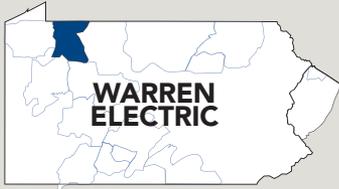


# Warren Electric Cooperative

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**  
**Don Johnson**

Emergency Outage Number  
814-723-9460

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

## From the General Manager/CEO

# High school juniors: earn a FREE trip to Washington, D.C.

By Gary Franklin

**THE** annual Rural Electric Youth Tour is scheduled for June 2016. The trip to Washington, D.C., is open to 16- to 19-year-old high school juniors. To be considered for the all-expenses-paid trip, students must live in a household that receives electricity from Warren Electric Cooperative.

Students will learn about the legislative process and electric cooperatives. The best part is that students will meet other students from all over the United States. They will join together in many activities.

Students will be required to attend two meetings at the Warren Electric Cooperative office. Tentative meeting dates are March 1, 2016, and March 8, 2016. Please fill out and return the Youth Tour form in this issue of *Penn Lines*. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Todd or Alan at the cooperative.

## Monthly brain teaser

Every student in a second-grade class sends a valentine to each of the other students in the class for a total of 306 valentines. How many students are in the class? (The answer is somewhere on this page.)

## Ice and wind

The major storm system that affected most of the country during Christmas week hit our area on Dec. 29, 2015, with ice and wind. We had approximately 4,000 members without electricity. Line crews worked over 24 hours to reduce that number to fewer than 1,000 before taking a rest period the next night. All power was restored by Dec. 30. A big thank you to

our employees for a job well done and to you, the members, for your patience.

## Your meter reading

Reminder — meter readings are due in the office no later than the 20th of each month. There are several ways to get your reading to us.

You can write the reading on your stub before mailing your payment, call the office 24 hours a day and leave your reading on our answering machine, email your reading in at [wec@westpa.net](mailto:wec@westpa.net), or go to our website listed on this page and follow the instructions. It is important, especially this time of year, to have an accurate meter reading so your bill reflects your current use.

## Do you have a question for the annual meeting?

Again, we are giving the members an opportunity to submit a question prior to the annual meeting. We will then address as many of the questions as we have time for during the meeting. Please send or email your question in by April 30.

## Office happenings

The cooperative welcomed 32 new members in November. That brings our membership up to 7,641 and our connected accounts to 8,767.

The cooperative office will be closed Feb. 15, 2016, in observance of Presidents Day.18

## A little bit of humor?

Am I crazy because I hear voices ... or are you because you can't? 

### Question for the annual meeting

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Send to the co-op, attention Gary Franklin or email to [gwf.wec@westpa.net](mailto:gwf.wec@westpa.net)

# Top five energy users in your home

## A starting point for savings

By Anne Prince

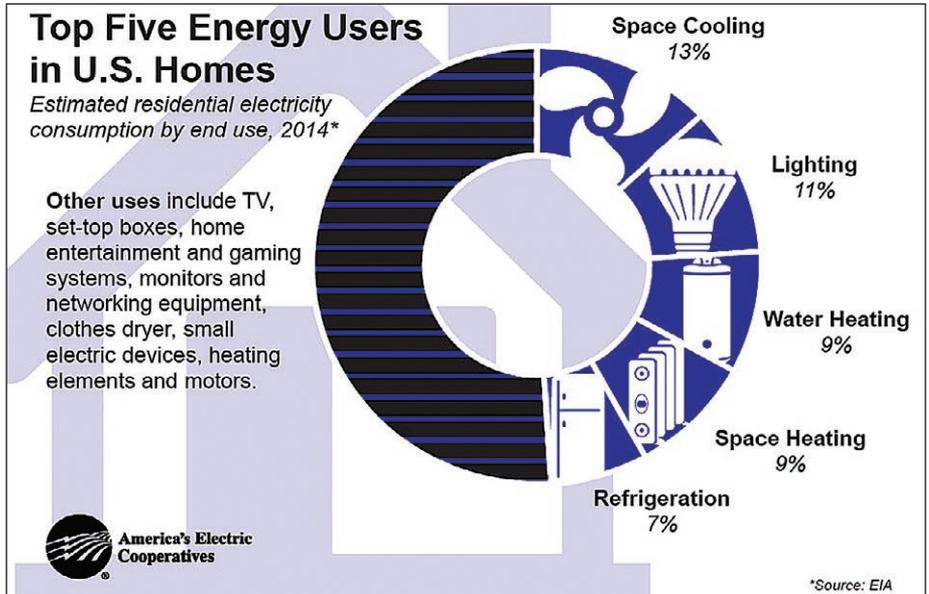
WHILE most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

### Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest



bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- ▶ During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ During warm weather, the recom-

mended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

- ▶ Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from 5 to 15 percent.
- ▶ Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.



## DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries** and **\$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

Are you overloading outlets?  
Use this formula to find out:

$$\text{WATTAGE/VOLTS}=\text{AMPS}$$

### Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20-amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of the available current.

- ▶ Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

### Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

### Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your

roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

### Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by

current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. For additional ways to save, go to Warren Electric Cooperative's HomeEnergySuite on our website. 

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs 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.*

## High school juniors may apply for Rural Electric Youth Tour

**CALLING ALL** high school juniors! Warren Electric Cooperative invites you to compete for a spot on the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Students who are chosen will represent Warren Electric Cooperative this June on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to mix education and fun by touring historical sites, meeting with federal legislators, and making new friends with other high school students from 42 states.

A special Youth Tour study program will be held on March 1 and March 8 at

7 p.m. at the Warren Electric Cooperative office building in Youngsville.

Selected students will be among 1,600 students from across the nation who will visit a number of interesting sites in our nation's capital the week of June 12-17, 2016. 

### Apply now

Pennsylvania Youth Tour dates are June 12-17, 2016. Special Youth Tour study programs will be held at 7 p.m. on March 1 and March 8 at the Warren Electric Cooperative office in Youngsville.

### Rural Electric Youth Tour 2016

Parents must be Warren Electric Cooperative members

YES! I am interested in the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 12-17, 2016

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

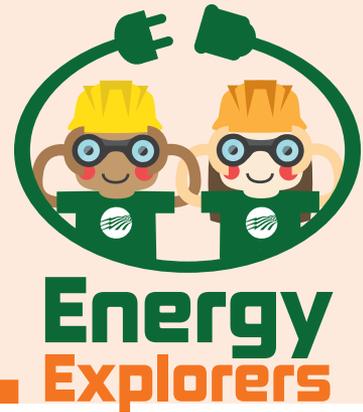
Send this completed coupon (or a facsimile) to Alan D. Fuller, Warren Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 208, Youngsville, PA 16371

**Coupons must be received by February 29, 2016**





# ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ



Electricity is great! We use it to light our homes, watch TV with our families and enjoy many other activities. But electricity can be dangerous if we aren't careful when using it. Test your electrical safety knowledge by answering the questions below.

- 1) It is safe to run extension cords under carpet or rugs in your home.
  - A. False
  - B. True
  
- 2) How often should smoke alarms in your home be tested?
  - A. Once a year
  - B. Once a month
  - C. Once every three months
  
- 3) How far should items be kept away from space heaters?
  - A. At least one foot
  - B. At least five feet
  - C. At least three feet
  
- 4) Overloaded outlets can overheat and cause a fire.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
- 5) When using an electrical appliance or playing with an electrical toy outside, what is the minimum distance you should keep between yourself and any wet surface or swimming pool?
  - A. Ten feet
  - B. Five feet
  - C. Three feet

 How many did you get right? Check the answer key below!

Answers:  
1) A. 2) B. 3) C. 4) A. 5) A.