



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# The Energizer

DECEMBER 2025 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Happy Holidays from Steuben Rural Electric

As the holiday season approaches and another year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on what makes this season, and our cooperative, so special. The holidays have a way of reminding us of what truly matters: the warmth of family, the strength of community, and the comfort of knowing that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

At Steuben Rural Electric, that “something bigger” is the cooperative spirit that has carried us through more than eight decades. Long before any of us flipped a switch without thinking twice, neighbors here in rural New York were banding together to bring light to places that investor-owned utilities ignored. They weren’t just building power lines, they were building hope, connection, and opportunity. And in many ways, every line we maintain today, every light that glows in a farmhouse window on a cold December night, continues that story.

The holiday season has always been a time of light. Whether it’s candles in the window, the glow of a Christmas tree, or the steady hum of electricity keeping our homes warm, light represents comfort and togetherness. It’s a good reminder of why your cooperative exists, not to turn a profit, but to serve. Every kilowatt we deliver supports families, farms, and small businesses that form the heart of this region. Every improvement we make is guided by the same principle our founders believed in: neighbors helping neighbors.

This year, I’ve seen that spirit alive and well across our service area. I’ve seen it in our crews, out in the early morning hours restoring power during storms, and in the staff who answer calls with patience and care. I’ve seen it in members who stop by the office just to say thanks, and in communities pulling together to support local initiatives. Those quiet acts of generosity, often unnoticed, are what make this area such a remarkable place to live and work.

The cooperative model is rooted in gratitude and service, and there’s no better time to celebrate that than Christmas. Each of you, our members, owns a piece of this cooperative. The power lines running across our hills don’t belong to a corporation in a distant city; they belong to you, to all of us. That shared ownership gives real meaning to words like trust, accountability, and community. It’s what allows us to look one another in the eye and say, “we’ll take care of it.” And we do.

As we look toward a new year, I’m filled with hope. We know challenges will come, rising costs, aging infrastructure, unpredictable weather, but we’ll face them the same way we always have: together. Our board, our employees, and our members all share one goal...to keep the lights on safely, reliably, and affordably for the people and places that make up our cooperative family.

So as the snow falls and our towns light up for the holidays, I want to say thank you. Thank you to our employees for their hard work and dedication, to our directors for their leadership, and to you, our members, for your trust and support. You are the reason this cooperative continues to thrive.

From all of us at Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, may your homes be bright with the glow of friendship and family, and may your hearts be warm with peace and gratitude. Merry Christmas, and may the New Year bring you good health, happiness, and blessings beyond measure.

*James McCormick, Board President*



*Bath Office, 9 Wilson Avenue, Bath, NY 14810*

*Phone: (607) 776-4161 or (800) 843-3414*

*Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm*

*CC Office, 5966 South Rd, Cherry Creek, NY 14723*

*Phone: (716) 296-5651 or (800) 883-8236*

*Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm*



# How will you **MAKE YOUR MARK?**



**Youth Tour Travel Dates: April 26-29, 2026**

**Deadline to Apply: March 17, 2026 | 4:00pm**

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- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from NYS and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative.

Learn more about applying at  
<https://steubenrec.coop/nreca-legislative-youth-tour>





# 81st Annual Meeting Recap

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC) convened its Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, at the Campbell-Savona High School in Campbell. The event was also live-streamed to the Pine Valley High School in South Dayton, allowing a broader participation. The meeting commenced at 11:00 am and welcomed 283 members along with their families to commemorate the cooperative's significant 81st anniversary.

Upon arrival, attendees received complimentary gift bags filled with assorted goodies and were informed that they would receive a \$30 bill credit on their November Billing Statement as a token of appreciation for their engagement. Prior to the official meeting, members

were able to enjoy refreshments and network with both the dedicated employees of Steuben Rural Electric and fellow cooperative members.

Board President James McCormick addressed the members, reflecting on eight decades of progress at SREC. He shared pivotal moments, humorous anecdotes, and discussed the enduring spirit that has enabled the cooperative to thrive.

