

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
PAC Coordinator

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, CKAE
Communications & Marketing Manager
Local Pages Editor

Renee Spalla
Supervisor of Consumer Services

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

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Guest Column

Reflecting on 2025: A Year of Service, Growth and Progress



STACY HILLIARD

AS 2025 COMES TO A CLOSE, it's the perfect time to look back on another productive year at REA Energy Cooperative. Despite the many changes and challenges in recent years, one thing has remained constant: The unwavering commitment of our board, management, and employees to provide safe, reliable, and high-quality service to our members.

Here's a look at some of the key highlights from the past 12 months.

Welcoming new members: From October 2024 through September 2025, we welcomed 791 new members to the REA Energy family. Your cooperative continues to grow, and we're grateful for the trust each new member places in us.

New faces at REA Energy: In 2025, we were excited to welcome 10 new employees to our team: Macy Burke, office coordinator; Jennifer Jennings, consumer service & billing specialist; Allison Ball, purchasing assistant; Zachary Barrett, electrical distribution design engineer; Zebulun Vialpando and Mark Cronauer, journeyman linemen; Marsha Huey, supervisor of purchasing & facilities; Jayda Fyock, consumer services specialist; and Kyle Uptegraph and Anthony Michaels, load management technicians.

Each person brings valuable experience and enthusiasm to our cooperative, strengthening our ability to serve members effectively.

Honoring our retirees: We extend our heartfelt appreciation to two longtime employees who retired this year after decades of dedicated service: Matthew Bumbarger, chief lineman, retired in May after 34 years with REA Energy, and Bryon Roland, purchasing & facilities manager, retired in November after 27 years of service.

88th Annual Meeting: Our 88th Annual Meeting was held Thursday, Sept. 18, with 356 members participating, both in-person and online. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event a success.

Board elections and leadership: In District 5, incumbent Robert Neese ran unopposed and was re-elected to serve another term. Likewise, District 6 incumbent John Learn ran unopposed and was re-elected.

The board's officers for 2025–2026 are: Michael Bertolino, chairman; Wayne Farabaugh, vice chairman; and Neese, secretary/treasurer.

Additionally, Neese was elected to represent REA on the Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) Board for a two-year term, with Farabaugh serving as the alternate Allegheny director.

REA Energy Services: Our for-profit subsidiary, REA Energy Services, continued to have a strong year in 2025. The team provided sales and installation services for generators, electrical systems and HVAC products. Profits from this subsidiary are returned to the cooperative, and they help reduce costs and keep rates low — another example of how we continue to invest in benefiting our members.

Broadband expansion — connecting our communities: Together with our subsidiary, In The Stix Broadband, we continue to make progress toward bringing high-speed broadband to our members.

REA Energy received grant funding from the Indiana County commissioners to extend broadband service to unserved and underserved areas. In May 2025, the first Indiana County customers were connected to high-speed fiber internet as part of this project — a major milestone.

Additional construction and connections are ongoing in Cambria and Indiana counties,

Continued on page 14C

How will you **MAKE YOUR MARK?**



**A week of building memories, skills, leadership
and friendships that will last a lifetime!**

June 15-20, 2026

- Explore Washington, D.C. through historic monuments, world-class museums, and visits with elected officials.
- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from across the country and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by your local electric cooperative.

**Yes! I am interested in participating in REA Energy's 2026 Youth Tour. Please send
me an application and information packet.
Return this slip by Jan. 9, 2026.**

Name: _____

Mail to:

Address: _____

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.
Communications Department
P.O. Box 70
Indiana, PA 15701

High School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

REA Account Number: _____

REA *energy*
Cooperative Inc.

MAKE YOUR MARK!



Good Tidings and Great Expectations: Family Fun at Ebensburg's Dickens of a Christmas

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

EVERY DECEMBER FOR 20 YEARS, Ebensburg has transformed into a holiday storybook for its Dickens of a Christmas festival. The downtown corridor changes into a Victorian Christmas village, filled with twinkling lights, cheerful carolers and a festive spirit.

The event brings Cambria County residents together for one of its most cherished holiday traditions. Families, friends and neighbors gather to celebrate the season and enjoy Ebensburg's small-town charm. Organized by Ebensburg Borough and the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, the festival owes its unique atmosphere to the hard work of local businesses and volunteers.

"A former borough employee once attended a Dickens of a Christmas festival in Wellsboro, and thought it would be a perfect fit for Ebensburg's Victorian-style buildings," says Danae Koss, community development director for Ebensburg Borough and the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership. "Ebensburg's small-town charm and strong sense of community really shine during the event."

A step back in time

The festival exudes the magic of the Victorian era. Vendors and participants dress in period costumes, and themed events make participants feel like they are stepping back in time to the 19th century. With strolling carolers, horse-drawn sleigh rides and living nativity scenes, the celebration captures the timeless spirit of community kindness and joy that make the holidays special.

The festivities will begin Friday, Dec. 5, with several activities. The evening will feature Light-Up Night at Kimball Park, highlighted by

the Christmas tree lighting, caroling, cups of hot cocoa and the opening of indoor ice skating at the North Central Recreation Center.

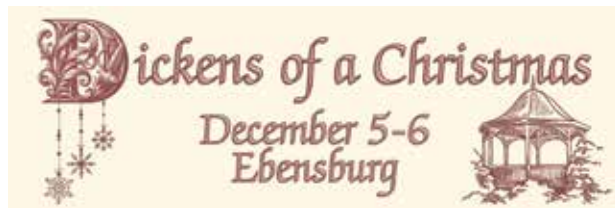
After that, Dec. 6 is slated for family fun. The day will start with Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Ebensburg Woman's Club at the Young People's Community Center. Visitors can also check out model train displays and the Department 56 Dickens Village at the First United Church of Christ and the Municipal Building. One of the weekend's biggest highlights is the Christmas parade, which is one of Danae's favorite things to participate in each year.

"The Christmas Parade is a time-honored tradition that I grew up with," she says. "It's wonderful to see the whole community come together to make it special."

Other weekend events include the Fat Bike Fest hosted by Pour on Center; the Christmas Tree and Wreath Toss fundraiser at Ebensburg Park by Cresson Lake Playhouse; Mrs. Buck's Christmas Tea at the Cambria County Historical Society; and the always-popular Santa Pub Crawl, which ends with dinner at the Ebensburg Moose. Pub crawl participants must be 21 or older and are encouraged to dress up like old St. Nick to add some holiday spirit.

Crafts, cookies and other goodies

For those who love to get creative, Artistry from Scratch and The Porch Peddler's Workshop will host holiday craft classes throughout the festival. Two indoor craft shows — one at Holy Name Church Hall and another at the Dauntless Fire Hall — offer handmade gifts and decorations.



Around town, visitors can warm up with hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies, roasted nuts, kettle corn and other tasty treats. Live music will also fill the air at Penn Ebensburg Park and several churches throughout the weekend.

After the final carols fade, Ebensburg's Dickens of a Christmas will leave behind a renewed sense of togetherness and the simple joy of community. Each year, the event reminds everyone that the true magic of the holidays is found in shared laughter, familiar faces and goodwill — a celebration worthy of Charles Dickens himself. 🎄

GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 14A

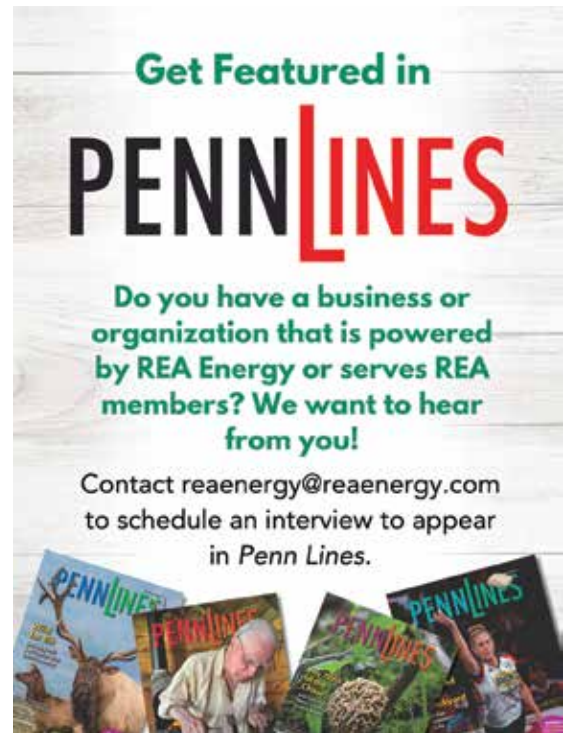
with a total of 650 miles of fiber planned upon completion. A new website was launched — itxrea.com — to keep members informed and connected.

Thank you for 88 years of support:

As we close out another successful year, we want to thank all our members for your continued trust and support. For 88 years, REA Energy Cooperative has been proud to power our communities — and we look forward to serving you for many years to come.

From all of us at REA Energy, have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for being part of our cooperative family! 🎄

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKA
COMMUNICATIONS &
MARKETING MANAGER



REA Energy's Ebensburg office will close at 11:00 a.m. and the Indiana office at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, and will remain closed through Thursday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The offices will reopen Friday, Dec. 26.

Offices will also be closed Thursday, Jan 1; and will reopen Friday, Jan 2.

Please call 844-920-3395 to report any power outages or make payments. Payments can be made through SmartHub or placed in the dropbox at both locations.

Right-of-Way Management/Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in these areas in December:
 Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Laurel substation area in addition to emergency maintenance areas.
 Members in affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry employee 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.