

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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clarence B. Waltermire, District 5

Vice President

Jerry L. Engle, District 4

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Director of Finances

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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



How safe is your home?

By Tawnya Zorn, *Operations Assistant*

MAY IS National Electrical Safety Month. Each year, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or killed as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their homes.

It's a good time to see what can be done to lessen the possibility of damage or injury from electrical problems or misuse. It is important to check to make sure our electrical systems are appropriate and in good working condition. Here are some warning signs that could indicate a safety hazard.

Overloading circuits by plugging too many electronics or appliances into the same wall plug, power strip, or extension cord can be particularly dangerous in older homes that were not built with today's electrical needs taken into consideration.

Think about your use of high-wattage appliances. Items such as space heaters should not share the same plug with any other item. If there are not enough outlets in a room, or you are depending on extension cords, the safest solution is to install more outlets.

The installation of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupter) in kitchens and bathrooms is part of today's building codes. These wall outlets are easy to identify because they typically have a "reset" and "test" button. They are designed to help prevent against electric shock by shutting off an electric power circuit when it detects that current is flowing along an unintended path. GFCIs should be tested periodically to ensure they are still working.


Older homes may not have this safety

feature. Installing GFCIs could be a potential lifesaver for you or someone in your home. If a regular GFCI outlet is not available, portable GFCIs can be purchased at most hardware stores.

If you encounter frequent circuit breaker tripping or fuse blowing, there could be an overloaded or short circuit, or a ground fault. If a wall receptacle is abnormally warm, becomes discolored, or shoots sparks, there may be arcing or burning behind it due to improperly installed wiring or a loose connection. The outlet itself may be at fault. If you experience dimming or flickering lights, there could be a short in the wiring of your home.

If you detect a persistent burning smell from a light fixture or appliance, it could be because the wrong size of lightbulb is being used or an appliance is malfunctioning. Unplug the appliance or turn off the circuit breaker and investigate. If you feel a tingling sensation or get a shock when you touch an appliance or metal object, unplug the appliance, and stop using it.

Any of these warning signs could be a potential for injury or pose a fire hazard. Get them checked out as soon as possible. Rewiring, adding circuits or upgrading systems are jobs for a qualified, professional electrician. All wiring must meet the minimum standards of the National Electrical Code.

The cooperative encourages you to plug into safety, especially during National Electrical Safety Month. Check our website and Facebook page to find additional safety tips and reminders. 

2021 director nominees

Directors will be elected to three-year terms in Districts 1, 5 and 9

DISTRICT 1: Floyd T. Lehman

Conemaugh Township native Floyd T. Lehman currently represents District 1 on the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a position he has held for the past nine years. He resides at 174 Lost Valley Drive, Boswell.

He retired from Pennsylvania Electric Company where he was employed for 33 years as a lineman. Lehman has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate and the Director Gold rating from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

He is the son of the late Owen and Mable Lehman and is married to the former Chris Thomas. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren. He is a member of Stahl Mennonite Church where he serves on church council and is a trustee and Sunday school teacher. Lehman is a volunteer for the Somerset County Meals on Wheels and St. Francis Food Pantry in Hollsopple.

When not busy volunteering, he enjoys his grandchildren, gardening, being outdoors and golfing.

DISTRICT 5: Clarence "Ben" Waltermire

Clarence "Ben" Waltermire has represented District 5 on the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for the past 27 years. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, the Board Leadership Certificate, and the

Director Gold rating from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Waltermire is a retired educator with 39 years of service. He owns and operates a crop and beef farm in Milford Township near New Centerville. He received a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from California University of Pennsylvania in 1961 and a master's degree in industrial arts from West Virginia University in 1964. His career included teaching metalworking, woodworking, and mechanical drafting and design.

Waltermire and his wife, the former Marie Beck, are the parents of five children and have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandsons. He attends Messiah Lutheran Church where he sings in the choir, teaches Sunday school and serves as a lay worship leader. In addition, he serves as treasurer of the Laurel Hill Lions Club and is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. He volunteers at the New Centerville Farmers and Threshermen's Jubilee.

In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, skiing, doing woodworking and spending time with his grandchildren. He and his wife have been to Costa Rica, Mexico and Biloxi, Miss., with Thrivent Habitat International. He also volunteers with the Laurel Mountain Mission Team.

DISTRICT 9: Harvey W. Reckner Jr.

Currently representing District 9 on Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative's board of directors is Harvey W. Reckner Jr. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, the Board Leadership Certificate and the Director Gold rating from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

A native from Henry Clay Township, he is a retired maintenance supervisor for Westover Paper Company and currently works part time as a logging contractor and farmer. He is the son of the late Harvey and Elsie Reckner and is married to the former Ida Mae Clark. The Reckners reside at 1393 Mae West Road, Confluence, and are the parents of two grown children and have three granddaughters.

Reckner is a graduate of Turkeyfoot Valley Area High School and is a member of Johnson Chapel Methodist Church where he serves on the board of the Cemetery Committee. He has also previously served on the Nominating Committee for Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative and is a life member of the Confluence Fire Department. ☀



Floyd T. Lehman



Harvey W. Reckner Jr.



SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

82nd ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT

SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
223 Industrial Park Rd, Somerset, PA 15501

****Line forms at Somerset REC Warehouse Entrance on Drum Ave****

Thursday, May 27, 2021

3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

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



District 1

Floyd Lehman



District 5

C. Ben Waltermire



District 9

Harvey Reckner, Jr.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold our regular in-person annual meeting again this year. 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 be directed to the registration table. Each registered member will receive a \$10 electric bill credit.
- Proceed to the next 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 7:00 P.M. Please bring your 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 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

WE REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY

"LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE"

HONOR THE COURAGE OUR FALLEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS SHOWED OUR COUNTRY

THE OFFICE OF SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 31.



Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit

- Drinking water & food
- Blankets, pillows & clothing
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Prescriptions
- Basic toiletries
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated clock
- Extra supply of batteries
- Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency numbers
- Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- Toys, books & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies



Co-op Energy Sources

Nationally, electric cooperatives use a variety of fuels to power consumer-members' homes and businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (2019 data)

