

# Warren Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Warren Electric Cooperative

320 East Main Street  
Youngsville, PA 16371  
814-563-7548  
OR  
1-800-364-8640  
FAX  
814-563-7012

Email: [wec@westpa.net](mailto:wec@westpa.net)

Website: [www.warrenec.coop](http://www.warrenec.coop)

### Staff

**Gary W. Franklin,**  
General Manager/CEO  
[Gwf.wec@westpa.net](mailto:Gwf.wec@westpa.net)

**Todd M. McClain,**  
Data Processing/Finance/Administration

**Steve C. Sampson,**  
Line Superintendent

**Christopher N. Evans,**  
Engineering & Operations Manager/  
Right-of-Way

**Alan D. Fuller,**

Load Management/Special Projects/  
Software Engineer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dave Turner**  
Chairman

**James Marshall**  
Vice Chairman  
**Robert August**  
Secretary  
**Jeffrey Sedon**  
Treasurer

**Edgar Burris Jr.**  
**James Goodrich**  
**John Hagberg**  
**Richard Harrington**  
**Dean Johnson**

**Emergency Outage Number**  
814-723-9460

**Office Hours**  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## From the General Manager/CEO



*The Warren Electric Cooperative Employees and Board of Directors wish all of our Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.*

### Director nominations

Our annual meeting is not until Monday, May 15, 2017, but we have to start the process early. Before the annual meeting, a Nominating Committee will be appointed by the board. The Nominating Committee will meet in March to propose a list of candidates for the three director positions. Each year, three of the nine director positions are up for election. The three director positions this year are held by Robert August, James Marshall and Jeffrey Sedon. All three are seeking re-election.

There are two ways a member can become a candidate for a director position. A member can be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or nominations for directors may be made by a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative and submitted to the Nominating Committee.

In either case, an interested member must fill out a Director Candidate Application and a Director Qualification Certification. Both forms, along with the petition, if applicable, must be submitted to the cooperative by the due date (Feb. 24, 2017) prior to the meeting of the Nominating Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for director, check out the qualifications and other information on Page 14d. To request a packet, fill out the "Interested Candidate" form and return it to the cooperative. You may also call or email Gary Franklin and request a packet (563-7548 or [gwf.wec@westpa.net](mailto:gwf.wec@westpa.net)).

If you are interested in serving on

the Nominating Committee, please contact the office for more information 889. Election of directors will be held at the annual meeting on May 15, 2017.

Warren Electric Cooperative is owned and democratically controlled by the members who use our service. Each member of the cooperative has one vote; thus everyone has an equal say in the cooperative.

### Office happenings

The cooperative welcomed 23 new members in September. That brings our membership to 7,615 and our connected accounts to 8,723.

The cooperative office will be closed Dec. 23 and 26 for the Christmas holidays and Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

### A little bit of humor?

Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree in your living room eating candy and snacks out of your socks?

### Christmas brain teaser

The elves are loading presents onto Santa's sleigh. As they work, they get faster and faster, and they double the number of presents they load each minute. If they load seven presents in the first minute, how many presents have they loaded after seven minutes? (*The answer is on this page somewhere.*)

Merry Christmas  
Gary W. Franklin

# When a lightbulb goes off

*How inventors get their ideas — and why that’s just the beginning*

By Paul Wesslund

IF YOU’RE in search of a holiday gift for your favorite energy buff, consider the new novel by award-winning screenwriter Graham Moore.

Moore tells the story of the legal, technical and public relations battle between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s that gave us the electric system we use today.

“The Last Days of Night,” fiction based on fact, gives an entertaining look at the fight between Westinghouse’s system of alternating current (AC) and Edison’s plan to use direct current (DC) to power America.

But the book is also about the process of invention and how ideas become reality. Each chapter starts with a quotation from a noted inventor. As we prepare for a new year with new possibilities, let’s take a look at some of the creative quotes shared in “The Last Days of Night:”



## Bright Ideas

*“I have not failed. I’ve just found ten thousand ways that don’t work.”*

— Thomas Edison

- ▶ “I have not failed. I’ve just found ten thousand ways that don’t work.” — Thomas Edison
- ▶ “... half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure

- perseverance.” — Steve Jobs
- ▶ “High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.” — Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the electrical starter
- ▶ “Headlines, in a way, are what

*Merry Christmas and a very  
Happy New Year  
from the board, CEO and  
employees at  
Warren Electric Cooperative, Inc.*



mislead you, because bad news is a headline and gradual improvement is not.” — *Bill Gates*

- ▶ “You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.” — *Albert Einstein*
- ▶ “We often miss opportunity because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work.” — *Thomas Edison*
- ▶ “Technology is nothing. What’s important is that you have a faith in people, that they’re basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they’ll do wonderful things with them.” — *Steve Jobs*

I hope these quotes inspire you as they did me. Moore’s “The Last Days of Night” is available for purchase through most major book retailers. It’s a great gift idea for any energy buff — or any creative genius, for that matter. 🌟

*Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

**Warren Electric Cooperative’s office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas, and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year’s**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

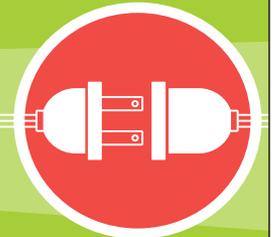
Source: [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter’s Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



## Interested in running for the cooperative's board of directors?

**AT THE** annual meeting, three director positions will be up for election. Prior to the annual meeting, the Warren Electric Cooperative Board of Directors will appoint a Nominating Committee. The committee will review all Director Applications and Director Qualification Certifications submitted by interested members. They will then nominate qualified individuals.

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE A DIRECTOR?

Warren Electric Cooperative encourages all interested members to consider becoming a candidate for the board of directors. However, there are a few requirements or qualifications. These qualifications are listed below:

**Section 3. Qualifications.** All directors and director candidates must be eligible to serve in compliance with this bylaw.

**A. General Qualifications.** To become or remain a director, a person must:

1. Be a natural person; and
2. Have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; and
3. Be bondable; and
4. Not, while a director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a director, be nor have been convicted of a criminal offense (excluding summary or traffic) or have pled guilty or no contest to a criminal offense (excluding summary or traffic); and
5. Unless excused for a good cause by the board, attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of all regular board meetings during any twelve (12) month period; and
6. While a director, make a reasonable effort to receive a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, Director's Certificate, or similar certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association within six (6) years of becoming a director.

**B. Membership Qualifications.** To become or remain a director, a person must:

1. Be a member of the cooperative in good standing by virtue of individual or joint membership at his or her primary residence for a minimum of two (2) years; and
2. Permanently occupy and continuously and materially use the cooperative's electric energy and service at his or her principal place of abode at a location within the area served by the cooperative; and
3. Be a legal citizen of the United States of America.

**C. Conflict of Interest Qualifications.** To become or remain a director, a person must not be:

1. A close relative of any existing director; nor
2. An employee, or a past employee, within five (5) years preceding the date of election, or a close relative of an existing or ineligible employee; nor
3. Employed by, or affiliated with, nor sharing a financial interest with, any other director or employee of the cooperative; nor
4. Engaged in any business, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, nor having a material financial interest in any individual, or entity, that regularly, directly, or substantially

competes with the cooperative or any entity in which the cooperative owns a substantial interest; or that regularly sells goods or services to the cooperative or a cooperative subsidiary in a material amount; or that possesses any other substantial and recognizable conflict of interest with the cooperative or a cooperative subsidiary.

*Note: For the purpose of this section, a "close relative" is defined as a person who by blood or marriage is either a spouse, child, step-child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister; or by blood an aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, or first cousin.*

### DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

At the annual meeting, a member may vote by proxy, executed in writing, by the absent member. A member may assign his proxy only to another member. No member shall vote as proxy for more than three absent members at the annual meeting. The three directors with the highest three vote tallies will be elected as directors.

### DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The board of directors meets the third Wednesday of each month at the cooperative's headquarters in Youngsville. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and usually last until 10:30 p.m. Each director is reimbursed for actual mileage and receives a per diem for each meeting. There are nine directors on the Warren Electric Cooperative board. Each director serves a three-year term.

Directors are responsible for developing cooperative policies and long-range plans, approving budgets, hiring the general manager, and voicing members' concerns. There are schools and updates available for directors in different areas of the state.

If you have any questions, contact Gary Franklin at the co-op office, 814-563-7548, or email [gwf.wec@westpa.net](mailto:gwf.wec@westpa.net).

## Board of Directors Interested Candidate

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this form in if you are interested in being a candidate for the Warren Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. A director election packet will be sent to you.*

Send to: Warren Electric Cooperative  
Director Nominations  
320 East Main Street • Youngsville, PA 16371

**Submit to cooperative as soon as possible**