


**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

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GUEST COLUMN

A new crop of co-op leaders



by **Doug Roles**
Manager of Member Services

AMERICA'S electric co-op story, so far, has been written by members, board members, and co-op employees who experienced rural electrification either firsthand or through their parents. These leaders remember “getting the lights” and have shepherded co-op growth over the past seven decades — a period that encompasses every-

thing from the first lines being built to today’s environment of digital metering and paying bills by smartphone. But, as the baby boomers (ages 51-69) enter retirement, the question of who will write the next chapters of co-op history arises more frequently in co-op circles.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) reports that, within the next five years, 20 percent of America’s electric cooperative employees will be eligible for retirement. In fact, NRECA says that in the next several years, our country will see a major shift in the professional landscape. Many businesses — Valley Rural Electric included — are already noticing this change as the baby-boomer generation moves into retirement and their children and grandchildren, members of the millennial generation (ages 18-34), begin to move into the workforce and advance in their careers.

Co-ops will be looking to future generations to move us forward as the economy and government regulations evolve. The new class of co-op leaders and employees will have to navigate these challenges while ensuring that we remain true to our mission: providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service, and improving the quality of life for our members.

Adam Schwartz, a columnist and founder of the co-op support organization, The Cooperative Way, wrote recently that co-ops have an obligation to help the next

generation prepare to lead their cooperatives. While veteran cooperative leaders have experience and historical perspective, Schwartz says, the young are not burdened by knowing how things have always been done and offer a fresh perspective.


“Their naiveté refreshes us and challenges us to see things in a new light so that our community can continue to be attractive to young people,” Schwartz writes.

Fortunately, co-ops are great places for millennials to have a career. The millennial generation is the largest population of adults to move into the workforce since the baby-boomer generation. NRECA describes this new crop of Americans as highly educated and motivated by the ability to gain work experience that can turn into a meaningful and rewarding career, especially since they weathered a recession during or immediately after trying to break into the workforce.

Driven by values and attracted to a company’s strong mission and culture over salary and compensation, millennials are uniquely suited for careers at their local electric cooperatives. That’s because the dedication of cooperatives (such as Valley Rural Electric) to our communities and our focus on people, not profits, creates an ideal work environment for individuals seeking to develop meaningful careers.

Whether you’re ready to start your career or make a career change, why not take a closer look at electric cooperatives? They’re located across Pennsylvania (Valley has 12 sister co-ops in the state) and in 46 other states.

Building and strengthening our community has always been our top priority. Building the next generation of employees is critical to growing that legacy and passing on our business model.

Learn more about co-ops all across the country by visiting www.touchstoneenergy.coop and clicking on the “Careers at Co-ops” tab at the bottom of the page. 

We need directions for capital credits refunds that have lost their way



LATE LAST YEAR, more than \$735,000 in capital credits refunds were distributed to eligible members and former members of the co-op.

Since that time, more than 110 of those checks were returned by the post office because of incorrect address information.

We are making every effort to return this money to its rightful owners.

Listed on the following pages are the names of the consumers whose checks have not been able to be delivered.

If you recognize a name and can provide an up-to-date address (or information about the executor of the estate or nearest relative if the member is deceased), please call us at 814-643-2650 or toll-free 800-432-0680.

You can also write to the Capital Credits Department, Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

ALBRIGHT, LAURA J, PO BOX 750,
DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635
ARP, CORY H, 43898 COUNTY RD,
162 DEER RIVER, MN 56636
BAIR, CYNTHIA, C/O CYNTHIA
MCINTYRE, 224 MULBERRY ST,
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
BAKER, WILBUR, C/O CRYSTAL
SINGER, 701 WEAVER ST, SAX-
TON, PA 16678
BASSLER, LEN E, 5111 6TH AVE,
ALTOONA, PA 16602
BEECHER, EDGAR H, 414 DUNKLE
LN, ALTOONA, PA 16601
BONSELL, TREASA R, 600 PENN
ST, APT 602, HUNTINGDON, PA
16652
BOOKHAMMER, PEGGY LOU, PO
BOX 59, CURRYVILLE, PA 16631
BRANT, JEFFREY R, C/O INEZ
BURKE, PO BOX 355, CLAYS-
BURG, PA 16625
BRION, CELESTE C, PO BOX 184,
ALEXANDRIA, PA 16611
BRYNER, JEFFREY, RR 2, BOX 264,
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
CALCUTTA, JOAN N, PO BOX 356,
CLAYSBURG, PA 16625
CAMPBELL, JESSICA L, 531 PINE ST,
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
CASTLE, KAREN, PO BOX 362,
CAPON BRIDGE, WV 26711
CASTRO, DEBBIE, PO BOX 403,

DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635
CLEVINGER, CHRISTIE, 121 LOREN
DR, HAHIRA, GA 31632
CLIPPINGER, NAOMI S, C/O BRIAN
CLIPPINGER, PO BOX 1102,
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
COLLINS, JOHN W, 13730 HARES
VALLEY RD, PO BOX 251, MAPLE-
TON DEPOT, PA 17052
CORNELIUS, FRED, 740 NORLAND
AVE, APT 38, CHAMBERSBURG,
PA 17201
CROUSE, PATRICIA A, 715 WASH-
INGTON ST, APT 3C, HUNTING-
DON, PA 16652
DALTON, JAY E, 228 MOUNTAIN
VIEW RD, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
DAVID, MARY F, 450 E LINCOLN
AVE, RM 241, MYERSTOWN, PA
17067
DAVIS, JUDITH S, 232 W MARKET
ST, APT 3, MOUNT UNION, PA
17066
DECKER, SCOTT ALLEN, 155
COONEY RD, REAR, PORTAGE,
PA 15946
DIEHL, STEPHEN M, 752 BEAR
CROSSING DR, WILLIAMSBURG,
PA 16693
DIVELY, JAMES H, PO BOX 470
CLAYSBURG, PA 16625
DURAY, LAWRENCE, PO BOX 124,
NEWRY, PA 16665

DYSARD, BROOKE D, RR 4, BOX
405, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
EDMUNDSON, BERNIE, 414 PUZ-
ZLETOWN RD, DUNCANSVILLE,
PA 16635
EVANS, JOHN H, PNB 297187, 3590
ROUND BOTTOM RD, CINCIN-
NATI, OH 45244
FENCHAK, ANDREW L, DUBLIN
RETIREMENT, #217, 6470 POST
RD, DUBLIN, OH 43016
FORTE PROPERTIES, C/O JAMIE
BRAAFHART, 3800 MARKET ST,
CAMP HILL, PA 17011
GIBBONEY, H T, 17244 TROUGH
CREEK VALLEY PIKE, CALVIN, PA
16622
GRAGILLA, SCOTT A, 423 S BAUM-
STOWN RD, BIRDSBORO, PA 19508
GROVE, KEVIN C, 10938 ROSE-
WOOD LN, HUNTINGDON, PA
16652
GROVE, MIKE, 8796 SIPES RD,
ALEXANDRIA, PA 16611
GUNDRUM, J H, 270 RIDGECREST
CIR, APT 310, LEWISBURG, PA
17837
HAHN, PAT, HCR 67, PO BOX 55,
MIFFLIN, PA 17058
HARVEY, ROBERT R, HC 61, BOX
59H, BLAIRS MILLS, PA 17213
HEIDLER, MICHAEL V, RR 02, BOX
154, DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635

HEUSTON, GEORGE, 1761 BLOOMFIELD RD, ROARING SPRING, PA 16673

HIERHOLZER, VINCENT M, 86 WILKSHIRE RD, DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901

HIMES, DIANA A, 177 CIRCLE DR, DONEGAL, PA 15628

HOOVER, CRAIG M, 537 LINDEN AVE, JOHNSTOWN, PA 15902

HOOVER, MENNO Z, 112 S CUSTER AVE, NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557

HORON, LU ANN, 1631 E LITTLE CREEK RD, NORFOLK, VA 23518

HUMMEL, RUTH M, 108 MOUNT VERNON AVE, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

