

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Somerset REC

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800-443-4255

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Wayne E. Sechler, District 6

Vice President

James C. Brocht, District 8

Secretary/Treasurer

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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

Guest Column



May is National Electrical Safety Month

By Keith Kimmel, Safety Coordinator

IT IS hard to believe another year has passed and May is finally here. As most of you are aware, May is the month when cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Here at Somerset REC, we are true believers in the fact that one accident is too many. We strive to do our best to communicate with our members, the general public, and our employees via educational training, information, and materials that we hope will help keep everyone safe.

Educational training plays a major role in our ability to share information effectively. Our Electric City demonstration is a tabletop display for use in a classroom or group setting. General Manager Ruston Ogburn and Director of Marketing and Member Services Emily Baer take Electric City into the classroom as a means of sharing information about electricity, as well as discussing electrical hazards and safe practices. The tabletop display is energized and uses real-life scenarios, such as a downed line, vehicle accident, tree on the line or wildlife interference, as a great visual to show the do's and don'ts around electricity.

The cooperative also uses a high-voltage demonstration trailer for training and public safety. Although both demos cover electricity and the hazards associated with it, the high-voltage demo trailer is more to scale of everyday work of a lineworker.

Many of you may have seen the demo trailer and program while visiting the Somerset County Fair. Weather permitting, the lineworkers typically present the safety program twice a day. The show, just like the smaller Electric City demo, enables us to share information about our equipment, electricity in general, and various safety concerns that the public as well as our employees may encounter.

While public education is highly prioritized, we emphasize the need to review and update frequently. Some training is mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), while other training is provided on an as-needed basis by the co-op.

We work closely with job-specific training programs provided by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) that are geared toward co-ops across the state. For example, when a new lineworker is hired, he or she is required to attend PREA's Basic Climbing School, which is hosted by Somerset REC. Other training programs such as CPR, first-aid and fire extinguisher training are also available to employees.

Your co-op is a firm believer in ongoing education. If you have a question or would like to request one of our safety demonstrations at your school or community event, please give us a call. Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May. 

Annual Meeting 2019

Thursday, May 23, 2019 – 7 p.m.



SPEAKER: TODD A. SALLADE
VICE PRESIDENT-POWER SUPPLY & ENGINEERING PREA/ALLEGHENY



Todd A. Sallade, PREA/Allegheny vice president – power supply & engineering, joined the companies in 2009 after spending 25 years working for GPU and FirstEnergy. He oversees power supply procurement, engineering, load management and the Raystown Hydroelectric Project. His prior experience includes 11 years working as an engineer at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station and 14 years of power supply experience, which included managing the power supply portfolio for FirstEnergy companies Met-Ed, Penelec and Penn Power. Sallade holds a professional engineering license and has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and a Master of Business Administration degree from Pennsylvania State University, and a Master of Arts degree in economics from Temple University.

ENTERTAINMENT: The Flight 93 Memorial Chorus



The Flight 93 Memorial Chorus sings patriotic songs at special events throughout the area. The chorus was created to pay tribute to the heroes on the 10th anniversary of that horrific day 9/11/2001. The chorus for that anniversary included 125 men from three states. Smaller in numbers now, it includes men who love their country

from State College, Altoona, Bedford, Somerset, Cumberland, Md., Morgantown, W.Va., and surrounding areas.

Somerset REC Annual Meeting Schedule

6:15 p.m.
Registration

7 p.m.
Call to Order
Wayne Sechler
President

7:05 p.m.
Reading of Minutes
& Financial Report

7:15 p.m.
Manager's Report
Ruston Ogburn
General Manager

7:35 p.m.
Report of Nominating
Committee / Voting Period /
Collection of Ballot Boxes

7:50 p.m.
Speaker
Todd A. Sallade
Vice President – Power Supply &
Engineering
PREA/Allegheny

8:10 p.m.
Unfinished Business
New Business

8:15 p.m.
Introduction of Entertainment

8:35 p.m.
Report of Tellers

8:40 p.m.
Adjournment & Awarding of
Door Prizes

2019 director nominees

Directors will be elected to three-year terms in Districts 4, 6 and 8

DISTRICT 4:

Jerry L. Engle

Jerry L. Engle currently represents District 4 on the Somerset REC Board



Jerry L. Engle

of Directors. He has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's director training program and received his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate and earned Director Gold status.

Wayne and his wife, the former Shirley Leister, reside in the rural Garrett area. They have five children, 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The couple attends Cornerstone Assembly of God Church in Boynton. Wayne enjoys hunting, fishing and traveling with Shirley in his spare time.

training program and received his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate and earned Director Gold status.

He is the son of Emma Gene and the late Jack Engle of Meyersdale.

A graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School, Jerry is a building and remodeling contractor residing in the Hays Mill area near Meyersdale. Prior to owning his own business, he worked as a carpenter for several area builders.

Jerry and his wife, the former Mary Susan Shaffer, are the parents of a married son, Bryan, and married daughter, Brooke Bittner. They have two grandsons, Jack and Jace. Jerry is the son of Emma Gene and the late Jack Engle of Meyersdale.

Jerry serves as an elder of Hay's United Church of Christ and the Cemetery Association. He loves to go hunting and is a member of the National Rifle Association.

DISTRICT 6:

Wayne E. Sechler

Wayne E. Sechler currently represents District 6 on the Somerset REC Board of



Wayne E. Sechler

Directors, where he serves as president. He is also on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association in Harrisburg, where he has served as treasurer.

He currently serves on the Awards Committee and is chairman of the Membership Activities Committee.

He has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's director

DISTRICT 8:

Michael E. Trimpey

Michael E. Trimpey is a director nominee from District 8 residing in Upper Turkeyfoot Township. He earned his diploma from Turkeyfoot Valley Area High School in 1979.

Michael is currently enjoying retirement. His previous employment includes Seven Springs, D & L Manufacturing, working as a dairy farmhand, and serving as township supervisor.

He is a member of the Laurel Highlands Bottle Club, National Rifle Association, United Service Organization, and Arbor Day Foundation, and he volunteers for the Salvation Army.

Michael currently resides in Markleton. He has six children and five grandchildren. In his spare time, Michael enjoys collecting and restoring antique farm tractors such as Cub Cadet, Farmall and Massey Ferguson, as well as adding old/unique milk and soda bottles to his collection.



DISTRICT 8:

Joshua C. Sechler

Joshua C. Sechler is a director nominee from District 8 residing in Lower Turkeyfoot Township.



Joshua C. Sechler

A native of Confluence, he is a 1999 graduate of Meyersdale Area High School. He continued his education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and economics, and is a recent graduate from the Advanced School of Banking, Pennsylvania Bankers Association.

Since 2005, Joshua has been employed at Somerset Trust Company, where he is currently the assistant vice president of relationship development. In his previous career, he served as a sales representative for Stoner Quality Water, Inc.

Joshua enjoys volunteering at many local organizations throughout the county. He is the current president of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society, secretary of Kingwood I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 1010, and holds the director position in the Kingwood Picnic Association, Kingwood I.O.O.F., Crossroads Cemetery Association, Younkin Cemetery Association, Jersey Settlement Cemetery Association and Beyond the Stage Foundation. He is also the chairman of the Fayette County March of Dimes March for Babies, a member of the Berlin Brethren Church, Somerset-Cambria Chapter of the SAR and Mount Union Church Camp No. 502.

He resides on Kingwood Road in Confluence with his wife, Mallory. In his spare time, Joshua enjoys making maple syrup, attending sporting events in Pittsburgh, traveling, hiking and playing guitar.



Thank you, Jim Brocht!

SINCE 1995, James C. Brocht (Jim) has been a familiar face around the cooperative.



James C. Brocht
has been a familiar face around the cooperative.

Elected to represent District 8 by the members, Jim has contributed to the cooperative in countless ways. Jim has decided that the time has come to pass that role on to a new director who has the best interests of our membership in mind.

During his 24 years, Jim has attended over 275 monthly board meetings, traveled to regional and national meetings across the country, earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and Board Leadership Certificate. As the board vice president, Jim was a

wealth of knowledge, spoke for the best interests of the membership and played a key role in making board decisions.

He enjoys stopping by the office to say hello, flagging down a line crew, bucket truck or right-of-way crew just to see how their day is going and what they might be into that day. He valued the co-op as a "good place to be." Jim has a way of making people feel as if they have been friends forever.

Jim enjoys spending time on his farm in Casselman with his wife Shirley, children Clark and Tess and dog Lilly. Thank you for your many years of service and contributions by making the cooperative a better place! Congratulations on your retirement as a board director and as always, the door is always open for you to come back for a visit!



Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your home's electrical system.

**Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**