

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

Wayne E. Sechler, 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 Gindesperger,
Manager of Information Technology

Douglas E. Glessner,
Manager of Outside Operations

Jonathan Hillegas,
Director of Finances

Emily Baer,
Director of Marketing and Member Services

Elizabeth Morocco,
Executive Assistant

Phil Stern,
Manager of Metering

Office Hours

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

Emergency Outage Number

814-445-4106
800-443-4255

Guest Column



Commitment to electric safety

By Tawnya Zorn, *Operations Assistant*

MAY IS National Electric Safety Month, a good time to reflect on how your cooperative promotes electrical safety. Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) goes to great lengths to keep you, your family and our employees safe. Whether it is increasing awareness in the community or educating cooperative employees on the dangers of their jobs, Somerset REC is committed to promoting the highest standard of safety.

High voltage wires and equipment are a constant danger for cooperative lineworkers and can also pose a danger to cooperative members and others. This is why continuous electrical safety education is so important.

Line crews participate in monthly training sessions and courses held on-site, which remind employees of the safety aspect of the job and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible. They are also encouraged to attend various Job Training & Safety Schools conducted by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), the statewide association representing the 14 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Another important program Somerset REC participates in is the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). RESAP is a national safety program administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in partnership with PREA. This program provides

electric cooperatives with a framework for continuous improvement in safety performance and culture at all operational levels, from lineworkers and office staff all the way up to senior leadership and the cooperative's board of directors. RESAP focuses on building leadership commitment, increasing employee involvement and providing honest feedback for continuous improvement.

How does the program work? NRECA provides an online module for RESAP area administrators to monitor the progress at each participating electric cooperative. The program is comprised of five steps:

1. **Leadership commitment** — This step encourages the CEO's active participation and dedication to a culture of safety.

2. **Safety health check** — Cooperatives complete this to help them make an internal evaluation of their safety practices.

3. **Safety performance measures** — Cooperatives provide performance measures of key data annually.

4. **On-site observation visit** — Conducted every three years, the on-site visits allow the observation team to gain as much knowledge as possible about the day-to-day operations of the cooperative and provide constructive feedback.

5. **Safety improvement plan** — The plan is updated or developed to give cooperatives a platform to document safety improvements, involve
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2022 director nominees

Directors will be elected to three-year terms in Districts 4, 6 and 8

**DISTRICT 4:
JERRY L. ENGLE**

Jerry L. Engle currently represents District 4 on the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's director training program and received his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications and obtained Director Gold status.

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

Jerry and his wife, the former Mary Susan Shaffer, are the parents of a married son, Bryan, and married daughter, Brooke Bittner. They have two grandsons, Jack and Jace. Jerry is the son of the late Jack and Emma Gene Engle of Meyersdale.

Jerry serves as an elder of Hay's United Church of Christ and the Cemetery Association. He loves to go hunting and is a member of the National Rifle Association.

**DISTRICT 6:
DANIEL JOHNSON**

Daniel Johnson is a director nominee from District 6, residing in Summit Township. He is a graduate of Meyersdale Area High School.

Dan is the facilities manager for Meyersdale Area School District, where he has worked for the last 23 years.

Previously, he worked as a construction supervisor at various power plants across the United States.

He is a member of Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church. In his spare time, he enjoys working around the family farm, beekeeping, and trying to keep up with the grandchildren.

Dan lives on Old Mule Trail Road in Garrett with his wife, the former Barbara "Sue" Dirienzo. He has two grown children: Erin, who is married to Jason Vangilder; and Marty, who is married to Amy Thomas. He is the proud grandfather of six and enjoys spending time with his family.



Jerry L. Engle

**DISTRICT 6:
P. TIMOTHY VOUGHT**

P. Timothy Vought is a director nominee from District 6, residing in Summit Township. He graduated from Meyersdale Joint High School and continued his education at Penn State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and master's degree in agricultural science education.

He is retired from Rockwood Area High School, where he was an ag science teacher and varsity rifle coach. Currently, he is semi-retired from working on his family farm.

Tim enjoys volunteering at many local organizations throughout the county. He is a member of Amity United Church of Christ in Meyersdale, where he is an elder and president of the consistory, and a life member of the National Rifle Association, Penn State Alumni Association and Pennsylvania Young Farmers. Tim is also an annual member of the Rockwood Young Farmers organization and Somerset County Farm Bureau. In 1964, he was selected to attend the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Tim resides on Old Mule Trail Road in Garrett with his wife, Shirley. In his spare time, Tim 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 are the proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren.

**DISTRICT 6:
KEVIN L. YODER**

Kevin L. Yoder is a director nominee from District 6, residing in Summit Township. He graduated from the University of Pitt-Johnstown in 1994, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering technology.

He previously worked as a civil engineer for CME Engineering before owning his own business, Appalachian Engineering Group, LLC. Kevin is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia and a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Pennsylvania.

Kevin is the assistant varsity boys' basket-



P. Timothy Vought



Kevin L. Yoder

ball coach at Meyersdale Area School District, a board member of Camp Albryoca, and a former board member of Goodwill Menonite Home. He attends St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Somerset.

He and his wife, Penney, reside on Matlick Road in Meyersdale.

**DISTRICT 8:
JOSHUA C. SECHLER**

Joshua C. Sechler represents District 8 and resides 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 degree in history and economics, and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association's Advanced School of Banking.

Since 2005, Joshua has been employed at Somerset Trust Company and is currently an assistant vice president, senior relationship development officer.

Joshua enjoys volunteering at many local organizations throughout the county. He is a member of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society and secretary of Kingwood I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 1010. He is a director for the following organizations: Kingwood Picnic Association, Kingwood I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Crossroads Cemetery Association, Younkin Cemetery Association and Jersey Settlement Cemetery Association. Joshua is a member of Faith Assembly in Uniontown, Somerset-Cambria Chapter of the SAR and Mount Union Church Camp No. 502.

He resides on Kingwood Road in Confluence with his wife, Mallory, and daughter, Audia. In his spare time, Joshua 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.



Joshua C. Sechler



SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

83rd 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 26, 2022

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU VOTING FROM 3:30 TO 6:30 p.m.

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



District 4

Jerry L. Engle



District 6

P. Timothy Vought
Kevin L. Yoder
Daniel Johnson



District 8

Joshua C. Sechler

The following are guidelines that we want to communicate to our members:

- We are asking that you remain in your vehicle at all times throughout the drive-thru event.
- Upon arrival, members will split into two lanes and be directed to a registration table.
- Each registered member will receive a \$10 electric bill credit.
- Please proceed to the next area, where each member will cast his/her ballot.
- Continue to the last designated area to receive your gift.
- We ask that you exit promptly to keep traffic flowing smoothly.
- Multiple members may be in the same vehicle.

Registration: Registration begins at 3:30 p.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m. Please bring the enclosed registration card with you to the drive-thru event. (Note: If you have a joint membership, either one, but not both members, are permitted to register. If the membership is in one name, only the member whose name appears on the membership is eligible to register.)

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



Lowell L. Friedline, Secretary-Treasurer

St. Clair hired at cooperative

TIM ST. CLAIR joined the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) family on Jan. 31 as a custodian and outage dispatcher. Most recently, he worked as a delivery driver for Somerset Candy Company and previously worked as a delivery driver and repair technician for Somerset Med Services.

His responsibilities will include relaying outage information and dispatching crews, maintaining a clean office and shop atmosphere, and assisting organizations that use the community room in the evenings.

He graduated from Rockwood Area High School in 1998 and joins two other classmates employed at the cooperative, Kristi Burkett and Jessica Maurer.

Tim resides in Black Township with his wife, Kim. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, quad riding and being outdoors.



Tim St. Clair

“I’ve always heard great things about being employed at the cooperative, and I’m glad to have the chance to work here,” he said. “I’m excited for the opportunity to work for a great company like Somerset REC and look forward to getting to know and assist the members we serve.”

We’re excited to have you, Tim. We wish you the best! 🌟

Guest Column

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employees and monitor progress on key areas to achieve higher levels of safety performance.

In addition to safety training for employees, Somerset REC is raising awareness about electrical safety in our communities by conducting demonstrations at local schools and community events. There, we show just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity and how to prevent these accidents. The cooperative also promotes electrical safety by engaging with volunteer fire departments and other organizations.

Somerset REC is committed to raising awareness about and encouraging improvements in electrical safety. The cooperative urges you to be aware of electrical hazards, especially during National Electric Safety Month. Check our website and Facebook page to find safety tips and reminders. 🌟

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION, COMMENT, OR CONCERN AS A MEMBER OF THE COOPERATIVE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ADDRESSED? IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY FILLING OUT THIS CARD. A RESPONSE TO YOUR SUBMISSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE, WWW.SOMERSETREC.COM AND FACEBOOK PAGE BY FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022.

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022.

COMING SOON

Comment cards were mailed with your annual meeting notice and registration card. Responses will also be published in the August issue of Penn Lines.