KING, JAMES E, 24 JEAN LO WAY, YORK, PA 17406

KLINEDINST, ERVIN E, 3032 MUIRFIELD RD, DOVER, PA 17315

KLING, NANCY, ESTATE, 328 POLECAT RD, EAST FREEDOM, PA 16637

KRISTIENSEN, JEAN, C/O OFFICE ON AGING, PAT MANNING, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

KUSTENBAUDER, RONALD, 922 PROVIDENCE RD, LANCASTER, SC 29720

LAMISON, ROBERT E L, 304 COOPER LN, MCCONNELLSBURG, PA 17233

LANTZ, DAVID K, 133 PLEASANT VIEW RD, PORT ROYAL, PA 17082

LANZENDORFER, JERRY, 110 MATTY LN, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

MALONE, MOLLY A, 962 PATH VALLEY RD, FORT LOUDON, PA 17224

MARTIN, LYSBETH, RR 1, BOX 74, ROARING SPRING, PA 16673

MARTIN, WALTER P, RR 1, BOX 74, ROARING SPRING, PA 16673

MCCALL, LISA, 504 SMITH TRL, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

MCCARTNEY, SARAH, 1622 W LIBERTY ST, APT 4D, ALLENTOWN, PA 18102

MCCLELLAN, TIMOTHY S, RR03, BOX 128, LOT 302, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

MCDONEL, ELLEN S, 200 TIMBERWOOD TRL, CENTRE HALL, PA 16828

MELIUS, KIM L, 210 JUNE DR, APT 361, ROARING SPRING, PA 16673

MONTAGUE, DEAN, UNKNOWN, NEELYTON, PA 17239

MONTGOMERY, DANIEL P, PO BOX 155, ROCKHILL FURNACE, PA 17249

MOORE, ARNOLD S, PO BOX 251, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

MORRISON, CHRIS S, 1013 GARDEN CLUB WAY, LELAND, NC 28451

MORRISON, KATHERINE, RR 2 BOX 326, PORTAGE, PA 15946

NAUGLE, ROGER L, 637 E MAPLE ST, MCCONNELLSBURG, PA 17233

ODONNELL, RYAN T, 14531 HILL VALLEY RD, MOUNT UNION, PA 17066

OLDHAM, DAVID C, 18224 LOWER RIDGE RD, JAMES CREEK, PA 16657

ORMSBY, DONALD, 499 CHERRY ST, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

OTT, CHARLES A JR, 590 NEWRY LN, APT 214, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

PADEN, JOHN F, HCR 67, PO BOX 86, MIFFLIN, PA 17058

PAINTER, JACK, C/O BARRY BEATTY, PO BOX 181, SALTILLO, PA 17253

PALM, BEULAH, ESTATE C/O DONALD PALM, 1560 MCKINLEY RD, MIFFLIN, PA 17058

PARK, DANIEL L, 108 DANIELLE DR, BELLEFONTE, PA 16823

PATTERSON, MARTHA E, 225 CHERRY AVE, ALTOONA, PA 16601

POPIVCHAK, JASON, 159 ESTATE DR, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

PRESTON, KEMPTON M, 15677 AMBERSON RD, SPRING RUN, PA 17262

PROUGH, PAUL E, 14829 HAPPY HILLS RD, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

RAYMOND, RICHARD W, C/O CATHERINE THOMPSON, 1121 FAIR VALLEY RD, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

REEDER, RANDY G, 135 S ALLEGHENY ST, BELLEFONTE, PA 16823

REGAN, JAMES J, 109 LAKE VIEW WAY NW, LEESBURG, VA 20176

REIHART, CHRISTINE I, 20125 OLD MILL RD, THREE SPRINGS, PA 17264

RINEHART, JEFFREY W, 189 SILVERFORD HEIGHTS RD, MOUNT UNION, PA 17066

ROGERS, DONALD L, 725 W ALLEGHENY ST, APT 10, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

ROSEN, ELIZABETH, PO BOX 115, DRY RUN, PA 17220

ROUSH, JOHN R JR, HC 67 BOX 139, MIFFLIN, PA 17058

SANDERS, KEVIN, 8630 RIDGEVIEW RD, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

SHAFFER, MARK A, 10154 PINEY RIDGE RD, APT 1, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

