

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

Clarence B. Waltermire, District 5

Vice President

Jerry L. Engle, District 4

Secretary/Treasurer

Lowell L. Friedline, District 3

Floyd T. Lehman, District 1

Russ Hillegas, District 2

P. Timothy Vought, District 6

Carl A. Hay Jr., District 7

Joshua C. Sechler, District 8

Harvey W. Reckner Jr., District 9

Ruston Ogburn

General Manager

STAFF

Gary Gindlesperger

Manager of Information Technology

Douglas E. Glessner

Manager of Outside Operations

Jonathan Hillegas

Director of Finances

Emily Baer

Director of Marketing and Member Services

Phil Stern

Manager of Metering 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

Spring Forward, Fall Back ...



"SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK" is ingrained in our consciousness almost as much as the A-B-Cs. It's a regular event: daylight saving time (DST). It's also a classic energy-saving idea. I personally have mixed feelings about the time change.

I always look forward to setting the clocks an hour forward in the spring. After the long winter months and being indoors early, I enjoy the longer days filled with sun. But with longer days come mowing the grass, spring clean-up and messed-up bedtime routines for school-age children. While I enjoy basking in the sun until November rolls around, I am ready to come back inside and take a break from the outdoor chores. Come March, it's time to repeat the thought process all over again.

In the early 1900s, William Willet, a contractor in England, noticed the shades were often drawn against the early-morning summer sun, so he suggested a novel change for his country.

If the government could move the clock ahead during the spring and summer months, people would rise with the sun rather than blocking it out. He wrote an essay, "The Waste of Daylight," and DST was born.

The United States latched onto the idea during World War I, then dropped it, and later reinstated it during World War II — not to save daylight but to save energy. Eventually, the Uniform Time Act of 1966 made daylight saving time consistent throughout the United States, except in Hawaii and Arizona.

The country continues the practice with the hope that longer daylight hours will reduce the need for electric lighting in the evening. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 even extended DST — once an April ritual — by a month, so Americans spring forward on the second Sunday in March and fall back on the first Sunday of November.

In general, energy use and the demand for electricity to light our home are directly connected to when we go to bed and when we get up. Bedtime for most of us is late evening through the year. When we go to bed, we turn off the lights and TV.

In the average home, about 25% of all the electricity we use is for appliances, lighting, and TV and media equipment, such as phone chargers and video game consoles. Most of this energy is consumed in the evening when families are home. By moving the clock ahead one hour, we can cut the amount of electricity we use each day.

This year, take advantage of daylight to save energy in your own home. Don't forget to set your clocks *forward one hour* on **March 12**, the second Sunday in March.

As I enjoy the last few months of not having grass to mow, I look forward to the longer days that springing forward brings by replacing my oven with a grill and campfire. Also, I'm thankful my daughters have a later bedtime so we can spend more time together as a family. 🍷

EMILY BAER

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND MEMBER SERVICES

Co-op Member Creates Bucket List for Adventurers to Enjoy Keystone State

EMILY BAER, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & MEMBER SERVICES

SOME HAVE THEM, SOME DON'T.

Throughout life, many people write down experiences or achievements they hope to have or accomplish during their lifetime. Examples can be as extreme as skydiving, exploring another country, running a marathon, or bungee jumping, or as simple as visiting a waterfall, hiking trails in a state park, or touring a museum.

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member Rusty Glessner, a history buff with an adventurer's spirit and creator of PA Bucket List, combines his passion of landscape and travel photography with researching and reviewing the places he photographs.

What started out as a hobby quickly

attracted more and more followers on social media. Posting beautiful scenic photographs soon led to answering questions such as, "Where is this?" or "How do I find that?" and fielding phone calls, emails and private messages.

"I thought to myself, why don't I start a website where I share my photos as well as the backstory and directions to those attractions?" Rusty recalls. He soon realized that while people enjoyed his photography, what they really wanted was to experience these places for themselves. And that's how PA Bucket List was born.

As he begins his 5th year of travel blogging, Rusty continues to offer great advice about adventuring in the Key-

stone State. If interested in visiting waterfalls, spring is usually the best season because that's when the water levels are generally highest. In the summer, he likes to visit the state park beaches and seasonally open museums. In the fall, Rusty turns his attention to scenic overlooks when bugs are less of an issue and the foliage is peaking with hues of yellow, orange, and red. And in the winter, he mainly spends time in museums when the snow and ice make a lot of the mountain and forest roads too treacherous to drive.

To find new content, Rusty travels three to four times a week during the spring and fall and uses the winter as his "writing season" to catch up and write about all the places he visited earlier in the year.

When asked what the No. 1 PA Bucket List place to visit is, Rusty says it largely depends on the person's area of interest.

"For history buffs, it's hard to top Independence Hall in Philadelphia or Gettysburg," he says. "For nature lovers, the Pa. Grand Canyon located in Tioga State Forest near Wellsboro — near Tri-County REC territory — and the towering waterfalls of the Poconos would be near the top of the list.

"For thrill seekers, the whitewater at Ohiopyle or the many rollercoasters at Hershey Park would fit the bill," he continues. "That's the beauty of what I do — trying to visit a variety of places to appeal to a wide audience allows me personally to see and experience places I might have otherwise never thought to explore."

Rusty also points out another destination in rural electric cooperative territory.



FALLINGWATER: A unique house built partly over a waterfall on Bear Run in Mill Run in Fayette County. It was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935 and deemed the most unique destination according to PA Bucket List creator Rusty Glessner.

“The World’s End State Park in Sullivan County is one of my favorite Pa. state parks,” he says. “It contains waterfalls, scenic overlooks, and mountain trails in and around the park.”

Sullivan County REC is just a few miles from the park entrance.

And don’t forget about adventure for the children and grandchildren. According to Rusty, the best kept secret spot for kids is the Parker Dam State Park in Clearfield County. It has a great beach, several kid-friendly boardwalks, and an interesting interpretive center at the park office, and yet it doesn’t seem to be on the radar of a lot of folks.

But the overall, most unique destination in Rusty’s opinion is Fallingwater in Fayette County. It’s one of the most famous houses in the world and truly one-of-a-kind he says.

While Rusty enjoys visiting places outside of the state, he has no plans to blog about them. He prefers to stay laser-focused on Pennsylvania and believes that is one of the primary reasons why his blog has grown so fast and became so well-known. Because of Pennsylvania’s geography and history, Rusty says he could write about it until he was 100 years old and still not run out of new material.

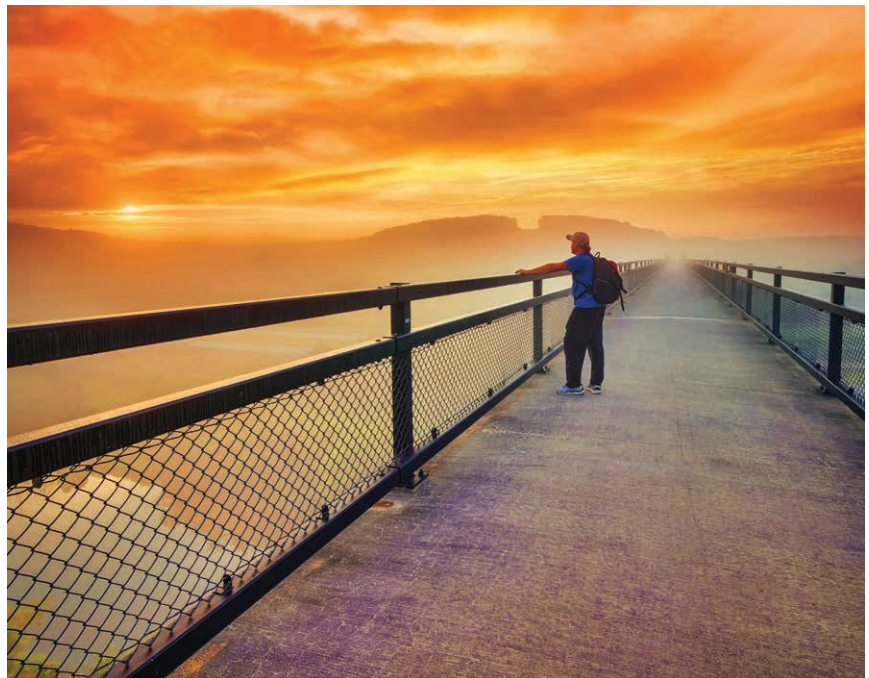
“We live in an amazingly beautiful state with a rich historical and cultural past,” Rusty says. “There is so much to see and do in Pennsylvania, and I’m honored that so many people turn to PA Bucket List to plan their travels and adventures in Pennsylvania.”

When asked if he could create a bucket list for any other state, which one would it be? “West Virginia,” he says. “There is so much natural beauty and history there as well.”

If you’re interested in following Rusty on his travel blogging journey, visit PABucketList.com or find him on Facebook at [@PABucketList](https://www.facebook.com/PABucketList). 📸

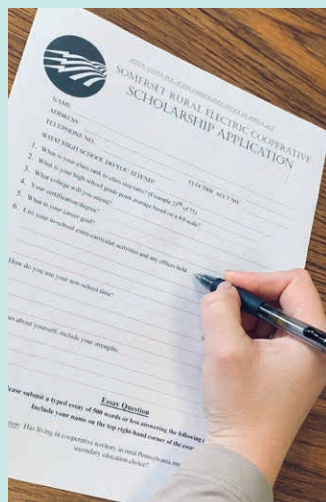


RUSTY RUN FALLS: Rusty Glessner takes a knee beside the Rusty Run Falls, located in the Loyalsock State Forest near Worlds End State Park in Sullivan County. To view this fall, it is fairly easy hike along a well-maintained trail that is also open to horse riding.



GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE: Rusty Glessner stops to capture this beautiful sunrise near the Salisbury Viaduct while hiking the Great Allegheny Passage.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC) will award \$1,000 scholarships to eligible students who qualify. The money to fund this scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state. Thanks to the efforts of our political advocates, we can now keep those funds in our communities.

Eligibility requirements

The applicant must be:

- ▶ a graduating high school senior whose parents or legal guardians are Somerset REC members.
- ▶ a student attending public, private, parochial or home school.
- ▶ enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in an accredited post-secondary institution for the 2023-2024 academic year.

How to apply

Applications are currently available on the co-op's website. Visit somerstetec.com where a link can be found on the homepage for a fillable PDF scholarship application. Applications are also available at the Somerset REC main office and in the guidance offices of most Somerset County high schools.

Application deadline

Applications and all required information must be delivered to the Somerset REC office or postmarked by April 10.

Scholarship selections will be made mid-April. Award recipients will be notified in May.

Please direct questions to ebaer@somerstetec.com or call 814-445-4106.



CHEER FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: Above, Somerset REC member Marilyn Glessner of Berlin stands with a collection of items donated by other co-op members and employees. A record-breaking turnout of items was collected including clothing, blankets, body wash, tissues, chap stick, nail polish, lotion, puzzles, decks of cards, slippers, word search books and holiday decorations. Items were dispersed to nursing homes served by the co-op and other nursing homes in our community. Members who donated were eligible to be entered to win one of five \$50 electric bill credits available. As we collect items for another great cause, we thank our membership for your generosity and hope to continue this program again next year. Below, Somerset REC member Mollie Walker, right, and daughter, Clare, donate a box full of word search books.

