

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

Making informed decisions



by Rich Bauer
President & CEO

AT A recent nominating meeting, a member asked a question concerning the proposed closing of coal power plants and what she, and the cooperative, could do about it. My response was to become informed and vote.

No matter what side of the line you fall on for this specific issue, it is so important to express your

views, educate yourself, and lastly, but most importantly, find out which representatives and senators share your views on the subject and support them.

Take the time to find out how your elected officials feel about the issues that are important to you. As I tell my fellow employees, you won't agree with everything the candidates believe in, but you want to support those candidates who agree with the majority of your beliefs.

Every election is important, not just the presidential election. Hopefully, you will get out there and vote in the primary and general elections, and have a list of candidates you have researched.

In the above-mentioned scenario involving coal plants, research the candidates and find out which ones are for or against closing, and support the ones that have your belief, not the ones who give you the best pencil or ruler outside the election house. If you are unsure of a candidate's thoughts on an issue, don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call his or her office. If the candidate or staff won't answer your call or gives you a roundabout answer, that is probably not the candidate you want to support. You can also look on the internet and search for candidates. More than likely, they


will have a webpage stating their core beliefs.

I know it is only March, but there are many troubling issues arising in our state and nation. It is never too early to begin asking questions. Every vote counts, so please take the time to make the most informed decision that you can.

Continuing with the theme of making informed decisions, I want to make sure you are aware of our upcoming annual meeting on April 11, beginning at 7 p.m. at Mount Union High School. Each year, you elect three directors to serve a three-year term on the cooperative's board of directors. As with any election, please make sure you take the time to talk to each of the candidates for director so you can make the most informed decision.

This year as we celebrate our 75th anniversary at Valley Rural Electric, we have a very special guest speaker for the annual meeting, Adam Taliaferro. In 2000, Adam was a highly recruited cornerback for the Penn State Nittany Lions. He tragically sustained a career-ending spinal cord injury during a collegiate game. It left him paralyzed from the neck down. Though only given a 3 percent chance of ever walking again, he miraculously surprised everyone by walking only eight months after the accident. His inspirational story will be something you won't want to miss.

I want to thank all those members who attended this year's nominating meeting and hopefully, I will see more of you at this year's annual meeting. As always, please don't hesitate, to call, write, email or stop in anytime if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thanks again and "Think Spring!" 

VALLEY REC held nominating meetings in February in co-op Districts 1, 3 and 5. The members featured on this page and Page 14c were nominated for positions on the board of directors. Their names will be placed on a ballot and members

2014 BOARD CANDIDATES

attending the annual meeting (April 11 at 7 p.m. at Mount Union Area High School) can vote for the candidates of their choice.

Entertainment for this year's annual meeting will feature former Penn State football player and motivational speaker Adam Taliaferro. Adam was paralyzed while making a tackle in a game at Ohio State in 2000. Today Adam walks, works for a large pharmaceutical company, and volunteers with the Adam Taliaferro Foundation, which provides support to student-athletes who suffer head or spinal injuries.

Children may also attend the meeting. They will enjoy a big-screen movie, snacks and a dairy promotion presentation.

Each member who attends will receive a \$10 credit on his/her electric bill and a Valley REC 75th anniversary coaster set. Those registered will also be eligible to win one \$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.

Please plan to attend — April 11, 7 p.m., Mount Union Area High School.

District 1

Timothy A. Knepp

275 Knepp Road
Martinsburg, PA 16662-7048



Timothy Knepp is the owner of Cove Lumber in Martinsburg. He purchased the business in January after working there for several years as manager.

Prior to that, Tim worked for five years as a financial controller for J.C. Orr & Son Inc., a construction firm based in Altoona. Additionally, 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. While earning his degree, he worked for two summers on a right-of-way clearing crew for Valley REC's Martinsburg district.

Tim is a member of the Memorial Church of the Brethren in Martinsburg and the Martinsburg Booster Association.

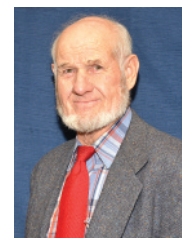
Tim and his wife, Christine, have two children. In his free time, he enjoys camping, boating, fishing, hunting and assisting with his son's sporting events.

Tim is 51 years old. He has been a member of Valley REC for 14 years. He was a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative for 10 years prior to that. Tim's name will be listed second on the ballot for District 1.

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 550 laying hens, delivering eggs to 30 customers. In addition, he has operated a cattle-hauling business for the past 18 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 60 years.

Merv is 77 years old. He has been a member of the co-op for nearly 58 years; his father was a charter member.

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

District 1

Tracy Detwiler

137 Blue Hole Road
Williamsburg, PA 16693-7636



Tracy Detwiler, 33-year-old daughter of Thomas and Karen Detwiler, works as a practice manager for Primary Health Network in Altoona, a position she has held since November 2013. Previously, she worked for six years at Home Nursing Agency in Altoona as a care supervisor for the private-duty home care department. She was also employed for seven years as a group leader in the document processing department at News Printing Co. in Claysburg.

Tracy, a 1998 graduate of Williamsburg High School, graduated from South Hills School of Business & Technology in 2000 with an Associate in Business Technology in the school's Business Administration Management & Marketing program.

A double major, she earned Bachelor of Science degrees from Saint Francis University in 2006 in organizational leadership and computer systems management. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Saint Francis University in 2013.

Tracy is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsburg. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, her boyfriend, Sam Lyon, and their two dogs, Harley and Abby. She has been a Valley member for eight years and has lived in a Valley household all of her life.

Tracy's name will be listed third on the ballot for District 1.

District 3

Kevin R. States

12817 Redstone Ridge Road
Hesston, PA 16647-8608



A 52-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 two granddaughters. In his free time, he follows NASCAR racing.

Kevin is running unopposed on the ballot for District 3.

District 5

Robert (Bob) Holmes

4684 Cold Springs Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652-3142



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 Community Chapel of Hesston. He is a past president of the Huntingdon County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. Bob is 78 years old. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married 56 years. They are the parents of four children, and have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bob has been a Valley member since 1969. He has served on the co-op board for six 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 12 years.

Bob is running unopposed on the ballot for District 5.

Our service begins with your phone number

BY JOHN BOOKWALTER, JR.
Special Projects Coordinator

As Valley Rural Electric Cooperative moves more of its cost- and labor-intensive processes to its automated phone system, the need for us to have accurate listings for our members becomes more important. Having a good phone number for you in our files allows us to contact you with notifications such as upcoming meetings, scheduled or emergency outages, and notices of past-due accounts. Also, when you call to report a service disruption, having your phone number permits our outage management software to work with our phone system to identify your account and more quickly place you on the outage list, saving you time and effort. And, if you request it, the outage system can automatically call you back when power has been restored.

The next time you receive your electric bill, please examine the telephone number box on the payment stub. If no number is listed, or if the listed number is incorrect, please supply the phone number or numbers you want us to use to reach you. You may also call us toll-free at 800/432-0680 to update your numbers.

Valley REC will keep your phone numbers confidential, as we do with the rest of your personal data. We'll call you only when we feel you need to know the information. Help us to provide you with better service at a lower cost by verifying your telephone numbers.

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.

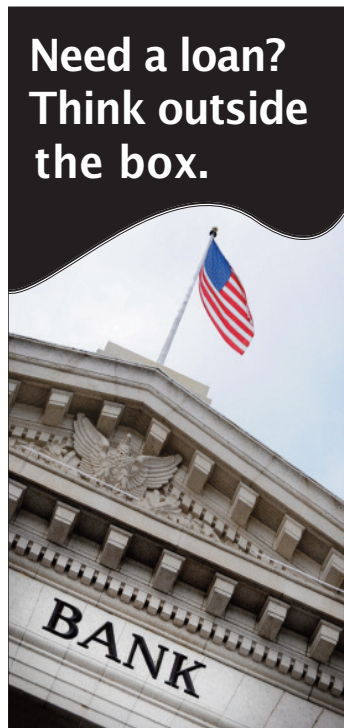
Valley Rural Electric offers low-interest loans to its members for insulation, storm door, thermal window and heating system replacement projects that qualify. For more information, call 800/432-0680 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com.



Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Learn to save energy at www.valleyrec.com



2014 work plan projects underway

BY DOUG ROLES
Director of Member Services

REPLACING old line and setting poles may be business as usual for Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's line crews. But the projects those linemen are starting now are part of a new four-year work plan for the co-op. Like many electric co-ops, Valley REC takes stock of needed improvements to its distribution system and then bundles the most pressing projects into multi-year work plans.

"Every year, we ask our operations and engineering folks to give us a list of projects. Then we take that list and put a dollar figure to it," says Terry Hutchison, Valley's manager of engineering and technical services.

Valley closed out the previous four-year plan (2010-13) at the end of the year. That plan was a particularly large undertaking for the co-op with a budget of \$25.7 million. The budget for the new four-year plan is set at \$16.3 million.

Work plan projects for 2014 include upgrading to three-phase service a nearly 14,500-foot section of single-phase line that runs into the Little Valley Substation in Todd Township, Huntingdon County. The new lines will run to existing three-phase service near Route 829 in Cass Township.

"That three-phase backfeed is going to improve reliability," Hutchison says. "That's the big project in the Huntingdon District."

In the Martinsburg District, crews will work to replace deteriorating single-phase line near the Williamsburg Substation in Catharine Township, Blair County. Hutchison explains that the



HARD AT WORK: Valley REC equipment operator Rich Sunderland feeds high-tension rope from a spool in February in Henderson Township, Huntingdon County. The rope is used to pull new wire into place. The work by Valley crews to string new line is part of the 2014-17 work plan.

co-op has been working to replace an older conductor, which has a high steel content, with new wire. Crews will also work this year to break down a large tap into three smaller sections. Doing so will spread the load that was carried by one line over three lines, lessening the potential impact of an outage in that area.

The project will include construction of new line along Etna Furnace Road and abandonment of some cross-country line.

"Basically, we'll have three taps out of what was one big tap," Hutchison says.

In the Shade Gap District, deteriorating line near Clear Ridge in Fulton County will be replaced. That stretch of line, about one-half mile in length, will also be moved nearer to Dublin Mills Road from its present location in a wooded area.

In the Three Springs area, Huntingdon County, crews will replace deteriorating three-phase line that ties into the Clear Ridge Substation. The new line will give the co-op increased capacity in that section of the distribution system.

The new work plan runs through the end of 2017. ⚡

Your attention please!

The location of the 2014 Annual Meeting has been changed to Mount Union Area High School. Please see below for details.

You won't want to miss it!

\$10 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL AND A GREAT NIGHT OUT!

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

**April 11, 7 p.m.
Mount Union
Area High School**

Guest speaker: Adam Taliaferro - Motivational speaker and former Penn State Nittany Lions cornerback

Elections - Districts 1, 3 & 5

More details coming soon in your mailbox

For the kids - A big-screen movie, dairy presentation and snacks

Door prizes - One \$250 and three \$100 co-op gift certificates