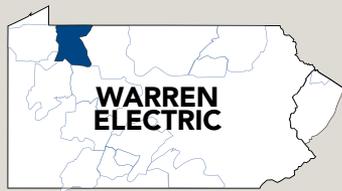


Warren Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Warren Electric Cooperative

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OR
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Staff

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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

77th annual meeting

By Gary W. Franklin

THE 77th annual meeting of Warren Electric was held at Youngsville High School on May 16 with more than 300 members, friends and guests in attendance. The Rev. Doug Thompson gave the invocation.

Incumbent directors David Turner and Richard Harrington were re-elected to three-year terms. Dean Johnson was elected to an open position for a three-year term. We had 156 registered members and 30 proxies.

The door prize this year was an LED lightbulb good for 25,000 hours of operation. We continued with the prizes this year. The grand prize was \$500, with 25 \$50 prizes handed out during the meeting.

The 2015 Youth Tour student, Alex Sanford, reviewed the highlights of his trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the Youth Tour program. He thanked the members for the opportunity to represent Warren Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C.

Don Johnson, retiring director, received



Don Johnson

an award for his more than 50 years of service on the board of directors. He briefly spoke to the members about his experiences on the board.

His son, Dean Johnson, was elected to fill his position on the board.

Chairman Turner spoke about the challenges of replacing electricity lost by the closing of coal power plants. Several natural gas plants are scheduled to come on-line in the next several years, as well as a couple of nuclear plants.

He also challenged members to switch

over to LED lighting. He reported savings from the switch at the cooperative office and PREA building in Harrisburg, noting that conservation is the least expensive way to ensure an ongoing supply of electricity.

He also reported there will be no rate increase for cooperative members in 2016.

In my remarks to the members, I talked about stable rates, which have not changed over the last couple of years. The cooperative refunded \$475,000 to the members in 2015, and plans on refunding over \$500,000 this fall.

Hazlett Tree Service is performing right-of-way trimming on our lines. We are sticking with our 4 1/2-year cycle. Our pole inspection is now on an 8-year cycle, down from a 10-year cycle.

The cooperative is about halfway through our meter change program. We are retiring the old mechanical meters and replacing them with electronic digital meters.

The Pleasant Community Church served pie and ice cream after the meeting.

The 77th annual meeting was a great success. Mark your calendars now for next year's annual meeting on May 15, 2017.

Warren County Fair reminder

The 79th Warren County Fair will be held the week of Aug. 8. Please support your county fair by attending at least one day. Visit the fair website at www.warren-countyfair.net for a current schedule. 



Dave Turner

Plan for a safe and happy Fourth

By Meghaan Evans

THE MONTH of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school and, of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream, and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Warren Electric Cooperative, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display. The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- ▶ Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- ▶ Make sure to wear protective eye-wear when lighting fireworks.



- ▶ Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a "dud."
 - ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
 - ▶ Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.
- Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and

a side helping of safety. We recommend the following safety tips:

- ▶ Supervise your grill at all times.
- ▶ Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- ▶ Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- ▶ Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- ▶ Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; or rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, Warren Electric Cooperative wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July! ☀

Meghaan Evans 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Source: energy.gov

You are a member, not a customer

That's the co-op difference!

By Adam Schwartz

MANY businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. Places like Sam’s Club or Costco and even American Express like to refer to their customers as members. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but that is really all you get for the “membership.” No right to vote for the board of directors or to participate in any meaningful way in the organization.

In cooperatives like Warren Electric Cooperative, membership really does mean something more than just the right to buy electricity. Co-ops of all types are founded on seven cooperative principles that give us guidance and strategic direction. Membership also gives you rights as an owner of this co-op.

Brett Fairbairn is the director of the Center for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He makes the case that member relations is not just part of what co-ops should be doing, but in fact is the funda-

mental core business of the cooperative. He further lays out the three strategic concepts that any co-op must get right in order to survive and thrive:

Economic linkage

Warren Electric Cooperative is connected to you. There is a business relationship that serves you (the member) and the co-op. Since co-ops are solely owned by people in the community, they have a mutual interest to ensure that both the co-op and the member do well and prosper.

Transparency

As an owner of the co-op, you have a right to know how it operates and how decisions are made that directly impact you. If the co-op is transparent and combines this trait with integrity and fairness, it will build trust with the members.

Cognition

In this case, cognition is best defined as how your co-op thinks. It includes the current and historical identity, the

mission, and the sense of shared values with co-op members. Research, education and training are critical functions that Warren Electric Cooperative must conduct on an ongoing basis to ensure that we always have the best information to make decisions.

The cooperative business model is the best one on earth, but like any enterprise, it is up to the human beings who work at the co-op, who serve on the board, and the members like you to ensure that the principles and values do not fade over time.

First and foremost, Warren Electric Cooperative strives to be thought of as a member-owned cooperative that gives you the best value of any utility. If we succeed, our community thrives and you will always value being a member — not a customer. 🌟

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop.

Use caution near co-op equipment

By Abby Berry

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Warren Electric Cooperative reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous – or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it no matter how furry and cute! Call Warren Electric Cooperative at 800-364-8640 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- ▶ Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- ▶ Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at Warren Electric Cooperative, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit <http://www.esfi.org> for more electrical safety tips.

Abby Berry 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.



FOURTH OF JULY



The Energy Explorers wish you and your family a safe and Happy Fourth of July! Complete this coloring sheet and spread the message of safety.



Energy Explorers

COLORING SHEET



SAFETY TIPS

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIP:

Kids should NEVER play with fireworks! Only adults should handle fireworks.

GRILLING SAFETY TIP:

NEVER run and play near a grill! Keep a minimum of three feet between you and the grill.

SUNBURN SAFETY TIP:

Avoid sunburn! Remember to apply plenty of sunscreen (SPF of 30 or higher) if you're playing outdoors.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES