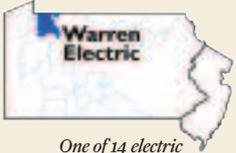


Warren Electric Cooperative



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
 Website
 www.warrenec.coop

STAFF

Gary W. Franklin, General Manager/CEO
Alan D. Fuller, Engineer/Load Mgt/Member Services/Right-of-Way
Todd M. McClain, Data Processing/Finance/Administration
Martin J. Hoffner, Line Superintendent
Christopher N. Evans, System Engineer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Turner, Chairman
LeRoy Wells, Vice Chairman
Gerald G. Bensink, Secretary
Harry Weaver, Treasurer

John Barnes
James Goodrich
Don Johnson
James Marshall
Esther Reynolds

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/723-9460

OFFICE HOURS

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

FROM THE MANAGER

Employee identification

OCCASIONALLY you hear reports of people claiming to be utility employees attempting to gain illegal access to customers' homes. There are even cases where these impostors try to obtain money for the inspection or repair of electrical equipment in the homes.

Our employees are not authorized to make repairs inside the home. They have little reason to be in your home unless you ask them to take a look at an electrical problem.

All employees of Warren Electric Cooperative carry photo identification. If you have any questions about the identity of our employees, simply ask and they will gladly show you a Warren Electric Cooperative photo identification card. If you are concerned in any way, please call the cooperative at 814/563-7548 or 800/364-8640.

Office happenings

The cooperative welcomed 24 new members in December. That brings our membership to 7,826 and total connected accounts to 8,842.

BAD CHECKS — The cooperative receives its share of bad checks each month from members paying their electric bills. We charge \$25 for a bad check-processing fee and we do prosecute those who have issued more than one bad check. The cost of processing bad checks is increasing and it is only fair that those who issue the bad checks pay the costs.

Stay off electric poles

Our utility poles are a convenient place to tack up stuff. But electric utility poles are not really good places to attach signs, notices, birdhouses, feeders or anything else. Nails and staples are a safety concern because they can interfere with special climbing hooks used by our linemen to climb poles. Nails and staples can tear protective rubber gloves worn by the linemen to protect them from electrocution

when working on live lines.

So, please, for the safety of our linemen, do not attach anything to our electric utility poles.

Don't touch that wire

You should consider all wires **ENERGIZED** and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time. **DO NOT** attempt to remove a tree limb or other object from a power line. Electricity can travel through limbs, especially when they are wet.

Observe the minimum distance of 10 feet from any downed electric line. A live wire touching the ground can cause electricity to travel through the ground, radiating outward from the contact point. Please stay clear of all downed power lines.

Safety reminders!

Check bulbs in all your light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage. Replace all bulbs that have a higher wattage than recommended on the fixture. Using the wrong wattage can cause overheating that could lead to a fire.

Conservation

Be sure that your walls are filled with insulation and your attic has at least eight inches of insulation.

Also insulate your heating ducts. Your system can lose up to 60 percent of its warmed air before reaching the register if the ducts are not properly insulated.

A little bit of humor?

- ▶ A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- ▶ Without geometry, life is pointless.
- ▶ When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- ▶ Corduroy pillows are making headlines.
- ▶ Marriage is the mourning after the knot before. ☀

Thank you,
 Gary W. Franklin



NATURE'S FURY: Remnants of wood structure show damage after the fall storm.

Across the river and into the future of 'going green'

BY ANITA COHAN

THE SPAN across the Allegheny River at the Buckaloons, placed back in the 1950s, was already scheduled to be replaced. However one of Mother Nature's strong fall wind storms put this project on the fast track.

The wind storm took down three old wooden poles on each side of the river, bringing down the 590-foot span and disrupting service along Route 337 for about 10 miles and along Route 62 for about eight miles. Power was rerouted through the Whig

Hill substation, with very few voltage issues, even during the heavy draw from manufacturing plants in the area.

Warren Electric Cooperative (WEC) stepped into the future by using poles that are recycled fiber/resin, 70 feet in length and 5,000 pounds in weight, but telescopic for easier transportation, fewer highway permits and efficient installation. They are environmentally



UNDER WAY: The new span goes up.

friendly, cost effective and fireproof, with a 100-year lifespan. Fiber/resin poles are one-third the weight of wooden poles.

“WEC linemen enjoyed the challenge of this new technology,” notes Chris Evans, system engineer. “The poles arrived quickly on site with technicians provided to train the linemen on installation. This was the first use of these fiber/resin poles in Pennsylvania.”

Materials were received in about two weeks, training took four days and the span was replaced and in service in two weeks.

Traditional utility poles have distinct disadvantages. Wooden utility poles are probably the most common utility pole in use today, followed by concrete and steel. Wooden utility poles are susceptible to rot or destruction because of weather and bug infestation. To prevent the destruction of the poles, many wooden poles are soaked in creosote. However WEC does not use creosote. There are safer choices of wood preservative treatments including: Penta (pentachlorophenol, a pesticide), CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate, rendering the wood fiber useless as a food source for fungi and termites) and ET (Emulsion Treated, a lubrication oil).

