

# THE ENERGIZER



Quarterly Newsletter

[www.steubenrec.coop](http://www.steubenrec.coop)

## 2023 Legislative Youth Tour

**Attention all area 11th grade high school students whose parents are members of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative. An all-expense-paid opportunity of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., will take place April 15-19, 2023.**

The difference between electric cooperatives and other utilities is that “giving something back to the community” is part of our business plan. So, why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington? Because they’re committed to giving our next generation of community leaders the political insight and hands-on leadership experience they need to flourish.

Annually, the Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, along with the other three New York Cooperatives, sponsor a selected youth-delegate with the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation’s political leaders in April and learn about our Nation’s legislative process.

The selected student will be going with

representatives from Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative in meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress as part of the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference. The conference is a national lobbying effort by our nation’s rural electric cooperatives to inform our members of Congress about rural areas like those in Steuben, Schuyler, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties.

This unique trip gives young people the opportunity to watch history come alive, explore museums, memorials, and monuments, make friendships that will last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. Senators and CEOs.

The student delegates from each New York State Cooperative will further compete to represent our cooperative and the New York State cooperatives in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, held each year in June. In addition to the possible trips, student delegates have scholarship opportunities.



### ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS:

- To apply, you must be a junior in high school.
- Your parent(s) must be a SREC member.
- Have at least a “B” average or better.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and/or community service.
- Submit completed application, one page essay, letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator from your school, including your academic transcript.

### HOW TO APPLY:

- Applications are available in your school counselor’s office or via download at <https://steubenrec.coop/legislative-youth-tour>.

### DEADLINE TO APPLY:

- Tuesday, March 14, 2023
- You can email entries to Kristen Cleveland at [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com) or mail a hard copy to Kristen Cleveland, SREC, 9 Wilson Avenue, Bath, NY 14810. 960900

## Beat the Peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it is especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here is an easy way to think about it, and it is similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a

lot of people want the same thing, it is more expensive. When they do not, it is cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use of large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers, and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to synchronize up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.



**WHEN THE LIGHTS  
GO OUT  
SO DO THEY  
#thanklineman**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



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## Welcome, New Hire



Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the addition of one full time apprentice line worker to our operations department. Matthew Strauss recently joined Steuben Rural Electric in the Bath District as an apprentice line worker on November 28, 2022. Matthew previously worked for Strauss Tree Service and is a member of the Army National Guard. Please join us in welcoming Matthew to the Cooperative.

# Do You Know the Seven Cooperative Principles?

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance. These principles are a key reason that America’s electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

## Cooperative Principles

### 1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

### 2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among the membership and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### 3. Members’ Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### 4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

### 5. Education, Training, and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.

### 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

### 7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

## Do energy-saving measures in my home make a big difference?

For the average household, it depends on your home’s efficiency and your habits. Your energy use is based on your home’s equipment and how you use it. You might already have an efficient home and good energy use habits, or you might have room for improvement. 524901

Energy keeps us comfortable in our homes, and our monthly bill is the associated cost for this energy use. To make energy-saving measures work in your home, it comes down to preventing energy waste while maintaining personal comfort in your home.

Let’s take it back to the basics and see if we can find opportunities to save energy in your home. Filters, LEDs and thermostat settings are great places to start.

### 1. REPLACE FILTERS

If your home has a forced-air system, you have a filter. The filter needs to be checked regularly and replaced when it’s dirty. A dirty filter can cause heating and air-conditioning systems to use 15 percent more energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

### 2. UPGRADE TO LEDs

Upgrading your lighting to LEDs is a simple, low-cost way to cut energy use. Depending on your budget, you can do it all at once or change bulbs out over time. If you are going to replace a few at a time, prioritize the lights you use the most.

### 3. ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

It’s amazing how much difference a few degrees can make. By adjusting your thermostat to your home habits, you can save year-round on heating and cooling costs. For winter months, the DOE recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and dialing it back 8 to 10 degrees when you leave the house. For summer, the recommendation is 78 degrees when you are home and 8 to 10 degrees warmer when you are away.



## Board of Directors

District 1	: James McCormick
District 2	: Janice Hoad
District 3	: Edward Borkowski
District 4	: Walter Longwell
District 5	: Gerald Chase Jr.
District 6	: Gordon Foster
District 7	: Robert Nichols
District 8	: Randy Stankey
District 9	: William Moss III.

## Holiday Closings

February 20	: Presidents Day
April 7	: Good Friday
May 29	: Memorial Day
July 4	: Independence Day
September 4	: Labor Day

## Steuben Rural Electric

MAIN OFFICE  
9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-4161  
(800) 843-3414  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

BRANCH OFFICE  
5966 South Rd  
Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
(716) 296-5651  
(800) 883-8236  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm



Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in this newsletter, please contact Steuben Rural Electric immediately to claim a \$10 credit on your bill!

## The Trading Post

### For Sale:

Firewood, mixed hardwood  
- \$60 face cord. Located in  
Howard. Call 607-566-2339.

"No Nuthin" Hamburg. No  
grains, no hormones, no shots,  
no added fat, "no nuthin"!  
Grass fed, non certified  
organic, angus bred beef.  
Orders taken. Call 585-728-  
5243 or 585-991-9173.

**Trading Post Rules:** Only  
members of SREC may submit  
ads. Ads must be submitted  
by the 26th of April in order  
to be published in the May  
newsletter. You can submit ads  
by mailing them to SREC, 9  
Wilson Avenue, Bath NY 14810  
or by email to [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com). All ads must be  
typed or printed clearly. Include  
your name and account number  
on all submissions. Ads are not

allowed to be automatically  
repeated. They must be  
resubmitted for each issue. The  
cooperative reserves the right  
to edit material for content and/  
or space as necessary. Ads are  
published on a first-received  
basis with no guarantee your  
ad will appear. SREC does not  
endorse, recommend or assume  
any responsibility for the  
products advertised.

**New Year,  
New Savings.**

Visit our website to learn  
about programs to help you  
save energy and money.

[www.steubenrec.coop](http://www.steubenrec.coop)

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Third Party Notification: In accordance with the provisions of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is required to permit a residential member to designate, in writing a third party to receive a copy of every notice of discontinuance of service to the member, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive these notices. Please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 or (800) 843-3414 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.

**Safe  
Electricity.org**

**KNOW WHAT TO DO**  
when winter storms bring  
down power lines.