

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
PREA Director

Kevin States
Secretary

Cindy Bigelow
Treasurer

Robert Holmes
Allegheny Director

Corey Brumbaugh
Mervin Brumbaugh
Gregory Henry
Linda McMath

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 A new step



by **Richard S. Bauer**
President & CEO

FIRST and foremost, I want to thank the Valley REC Board, employees and members for giving me the opportunity to join the Valley family. I hope I can live up to the legacy of past leaders, and I promise I will work tirelessly to ensure our membership receives the best possible service at the lowest possible price. These aren't just


words on a piece of paper. They are a motto that I — and the entire cooperative family — live by each day, and will continue to work toward.

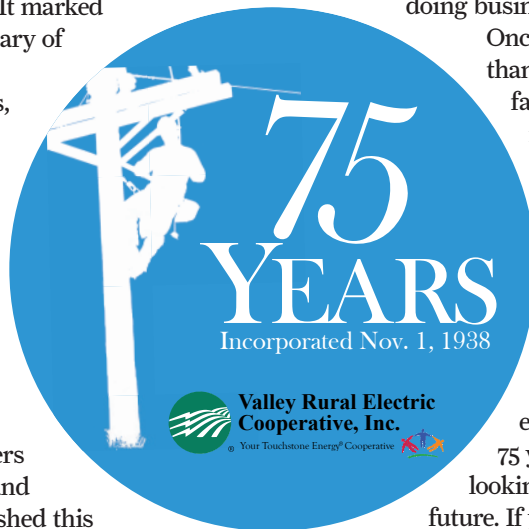
Continuing our legacy takes on a new importance when you consider the significance of the beginning of this month. When Nov. 1, 2013, rolled around, it may have seemed like a normal day to most people, but to Valley REC, it was a very special day. It marked the 75th anniversary of Valley REC. By today's standards, that is a pretty remarkable accomplishment considering there are very few businesses that can boast that statistic.

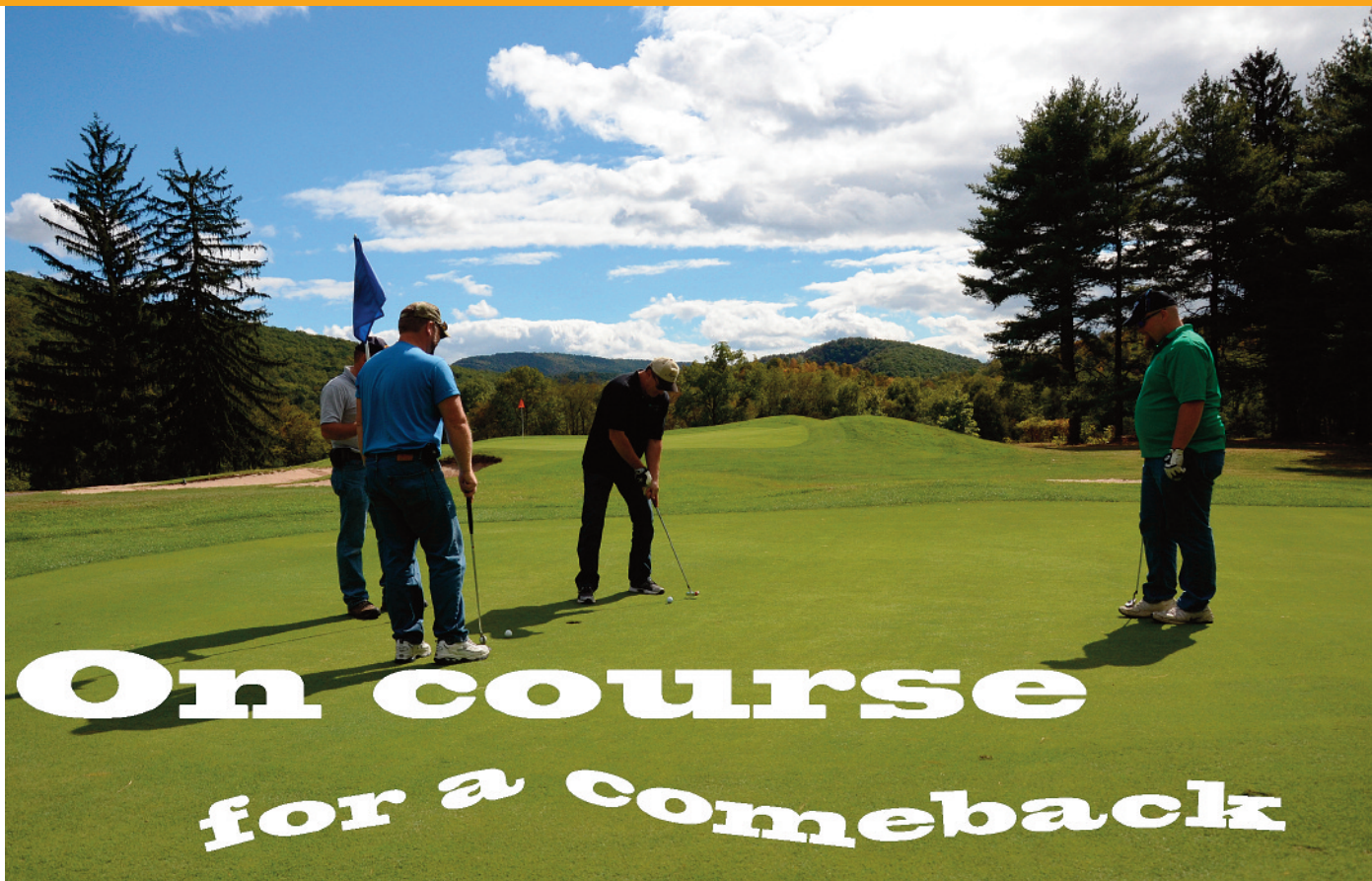
This cooperative, along with hundreds of others across the state and nation, accomplished this by "doing what was right because it was the right thing to do." By following this simple principle, the cooperative business model has thrived while other, for-profit businesses have struggled. Being owned by those we serve has

played a large part in how the cooperative has thrived over the past 75 years. When you are working for people you know, like your friends and neighbors, there always seems to be a little more push to get the job done quickly, professionally, and at the lowest possible cost. We aren't working for shareholders who may live halfway around the world; we are working for the community. That is the "cooperative difference."

Another way our co-op stands apart from the other utilities is our capital credits retirement. This year, the Valley REC Board of Directors has authorized approximately \$984,000 of patronage capital to be retired to the membership. So, each member will receive a credit on their December bill. Please take a moment to look at your bill to verify you have received this credit, which is a return of the co-op's margins back to members. That's the cooperative way of doing business.

Once again, I want to thank the Valley REC family for welcoming me with open arms. I am very excited to be a small part of the large family. It is truly an honor to be a part of a cooperative that has existed for the past 75 years, and I am looking forward to the future. If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop in to see me. Hopefully, I will get the opportunity to meet many of you in the coming year as we celebrate the milestone of 75 years of service. God bless. 





On course for a comeback

PHOTO BY DOUG ROLES

Charity golf tournament aids local crash victims

BY DOUG ROLES
Director of Member Services

VALLEY Rural Electric Co-op's second annual charity golf tournament benefited a Huntingdon County couple whose path to a better future took a detour because of a car crash earlier this year. Lengthy hospital stays and bills took the place of a new job, the start of college and plans for a marriage for the couple who have struggled to get back to normal since the car wreck.

The tournament, coordinated by Valley REC's health and wellness committee and held at American Legion Country Club golf course near Mount Union, Sunday, Sept. 22, raised more than \$4,000 for Iris "Hope" Trice and her fiancé, Josh Klester, of Shirley Township. Hope was touched by the way people supported the tournament.

"It lets me know that there are still a lot of people out there who care about people, whether they know them or not," Hope says.

She and Josh were on their way home early in the morning of Feb. 24 when their car ran off the back road they were traveling. They don't remember exactly

what happened.

"My first memory is when I was getting ready to come out of the hospital (in Hershey)," Hope says. "That was the end of March."

Josh was taken to Altoona Hospital. In April, the family moved him to a rehab facility near Pittsburgh. He is now in a rehab and long-term care center in Duncannon and could be home by Thanksgiving. Hope says he is doing better with his memory and can move all his limbs and digits now. Their children, Amikea and Zakheila, are anxious to have both parents back at home. Hope says the time frame for the wedding depends on what happens in the coming weeks.

She is looking forward to returning to school. In the fall of 2012, she began pursuing an associate degree in accounting at South Hills School of Business & Technology in State College. She was employed in a mental health group home while attending South Hills. Josh had just started a job with a State College road construction company in January.

Valley REC's health and wellness committee is comprised of employees

PUTTS FOR A PURPOSE: Valley REC Operations Manager Todd Ross, above center, lines up a putt during the co-op's second annual charity tournament Sept. 22. Rounding out the foursome were, from left, Valley employees Randy Boonie and Mike Lansberry, and Randy's son, Nick Boonie. Below: The event benefited local car crash victim Iris 'Hope' Trice, seated center, and her fiancé, Josh Klester, shown in photo collage, of Shirley Township, Huntingdon County. Iris is joined by her children, Zakheila, 5, and Amikea, 14, and Valley REC energy specialist Travis Kuhstos.



from the corporate office and all three district offices. Travis Kuhstos, committee chairperson, says the event went exceptionally well.

"Valley Rural has a huge opportunity

here, through our Health and Wellness Committee, to show that we really care about the community,” Kuhstos says. “I think if you have the ability to help people, you also have an obligation to help.”

“In this situation, she was working and going to school and he had just started at HRI,” Kuhstos adds. “They were just getting ready to start something special and then tragedy strikes. How many people need someone in their corner when they get knocked down? They’re just good, down-to-earth people who hit hard times.”

Kuhstos said this year’s tournament had twice as many sponsors as last year’s event. Participating golfers were provided lunch, snacks, and a buffet dinner, along with a cart and a round of golf. Golfers could win skill prizes and raffle items.

“People came out and supported the event and overall we got rave reviews,” Kuhstos says.

Valley’s wellness committee has raised

more than \$20,000 for charity since its inception in 2010. Fundraising events have included a walkathon, a horseshoe tournament, a “Kickin’ It For Cans” food drive, two softball tournaments, and participation in Relay for Life events in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

One of the softball tournaments benefited a disabled girl who needed a power wheelchair and a ramp at her home. Last year’s golf tournament benefited a local cancer patient and her family. Sadly, the cancer patient died several months later. The committee has also organized wellness events for employees, including a Rails-to-Trails ride.

“It was an outing for the employees, something to do to stay active,” Kuhstos says.

Wellness events have also included a picnic outing to Cowans Gap State Park and “wrap and salad” days to help employees focus on having healthy lunches.

Many Valley employees have donated time to the fundraising and wellness events. Sponsors for this year’s golf tournament included: Gap Mini Mart, Shade Gap; Smokey’s Hair Salon, Mount Union; Ayers Line Construction, Inc., Williamsburg; Burgmeier’s Hauling, Inc., Altoona; A Stitch in Time, Huntingdon; Estep Heating & A/C, LLC., Huntingdon; True Value Hardware, Orbisonia; Sandy Ridge Market, Orbisonia; Robert & Ivy Yohn, Shade Gap; Penn Line, Huntingdon; B&L Tree Trimming, Buffalo Mills; Pamela Stern & Associates, LLC, Mill Creek; Wesco Distribution, Inc., Altoona; Park’s Garbage Service, Inc., Mount Union; Lewistown Monument, Lewistown; Rodney Fleck Auctioneering, Mount Union; Morefield Communications, Camp Hill; Clearfield Bank & Trust, Huntingdon; Brown & Walters Insurance Agency, Inc., Orbisonia; MultiComm, Inc., Hollidaysburg; Supercuts of Pennsylvania; and Verizon Wireless Zone, Huntingdon. ☀



Above: Travis Kuhstos, center, chairman of Valley REC’s Health and Wellness Committee, presents a check to Iris ‘Hope’ Trice Sept. 23. They are joined by her mother, Beatrice Trice, left, Valley REC CEO Rich Bauer, right, and committee members Danielle Estep, second from right, and Kim Kane. Below: Mike Estep, putting, and Burt Devore, both of Huntingdon, are among the spouses of co-op employees participating in the tournament. Left: The outside holes of the American Legion Country Club near Mount Union offer a beautiful view of the Juniata River Valley.



The winning team, coming in 16 under par, includes, from left: Mike Handy, of Huntingdon; Mike Stone, of Spring Grove; and Shawn Hedrick and Mike Bair, both of York.



PHOTO BY ERIN KUHSTOS

PHOTOS BY DOUG ROLLES

Meet your employee

HIGHLIGHTED in this column is a recent addition to the Valley Rural Electric team, Doug Roles. Doug came to Valley REC in October 2012 as director of member services, working out of the co-op's headquarters near Huntingdon.

His work at the co-op entails writing stories and taking photos for *Penn Lines* magazine and *Valley News*, and designing those pages. He also plans and develops advertising, answers consumers' questions and presents educational programs to children and adults.

"I also oversee mailings to members, plan events, such as district nominating meetings and annual meetings, and write press releases," Doug explains.

A native of Wayne Township, Mifflin County, Doug is a 1989 graduate of Mount Union Area High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his employment at Valley REC, Doug worked for five years as an admissions representative at the Lewistown and State College locations of South Hills School of Business & Technology, where he helped traditional and returning adult students further their education.

For more than a decade, Doug worked as a news reporter and editor with *The Daily News* and *The Valley Log* newspapers in Huntingdon and Orbisonia. Immediately after college, Doug worked in advertising sales and news reporting with three radio stations in Huntingdon County.

Doug serves in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in the public affairs office of the 28th Infantry Division in Harrisburg. He deployed to Iraq with the division's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team in 2008-09, serving as a combat correspondent.

Doug and his wife, Jody, have been married for 19 years. They live in McVeytown with their 11-year-old son, Hunter, and their



Doug Roles

two hunting dogs, Britt and Spot.

Doug serves on the boards of the Rothrock Playground Authority in McVeytown and the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys hunting, fishing and weightlifting, as well as playing tennis with Jody.

His past year has been filled with meeting new faces and learning about electric distribution cooperatives. He says he's especially enjoyed attending conferences that have allowed him to meet his counterparts at sister co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"I'm fortunate that my job at Valley allows me to do what I have enjoyed doing for years in various settings — meeting people, hearing their stories and learning new things," Doug says. "There's definitely a mix to this job. I might be interviewing a member about an interesting hobby one day and photographing a line crew restoring an outage the next."

"Valley REC has a team that really cares about its co-op members because we're all part of a rural community and a number of our employees are also members," Doug adds.

Doug's fellow employees at Valley REC are glad he's part of the co-op team. He's one of the people you can count on. ☀

Jump start your holiday shopping

VALLEY REC GIFT CERTIFICATES make great gifts for the co-op members on your list.

To purchase one, complete the information below. If you'd like to surprise more than one person, please list the names, addresses and amounts for each on a separate sheet. Then mail this form with your check or money order for the total amount to: Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

After we receive your payment, the co-op member's account will be credited in December with the amount you've specified. The certificate may be mailed directly to the recipient, or it can be sent to you for personal delivery.



Recipient's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount of Gift (\$5 minimum) \$ _____

(Make check or money order payable to Valley REC)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (including area code): _____

Return certificate to me.

Send certificate directly to recipient prior to _____.

I wish to remain anonymous. (date)