Creosote is a highly toxic substance that has possible links to cancer in humans. The creosote can leech out of poles onto the ground and eventually end up polluting water sources. Even with the creosote application, wooden poles still have a limited life span and they need extensive maintenance and routine replacement.

Concrete poles have been used in place of wood in some places. Unfortunately, concrete poles are extremely heavy and often require a crane or special machinery to assemble the pole in the field. Also, these poles are a problem in remote locations because the weight of the pole requires the use of heavy trucks to transport them.

Steel poles are lighter than concrete, but remain burdensome and are susceptible to environmental factors, like rust. Steel poles also can present a danger to people working on or near the poles. (Information from www.wipo.int)



GREEN POLES: The new crossing is seen from Buckaloons.



DO IT THIS WAY: On-site training and job briefings are conducted before work begins.



HELPING HANDS: Project representatives shown left to right are: Bob Kunkle, Shanahan & Associates for Geotek/PUPI fiberglass arms, Chris Evans, WEC engineering and operations manager, and Gary Coughlin, HD Supply for RSI Composite Poles.



www.warrenec.coop Quick Links updated

The member-owned website for Warren Electric Cooperative (WEC) has been updated to make navigating it more “member friendly.” The Quick Links section has been enhanced with easier access for making a payment, sending a meter reading, sending WEC a message, researching the self-help energy audit site, a message board for members, and a news and announcements section. WEC is aware that technology is taking over more options that should be available to members via the internet. This will help with simplifying and speeding up members’ access to routines and information.

WEC’s payment and meter reporting services need to be logged into with either a certificate number or a user name. This is a secured site protected by Thawte and powered by e2p, providing Click to Pay, for member’s security. Online services such as these cut the time for doing these monthly routines.

Contacting WEC is just a click away and no login is required. Just fill in the name and address section, type in your question, suggestion or general information and submit. A staff member will contact you in a timely manner.

Self-Help Energy Audit links you to the HomeEnergySuite. Making your home as energy efficient as possible lowers utility bills and helps preserve precious energy resources for future generations. The interactive house on the site is designed to help you understand where and how energy is used in the home.

Message Board for Cooperative Members is a “WattsUp” of information. You can post comments or ask questions. Just click on a topic, read what others have written and add your own opinions.

News and Announcements section keeps you up to date with changes and

schedules. This page will link you to local websites like the Warren County Fair, HIGHLIGHTS, Surge Tamer and other points of interest.

The home page still gives you access to the latest *Penn Lines* issues, Kid’s Corner, CESCO, WildBlue, NOAA weather, WEC technologies, rates, products and rebates.

We live in a world of knowledge at

our fingertips. WEC is striving to keep members in this fast, informative stream of life.

WEC website coordinator, Alan Fuller, and Jamestown-based Eaglezip.com, which built and maintains the site, have been preparing the website to work efficiently with the speed of DSL and still be suitable for dial-up service. ☀

2009 upcoming area events

March 14 American Red Cross Casino Night

March 15 Cherry Grove Chili Cook-off

March 26-28 Kinzua Kids Consignment Sale (Spring/Summer Sale)

April 4 Chocolate Walk, www.warrenpamainstreet.org

April 11 Warren’s Old-Fashioned Easter Celebration and Easter Bunny House, www.warrenpamainstreet.org

April 25 Warren Civic Orchestra Concert, MADE IN AMERICA, 7 p.m., Struthers Library Theatre (free)

May 9 Big Blue Spring Garage Sale in Warren, bigbluesale@warrenpamainstreet.org

May 16 Warren County Board of Realtors benefit for Warren County American Red Cross - Canine Wellness Expo, 814/723-6000

June 13 - American Red Cross Dice Run, 814/723-6000

June 26 Senior Lifestyle Expo hosted by Warren Main Street, www.warrenpamainstreet.org

June 26 Busker’s Festival in downtown Warren with Music in the Streets www.warrenpamainstreet.org

July 3-4 Warren’s 4th of July Celebrations, www.warrenpamainstreet.org

July 11 Farmers Markets opens in the Midtown parking lot

July 16-19 National City RIBFEST, Warren Main Street and WCCBI www.warrenpamainstreet.org

July 23-25 Youngsville Community Yard Sales a R.O.Y. fundraiser www.youngsvillepa.org

July 25 Youngsville’s Children’s Theater Production of the Jungle Book Workshop begins July 20, call Barb Luce 563-4936 for more info

August 21-23 Youngsville A-mazing Corn Festival benefit for ROY Parade, Music, Contest and Motorcycles on Saturday, Car Show on Sunday (Car Show with Chili Cook off previously YABA Days program) www.youngsvillepa.org