


**Valley
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric
cooperatives serving
Pennsylvania and
New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
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OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

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GUEST COLUMN

Close the (refrigerator) door and shut those blinds – it's 'summer shift' time



by **Doug Roles**
Manager of Member
Services

SUMMER SHIFT. “Don’t stand there with the door hanging open.” Odds are that you’ve either been told this as a child or you’ve said it to your kids when the refrigerator door was not closed quickly enough.

It’s good advice anytime, but especially so during the “summer shift.” Again this year, Valley REC has been asking members to move their electric use, as much as possible, to the morning or evening. We’ve been running our radio ad – the one where the man confuses our electric shift campaign with the “Electric Slide” dance – to remind people to take some of the following steps (energy-saving steps, not dance steps):

- ▶ Set your air conditioner to 78 degrees or use fans instead.
- ▶ Close your curtains and blinds to keep the inside of your home cooler.
- ▶ Avoid operating washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves and other major appliances in the middle of the day.
- ▶ Fire up the grill or use your microwave oven so your oven doesn’t heat up your kitchen.
- ▶ Run pool pumps at night.
- ▶ Use energy-efficient bulbs (compact fluorescent or LED) to get light without the heat.

And avoid frequently opening refrigerator and freezer doors. When you do get into the refrigerator, do so quickly or you run the risk of someone offering you that friendly reminder mentioned earlier.


Summer storms

Frequent storms and heavy rains have caused a number of outages so far this summer. While we are proactive in our right-of-way maintenance, there’s always the chance that saturated ground will cause a tree to uproot into our lines or that a rain-soaked limb will let loose from the tree trunk.

The co-op still relies on members to inform us of service disruptions. If your power goes out, call 800-432-0680. A call from a member will prompt our digital outage management system (OMS) to check surrounding meters and create a map of the outage as crews respond.

Summer memories

Every summer, the co-op has a bittersweet day when we take a bus to Lewis-town (Mifflin County) to pick up our Youth Tour students returning from a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. It never fails that the students have mixed emotions as they disembark the coach carrying their counterparts from Pennsylvania’s other electric co-ops and board the bus for home. There’s always a mix of hugs, smiles, and a few tears as the high school juniors and seniors part ways.

Last month, Valley REC sent seven local students on the 51st annual Rural Electric Youth Tour. The tour gives young people the opportunity to explore our nation’s capital while learning a bit about how our government operates. They also see the impact electric cooperatives have on the legislative process and make lifelong friendships. Please take a minute to meet this year’s students by turning the page. 

Valley REC sponsors seven students on Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

BY DOUG ROLES
Manager of Member Services

VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative sponsored seven high school students on the 2015 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-19. The teens, six juniors and one senior from six different schools, spent their time in the capital meeting legislators and learning about the cooperative business model.

They joined more than 1,700 other juniors and seniors from electric cooperatives all over the country — 94 from co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey — who participated in the event.

Each year, the all-expenses-paid trip is packed with activities, including meetings with lawmakers and rural electric leaders, visits to historic monuments throughout Washington, D.C., and tours of the Smithsonian museums, Mount Vernon, National Zoo and Arlington Cemetery. The agenda also includes a cruise on the Potomac River, a parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial and a show at the National Theatre.

Youth Tour participants are dependents of co-op members. During the trip, they learn about the principles that gov-



YOUTH TOUR: Participants in the 2015 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., include from left: Heidi Bliss, Alexander Grove, Margo Elder, Ellyn Daniels, Lacey Deihl, Patrick Rose and Nathan Leedy. The students were selected by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative to attend the June 14-19 event.

ern rural electric and other cooperatives. Recommended by guidance counselors at their respective schools, the students were selected for the trip on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in extracurricular activities and community service.

“I think the trip was worthwhile because I learned so much about our nation’s capital, and I was able to have fun while doing it,” says Margo Elder, a Tussey Mountain High School junior. “My favorite part of the whole trip was touring the monuments and making new friendships that will last a lifetime.”

Elder of James Creek is the daughter of Charles and Dottie Elder. She has a career goal of becoming a radiologist. Her school

activities include marching band, yearbook and Prom Committee. She was a thrower on the varsity track team and has participated in the Bedford County Youth Leadership program.

Mount Union Area High School (MUAHS) had two students on Youth Tour 2015. They are Heidi Bliss of Huntingdon, daughter of Tim and Jacquita Bliss, and Alexander Grove of Mount Union, son of David and Michelle Grove.

Heidi hopes to become a physical therapist. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has participated in her high school’s mock trial program. She also serves as an ambassador for Huntingdon County Dairy Promotion and is involved in 4-H. She was chosen to represent Valley Rural Electric Cooperative in Pennsylvania’s Youth Leadership Council competition during Youth Tour.

Alexander is involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and

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CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: Congressman Glenn “G.T.” Thompson (R-5th) meets with Pennsylvania students participating in Youth Tour 2015. The National Rural Electric Youth Tour program provides students with an opportunity to talk to their representatives about issues facing rural communities.

Meet your employees

BY DOUG ROLES
Manager of Member Services

HIGHLIGHTED in this column is a recent addition to the Valley REC team, Ethan DeVore. Ethan joined Valley Rural Electric Cooperative in January as an information technology (IT) assistant.

Ethan works from the co-op's corporate headquarters, along Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon, but his job has him interact with all of Valley's offices.

Ethan is a 2008 graduate of Juniata Valley High School. He was a summer intern at Valley REC in 2014. In December, he graduated from Penn State Altoona with a degree in business. His responsibilities at Valley REC include day-to-day monitoring of the co-op's various computer and communication systems and assisting employees who encounter problems with their computers and work phones.

"I do a lot of updates on Windows systems," Ethan says. "There's a lot of troubleshooting to the job."

Ethan says his age group is part of a generation that grew up with technology. Even though most of his formal training is in business, he feels fortunate to be in a position where he can work



NEW ADDITION: Ethan DeVore joined Valley REC in January. He works in the co-op's IT department.

with IT veterans. He took several computer courses in college and is currently working toward gaining a CompTIA A+ certification for installing and troubleshooting a number of operating systems.

"The big thing is getting the right training for where you're working, because systems and networks differ from one business to another," Ethan says. "Keeping up to date is a challenge."

Ethan is familiar with the cooperative business model and Valley's mission of providing safe, affordable and reliable electric service to member-owners. His

mother, Pam, has worked for the co-op for many years.

"I really like the environment and the atmosphere here at the co-op," Ethan says.

He recently moved back to the Huntingdon area from Altoona. In his free time, he likes outdoor activities and especially enjoys fishing and playing golf. He has played competitively for the past three years and played for the Penn State Altoona golf team.

Ethan's co-workers find his helpful and pleasant manner right on par for Valley REC. He's one of the people you can count on. ☀

YOUTH TOUR

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has served as president and parliamentarian of the MUAHS chapter. He is also involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and works on a local dairy farm. He hopes to become a diesel mechanic.

Lacey Deihl of Alexandria was the sole Valley REC senior on this year's trip. She is a graduate of Juniata Valley High School and is the daughter of Richard Deihl. Lacey was a reporter for her school's FBLA chapter and was involved in Ski Club, Art Club, FFA and her church youth group. She sees herself becoming an accountant.

Nathan Leedy of Needmore is the son

of Timothy and Jeanne Leedy. At Southern Fulton High School, he has competed on the track and basketball teams and has served as class treasurer. He enjoys playing drums, weight lifting and paintball, and hopes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

"The trip was one of the most fun and educational experiences I've had in my life," Nathan says. "You were able to meet students from all over the nation, many of whom had similar interests."

Southern Huntingdon County High School also had a student on Youth Tour 2015. Patrick Rose of Neelyton is the son of Dale and Beth Rose. Patrick is a National Honor Society student and enjoys participating in youth services at

his church. He enjoys many volunteer activities and plans to attend college after high school.

Ellyn Daniels of Waynesboro is the daughter of Joseph and LaRae Daniels. She attends Waynesboro Area High School, where she plays soccer, and has participated in track and field and the swim team. She is involved in her church youth group and hopes to own a bakery and a sunflower farm. The Danielses have a cabin in Cassville served by Valley REC.

For more information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, contact the member services department at Valley REC at 814-643-2650, toll-free 800-432-0680 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com. ☀

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative awards 25 \$1,000 scholarships to local students

BY LUANNE H. ECKENRODE
Vice President, Consumer Services & Public Relations

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative recently awarded 25 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors as well as students already enrolled in post-secondary institutions.

The co-op's Brighter Future Scholarship Program was established in 2010 to assist eligible students who are cooperative members or their dependents. Selection criteria includes academic achievement, financial need and school activities and community service.

The money to finance this initiative comes from unclaimed capital credits



refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. But thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, these resources can be kept in co-op communities and used to assist consumers facing financial hardships, to support civic organizations and to fund educational programs.

The following 21 high school seniors were awarded scholarships from Valley REC:

Bedford County: Tussey Mountain High School — Morgan Brumbaugh of James Creek, daughter of William and Marcy Brumbaugh, attending Penn State Altoona; and Brandon Rhodes, also of James Creek, son of Steven and Pamala Rhodes, attending Allegany College of Maryland.

Blair County: Central High School — Kale Burket of Claysburg, son of Michael and Dena Burket, attending Saint Francis University; and Mikaela McGraw of Martinsburg, daughter of Patty and the late Steven McGraw, attending the University of Oklahoma; Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School — Wyatt Cree of Duncansville, son of Kevin and Donna Cree, attending Point Park University; Williamsburg Junior/Senior High School

— Caitlyn and Carly England of Williamsburg, twin daughters of Barry and Gwen England, attending Lock Haven University and Penn State, respectively.

Franklin County: Fannett-Metal Middle/High School — Annaleigh Benoit of Fannettsburg, daughter of Jeff and Michelle Bricker, attending Penn State Mont Alto.

Fulton County: Forbes Road Junior/Senior High School — Braylin Hohman of Hustontown, daughter of Hubert and Kristie Hohman, attending Penn State Mont Alto; Southern Fulton Junior/Senior High School — Brienne Wawro of Warfordsburg, daughter of Lora Barber and Richard Wawro, attending Shippensburg University.

Huntingdon County: Grier School — Colleen McCarthy of Huntingdon, daughter of James and Sara McCarthy, attending Baylor University; Huntingdon Area High School — Anna Kustenborder of Huntingdon, daughter of James and Wendy Kustenborder, attending DuBois Business College; and Madison McCool, also of Huntingdon, daughter of Paul and Sue McCool, attending Stevens Institute of Technology; Juniata Valley High School — Chely Miller of Petersburg, daughter of Mark and Tracey Miller, attending Penn State; and Taylor Boonie, also of Petersburg, daughter of Troy and Erica Boonie, attending Duquesne University; Mount Union Area High School — Hannah Taylor of McVeytown, daughter of James and Rebecca Taylor, attending Bloomsburg University; and Katherine Christoff of Mount Union, daughter of Roger and Andrea Christoff, attending Penn State; Southern Huntingdon County High School — Sage Burdge of Blairs Mills, daughter of John and Sheila Burdge, attending Cornish College of the Arts; and Christopher Barnish of Mapleton Depot, son of Frank and

Teresa Barnish, attending Penn State.

Juniata County: Juniata High School — Makenzie Bishop of Honey Grove, daughter of Dennis and Michelle Bishop, attending Delaware Valley University; and Tirzah Hosler of Port Royal, daughter of Daniel and Tammy Brackbill and Robert and Nicole Hosler, attending Lock Haven University.

Three students currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions were also awarded scholarships from Valley REC for the 2014-15 academic year. They are:

Kalee Anderson of Three Springs, daughter of Gerald and Holly Anderson, a 2012 graduate of Southern Huntingdon County High School attending Shippensburg University; Courtney Fedesco of Duncansville, daughter of Tommy and Kim Fedesco, a 2014 graduate of Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School attending Cairn University; and Lance Chambers of Hesston, son of Jim and Janet Chambers, a 2014 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending Penn State.

In addition, one returning adult student received a scholarship from Valley REC. She is Rebecca Taylor, wife of James Taylor of McVeytown, a 1987 graduate of Mount Union Area High School, attending Drexel University.

For more information about Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Brighter Future Scholarship Program, call 800-432-0680 or visit www.valleyrec.com and follow the Programs and Services link to the Scholarships section. ☀

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov