordability in mind when adding layer upon layer of requirements to the way we generate power.

Working with the folks at our national service arm, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, we're urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to consider a more balanced and common-sense approach to rules, and we're letting them know how increased electric power costs affect consumers like you and me. Stay informed about these issues and find out how you can help us keep the price of power affordable at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). 

# 2012 BOARD CANDIDATES

**IN FEBRUARY**, Valley REC held nominating meetings in co-op Districts 2, 4 and 6. 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 April 13 at 7 p.m. at Huntingdon Area High School can vote for the candidates of their choice.

Entertainment for this year's annual meeting will feature the "SharpTones," who will perform favorites from the 1950s and 1960s.

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 three-outlet adaptor. Those registered will also be eligible to win a \$250 or one of three \$100 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 13, 7 p.m., at Huntingdon Area High School.**

## District 4

### LOUIS MAMAKOS

19916 Sugar Grove Road  
Three Springs, PA 17264-0264

After most recently spending five years in New Jersey, Louis and his wife, Susan, moved back to Three Springs to live in a house they renovated on almost 15 acres. Susan (Rotz) graduated from Southern Huntingdon County High School in 1976.

Louis has been a technologist throughout his career, starting with work developing the early Research and Educational Internet in the mid-1980s at the University of Maryland, followed by subsequent time in the private sector at UUNET Technologies, a large commercial internet backbone provider.

Louis also served as an executive vice president and Chief Technology Officer at Vonage, a large communications service provider. His career has revolved around operating and being responsible for large, mission-critical technology infrastructure plants in the form of data centers and communication networks. At both UUNET and Vonage, he grew with those companies from small, start-up organizations to public corporations.

A native of Laurel, Md., Louis holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Maryland. His interests outside of work include amateur radio, astronomy and astrophotography.

Louis is 52 years old. He and his wife have been married for 24 years. He has been a Valley member since 2007.



### COREY BRUMBAUGH

19857 Hill Valley Road  
Three Springs, PA 17264-8415

Since 2004, Corey has been self-employed as co-owner of Brumbaugh Lumber, LLC near Shirleysburg.

He previously sold lumber for Industrial Hardwood Corp. in Mount Union and Walker Lumber, Inc. in Clearfield. He also worked at Blue Triangle Hardwoods, Inc. in Everett, and for his father at his lumber mill, Brumbaugh Lumber Co. In addition, he worked for FCI, an electronic and electrical interconnect systems supplier in Mount Union.

A native of Three Springs, Corey graduated from Southern Huntingdon County High School in 1986 and from the automotive mechanics program at the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center.

Corey's post-secondary education includes business management courses at DuBois Business College and forestry classes at Penn State University and Virginia Tech.

Corey and his family attend The Way Bible Church near McVeytown.

Corey serves as president of the Three Springs Ambulance Service and has been an emergency medical technician for more than 10 years.

In his spare time, he is pursuing his private pilot's license.

Corey and his wife, Sandra, have been married 23 years. They have two children: Coryna, 19; and Cheyanne, 16. Corey is 43 years old and has been a Valley member since 1989. He was appointed by the board to fulfill an unexpired term as director of District 4.



## District 2

### JAMES STAUFFER

175 Aultz Lane  
McVeytown, PA 17051-8310

A 1978 graduate of Kishacoquillas High School, Jim Stauffer owns and operates a 57-acre dairy farm with a herd of 125 milking cows. He farms a total of 200 acres, and ships his milk through Dairylea Cooperative.

Jim was employed for 10 years as manager of Brookland Mills, a retail livestock feed and fuel oil delivery service in McVeytown. Prior to that time, he worked as a truck driver for a fertilizer plant in the Belleville area.

Jim and his wife, Carol, are members of Centre Union Church, Lewistown. Jim teaches an adult Sunday school class and is involved in church leadership.

Jim and Carol have three children, including twins Ben and Brittny, 25, and Josh, 19. The Stauffers have been married for 31 years.

A native of Belleville, Jim is 52 years old. He has been a member of Valley REC since 1993, and has served on the co-op board of directors since 1997. He held the office of vice chairman for two years, and currently serves as chairman of the board. He is running unopposed on the ballot for District 2.



## District 6

### LEROY BARNES

445 Sarah Drive  
Portage, PA 15946-4424

Leroy Barnes has successfully operated his family's dairy farm in partnership with his brother, Barry, since 1968. They currently milk 220 Holsteins, and raise corn and alfalfa on approximately 600 acres of ground.

A 1966 graduate of Claysburg-Kimmel High School, Leroy holds an associate degree in computer management from the ICM School of Business in Pittsburgh.

Leroy is a member of the Mount Hope United Church of Christ near Blue Knob, where he serves on the consistory. He is a former member of the Blue Knob Fire Company, and served three years as a director for Long's Dairy, a milk marketing cooperative in Tyrone. In his free time, Leroy enjoys hunting.

Leroy is 63 years old. He has three grown children and six grandchildren. A native of Blue Knob, Leroy has been a member of Valley REC for 32 years. He has served on the co-op board for nine years, and currently holds the position of vice chairman. He is running unopposed on the ballot for District 6.



# How to properly maintain your heat pump

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
Director of Member Services

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance is the key to efficient heat pump operation. In fact, the difference in electric use between a well-maintained heat pump and a neglected one is 10 to 25 percent!

First and foremost, set the heat pump's thermostat to 68 F in the winter and 78 F in the summer to optimize efficiency.

You may not be aware that continuous indoor fan operation can hurt heat pump performance (unless you use a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor). Whenever possible, choose the "auto" fan setting on your thermostat.

Clean or change filters once a month or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils and fans reduce airflow, which will decrease system performance and possibly damage the com-



pressor. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty. Occasionally, turn off power to the fan and clean it and remove vegetation and debris from around the outdoor unit.

Clean the supply and return registers within your home, and straighten their fins if bent.

You should also have a professional technician service your heat pump at least once a year. The technician should complete the following checklist:

- ▶ Inspect ducts, filters, blower and indoor coils for dirt and other obstructions.
- ▶ Diagnose and seal duct leakage.
- ▶ Verify adequate airflow by measurement.
- ▶ Verify correct refrigerant charge by measurement.
- ▶ Check for refrigerant leaks.
- ▶ Inspect electric terminals and, if necessary, clean and tighten connections, and apply non-conductive coating.
- ▶ Lubricate motors and inspect belts for tightness and wear.
- ▶ Verify correct electric control, making sure that heating is locked out when the thermostat calls for cooling and vice versa.
- ▶ Verify correct thermostat operation.

To learn more about heat pumps, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov), or contact Valley REC's energy specialist at 800/432-0680 or email [memberservices@valleyrec.com](mailto:memberservices@valleyrec.com).

*Information from the Department of Energy.*

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](mailto:memberservices@valleyrec.com).



**Valley Rural Electric  
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Learn to save energy at [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com)

Is the number we have  
on file outdated?

Valley Rural Electric Co-op is moving toward a more advanced outage management system. In order to best respond during an outage, we must have your correct phone number(s) in our system. Please call 800/432-0680 if you need to change/add a number.



# Beware of spring storms

Did you know that, according to the American Red Cross, lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes?

As spring arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle the storms that often come with the changing season. The following tips from the Red Cross offer ways to stay safe:

**1. Stay away from downed power lines.** Electricity could still be flowing through them. Immediately report downed lines to Valley Rural Electric Cooperative by calling 800/432-0680.

**2. If you hear thunder, head (and stay) inside.** Audible thunder claps indicate that lightning is within striking range. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder; this is the recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees and metal objects like bleachers or fences.

**3. Unplug your electronics.** During a storm, avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered radio on hand for weather updates.



SOURCE: NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

**4. Delay outdoor activities.** If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside. It doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

**5. Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with:**

- ▶ Water (one gallon per person, per day)
- ▶ Non-perishable food
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (preferably NOAA weather radio) and extra batteries
- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Seven-day medicine supply
- ▶ Copies of personal documents
- ▶ Cell phone with chargers
- ▶ Emergency contact information
- ▶ Cash

Source: American Red Cross.

## Heating and Cooling Tips:



## Right Size, Right System

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor, and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

### Right Questions

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?

### Right Contractor

- Only a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified contractor should install your heating and cooling system.
- Your contractor should use computer software to calculate the size of system your home needs.

### Right Size

- Systems that are too large are:
  - more expensive to install
  - break down more often
  - operate inefficiently.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy.

Need more information?  
Visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Sources: [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov),  
Cooperative Research Network

## Need money for college?



### VALLEY REC'S BRIGHTER FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM MAY HELP.

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will award up to 25, \$1,000 scholarships this year to eligible students who apply. To be eligible, students must be members or dependents of co-op members. High school seniors, as well as college students and adults returning to school, may qualify.

The money for this scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. Thanks to the efforts of our political advocates, we can now keep those funds in our local communities. For more information or to download an application, visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com) and click the Scholarships link on the left sidebar, or call 800/432-0680. Applications and all required information must be mailed to Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and postmarked by April 15, 2012.