



# The Energizer

DECEMBER 2021 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bath District Office  
9 Wilson Ave  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-4161  
(800) 843-3414

Cherry Creek District Office  
5966 South Rd  
Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
(716) 296-5651  
(800) 883-8236

## OFFICE HOURS

Bath District Office  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Cherry Creek District Office  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm



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

8101



## Cooperative News



### Cooperative Operations Update

Our directors are focused on planning for the future and resiliency of our distribution system. Over the course of the past year, the Cooperative conducted a long-range engineering study. This plan carries through 2040 and outlines the necessary infrastructure replacements to ensure that the electric distribution system remains strong. This study also provides for some additional redundancies to be built into the system.

During 2021, the Cooperative completed several projects that will strengthen our overall distribution system. The largest of these projects was the rebuild of the Cooperative's 5.5 mile sub-transmission line. This sub-transmission line provides power to our Quarry substation, which serves 650 members in the Towns of Bath, Cameron, Canisteo, and Howard. In addition, the Cooperative is also working on the completion of a substation transformer upgrade in our Conewango Substation, which serves the southern part of Cattaraugus County. This transformer upgrade will be followed by a series of projects that will provide for additional redundancy.

In addition to completing some of the projects in 2021, the Cooperative is also working on planning for 2022. In October of 2021, the Cooperative issued a request for proposal for rebuilding 16 miles of electric distribution line in the Towns

of Campbell, Hornby and Orange, west of Meads Creek Road. This infrastructure provides electric service to 197 members. In the upcoming months, the Cooperative will also be planning for the replacement of a substation transformer upgrade in our Bath substation, which serves 1,200 members. The existing Bath substation transformer will be repurposed and installed in our Curtis substation in the Town of Campbell, to provide for additional capacity.

Vegetation management crews will be commencing work in 2022 as soon as the weather permits. Trimming crews will be continuing work in the Towns of Bath, Urbana, and Bradford. Our mowing crew will be continuing to progress in our Bath south substation circuit, which serves the Towns of Bath, Thurston, Cameron, and Rathbone. We continue to see dramatic improvement in reliability metrics that correlate with the Cooperative's IVM program. We look forward to crews returning for the 2022 season.

Further updates will be provided as we progress through these projects in the upcoming year. As always, reliability continues to be high priority for our Board of Directors.



### COVID-19 Update

In order to provide temporary relief to individuals financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, at the guidance of the New York Power Authority, self-imposed a moratorium on utility shutoffs.

On June 23, 2021, the end of the COVID-19 state disaster emergency was announced pursuant to Executive Order 202. Effective June 24, 2021, the first phase of the utility moratorium protections has ended, thereby commencing the 180-day period of additional protections for qualifying mem-

bers of the Cooperative.

Heading into the new year, we wanted to make all members aware that we will be lifting our self-imposed moratorium on utility shutoffs and reinstating penalties on past due balances. If members were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are in need of financial assistance, please contact either of our branch offices and we will do our best to aid you in finding the relief you need.

# HOLIDAY MESSAGE

From Board President - Jim McCormick

On behalf of the employees and directors of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a bright and energizing holiday season.

With many spending more time at home, the pandemic has emphasized how important it is to have safe, reliable delivery of power. SREC has remained steadfast in our commitment to bring you resources to make your homes comfortable and your businesses open. We are proud to have weathered many storms, both literally and figuratively, keeping your lights on and your families safe.

This past year has been filled with transformative opportunities. It is due to the diligent work of our employees and membership that the Cooperative has enjoyed success this past year.

In closing, I would like to thank you, the members, for your continued support and wish you a wonderful new year.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## 2021 Annual Meeting Highlights

### *Drive Up to the 77th Annual Membership Meeting*

The Board of Directors and employees of the Cooperative implemented a plan for the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting that provided its members the opportunity to listen to Cooperative reports, vote for directors in the districts scheduled for election, and carry out the Stearns Chicken Barbecue while adhering to the state and local mandates as they related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Saturday, October 16, 2021 Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 77th Annual Membership Meeting at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath, New York. Cooperative members listened to the board and general manager reports that highlighted and reviewed the 20-year extension of the agreement for the sale of Niagara Project wholesale power and energy, the sale of the 3.2MW landfill gas to energy plant in 2020, the



long-range engineering study, monitoring, broadband expansion, promotion of energy efficiency programs, and the retirement of \$370,000.00 in capital credits.

In addition, the reports provided updates to the infrastructure plan to improve reliability to members, vegetation management program, financial forecasts, and the NYS rural electric cooperative law amendment and proposal of the Bylaws.

The following directors and employees received service awards: James McCormick, Director/President 40-year pin; Joshua Gauss, Operations Manager, 20-year pin; Mike Green, Utility

Labor 20-year pin; Betty Hall, Payroll/Benefits 20-year pin; Kristen Cleveland, Executive Assistant 10-year pin; Jennifer Madigan, Member Services 5-year pin; Randy Stankey, Director 5-year pin; Matt Meyers, 1st Class Lineman 20-year pin; Emily Murray, Staking Technician 15-year pin; Lisa Luther, Billing Clerk 10-year pin; and Evan Wightman, 1st Class Lineman 5-year pin. In addition,



dition, Robert Cornell, Taylor Parsons, Douglas Hosmer-Smith, Trenton LaBarr, Scott Jones, and Kevin Hunt have been hired as linemen during 2020-2021.

The Cooperative had several retirements in 2021, including Richard Swift, Douglas Hilsdorf, and Lee Ann Hoad. Combined, these individuals had 117 years of service to the Cooperative and our members.