SHAFFER, WILLIAM R, PO BOX 35, LOGANVILLE, PA 17342

SMITH, NANCY L, 18112 UPPER RIDGE RD, JAMES CREEK, PA 16657

SNARE, JACK R, 2 W 11TH ST, APT 110, TYRONE, PA 16686

SNOWBERGER, CHRIS A, 303 N MARKET ST 2, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

SOLACK, NANCY C, 410 WALNUT ST, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648

SPECK, HARRY O, 400 9TH ST, APT 808, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

STEELE, NATASHA L, 1105 3RD AVE, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

STEVENS, MARLIN L JR, 10 MALLARD CT, MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

STOUTZENBERGER, RICHARD, C/O THOS STOUTZENBERGER EXEC, 419 POPLAR ST, COLUMBIA, PA 17512

SWAN, WOODY B, 8 WILLOW DR, PAINTED POST, NY 14870

SWARTZ, ROBERT, 100 CHESTNUT RIDGE RD, MCVEYTOWN, PA 17051

TEETER, EDWARD L, 1109 BUTLER HOLLOW RD, EAST FREEDOM, PA 16637

TEMPLE, GERTRUDE, 11311 N 99TH AVE, # 145, PEORIA, AZ 85345

THOMPSON, ROD, R D 2, BOX 194, DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

TUERK, CHARLES, 345 FREEDOM BLVD, COATESVILLE, PA 19320

WALKER, BRAD J, 310 NEWRY ST, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648

WALKER, SHAWN L, 16400 BEAR RUN TRL, MAPLETON DEPOT, PA 17052

(continues on page 12d)

Meet your employees

BY DOUG ROLES
Manager of Member Services

HIGHLIGHTED in this column is a recent addition to the Valley REC team, Chris Myers. Chris joined Valley Rural Electric Cooperative in December and works as an engineering technician.

Chris lives in Jackson Township, Cambria County, near Ebensburg, but plans to move to the Huntingdon area now that he is employed at the Huntingdon district office.

Chris is a 2009 graduate of Central Cambria High School. After taking several semesters of engineering classes at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, he went to work in January 2011 as a metering technician for one of Valley's sister co-ops, Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative

Chris now works with Valley's digital metering system. His responsibilities include working with the load management system and managing data communications from substations. Chris enjoys wiring meter bases and using computers.

"It all depends on what's going on that day," Chris says. "I'm very hands-on."

"I absolutely like that it's different every day. It forces me to be on my toes," he adds.



NEW EMPLOYEE: Chris Myers is a new employee at Valley REC.

While co-ops have many similarities, they each have their own ways of doing things, too. Chris says being a people person who is not afraid to ask questions has helped him learn his new role at Valley Rural Electric.

In his free time, Chris enjoys spending time in the woods and on snowmobile trails.

"I'm a big deer hunter," he says. "I

love the snow and sledding (snowmobiling)."

Chris believes working at a co-op is like "working with family."

"You get to know people so well," he says. "I can come home every day and say 'I love my job.' I feel pretty lucky."

Chris's co-workers feel lucky to have him on board. He's one of the people you can count on. 🌞

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Circulate savings! Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool during summer months and can even allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees without affecting your comfort.

Source: energy.gov

CAPITAL CREDITS

(continued from page 12c)

- WASSELL, JOHN W, 518 HART ST, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
- WATER GAP ASSOCIATION, C/O TIM FENBY, 1498 MOUNTAIN RD, YORK SPRINGS, PA 17372
- WEBB, GEORGE E, 400 9TH ST, PO BOX 801, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
- WHALEY, PAUL H III, 203 E PENN GRANT RD, WILLOW STREET, PA 17584
- WHITE, BELVY C, 235 E MILLER ST, ELMIRA, NY 14904
- WIBLE, LLOYD, C/O DIXIE WIBLE, PO BOX 497, FORT LOUDON, PA 17224
- WILT, HARVEY, 1907 WASHINGTON AVE, ALTOONA, PA 16601
- WISER, JOHN D, 465 LINCOLN AVE, APT 1B, BELLEVUE, PA 15202