General Manager Bryant Dillon followed with an extensive update, providing insights into the various departments within the cooperative. He reported on SREC's continued financial stability, showcasing multiple accomplishments over the past year, including the Bath Substation upgrade, the 30-Mile rebuild at Connor Hill, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Projects initiated in response to the August 2021 floods, comprehensive drone inspections on all three-phase poles across the service area, and extensive vegetation management efforts resulting in 130 miles of trimming. Notably, Mr. Dillon stated that to date, the cooperative has returned over \$10 million in patronage capital to its members, with a recent capital credit retirement of \$433,754.44 in September 2025.

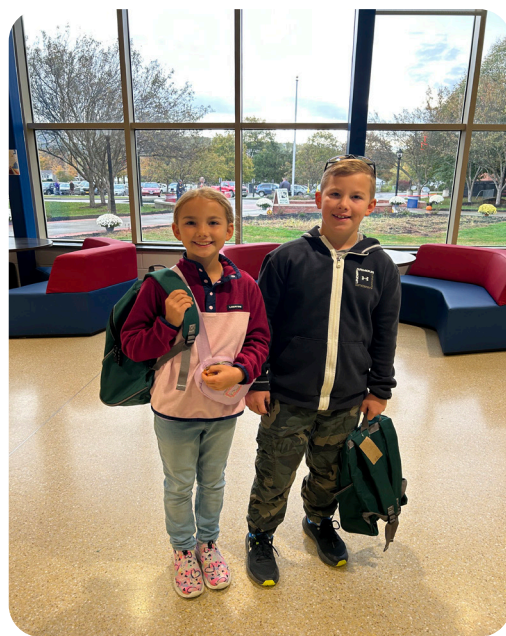
During the meeting, it was confirmed that incumbent directors, James McCormick (District 1), Janice Hoad (District 2), and William Moss III (District 9), were re-elected without contest.

The Board recognized several individuals for their longstanding service to the cooperative: James McCormick (Director, 45 years); Joshua Gauss (Operations Manager, 25 years); Michael Green (Utility Laborer, 25 years); Kristen Cleveland (Executive Secretary, 15 years); Jen-

nifer Madigan (Members Services, 10 years); Kevin Hunt (Lineman 1st Class, 5 years); Douglas Hosmer-Smith (Lineman 1st Class, 5 years); and Trenton LaBarr (Lineman 1st Class, 5 years).

Steuben Rural Electric extends heartfelt thanks to all members who participated in the 2025 Annual Meeting. Your ongoing involvement is essential to our success and exemplifies what it truly means to be member-owned.

Mark your calendars for next year's meeting, scheduled for Saturday, October 17th, 2026. We look forward to seeing you there.



*Quinn and Gideon receive elementary backpack giveaways at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting located at the Campbell-Savona High School.*

**Statement of Non-Discrimination:** Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. 325205

# Why is my bill higher in the Winter?

## How Temperature Affects Bills

When winter cold temperatures hit the area, most of us stay indoors and look for ways to stay warm. This can mean you may see higher-than-normal electric bills the following month, which begs the question: “Why does my bill go up when it’s cold outside?”

Below are the frigid facts behind the spike in energy consumption during cold weather and why your heating system seems to be working overtime.

### More Energy Consumption in Cold Weather

The simple truth is that you use more energy when the temperatures drop. As the cold seeps into your home, your heating system kicks into high gear to maintain a comfortable indoor environment. This increased workload translates to higher energy consumption.

### Hardworking Heating Systems

In cold weather, your heating system has to work much harder than usual. Whether you have a furnace, heat pump, or another heating method, the demand for warmth intensifies in lower temperatures. This increased workload contributes directly to the escalation of your energy bills.

### Extended Run time of Thermostats

Even if you resist the urge to adjust your thermostat settings, you’ll find that your heating system runs for longer durations during cold spells. The extended run time is a direct response to the greater temperature differential between the chilly outdoor air and your desired indoor warmth.

### Electricity Usage in Gas Heating Systems

Surprisingly, even if you rely on a gas heating system, electricity plays a crucial role. Gas heating systems utilize electricity to power fans that distribute the warm air throughout your home. Therefore, the combination of gas and electricity usage contributes to the overall energy consumption during cold weather.

Other factors that can cause your energy use to increase in the colder months include:

- \* You may use space heaters and electric blankets more than usual, which can consume a lot of energy when left on for hours.
- \* Inadequate insulation does not keep the warmth inside, nor does it keep the cold outside. 177203
- \* Shorter days and longer nights mean more time indoors. This typically means more lights, TVs, appliances and video games in use.
- \* Chances are, you take more hot showers, baths, and use more hot water in general.
- \* Holidays mean more guests, more hot showers, more cooking - all using electricity.
- \* Heat tape on the roof or on water pipes.

As the cold weather persists, it’s essential to understand the dynamics behind the surge in your energy bill. The increased workload on your heating system, prolonged thermostat run times, and the reliance on electricity in gas heating systems all play a role in the higher energy con-

## why IS MY WINTER ELECTRIC BILL HIGHER?



**a frigid fact:** You use more energy in cold weather.

### HERE’S WHY:

In cold weather, your heating system works much harder to keep your home comfortable.

Even if you don’t change your thermostat setting, it runs longer to heat your home.



Even gas heating systems use electricity to power the fan and distribute the warm air.

### ENERGY USE MATTERS

Your monthly bill is largely determined by the amount of energy you use.

#### ENERGY USED

The meter on your home measures the energy you consume. **This is your “usage.”**



#### ELECTRIC RATE

There is a charge or each kilowatt hour you use. **This is your “rate.”**

sumption during winter. To mitigate the impact on your wallet, consider energy-efficient practices and ensuring that your home is well-insulated to retain warmth. By being mindful of these factors, you can stay warm without breaking the bank during the chilly winter months.

**Monitor your energy use through SmartHub to see where spikes occur.** To monitor your energy use, use SmartHub. Create an account, either on your desktop or download the free mobile app. In SmartHub, you can view your yearly, monthly, daily, or even hourly electric use. This can help you see when you use a normal amount of energy and when your energy usage spikes. By monitoring your usage closely, you can identify what you did differently to make your usage go up or down. Usage tracking is also available. Tracking offers a simple way to remember and track spikes or dips in your usage during a specific time frame. Learn more about SmartHub at [www.steubenrec.coop/smarthub](http://www.steubenrec.coop/smarthub).



# Beware of Galloping Lines

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much a power company can do to alleviate galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- \* When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- \* Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the type of lines - stay away from all lines.
- \* Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- \* Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- \* Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- \* If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- \* Only exit a car near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.



## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

**Safe**  
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298001

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

## Members earn co-op benefits through capital credits

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we place great importance on recognizing our members, who are integral to the very fabric of our cooperative. One significant way we acknowledge our members is through capital credits. Rather than distributing profits to external investors or shareholders, Steuben Rural Electric operates at cost, which allows us to return funds to our members.

**How capital credits work:** The process of capital credits is straightforward: as a member of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, you utilize the electricity we supply, and in return, you pay your monthly bills. Steuben Rural Electric diligently tracks your usage over time. We cover all operational expenses throughout the year, and if there's any surplus revenue, we allocate it to you as capital credits. When the financial condition permits, our board of directors votes on when to pay back these capital credits to the members.

This year, we paid out a total of \$119,803.13 to settle estates and \$433,754.44 in general retirement. This general retirement payment effectively concludes the retirement for the year 1998, covers 100% of 1999, and addresses 23.47% of 2000. Checks for the general retirement were mailed out on September 30, 2025, to members who had usage between 1998-2000. Since our inception, Steuben Rural Electric has returned nearly \$10M to our valued members.

### What happens if you move?

If you relocate away from the areas served by the cooperative, your capital credits will remain in an account in your name until they are refunded. You will receive annual refunds during general retirement periods, which will be mailed to your most current address on file. It is essential to keep us informed of any address changes to ensure you receive the refunds you are entitled to.

**Unclaimed capital credits:** Are you on the list of members with unclaimed capital credits? We encourage you to review our online list at [www.steubenrec.coop/unclaimed-capital-credits](http://www.steubenrec.coop/unclaimed-capital-credits). This list includes members whose checks have been returned due to insufficient or outdated addresses. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at (607) 776-4161.

# Working Together to Lower Demand

At Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, one of our greatest advantages is our allocation of clean, low-cost hydropower from the New York Power Authority (NYPA). This hydropower is generated from the state's renewable hydroelectric resources and provided to municipal utilities and electric cooperatives like SREC at a fraction of the price of wholesale market electricity. It's one of the most important factors that helps keep your electric rates stable and affordable.

The chart included in this article shows how SREC's electric load rises and falls throughout the year, with a horizontal line marking our hydro allocation. Whenever our members' electricity needs remain at or below that line, almost all of our power comes from inexpensive hydroelectric generation. When our demand climbs above it, especially during high-use seasons, the Cooperative must purchase additional electricity from the wholesale market. Those market purchases cost several times more per kilowatt-hour than hydropower.

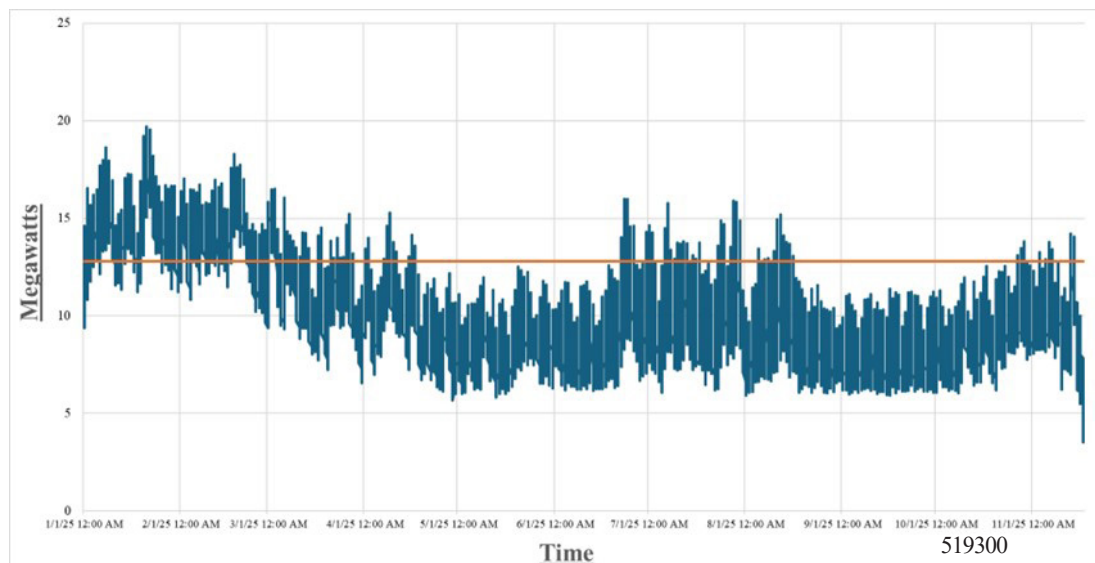
The single most important thing determining how much hydro we receive each month is not only how much energy we use, but when we use it. In the electric industry, this is known as "peak demand." Peak demand refers to the highest point of electricity use during any given month, usually a single half hour where usage spikes. This peak could be a cold January morning when heating systems start up, or a hot July evening when air conditioners are running across the system. Even if that peak lasts only a short time, it influences how much of our total monthly energy qualifies for low-cost hydro.

When we keep our peak demand lower, our system operates more efficiently. It also allows a greater share of our total energy to fall under the hydropower allocation rather than needing to be purchased at higher market rates. Put simply: lower peaks mean more hydro, and more hydro means lower costs for everyone. This is where our members play an important, and very achievable, role.

Because peak periods are fairly predictable, small changes in when we use electricity can have a big effect on the Cooperative's total costs. During winter, peak times often occur between 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM, when homes and businesses are warming up for the day. In summer, the highest peaks tend to happen between 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, when air conditioning and household appliances are running at the same time. By shifting certain activities away from these hours, such as running dishwashers, doing laundry and other flexible uses, members can help flatten the system's overall demand.

Even minor adjustments multiplied across thousands of homes and businesses can significantly improve how much hydro SREC receives each month. Members don't need to reduce overall usage, simply spreading out usage more evenly throughout the day helps lower the system peak and increases the percentage of total energy that qualifies for hydropower.

This cooperation is part of what makes electric co-ops different. We are not driven by profit, and we don't operate to benefit distant shareholders. Every dollar saved by reducing peak demand directly benefits our members through more stable rates, reduced exposure to volatile market prices, and long-term cost control. As the chart shows, our system experiences natural swings throughout the seasons. With your help, we can rely more heavily on our clean hydro allocation, lower our dependence on expensive wholesale power, and continue to deliver reliable electricity at an affordable price.





**\$3,000  
REBATE  
FOR SREC  
MEMBERS**

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"The system, which uses my well water, has virtually eliminated my reliance on fossil fuel and has cut my heating and cooling costs considerably. It will pay for itself in 4-5 years. Needless to add, I am one happy camper." — Kirk

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The power of human connections®

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ASK ABOUT OUR LEASING PROGRAM

# THE TRADING POST

• **FOR SALE:** (4) Michelin tires about 9,000 miles, 215/55R17 - \$400 or best offer; Hoyt compound bow, arrows, tips, broad heads & case included - \$450 or best offer. Call (607)329-8633 leave a message or text.

• **FOR SALE:** 275 gal. vertical fuel oil tank - \$40; 300 gal. skid fuel tank - \$50; 500 gal. fuel tank - \$75; metal barrels - \$10; American Flyer S GA 21160 Loco & Tender 24 pieces of track & transformer - \$15; front fenders with complete glass lens headlight assembly for 38 Ford 1 1/2 ton truck - \$100; 44 ceramic slip molds circa 1960's/1970's selling as a lot, as is - \$250 or best offer; Norman ceramic company kiln, 29"x29" - \$100 or best offer; Lionel Train Station 2256, Lumbershed 2720, 6-26241 box car OB 6-26277 box car OB 6-65021 & 65022 switches OB 6-2309 crossing gate OB 14078 OB spring trucks - \$65; (2) B&M water circulating pumps out of a working heating system - both \$25; porcelain coated brown 5 sided wood stove with glass doors & screen, 1 section of new, never used - \$35; Franklin #24 wood stove - \$75 or best offer; Amaco metal enameling kiln for melting powdered glass on copper to make crafts & jewelry, comes with a supply of powdered glass &

tools - \$50; drafting/craft table 32"x48", surface comes with an old school drafting machine - \$25; Craftsman Caterpillar tracked snow blower, 9hp 110v electric start, many new parts - \$175; Craftsman 10" radial arm saw - \$75; exterior house door 36"x83 1/4"x1 1/2", 80% paint removed, some brass hardware, wood is solid - \$35; (3) interior house doors 30"x78"x1", some hardware, (1) interior door 30"x78"x1 1/4", all 4 doors for \$30. Call (607) 566-8310.

• **FOR SALE:** Poly 160psi 1 1/4x100 ft. Got it new and could not use. Paid \$184.79, will sell for \$150. Call (607) 695-9962.

• **FOR SALE:** Harmar heavy duty stair lift, 600lb. capacity, excellent condition, used 5 times, paid \$9,000. w/rail asking \$4,000; Beckett forced hot air fuel oil furnace up draft, clean, well maintained, works great - \$800. Also fuel oil. Call (607) 329-4906.

• **FOR SALE:** Hamburger, locally raised, no hormones, no fat added, other cuts available. Call (585) 728-5243.



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve  
Dec. 25: Christmas Day  
Jan. 1: New Year's Day  
Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Feb. 16: Presidents' Day

## 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

## Stay Connected With Us!

Make sure your contact information is up to date with us. Having your current phone number, email address and mailing address on file means you won't miss important updates - like outage alerts, billing notifications, or service announcements. It's a quick and easy way to help us serve you better, keep you informed, and to ensure your electric service runs smoothly. *To update your contact information, call 607-776-4161 or log into your SmartHub account. 934000*



**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 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.

**The Trading Post Rules:** Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by January 20th in order to be published in the February Newsletter. You can submit ads by mailing them to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, 9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to [kcleland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleland@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. **Disclaimer:** Items in the Trading Post are published at the request of our members. SREC does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products advertised.

## SPOT YOUR ACCOUNT #

### WIN A \$10 BILL CREDIT

To reward our faithful newsletter readers, we've randomly selected and hidden five (5) account numbers and placed them in the newsletter. Hidden account numbers are spelled out numerically (Ex: 123456).

If you spot your account number, contact the cooperative by the end of the current month to claim your \$10 bill credit.

