



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 688
DuBois, PA 15801-0688
Customer Service: 888-581-8969
www.unitedpa.com
Outage: 800-262-8959
Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Stephen A. Marshall, District 5
1030 Donahue Rd.
Luthersburg, PA 15848
814-583-7320

Vice Chairman

Timothy D. Burkett, District 6
5059 Hamilton Markton Rd.
Punxsutawney, PA 15767
814-592-5190

Secretary/Treasurer

Eileen Pisaneschi, District 2
1964 River Hill Rd.
Frenchville, PA 16836
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Mayport, PA 16240
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814-765-6458

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631 Olanta Rd.
Olanta, PA 16863
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President & CEO
Len Hawkins

COO, HR Manager & Consumer Advocate
Lauren Gustafson, Ext. 8501

Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Kristy Smith

The Cooperative Difference in a Time of Grid Stress



LEN HAWKINS

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES RUN ON a pretty straightforward promise: deliver power to members at the lowest possible cost. But right now, forces beyond our control are testing that commitment in ways we haven't seen before.

At its heart, it's a math problem — but the math isn't adding up. Electricity demand in our region is climbing faster than new supply can come on-line. Across the 13-state PJM Interconnection (PJM) region, which includes Pennsylvania and New Jersey, supply and demand for electricity have become unbalanced.

Supply is shrinking. On one side of the equation: Policy shifts have accelerated the retirement of coal and natural gas plants, while promoting growth in intermittent sources like wind and solar. Many of the reliable, always-available plants that powered the region for decades are gone, and replacement resources are not being built fast enough. New projects are stuck in permitting or delayed by the same supply-chain disruptions that co-ops have struggled with for years.

Demand is exploding. On the other side: Electricity consumption is skyrocketing, and it's not just population growth or electric vehicles driving the surge. The real disruptor is artificial intelligence (AI). Across our PJM region, tech companies are racing to build massive, AI-driven data centers — facilities that consume as much electricity as entire cities. Industry forecasts show this demand accelerating over the next five years, with no sign of leveling off. This data center demand is constant and is fundamentally changing how much power our region needs.

As a result, we're watching an alarming gap widen between how much electricity people need and how much the grid can actually deliver. The gap between these two forces is driving costs higher across the entire PJM region, including costs for electric cooperatives.


While cooperatives strive to provide power at the lowest cost possible, these market forces are pushing costs upward, making a rate adjustment unavoidable. Still, cooperative ownership gives us tools that other utilities don't have.

United Electric gets most of its energy from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), the wholesale power provider we own with 13 other rural electric co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Through Allegheny, we've invested in generation resources, including nuclear and hydroelectric plants, formalized long-term power-purchase agreements, and even secured millions in federal grant funding to boost our supply of affordable, nuclear power.

This strategy insulates us — and you — from the worst of the market chaos. Through long-term planning, Allegheny continues to deliver some of the most stable, affordable generation rates to cooperatives in the PJM region even as market prices spike elsewhere.

Cooperation amplifies our impact. Through Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, our statewide advocate, we pool resources, such as joint purchasing, shared training and coordinated planning to reduce costs. We also work directly with you to manage peak demand — those times when the system is stressed — which helps keep everyone's rates lower.

Safe, reliable, affordable electricity remains our core commitment. While we can't control regional supply shortages or soaring demand, we can control how we respond. That means making smart decisions to shield our members from the worst of these market pressures and the uncertainty ahead.

Our focus will always remain on our members. That is the cooperative difference. 

LEN HAWKINS
PRESIDENT & CEO

Reflecting on the Year in Gardening

GLENN SCHUCKERS

THE FIRST THING THAT COMES to mind this month is its main holiday: Christmas. Mention December and nearly everyone thinks about everything that comes with it. I love Christmas like most people do: the carols, the dinner, the gatherings with friends and family — it really is a magical time.

I plan to use this month to reflect on the past year, including the things I did right and the things I did wrong. It is important to do this to try and eliminate the things I did wrong moving forward. (**Note:** I said “try” because there is never a guarantee that mistakes won’t show up again.) It’s also important so I can repeat the good things I accomplished as well.

Last year, I wrapped a lot of our outdoor shrubs. We live on the border of Zones 4 and 5 for weather and temperature, but experience has shown me that our particular location is a lot more like Zone 4 than it is Zone 5. That means if our plants and shrubs are to survive, I need to treat them more like they are in upstate New York than in Gettysburg, Pa.

Hits and misses

I covered most of the flowering crabapple seedlings, young dwarf rhododendrons, a dwarf Alberta pine and cardinal dogwoods. They ended up looking much better last spring than they did in previous years when they were uncovered.

Was it a mild winter or were previous winters more severe? I’m not sure, but covering the plants takes me and a helper about an hour, so why bet on nature when one afternoon will protect plants from harm even if the weather does not cooperate?

I also covered the dwarf lilac, the flowering almond, the columbine, the bachelor buttons and the hydrangea. Maybe

as they all get older, they will be better suited to survive the winter on their own, but then again, I won’t know unless they go uncovered. And if I am wrong? My mother had a saying to answer that: “Better to be safe than sorry.”

Now for the mistakes. There was the garden of 2025. One word describes it: disaster. I have talked to many experienced gardeners, and they said roughly the same thing. This past year was not a



GLENN SCHUCKERS

‘TIS THE SEASON: True to tradition, we have decorations for the season. The fireplace in the den has always been at the center of our holiday. It’s a place to gather and plan for the coming year.

good time to have a garden, unless you had a location that dried out very well in the spring and the means to water it later in the summer.

During May and early June, when most folks around here plant their garden, the rain just never stopped. Consequently, the nights were cool, and even daytime highs were usually below average. I did manage to get some seeds in the ground during late May. I thought, “OK, the garden will be late, but we can still harvest vegetables in September.”

Two weeks later, seeing few to no sprouts, I started looking for the seeds, only to find them soft and moldy, never having sprouted. Bean seeds, squash seeds, pumpkin seeds, cucumber seeds — nothing was growing. By that time, it was mid- to late June, and even if the ground had been dry enough, planting would have been an exercise in futility. I had a few tomato plants that were growing, but the peppers? Nothing.

Then came the growing season, or what would have been the growing season had anything been growing. And just as nature had flooded us with day after day of rain earlier in the year, July and August came with no rain in sight.

I dealt with dry weather before by bringing tanks of water from our well at the old farm, but with virtually nothing to water, there was no use trying. Then the lawn turned brown and brittle, even though I knew it would someday come back — with rain in October.

A lesson learned

Now the seed catalogs are arriving, and there are plans for a new kind of garden — 8 inches above ground level. We built frames for square-foot gardens, allowing for sore backs, shoulders and arms.

Advancing age makes us all modify what we do or try to do and maybe that’s the best lesson for the coming season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🎄


United Electric
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Serving the Electric Needs of the Community

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and receive a high-efficiency
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our Load
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* For residential members only.
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BRENDA L. SWARTZLANDER SCHOLARSHIP

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE BRENDA L. SWARTZLANDER SCHOLARSHIP*

Eligible applicants must major in:

- Business Management
- Engineering

Deadline to apply: 4/15/26

Applicants are also eligible to apply for the Shine the Light Scholarship.

Contact Kristy Smith:
888-581-8969, Ext. 8507
ksmith@unitedpa.com
unitedpa.com

*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent. Directors, employees, and their families are ineligible to apply.



DREAM. SHINE. ACHIEVE.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SHINE THE LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

All students attending or planning to attend higher education*

Application deadline is **April 15, 2026.**

Contact Kristy Smith:
888-581-8969, Ext. 8507
ksmith@unitedpa.com
unitedpa.com

*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent. Directors, employees and their families are ineligible to apply.

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Washington, D.C.

YOUTH TOUR 2026

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: THIS IS YOUR MOMENT!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 2/21/26

APPLY NOW



Contact Kristy Smith
ksmith@unitedpa.com
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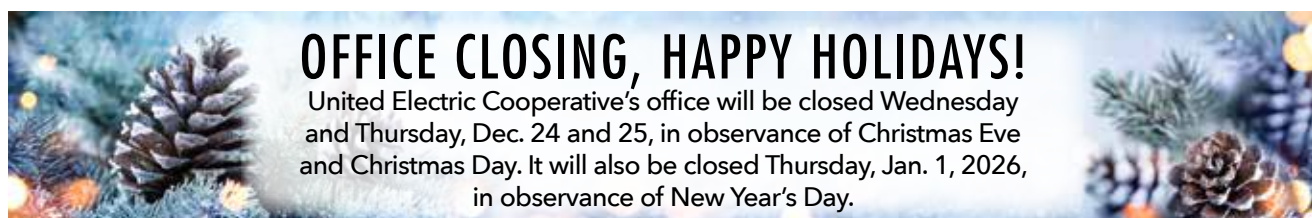
Explore
See museums, memorials and monuments all over the city. This all-inclusive trip packs in everything!

Network
Meet students from nearly every state while you become part of almost 60,000 Youth Tour alumni.

Learn
Discover the impact electric cooperatives have nationally and meet with your congressional leaders face-to-face.

Plan
Transportation for the 2026 Youth Tour picks up from many convenient locations across Pennsylvania on Monday, June 15, and returns on Saturday, June 20.



OFFICE CLOSING, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

United Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 24 and 25, in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It will also be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, in observance of New Year's Day.

2026 United Electric Board Elections to be Held for Districts 1, 7

United Electric Cooperative members residing in Districts 1 and 7 will be eligible to vote in the 2026 director elections in May.

Members residing in Districts 1 and 7 are also eligible to run for the board (see below for districts by county and township). A mail-in ballot will be sent to every member in Districts 1 and 7, giving everyone an opportunity to vote, including those who do not, or cannot, attend the annual meeting. The cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting will be held

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg. More information about the 2026 election will be provided in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Members residing in Districts 1 and 7 who are interested in running for the United Electric Board of Directors should read the following bylaws carefully:

UNITED ELECTRIC BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV - BOARD MEMBERS

SECTION 2. Districts (excerpt).

DISTRICT NO. 1. Armstrong County - Redbank Township; Clarion County - Clarion, Farmington, Highland, Limestone, Millcreek, and Redbank Townships; Forest County - Barnett Township; Jefferson County - Barnett and Eldred Townships.

DISTRICT NO. 7. Clearfield County - Girard, Goshen, Huston, and Lawrence Townships; Elk County - Fox, Horton, Millstone, Ridgway, and Spring Creek Townships; Jefferson County - Heath Township.

SECTION 3. Qualifications.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who is not a member in good standing of, and receiving electric service as required in Section 2. hereof from the Cooperative at such member's primary residential abode for a minimum period of one continuous year immediately preceding his/her election within the particular district which such member is to represent. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who:

- (a) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise; including, but not limited to, the sale and distribution of electric power;
- (b) is engaged in regularly selling at wholesale or retail, goods, equipment, or material that is used in and about the business of the Cooperative;
- (c) is unwilling to become acquainted with the business and working of the Cooperative;
- (d) does not complete half (50%) of the required NRECA Director Certification Training within three (3) years of election or appointment, and complete NRECA Director Certification at the conclusion of the Director's second term in office;
- (e) shall miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board without just cause and excuse filed with the Secretary and approved by the Board;
- (f) is not willing and able to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances;
- (g) is in any way employed (or is the spouse of an employee) by the Cooperative or has been an employee (or is the spouse of a former employee) of any electric cooperative or association;
- (h) has been convicted of a felony within the last five (5) years;

(i) is the parent, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother or sister of a person regularly employed by the Cooperative, whether by the whole or half blood or by adoption.

(j) has been removed as a Director of this Cooperative by vote of the Members or the Board. 'Ineligibility' under this subsection may be waived by the Board, at the Board's sole discretion, if the Director was removed by the Board.

Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for Director lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Judge of Elections, as hereinafter provided, to disqualify such nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from such person, or to cause such person to be removed therefrom, whichever be the case. Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of this Section, it shall be the duty of the remaining Directors on the Board to remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this Section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner the validity of any such action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors; PROVIDED the action taken was one in which none of the Directors had an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4. Nominations.

All incumbent Directors are automatically nominated to run for the office of Director and shall be one of the nominees to run for the office of Director, unless they decline and/or refuse to run. Any additional nominations for director shall be made by the submission of a written petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members of the Cooperative in their respective district. Such petition shall contain the following information:

1. Statement Release for Background Check Information;
2. Signed Review of the Director Oath of Office;
3. Signed statement that petitioner has reviewed the qualifications and is eligible to be elected as a Director of United Electric;
4. Brief Biography of Petitioner.

All such nominations by petition shall be addressed to the Judge of Elections and must be received at the Cooperative headquarters office no later than 4:30 PM on the last business day in January immediately preceding the annual meeting.

Nominations by petition not received in a timely manner or with incomplete, untrue, or inaccurate documentation will be disqualified. There will be no nominations taken from the floor and there will be no write-in candidates.

To receive petition forms and the additional information that must be completed for a director nomination, please contact Kristy Smith, manager of marketing & member services, at 888-581-8969, Ext. 8507.

**** Completed petitions must be returned to the cooperative headquarters in DuBois no later than the last business day of January 2026.***