

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Website: www.reaenergy.com
Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Chad Carrick
President and CEO

STAFF

Barry Baker
Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer
Manager of Consumer &
Employee Services

Shane Cribbs
Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty
Safety & Right of Way Manager

Steve Malesky
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Lisa Gardill
Director of Finance &
Accounting Services

Nick Hartman
Manager of Engineering

Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKA
Communications & Marketing Manager
Local Pages Editor

Chris Weller
Load Management Supervisor

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
844-920-3395

OFFICE HOURS
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Ebensburg Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

Annual Meeting Update



STACY HILLIARD

AT THE CORE OF EVERY electric cooperative are its consumer-members. Contributing to the uniqueness of a cooperative is that members are not only consumers of electricity, but they are also equity holders of the company that provides their power. One member = one vote.

Each year, REA Energy Cooperative holds an annual meeting of its membership in early fall, where attendees can learn more about their cooperative and contribute to a question-and-answer session.

Typically, we hold our annual meeting in person, but members can also participate virtually. This year, however, in an effort to manage costs and ensure the safety of attendees, the decision has been made to conduct the 2026 meeting online only. The virtual meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 22, and will be streamed live from the REA Energy headquarters in Indiana.

Following REA Energy bylaws, the meeting will be conducted as follows:

- ▶ Statement of a quorum
- ▶ Reading of the meeting notice, along with proof of mailing
- ▶ Action on 2025 minutes
- ▶ Election results
- ▶ Presentations and reports
- ▶ Unfinished business
- ▶ New business
- ▶ Adjournment

Door prize winners will be drawn that evening and awarded after the business meeting. Also, members who attend will receive a \$15 bill credit.

To register for the annual meeting, members must visit reaenergy.com and select the "Annual Meeting Registration" button before noon Sept. 22. Registration will grant access to the virtual meeting and offer members a chance to win a door prize. Registration will open after 8 a.m. Aug. 10.

REA Energy will once again be holding a Member Appreciation Month in October. From October (and through the end of November), members who are unable to participate in the online meeting may present their annual meeting member card, which can be found at the bottom of their annual meeting notice, to receive a gift packet. Gift packets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and may be picked up at either REA Energy office location. Only one gift packet per membership will be provided while supplies last.

Members who participated in the online meeting and received the \$15 bill credit will not be eligible to receive a gift packet.

Thank you!

Your board of directors, management and employees extend our sincerest thanks to members for your understanding. As we move forward, we look forward to continuing to serve you with the same excellent service we have provided over the past 89 years. 🙏

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKA
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

Powering Progress, One Neighbor at a Time

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

IN THE LATE 1930s, as America recovered from the Great Depression, life in rural Pennsylvania was still tough. Jobs were hard to find, money was short and many families struggled to get by. On top of that, rural communities faced another challenge: living without electricity.

While electricity was changing life in larger towns and cities, many rural homes still didn't have it. Private electric companies ran their lines along main roads, skipping over less populated areas where they wouldn't make much money. For families living far from town, modern comforts were still out of reach.

Among them was Earl George of Derry Township, Westmoreland County.

Like many people in the country, Earl used windmills, chemical cells, and large batteries to receive a little power. These options cost a lot and didn't always work well. Wanting something better, Earl reached out to the Pennsylvania Electric Company in spring 1939. They checked the distance to the nearest line, about 1,100 feet, and gave him a shocking estimate to connect: \$471.

Back then, a day's work might only pay \$1.50, so that price was almost impossible to afford.

Earl was living on a railroad pension after an accident left him unable to work, so he knew he couldn't pay for it by himself. He wasn't alone; families all over rural Pennsylvania faced the same tough choice: live without electricity or pay more than they could manage.

Then came a spark of hope.

Earl found out about a new way to receive electricity, one based on working together instead of making a profit. The Southwest Central Rural Electric Cooperative in Indiana County was bringing electricity to rural homes for just a \$5 membership fee. On June 3, 1939, Earl went to the cooperative's office and finally got the answer he hoped for: Yes, receiving electricity was possible.

But there was a catch.

For the cooperative to bring electricity, enough neighbors had to sign up to receive it. It wasn't just about

one house; it was about creating a system powered by the whole community.

Earl didn't hesitate.

With help from his son and nephews, Earl spent months traveling muddy back roads, knocking on doors and telling people about the chance to finally have affordable electricity. Even though he had to walk with two canes after his railroad injury, Earl kept going. His determination took him all over northern Westmoreland County, collecting signatures and support.

Earl wrote about the challenges in his journal. On June 28, 1940, while looking for new members, his car became stuck in deep mud. A neighbor named J.P. Martin helped Earl and his crew out by pulling the car free with help from a team of horses.

Momentum grew.

That summer, the Rural Electrification Administration held a meeting in New Alexandria that brought dozens of residents together. The cooperative received strong support. Neighbors stopped waiting for change and started making it happen themselves.

By November, construction had started. Crews cleared land, set up poles and built lines, often doing the work by hand without the equipment we have today. It was tough, physical work, but everyone shared the same goal of moving forward.

Then, on April 4, 1940, just a year after Earl started his quest for electricity, his journal noted a simple but important moment: "Electricity turned on."

For Earl and his neighbors, this changed their lives.

They no longer needed oil lamps or iceboxes. Now, they had electric lights, refrigerators and a sense of hope. To celebrate, Earl's family bought a new refrigerator, which amazingly worked for decades.

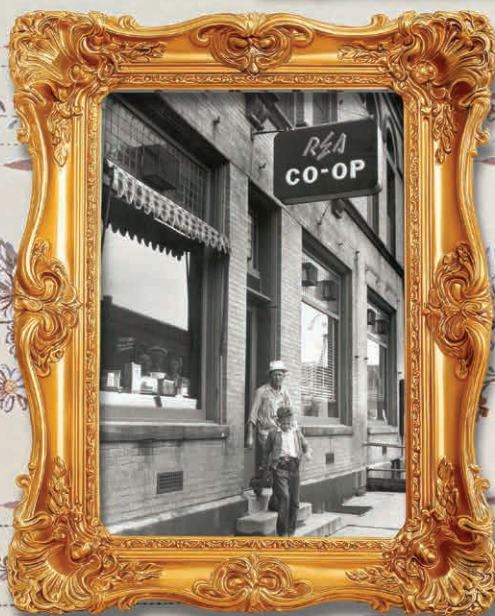
Earl's story is more than just a personal victory. It reflects what can happen when neighbors work together for the good of their community. Rural families refused to be left behind and built something for themselves; something that continues to serve generations today.

REA Energy Cooperative proudly carries on that tradition as a not-for-profit electric cooperative focused on reliability, affordability and putting our members first. Even today, our cooperative membership fee remains just \$5, a reminder that the cooperative model was built to serve people, not profit from them.

In the end, electricity didn't simply arrive in rural Pennsylvania. Instead, it was brought there by neighbors working together. 🌱

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time – like your dishwasher, laundry machine and oven – can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



Photographs provided by NRECA.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep your contact information up to date so you never miss outage alerts and service updates. You can update your details through SmartHub, by calling 724-349-4800, or by writing the changes on the back of your REA Energy bill and returning it with your payment.

Your phone number is especially important for reporting outages and receiving real-time updates. If it's outdated, you could miss critical information when you need it most.

Take a moment to review your information:

- Make sure your primary phone number is correct
- Use a number you can access anytime

Staying connected helps us respond faster and keep you informed when it matters most. Update your information today to be prepared for tomorrow.



**REA ENERGY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JULY 3, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE OR MAKE A PAYMENT,
PLEASE CALL 844-920-3395.**

Right-of-Way Management/Facility Construction News

REA Energy Cooperative contractors will be completing tree trimming work in the following areas in July: Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Belsano substation, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Members in the areas affected will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at reaenergy.com.

Your Board of Directors



Michael J. Bertolino
Chairman
District 3



Wayne Farabaugh
Vice Chairman
District 8



Robert P. Neese
Secretary/Treasurer
District 5



Sandra Dill
District 9



Tom Beresnyak
District 1



Anthony Enciso
District 7



Thomas Aurandt
District 4



John R. Learn
District 6



J.R. "Rick" Shope
District 2

REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.