

# 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](mailto:e-mail@somersetrec.com)  
Website: [www.somersetrec.com](http://www.somersetrec.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

**Wayne E. Sechler, District 6**

### Vice President

**James C. Brocht, District 8**

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Lowell L. Friedline, District 3**

**Floyd T. Lehman, District 1**

**William L. Glessner, District 2**

**Jerry L. Engle, District 4**

**Clarence B. Waltermire, District 5**

**Carl A. Hay Jr., District 7**

**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*

**Carline Mitchell,**

*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



## Appreciate the small things in life

By Ruston Ogburn

IT'S ALWAYS nice to take a moment to reflect on the things we are thankful for — especially this time of year. I was reminded of this when I recently heard a list of “Top 10” things that people would miss if they traveled back in time. They are:

10. Wi-Fi
9. Laptops
8. Supermarkets
7. Plane travel
6. Cars
5. Smartphones
4. Televisions
3. Central heating and air-conditioning
2. The internet
1. Flushing toilets

I expected most of these items to be on the list but No. 1 did surprise me. What did not surprise me is the common thread that all of these items share. Eight of these things rely on electricity to operate and the other two — planes and cars — sure are a lot safer when electricity gets used for air traffic control and traffic lights.

It's interesting that electricity itself did not make the list. I think that hap-

pened because electricity has become so common and so reliable that we simply take it for granted. If that is the case for our members, I'm not offended. We do our best to make sure you do not have to think about your electric service and, if you do, that you're happy with the service you have.

As we wrap up a successful year, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of our employees and directors who make this cooperative such a wonderful place to work. And on behalf of this group, I would also like to thank our members who make the cooperative work through their involvement and commitment to what the cooperative stands for. We never forget that we work for our members.

During this time of the year, all of the employees and directors at the cooperative take some time to reflect on the previous year and spend time together as part of a cooperative family. I hope this holiday season provides each of you with the opportunity to be surrounded by family and friends. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. ☀

## Holiday closings

Somerset REC's office will be closed for the holidays on the following days:

Monday, Dec. 24, and

Tuesday, Dec. 25 — Christmas

Tuesday, Jan. 1 — New Year's Day

# Stained glass – a colorful work of art

By Emily Baer

D.J. ELLIOTT moved to the suburbs of Shanksville, Pa., after landing a job with PBS Coals after graduating from Penn State University as a mining engineer in 1994. After moving to the rural area, he knew he would have to find a hobby or two to keep him busy. But it wasn't until 2012, when a friend of his was taking a stained glass class taught by Dottie Borosky, owner of Dare to B Different at Laurel Arts, that Elliott decided to take a few classes.

Since that class, he has self-designed and taken ideas from others to create pieces of art and found that his inner engineer may have a niche for glass design.

## The guts

It all starts with an idea. An animal, flower, shape or logo — the possibilities are endless. The process starts with a coloring book-type page sketch with a design. Then, it's time to choose from a wide range of glass colors. Colored glass is created with metallic salts that are incorporated in the manufacturing process. Each sheet of glass is about 1/8 inch thick. The pattern is drawn directly on the piece of glass and then an etcher is used to cut the shape.

"After the shape is cut, I use a grinder to smooth the rough edges, so I don't



STAINED GLASS ART: D.J. Elliott stands next to his self-designed piece, a winery scene. A stained-glass piece such as this takes 40-50 hours to complete.

cut myself," Elliott says with a chuckle. "Plus, grinding the edges helps when applying the tape around the edge of the glass, prepping for it to be soldered."

The glass is cut in individual pieces, wrapped with copper fusing tape and then laid out in the pre-determined design. Once the pieces are in place, the soldering begins to fuse together the pieces to create the masterpiece. This process is better known as the Tiffany

Stained Glass method.

There are many different techniques of stained glass; however, Elliott typically uses the Tiffany or Lead Came method. The Lead Came method is in the form of a letter "H," which joins two pieces of lead together, or a "U" that is commonly used around the edge of the window or frame. The glass pieces slide into a track to form the colorful design. Ends will then be soldered to make it bind together. Grout is used to fill in the open spaces.

"This is a very time-consuming hobby," Elliott says, reminiscing over stained glass pieces he has designed. "Lamp shades can be challenging because of the 3-D aspect, but the toughest design is anything with a flower because of the small, intricate pieces of glass it requires."

Every piece created is a minimum of 10 hours; however, some pieces have taken 40 to 50 hours to complete. A stained-glass winery scene on display in Elliott's kitchen was one of his largest pieces to date. His next largest piece is a sunflower he designed for his aunt, plus he has completed more than 30 smaller window pieces.



FAMOUS LION: It's safe to say the famous Nittany Lion is proudly on display in this Penn State University graduate's home.

## The glory

Friends and family frequently ask Elliott to put his talent to work. He has created pieces and donated to numerous charities and fundraisers over the years, including the Dress to the Nines event the past four years. Dress to the Nines is a local nonprofit group that raises money for cancer awareness. He takes great pride in his work and has stained glass pieces on display throughout his home, giving most of his windows an extra bit of color.

## The masterpiece

Stained-glass art has a history dating back centuries, and Elliott also has a history with rural electric co-ops. In the middle of his junior year at Allegheny-Clarion Valley High School, Elliott's home was served by Somerset Rural Electric's sister co-op, Central

Electric Cooperative in Parker, Pa. He applied and was selected to join more than 1,500 students across America for the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Elliott recalls his week in Washington, D.C., as being a great learning experience and would recommend the week in June to any junior in high school. Since moving to Somerset County, he has crossed paths with people he remembers meeting on the Youth Tour from Somerset Rural Electric. Coincidentally, one of his friends he met on the Youth Tour, Keith Leydig, is also a co-op member. It seems as if these guys were a stained-glass masterpiece in the making — taking life experiences along the way, comparable to individual pieces of glass, and shaping those experiences to form a cooperative membership in rural America. ☀

## A day of giving

The annual Member Appreciation Day and food donation drive were held at the cooperative office on Oct. 5. The come-and-go-style lunch featured grilled kielbasa, hot dogs, sauerkraut, chips, cookies and ice cream sandwiches. Members attending the event received a weatherization kit, which included weather stripping, caulking, spray foam insulation and an LED lightbulb. A \$100 bill credit drawing was available for those donating a



HELPING HAND: Co-op Director Floyd Lehman assists members by drying off the ice-covered cans of soda during the luncheon.

canned good or nonperishable food item. The winner of the drawing was David Saylor of Berlin. This year, co-op members filled the back of a pickup truck with food donations to benefit the Somerset Mobile Food Bank. Each year, the food donation location rotates to cover food pantries in need within our co-op territory. We look forward to seeing you next year! ☀



FOOD DONATIONS: Ben Tawney, director of the mobile food bank, front left, accepts donations as co-op employees Zack Pritts, far left, and Jonathan Hillegas, front right, help unload items collected by co-op members.

**Give the Gift of Electricity.**

*A Somerset Rural Electric Gift Certificate could brighten the holidays for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life.*

*Call or stop by our office for details.*

 **Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy\* Cooperative 

Industrial Parkway • Somerset, PA (814) 445-4106

**Gift Certificate**

To \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you*

**Directors**

JAMES C. BROCHT  
JERRY L. ENGLE  
LOWELL L. FRIEDLINE

WILLIAM L. GLESSNER  
CARL A. HAY JR.  
FLOYD T. LEHMAN

HARVEY W. RECKNER JR.  
WAYNE E. SECHLER  
C. BEN WALTERMIRE

**Employees**

KATHY ARMSTRONG  
EMILY BAER  
ADAM BARNES  
ROY BITTNER  
KRISTI BURKETT  
DONALD COBER  
JESSI DITZLER  
DAVID DUDAK  
WENDY DURICA  
CARTER ENGLEKA  
GARY GINDLESPERGER

DOUGLAS GLESSNER  
GLENN GROSS  
JONATHAN HILLEGAS  
JOHN HOCHARD  
KEITH KIMMEL  
CLARENCE KNOPSNYDER  
MINDY LUTERI  
BRIAN MARKER  
PHILIP MARTZ  
JESSICA MAURER  
ALEX MAZANOWSKI

CARLINE MITCHELL  
ELIZABETH MOROCCO  
ANDREW NICKLOW  
RUSTON OGBURN  
ANDREW PHILLIPPI  
ZACHERY PRITTS  
CASEY PYLE  
PHILIP READ  
ANTHONY RETASSIE  
BRYAN SCHROCK  
SAMUEL SHOBER

ROGER SHROYER  
TANNER SMITH  
KARA SPECHT  
PHILIP STERN  
GARRETT THOMAS  
KENNETH WALKER  
RICHARD YODER  
TAWNYA ZORN

**Co-op Cheer**

*We're feeling the holiday spirit of giving here at the co-op and we hope you will too! Many of you expressed interest in acquiring more LED light bulbs that were sent this past summer - HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!*

*\* Now until December 12th, please bring a new, unwrapped toy into the office and you will receive a FREE 4-pack of the oh-so popular LED light bulbs!*

*\* Toys will then be donated to local charities within our service territories in Somerset County and Garrett County, Maryland.*

*\* This opportunity is available to members only.*

**Spread the cheer!**



**Democratic process underway**

The 80th annual meeting of members of Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is quickly approaching. It will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at Seven Springs Resort.

Somerset REC is proud to have a board comprised of committed and knowledgeable directors who play a vital role in the decision-making process at the cooperative.

Listed below are the three director positions open for election in 2019 at the annual meeting. Directors elected are required to serve a three-year term. The following districts up for election include:

- District 4:** Brothersvalley, Somerset
- District 6:** Black, Elk Lick, Summit
- District 8:** Saltlick, Stewart, Springfield, Lower Turkeyfoot, Upper Turkeyfoot

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, your primary residence must be in one of these areas and you must be a member in good standing. Please submit to the cooperative, in writing, your request for the specific district no later than Feb. 1, 2019.