

# Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## SOMERSET REC

223 Industrial Park Road  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-445-4106  
800-443-4255

Email: e-mail@somersetrec.com  
Website: www.somersetrec.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

**Jerry L. Engle, District 4**

### Vice President

**Floyd T. Lehman, District 1**

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Lowell L. Friedline, District 3**

**Russ Hillegas, District 2**

**James B. Harrold Sr., District 5**

**P. Timothy Vought, District 6**

**Jason Huston, District 7**

**Joshua C. Sechler, District 8**

**Harvey W. Reckner Jr., District 9**

### Ruston Ogburn

**General Manager**

## STAFF

**Gary Gindlesperger**

*Manager of Information Technology*

**Jonathan Hillegas**

*Director of Finances*

**Andrew Phillippi**

*Manager of Outside Operations*

**Emily Baer**

*Director of Marketing and Member Services*

**Phil Stern**

*Manager of Technical Services*

**Jessi Ditzler**

*Executive Assistant*

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-445-4106  
800-443-4255

## Guest Column

# 'Respect the Zone so We All Get Home'



**TAWNYA ZORN**

**NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK**, April 21 to 25, is an annual public awareness campaign held each spring to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. Its goal is to spread the message that we are all responsible for work zone safety. This year's theme is "respect the zone so we all get home."

We often hear about work-zone-related accidents. While most of these occur at road construction sites, utility personnel face similar risks when they work on power lines above or near roads. Workers must constantly be aware not only of the risks associated with the job they are trying to complete, but also of the presence of vehicles and motorists who may be disregarding work-zone indicators.

If a motorist hits a worker who is flagging or performing groundwork, serious injuries could result. If a car bumps into a utility truck, the bucket at the top is going to sway, which could cause contact with energized lines and result in a lineworker's injury or death.

Excessive speeding, following too closely and failure to yield the right of way are major causes of accidents. A rising concern is distracted driving. Utility workers have seen drivers talking on cellphones, texting, adjusting the radio and eating, all while driving. Passengers, including kids and pets, can also cause distractions.

When in the field, Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative crews wear highly reflective clothing for better visibility and the lights on our trucks are flashing. As required by law, cones are set out around our trucks and warning signs are placed well in advance of the work zone.

Cooperative employees are trained in working adjacent to roads and are certified as flaggers. The safety of our workers is our top priority, but we also need motorists to follow the rules when it comes to driving through work zones. This includes:

1. **Move over and slow down.** If you see one of our co-op trucks parked along the side of the road with its lights flashing, you **MUST** make room and proceed with caution.
2. **Pay attention to signs** that indicate a merge zone or that workers are along or on the road. Obey the flaggers' instructions, and if your lane is blocked, you need to stop.
3. **Give other drivers plenty of room.** The most common crash in a road work zone is the rear-end collision, so remember to leave at least four car lengths between you and the car in front of you.

Getting caught in a slow-moving traffic line through a work zone can be frustrating, but please be patient.

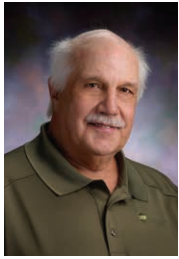
Work-zone incidents impact everyone. Your driving habits can help or harm the well-being of other motorists, cyclists, utility workers and pedestrians in addition to yourself. By working with us, you can help keep everyone safe. Remember: "Respect the zone so we all get home." 🚧

## TAWNYA ZORN

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

# 2025 DIRECTOR NOMINEES

## DISTRICT 4: Jerry L. Engle



**JERRY L. ENGLE** currently represents District 4 on the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Board of Directors and is the board president. He has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's director training program, receiving his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and obtaining Director Gold status.

A graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School, Jerry is a retired building and remodeling contractor and lives in the Hays Mill area near Meyersdale. Before owning his own business, he worked as a carpenter for several area builders.

Jerry and his wife, the former Mary Susan Shaffer, have two children, Bryan and Brooke, and two grandsons, Jack and Jace.

In his spare time, Jerry enjoys hunting and serves as an elder of Hay's United Church of Christ and the Cemetery Association.

## District 6: P. Timothy Vought



**P. TIMOTHY VOUGHT** represents District 6 and lives in Summit Township. He graduated from Meyersdale Joint High School and continued his education at Penn State University, earning a Bachelor of Science and master's degree in education in agricultural science.

As a board member, Tim has earned the CCD certificate. Currently, he works on his family farm after retiring from Rockwood Area High School, where he was an ag science teacher and varsity rifle coach.

Tim enjoys volunteering at many local organizations throughout the county. He is a member and elder of Amity

United Church of Christ in Meyersdale and a life member of the National Rifle Association, Penn State Alumni Association, and Pa. Young Farmers. Tim is also an member of the Rockwood Young Farmers organization and the Somerset County Farm Bureau. In 1964, he was selected to attend the Somerset REC Youth Tour.

Tim lives on Old Mule Trail Road in Garrett with his wife, Shirley. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and target shooting. He also plays the trumpet in the Penn State Alumni Blue Band, Somerset County Community Band and Doc's Boys. Together, he and Shirley have raised four children, and Tim is the proud grandfather of 12 grandchildren.

## DISTRICT 8: Joshua C. Sechler



**JOSHUA C. SECHLER** represents District 8 and lives in Lower Turkeyfoot Township. A native of Confluence, he is a 1999 graduate of Meyersdale Area High School. He continued his education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Arts in history and economics. He also is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association's Advanced School of Banking.

While serving the membership, Josh has completed national board-level training courses to obtain the following board credentials: CCD, BLC and Director Gold status.

Since 2005, Josh has been employed at Somerset Trust Company and is currently the assistant vice president of treasury management.

Josh enjoys volunteering at many local organizations

throughout the county. He is a member of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society; financial secretary of Kingwood Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge No. 1010; and a director for the following: Kingwood Picnic Association, Kingwood IOOF Cemetery, Crossroads Cemetery Association, Younkin Cemetery Association, and Jersey Settlement Cemetery Association. In addition, he is a member of Faith Assembly in Uniontown, Somerset-Cambria Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and Mt. Union Church Camp No. 502.

He lives on Kingwood Road in Confluence with his wife, Mallory, and daughter, Audia. In his spare time, Josh enjoys making maple syrup, attending sporting events in Pittsburgh, traveling, hiking, playing guitar, collecting baseball cards and helping his wife operate Salt & Light Meadows Flower Farm.

# SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

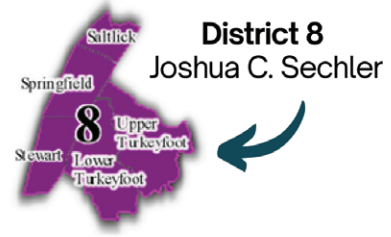
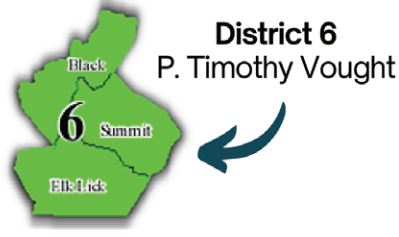
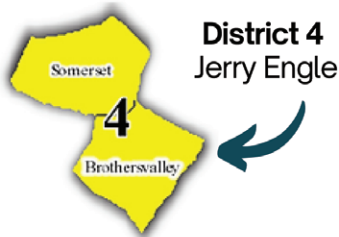
DRIVE-THRU

**86TH ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT  
SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
223 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, SOMERSET, PA 15501**

**\*\* LINE FORMS AT SOMERSET REC WAREHOUSE ENTRANCE ON DRUM AVENUE \*\***

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025  
3-6 p.m.**

The following members have been nominated by the Nominating Committee appointed by the board of directors in accordance with the bylaws.



**What to expect:**

- ✓ Please remain in your vehicle throughout the drive-thru event.
- ✓ Upon arrival, members will split into two lanes and be directed to a registration location.
- ✓ Each registered member will receive a \$10 electric bill credit.
- ✓ This is an uncontested director election, so no ballots will be cast or collected.
- ✓ The last designated area is where members will receive their gift for participating.
- ✓ We ask that you exit promptly to keep traffic flowing smoothly.
- ✓ Multiple members may arrive in the same vehicle.

**Registration:** Registration begins at 3 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m. Members will receive their registration card in the mail the first week of May. Please bring this with you to the drive-thru event. Note: If you have a joint membership, either member, but not both, may register. If the membership is in one name, only the member whose name appears on the account is eligible to register.

**Please use caution near intersections  
and do not block traffic.**



Lowell L. Friedline, Secretary-Treasurer





## NAVIGATING THE ANNUAL MEETING DRIVE-THRU

When arriving at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting, May 22, please use the map at left for reference as the recommended route.

We're asking members to keep intersections free of vehicles and to only proceed if there is at least one car length of space available.

Please stay alert and focused when waiting in line.

Cooperative employees will be on-site to help direct traffic. (For more information about the meeting, see the next page.)

**"LAND OF THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF  
THE BRAVE"**

**THE OFFICE OF SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 26, IN OBSERVANCE  
OF MEMORIAL DAY.**