

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 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

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

From the General Manager



The sting of curiosity

By Ruston Ogburn

CURIOSITY is a trait unlike any other. My personal curiosity has recently cut into my sleep and gotten me a black eye, but more on that later.

I believe the most important trait for an employee is curiosity. Here, we try to understand how things work and why things happened. This helps us look for better ways to do everything. Usually, things have been done a certain way for a reason, but occasionally we find a change to be beneficial.

Recent disruptions led us to change our annual meeting format. Our experience from these two drive-thru annual meetings shows us that our members like this format. The board will review the format for the next annual meeting, but a big factor will be the increased attendance — nearly three times the number of members — we have seen at the last two events.


I had to convert to a Zoom format to demonstrate a tabletop electrical system to a local school. I was skeptical, but it went surprisingly well. I was concerned that no questions would be asked in the new format. It turned out that even the burden of a remote demonstration cannot stop endless childhood curiosity.

This year's cicada hatch reminded me of my own childhood curiosity. I was 9 when the cicadas arrived two cycles ago and have distinct memories of their shed skin and endless drone. I do not remember seeing them emerge and slowly crawl to the first vertical surface they find. At 43, I still find it hard to stop watching their endless flow, even when I should be sleeping.

Another bug recently sparked my attention, as well. My family was fortunate the 120-year-old farmhouse we moved into five years ago came with two honeybee hives in the walls. Both had been there a long time and had not caused issues, but one needed to be removed during some work we were doing. Killing the hive was not an option, and I was certain I could move it myself.

I had a box to hold the bees and honeycomb, and I dressed in a makeshift bee suit. The bees were more active than I anticipated, but the process went well with only a sting on my neck for the first portion of the removal. As I removed the second half, a bee found a way into my ski goggles. Removing the goggles with hundreds of bees on me seemed like a bad idea, so I continued as this bee crawled across my eyes.

When the bee stung me, I felt fortunate that it was on my eyebrow. And, of course, a honeybee can only sting once, right? That is true if the stinger goes in far enough the first time. But, since it was on my eyebrow, that stinger must not have been in far enough. I found this out when the second sting hit my eyelid, which was a little more painful. This gave me a black eye, but I got the rest of the hive situated outside, and I'm hopeful it will survive. Another win for curiosity.

As always, if you have questions about the cooperative or suggestions for ways we can improve, please stop by or call me, and we'll see if there is something we can do better. 

We owe these people money. Can you help us find them?

The following is a list of names of people who have unclaimed capital credits (money) waiting for them at the cooperative office. Their capital credits checks were returned by the post office as undeliverable. These checks were part of the capital credits retirement mailing in December 2020 for capital credits earned from a portion of 1997.

The cooperative is seeking information about these people. If you have any information that may be helpful in locating the person, or their family if the person is deceased, please contact the Somerset REC business office by phone at 814-445-4106 or toll free at 800-443-4255 or by email at service@somersetrec.com.

PHIL ABERNATHY
PITTSBURGH, PA
LEVADA ACKERMAN
GLENCOE, PA
JENNIFER ADAMS
WILMINGTON, NC
PATRICK ANDREASON
NARVON, PA
YOLANDA ARNOLD
MEYERSDALE, PA
KENNETH BAKER
MARKLETON, PA
MARK V BAR
CENTRAL CITY, PA
SARAH BEAL
MEYERSDALE, PA
JOHN BECONY
LONGS, SC
JAMES BENFORD
ROCKWOOD, PA
INEZ BIBBY
WINDBER, PA
JOHN BISEL
WARREN, OH
MARK BLASKO
JEROME, PA
JAMES BODZIAK
HOLLSOPPLE, PA
NANCY BONATI
PITTSBURGH, PA
ERIC BONONI
GREENSBURG, PA
VICTORIA BOWSER
GRANTSVILLE, MD
DAVID BRAND
PITTSBURGH, PA
FLOYD BREWER
CAIRNBROOK, PA
PATRICK BRIDGE
PITTSBURGH, PA
KEITH BRINKSMAN
PITTSBURGH, PA
EDWARD BRITT
MURRYSVILLE, PA
B ELIZABETH BROUGHER
MARKLETON, PA
KEVIN BROWN
CHAMPION, PA
SHELBY BROWN
ACOSTA, PA
JAMES BROWNE
VERO BEACH, FL
JOHN BURNS
PLEASANT HILLS, PA
PAMELA BURNSWORTH
OHIOPLYE, PA
ARLENE BURNSWORTH

HOOKSTOWN, PA
LOUIS BUSCH
MARKLETON, PA
OMA BUTLER
COEBURN, VA
CHESTER BUTTS
BRIDGEVILLE, PA
JONAS BYLER
FRIEDENS, PA
TODD CAMPBELL
NEW KENSINGTON, PA
CHARLES CANE
CHAMPION, PA
SUSAN CARDENAS
MCLEAN, VA
RHONDA CARRION
BERLIN, PA
FLOYD CASSIDY
STOYSTOWN, PA
MICHAEL CAVASENO
NAPLES, FL
PATRICIA CHAPPUE
SOMERSET, PA
DAVID CHRUSCIEL
CLINTON, MD
GEORGE COLFLESH
CONFLUENCE, PA
WILLIAM COLLINGWOOD
FAIRBANKS, AK
RON COLLINS
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
WINIFRED COOK
STOYSTOWN, PA
RICHARD COSSELL
SMITHTON, PA
BARBARA CROSLY
FORT HILL, PA
RALPH CUSTER
CENTRAL CITY, PA
SHIMER DARR
MEYERSDALE, PA
DANA DAVIS
RIMERSBURG, PA
ELEANOR DEETER
BERLIN, PA
JOHN DEMPSTER
SEWICKLEY, PA
DOUGLAS DETTLING
JOHNSTOWN, PA
DENNIS DIVELY
SOMERSET, PA
ROBERT DUPPSTADT
SOMERSET, PA
RICK EMERICK
HOLLSOPPLE, PA
STEVEN EMERICK
FAIRHOPE, PA

CARL ENT
WASHINGTON, PA
DORA FAIDLEY
SOMERSET, PA
DEBRIA FEARER
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
ROBERT FELIX
HOLLSOPPLE, PA
JOSEPH FERRANTI
SOMERSET, PA
DAVID FIKE
LATROBE, PA
DONNA FISHER
BETHEL PARK, PA
JAY A FISHER
CENTRAL CITY, PA
ROBERT FLEMING
ESPYVILLE, PA
MERRILL FOSTER
APOLLO, PA
WILLIAM FRANTZ
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
JEANETTE FRAZIER
BERLIN, PA
JERRY FULLERTON
MEYERSDALE, PA
TRACY FULMER
PITTSBURGH, PA
ELIZABETH GABERSEK
MADISON, PA
PEARL GAHAGEN
WINDBER, PA
M GALLAGHER
LAWRENCE, PA
MATTHEW GARLAND
CONFLUENCE, PA
DOROTHY GLESSNER
BOSWELL, PA
MICHELE GLOVACH
DAVIDSVILLE, PA
JULIA GOBLE
ROCKWOOD, PA
GARY GRAHAM
GREENSBURG, PA
ROBERT GUSTKE
VIENNA, WV
WALTER HAINES
SOMERSET, PA
LLOYD HAMPE
SOMERSET, PA
DARL HENRY
STOYSTOWN, PA
EVELYN HINTON
JOHNSTOWN, PA
JEFFREY HIXSON
SOMERSET, PA
LINDA HOFF

BRUCETON MILLS, WV
MICHAEL HOFFMAN
SOMERSET, PA
RUTH HOLLAND
BERLIN, PA
AARON HOLLER
EDEN, MD
RICHARD HOSKING
PITTSBURGH, PA
WAYNE HOSSELRODE
LAVALE, MD
JAMES HOUSEL
MEYERSDALE, PA
RICHARD HUGGINS
MARKLETON, PA
DENNIS HURWITZ
PITTSBURGH, PA
SAMUEL ICKES
SCHELLSBURG, PA
SIGRID INGRIM
PITTSBURGH, PA
JOHN JACOB
SOMERSET, PA
ROY JACOBS
CRESSON, PA
DANITA JENKINS
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
EUGENE JUDY
ROCKWOOD, PA
DONNA KELLEY
SPRINGS, PA
DENNIS KETCH
LOCKPORT, NY
DANIEL KIMBLE
ALUM BANK, PA
ALMA J KING
OHIOPLYE, PA
GRACE KING
SOMERSET, PA
HARLEN KING
ADDISON, PA
THEONA KING
SOMERSET, PA
THOMAS KIRBY
PITTSBURGH, PA
LOUISE KREGER
MARKLETON, PA
HARRY LANDIS
JOHNSTOWN, PA
MICHAEL LAWSON
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
RICHARD LAWSON
MILL RUN, PA
CHARLES LEE
PITTSBURGH, PA
DONALD LEGGETT
CAMP HILL, PA

RONALD LEISTER
HYNDMAN, PA
DAVID LEMMON
MARKLETON, PA
BERNARD LENHART
NEWFIELD, NJ
CLAIR LEWIS
ROCKWOOD, PA
NONITA LIM UY
SAINT LOUIS, MO
ROBERT LOCKLIN
SOMERSET, PA
MICHAEL LORIS
JEFFERSON HILLS, PA
KATHY LYNCH
FREDERICK, MD
CHARLES MANGES III
BERLIN, PA
PETER MARCELLI
GLENWOOD, MD
PAUL MASTEN
ROSCOE, PA
JACK MATTHEWS
VALENCIA, PA
FREDA MAUST
FISHERSVILLE, VA
JANE MAUST
BERLIN, PA
MATT MAXWELL
CHAMPION, PA
MATTHEW MCCLINTOCK
CONFLUENCE, PA
WILLIAM MCCLOY
MOUNT PLEASANT, PA
ROGER MCDONALD
CATONSVILLE, MD
DEBORAH MEYERS
MEYERSDALE, PA
DONALD MICHAUD
MARRIOTTSTOWN, PA
ORVILLE MILLER
MEYERSDALE, PA
STEVEN MONTEVERDE
PRESTO, PA
STANLEY MORRISON
LUTHERVILLE, MD
BENITO MOSCATIELLO
PITTSBURGH, PA
LEON MULHOLLEN
SOMERSET, PA
VIOLET MURRAY
MEYERSDALE, PA
DAVID NEWMAN
MEYERSDALE, PA
SALLY NICHOLSON
SOMERSET, PA
EVANELL NICKLOW
MEYERSDALE, PA
SHIRLEY OAKES
GARRETT, PA
VINCENT ODDO
MONROEVILLE, PA
HARRY OHLER
MARKLETON, PA
NOAH OHLER
ROCKWOOD, PA
WILLIAM OLDHAM
WINDBER, PA
JOSEPH O'LEAR

GREENSBURG, PA
TIMOTHY OLSON
WINDBER, PA
KEITH OVERLY
RUFFS DALE, PA
ALBERT PALUMBO
PITTSBURGH, PA
KATHY PARNELL
BADEN, PA
ROBERT PATTON
JOHNSTOWN, PA
TERRI PENDERGRASS
SALISBURY, PA
THEODORE PERSUHN
FAIRHOPE, PA
BERNARD PERUN
PITTSBURGH, PA
RONALD PETRELLI
PITTSBURGH, PA
DENNIS PETRONKO
PITTSBURGH, PA
GEORGE PHILLIPPI
ROCKWOOD, PA
NEIL PHILLIPS
GRANTSVILLE, MD
LEONARD PIRL
SOMERSET, PA
DONALD PLUMMER
MASON, OH
JAMES POLSON
MARCO ISLAND, FL
ROBERT POPE
FISHERTOWN, PA
R BRUCE PORTER
LIVINGSTON, NJ
ROBERT POSI
VAN VOORHIS, PA
CHARLES PRINKEY
CONNELLSVILLE, PA
GREGORY PYLE
SOMERSET, PA
ROBERT PYLE
ATHENS, GA
HARRY PYSSELL
MORGANTOWN, WV
CHARLES RANDALL
SOMERSET, PA
LISA REED
WEXFORD, PA
PAUL REESE
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
TIMOTHY REEVES
WINDBER, PA
MICHAEL REIDENBAUGH
MCMURRAY, PA
BRADLEY REIDER
FAIRHOPE, PA
LARRY REMPEL
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA
JACK REYNOLDS
EAST LIVERPOOL, OH
EDMUND RICCI
PITTSBURGH, PA
PAUL RICE
PITTSBURGH, PA
JAMES RIDINGS
CONFLUENCE, PA
BONNIE RINGLER
CENTRAL CITY, PA

CHARLES ROBB
BERLIN, PA
HARRY ROBBINS
GREENSBURG, PA
IRENE ROBES
LAKE DALLAS, TX
LARRY ROMESBERG
ROCKWOOD, PA
PATRICIA ROSE
SOMERSET, PA
JAY ROSS
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
MYRNA ROSS
SOMERSET, PA
AMY RUGG
CONFLUENCE, PA
DONALD RUGG
SOMERSET, PA
JOHN SABOL
WEST MIFFLIN, PA
RICK SAGER
SOMERSET, PA
BETH SCHOENEGGE
NORWALK, OH
ROY SCHROPP
WINDBER, PA
EDWARD SCRAM
HICKORY, PA
STEVE SEMNISKY
LATROBE, PA
ROBERT SHANK
GEORGETOWN, SC
DAVID SHEPHERD
JOHNSTOWN, PA
KEVIN SHILEY
MARTINSBURG, PA
RONALD SHINDLEDECKER
CUMBERLAND, MD
SUSAN SICHAK
CENTRAL CITY, PA
LINDA SIEMON
SOMERSET, PA
OTIS SISLER
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
JAMES SKELLEY
CUMBERLAND, MD
DALE SMITH
CHAMPION, PA
DONNA SMITH
FORT HILL, PA
HOLLY SNYDER
MILL RUN, PA
JOANNE SNYDER
MCHENRY, MD
STEPHEN SPARCO
WILMINGTON, DE
ANTHONY SPEICHER
BERLIN, PA
LUKE SPEICHER
BOSWELL, PA
ROGER STANTON
MOUNTAIN TOP, PA
ROSALIE STANTON
BOONSBORO, MD
DENNIS STEWART
NEW SMYRNA, FL
HELEN STOWERS
STOYSTOWN, PA
JOHN STRENG

MEYERSDALE, PA
RAYMOND STURTZ
STOYSTOWN, PA
VICTOR SURMA
MOUNT LEBANON, PA
D SWAGER
PITTSBURGH, PA
STEVEN TAYLOR
STOYSTOWN, PA
CHARLES THOMAS
ROCKWOOD, PA
JESSICA THORPE
MILL RUN, PA
FLOE TISSUE
CHARLOTTE, NC
DONALD TITMUS
ALUM BANK, PA
DAN TRESSLER
FROSTBURG, MD
MILDRED UMBEL
FRIENDSVILLE, MD
DEAN VASSAR
BALDWIN, MD
ROBERT VOGEL
SPRING GROVE, PA
ADRIENNE WAGNER
CHAMPION, PA
HARRY WALTER
SOMERSET, PA
JAMES WALTERS
CENTRAL CITY, PA
JACK WEIMER
ROCKWOOD, PA
DENNIS WETZEL
RALEIGH, NC
PATRICIA WILLIAMS
PITTSBURGH, PA
WESLEY WILLIAMS
PITTSBURGH, PA
RUSSELL WILSON
MEYERSDALE, PA
SILAS WILT
SOMERSET, PA
JOSEPH YAPSUGA
PITTSBURGH, PA
RICHARD YATES
PITTSBURGH, PA
DWAYNE YOUNG
JENNERSTOWN, PA
SALLIE ZOERB
SOMERSET, PA
BENEDICTINE SOCIETY
LATROBE, PA
BNFC MORTGAGE CO OF PA
JOHNSTOWN, PA
COLUMBUS OUTDOOR PURSUITS
COLUMBUS, OH
D & D SALES
MEYERSDALE, PA
HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT
HIDDEN VALLEY, PA
MCKEESPORT YMCA
PITTSBURGH, PA
RESORT MANAGEMENT, INC.
CHAMPION, PA
SUPERIOR SAND
BRUCETON MILLS, WV
THE FUNNY FARM
FRIENDSVILLE, MD

82nd drive-thru annual meeting held

THE 82ND Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Annual Meeting was held May 27 at the cooperative office at 223 Industrial Park Road, and it was an even bigger success than last year. A total of 728 members participated in the drive-thru event.

Many provided positive feedback about their experience. Comments included: “I appreciate the convenient location of the drive-thru event” and “Everyone did a wonderful job at plan-

ning the annual meeting and thinking through the drive-thru process.”

After last year, we reassessed the setup and rerouted some vehicles to help prevent traffic backing up at intersections. This seemed to work very smoothly and keep the traffic flowing. Upon arrival, members split into two lanes and began registration. After registering, members received a backpack cooler filled with chips, trail mix and drinks for the ride home.



DRIVE-THRU: Metering Manager Phil Stern, right, greets member Justin Stiffey of Rockwood to verify membership at the drive-thru annual meeting. Stiffey stopped by after work and commented how convenient the drive-thru meeting was for members. The cooperative had 728 members registered and more than 1,000 attendees.

Registered members also received a \$10 bill credit. There was no vote this year because it was an uncontested election for directors.

This year, because of the circumstances, recipients of the \$1,000 Somerset REC scholarships were notified prior to the annual meeting, and there was no entertainment, guest speaker, or basket raffle. Copies of the annual meeting report are available upon request.

Comment cards were also mailed with member registration cards. Responses to those topics are available to view on our website, somersetrec.com, and on our Facebook page. Response categories included: overview of the annual meeting, outages and blinking lights, right-of-way clearing, basic service charge increase, broadband internet, solar panels, monitoring hot water heaters when they are being controlled, and Member Appreciation Day.

The following directors were re-elected without opposition: Floyd Lehman, District 1; Clarence “Ben” Waltermire, District 5; and Harvey Reckner Jr., District 9. During the board reorganization meeting, the following officers were re-elected: Waltermire, president; Jerry Engle, vice president; and Lowell Friedline, secretary/treasurer.

We hope to see you next year! 🌞



FOR THE 20TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, SOMERSET REC IS PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL STUDENTS WHO ARE SEEKING TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL. THIS ASSISTANCE RECOGNIZES WELL-ROUNDED HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC CAREERS, SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE, NOT FINANCIAL NEED. SOMERSET REC AWARDED 11 \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS. THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF THREE SOMERSET REC DIRECTORS AND THREE SOMERSET REC EMPLOYEES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

<p>ABBY LOHR</p> <p>ABE COUNTRYMAN</p> <p>ALLISON JOHNSON</p> <p>EMMA MARTZ</p> <p>JACKSON HAY</p> <p>KEEGAN HUSTON</p>	<p>MAGGIE HAY</p> <p>MCKENZIE BAER</p> <p>MEGAN OTT</p> <p>SIERRA URBAN</p> <p>WILL SPOCHART</p>
---	---

