

**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 - Thursday
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
Spring has sprung (finally...)



by **Rich Bauer**
President & CEO

AS MAY goes into full swing, I look back at this past winter and it still makes me want to grab my coat and a cup of hot chocolate. This past winter turned out to be Valley REC's highest-use winter on record. We shattered our previous highs in both kilowatt-hour sales and kilowatt demand use. Most members' bills were higher


than normal because of the rough winter, even though the cooperative did not have any price increases. Hopefully, this spring and summer will provide some relief on everyone's checkbook.

With spring here and summer just around the corner, it is a good time to change those batteries in your smoke detectors and check the filters on your heating and air conditioning units. Clogged air filters cause the HVAC units to run longer and harder to produce the air temperature that you desire. By cleaning or replacing those filters, your unit will run more efficiently, producing a lower electric bill to save you money. One other item to consider is having a demand response unit (DRU) placed on your water heater.

These DRUs are free to the membership and as a bonus, you will get a \$100 bill credit. By allowing Valley REC to put one of these units on your water heater, you are not only saving yourself money, but the entire membership. The DRUs are controlled by Valley REC; they shut the power off to your heating elements during times when the price for electricity is very high. Because your water heater is insulated, the water remains hot inside for a long period of

time and you shouldn't even notice the heater is off. When the period of high cost power passes, which is usually around four hours, the DRU turns the elements back on, and your water heater continues functioning as normal. This program has allowed the cooperative to hold down the cost of power to you, even when the market cost has increased. The ultimate goal would be to have every member on this program, but, understandably, this isn't going to happen. Every member is important and adds a little bit to the savings of the entire group. If you haven't considered this program, please take a minute to get informed. Call the cooperative if you have questions. It truly is a win-win situation for you and your cooperative.

Spring also means that our rights-of-way program will be in full swing. We spend over \$1.5 million annually to keep our power lines and poles free and clear from tree branches and undergrowth. We cut out our entire system on a five-year cycle so each year we must clear approximately 350 miles of line. This cost is our second-largest expense each year, second only to the cost of purchased power. Please be understanding when our crews come to your property to clear the right-of-way. By keeping the lines clear of trees, reliability increases for you and for all the members down the line as well.

I would like to wish you all a happy spring and upcoming summer. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to call, email or stop in to see me. Rest assured your cooperative will be working on our "spring cleanup" projects to provide safe, reliable power to you. Take care and God bless. 

Valley REC celebrates 75 years at 2014 annual meeting

Three board members re-elected



PHOTO BY DOUG ROLES

RE-ELECTED DIRECTORS: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative President and CEO Rich Bauer, left, and Chairman of the Board James Stauffer, right, offer congratulations to elected directors, from left, Kevin States, Robert Holmes and Mervin Brumbaugh. The directors were re-elected to three-year terms during the co-op's 75th anniversary annual meeting held Friday, April 11, at Mount Union Area High School.

BY DOUG ROLES
Director of Member Services

MEMBERS attending Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary annual meeting Friday celebrated the co-op's legacy of providing safe, affordable and reliable electric service. Board Chairman James R. Stauffer of McVeytown, Mifflin County, presided over the meeting, which drew a crowd of more than 500.

Stauffer asked his fellow members to think about the co-op's beginnings and to consider how the co-op's founders have impacted the lives of members today.

"History is often made by everyday people who do something extraordinary," Stauffer said. "That's the story of Valley Rural Electric. A generation ago, some ordinary farmers and other rural residents — parents and grandparents to some of us here tonight — banded together to do something truly exceptional — bring electric service to their homes and farms located in some of the area's most out-of-the-way places."

Stauffer told the audience that Valley REC energized its first lines Nov. 27, 1939, and has been improving the quality of life for members ever since. While he reviewed the co-op's early years, members enjoyed a presentation of historical photos.

Stauffer said rural electrification increased the productivity of rural America while preserving the values central to rural living.

"That's what our co-op founders did: They empowered themselves and their neighbors," he said. "Think for a minute of their foresight. Their effort literally began a lifetime ago.

"Just as our co-op was born through the involvement of members, the involvement of members will be the key to our business over the next 75 years," he added.

The 284 voting members

in attendance re-elected three incumbent directors to represent the utility's nearly 22,000 consumers.

Chosen to serve on the co-op's board of directors for a three-year term were:

District 1 — Mervin G. Brumbaugh, of Williamsburg, Blair County;

District 3 — Kevin R. States, of Hesston, Huntingdon County; and

District 5 — Robert Holmes, of Huntingdon, Huntingdon County.

Timothy Knepp of Martinsburg, Blair County, and Tracy Detwiler of Williamsburg, Blair County, ran against Brumbaugh in District 1.

Valley President and CEO Rich Bauer spoke about how technological innovations are impacting the co-op's operating efficiencies and service reliability, and the role members play as owners of the cooperative. He encouraged members to consider participating in the co-op's demand response program, which lessens the amount of electricity members use at times of peak demand, when the price of wholesale power is the greatest. Demand response units work by temporarily disconnecting power to water heaters, to shed load while the insulated



PHOTO BY DOUG ROLES

THANK YOU: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative President and CEO Rich Bauer, left, and Chairman of the Board James Stauffer, right, thank state Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair) for his service to rural electric consumers across Pennsylvania. Stern has served in the General Assembly for 22 years.

PHOTO BY DOUG ROLES



GUEST SPEAKER: Motivational speaker and former Penn State cornerback Adam Taliaferro autographs the 2013 Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Report for retired Valley employee Diane Heffner of Huntingdon. Taliaferro was paralyzed in a 2000 football game against Ohio State but miraculously recovered. He now runs a foundation that assists student-athletes who suffer spinal cord injuries.

appliance maintains water temperature.

“We’re trying to get as many people on this program as possible,” Bauer said. “Your tank still keeps the water hot. You should never know that the unit is on your water heater.”

Bauer also spoke about the need for the co-op to maintain an aggressive tree-trimming program to lessen the size and frequency of storm-caused outages. Bauer reported that, in the past year, the co-op trimmed 350 miles of rights-of-way at a cost of \$1.7 million.

Guest speaker, former Penn State cornerback Adam Taliaferro, told the audience he appreciates the co-op’s story of overcoming adversity. Taliaferro was paralyzed while making a tackle for Penn State in a game against Ohio State in 2000. Given small hope for recovery, he miraculously walked out of a Philadelphia treatment center three months later. Taliaferro said that each day people suffer spinal cord injuries and need the support of their community to come through that.

“My experience helped me to see what life is really about,” he said. “I look around this room and see families. That’s what it’s about. You have your health and your family and your community.”

Distinguished guests in attendance

included state Sen. John Eichelberger (R-Blair); state Reps. Mike Fleck (R-Huntingdon) and Jerry Stern (R-Blair); Huntingdon County Commissioners Dean Fluke and Jeff Thomas; and Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Public Affairs/Member Services Specialist Stephanie Okuniewski.

Stauffer presented Stern with a plaque in recognition of his 22 years of service in the General Assembly.

“Rep. Jerry Stern, state representative from the 80th District, has been a cham-

panion of rural initiatives throughout his 22-year tenure in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives,” he said.

Caitlyn Edgell and Cheyanne Brumbaugh, two students who participated in the 2013 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., talked about their experiences on the trip. Each year, Valley REC sponsors up to 18 students on the week-long trip that enables students to meet lawmakers and learn about the cooperative business model.

Children who attended the annual meeting enjoyed a big-screen viewing of Disney’s “Planes,” refreshments, balloons and a presentation by 2013 Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Danielle Varner of Shirleysburg.

Luella Keebaugh of Shade Gap, Kenneth and Sandra Kephart of Mechanicsburg, and John and Dorothy Sowash of Huntingdon each won a \$100 co-op gift certificate, and James and Marie Taylor of Waterfall won a \$250 co-op gift certificate. Members in attendance received a \$10 credit on their electric bills and a commemorative 75th anniversary coaster set.

In addition, meeting attendees who brought with them spent compact fluorescent lightbulbs had cooperative staff properly dispose of them.

Valley Rural Electric is a member-owned cooperative providing electric service to consumers in eight counties of south-central Pennsylvania, including Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Mifflin. ☀

PHOTO BY BEN GORMAN



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Chairman of the Board James Stauffer asks the audience to consider how far the co-op has come since its incorporation Nov. 1, 1938. Valley REC President and CEO Rich Bauer, seated, updated co-op members on technology and maintenance projects completed in recent years.

75th Annual Meeting Scenes

PHOTOS BY BEN GORMAN



Above left: Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Danielle Varner greets co-op members. Above: Valley REC employees Terri Cohenour, left, and Melissa Shetrom hand out annual reports and gift bags. Below: Lisa Carper and Tricia Long supervise this year's children's program. Kids made model planes and saw the Disney movie "Planes."



PHOTO BY STEPH OKUNIEWSKI

Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer, right, and guest speaker Adam Taliaferro, center, gather with some of the employees who make the annual meeting possible. Kneeling: Nancy Bucher and Rikki Moyer. Standing from left: John Bookwalter, Doug Roles, Kathy Luprek, Kim Kane, Danielle Estep, Travis Kuhstos, Pam DeVore, Todd Ross, Ben Gorman, Max Hetrick, Tink Bucher, Terri Cohenour, Mike Lansberry, Lisa Carper, Billy Ayers, Luanne Eckenrode and Tricia Long.



Above: 2013 Youth Tour students Caitlyn Edgell, left, and Cheyanne Brumbaugh speak about the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

Below: Valley REC Operations Manager Todd Ross and Colby Brechbiel draw the names of \$100 and \$250 gift certificate winners.



Above: From left, Luella Keebaugh of Shade Gap, Kenneth Kephart of Mechanicsburg and John Sowash of Huntingdon each win a \$100 co-op gift certificate, and James Taylor of Waterfall wins a \$250 co-op gift certificate. Members in attendance received a \$10 credit on their electric bills and a commemorative 75th anniversary coaster set.