The following were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors: Robert Nichols, District 1; Randy Stankey, District 8; and Gerald Chase, Jr., District 5. The following were elected to fill the remaining two years of a three-year term: Gordon Foster, District 6; and Edward Borkowski, District 3.

One hundred ninety-six members from the Bath District and eight members from the Cherry Creek District registered at the annual meeting. There were no proxies submitted. We urge you to mark your calendar for October 15, 2022 for the Cooperatives 78th annual meeting.

### SREC Welcomes New Board Member



At the annual meeting held on October 16, 2021 the members elected Edward Borkowski to fill the remaining two years of a three-year term for District 3 Urbana, Wayne, Bradford, Hornby, and Orange.

Mr. Borkowski resides in the Town of Bradford and has been a Cooperative member since

1993. He is a graduate of Bradford Central School and Cornell University where he obtained a degree in Life Science and Agriculture. He was employed with the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets until his retirement in 2017. He has served on the Bradford Town Board for 17 years and is a former Toastmaster. Mr. Borkowski is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion; member, elector and usher with St. Stanislaus Church in Bradford and a member of the Board of Directors for the Shooter Committee on Public Education.



# Electrical Safety Tips for the HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season brings families and loved ones together for celebration. Whether hosting an event or traveling, the holidays take a lot of preparation.

During the hustle and bustle, remember to make safety a priority to help ensure that nothing spoils the fun, and make your holiday a happy one.

Following these simple safety steps to help ensure a safe and bright holiday season.

Remember to always turn off decorative holiday lights before going to bed or leaving home. A timer can help make sure this happens.

Also, make sure to not overload extension cords or outlets. Electric overloads can cause shocks and start fires.

Ensure that fresh-cut trees as well as artificial ones are placed away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and televisions, and water a fresh-cut tree frequently.

During the holiday season your home may see increased traffic, including children and pets. Make sure all electric cords are out of high-traffic pathways and areas. Do not run cords through doorways or hide them under rugs or carpets. Do not let children or pets play with light strands or electrical decorations.

The kitchen can be one of the busiest rooms in the house with cooking and baking of holiday treats. Here are some

tips to remember when working in the kitchen:

- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing and simmering foods.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of grease.
- Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stove top.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.

## DID YOU KNOW?



On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration of Christmas by lighting the first National Christmas Tree decorated with electric lights.



## Need help paying your electric bill?

Here at Steuben Rural Electric we want you to know that there are resources and actions available to help you deal with your electric bills.

First and foremost, contact us as soon as possible if you cannot pay your bill on time. You may be eligible for a payment arrangement. Your household may also be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program, which is based on household income and size.

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards their 2021-2022 heating bills. This year's regular HEAP benefits opened on October 1, 2021. The emergency HEAP benefits component will open on January 3, 2021.

For eligibility, including guidelines and how to apply contact your local Department of Social Services or the NYS OTDA hotline at 1-800-342-3009. Additional information is provided at <https://otda.ny.gov/main/programs/heap>.

This program helps prevent the disconnection of utility service, energy crisis and long term energy cost burdens for eligible families.

We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

## SREC Board Member Gary Brockway Passes Away

Steuben Rural Electric Board Director Gary Brockway passed away on Monday, September 27, 2021. He served as the District 4 Director on the SREC Board since 2010 and served a portion of that time as the Board's Treasurer.

Brockway earned his certifications as a Credentialed Cooperative Director, received his Board Leadership Certificate and was working towards receiving the highest certification the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association awards: The Director Gold Certification.

In addition to serving on SREC's Board of Directors, Brockway was an accomplished woodworker and enjoyed working on construction projects. He also volunteered at the Shepherds Cupboard-Food Pantry in Savona.

"We are deeply saddened about the passing of Gary," General Manager, Bryant Dillon said. "Gary served estimably on the Cooperative's Board of Directors for several years. Gary and his contributions to the Cooperative will be greatly missed."

Mr. Brockway continued to contribute to the Cooperative until his passing and will always be remembered for his many contributions to SREC. His warmth, positivity and dedication will never be forgotten as he impacted many lives throughout his time on the board. He will be greatly missed. We extend heartwarming condolences to his family and loved ones.



# MEMBERS TRADING POST

**For Sale:** Seasoned hard wood firewood, \$50.00 per face cord. Call 607-968-0420.

**For Sale:** Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog - \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St in Addison.

**For Sale:** Trapping Supplies. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford. Call Bill at 607-583-4600.

**Wanted:** Raw fur and deer hides. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford. Call Bill at 607-583-4600.



## CHECK THE LIST... Unclaimed Capital Credits

A list of unclaimed capital credit checks can be found at [www.steubenrec.coop/content/unclaimed-capital-credits](http://www.steubenrec.coop/content/unclaimed-capital-credits).

### Statement of Nondiscrimination

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, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, domestic violence victim status, family/parental status, salary history, 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, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at

(202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. 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: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) 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 mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
Fax: (202) 690-7442  
E-mail: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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**The Trading Post Rules:** Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by the 26th of January 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 co-op 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.

# HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Dec. 24 - Christmas Holiday  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Holiday  
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Day  
Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King Jr.  
Feb. 21 - Presidents Day  
April 15 - Good Friday

## 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 customer to designate, in writing a third party to receive a copy of every notice of discontinuance of service to the customer, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive such notices. If you wish to designate a third party to receive these notices, please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.



**\$10 IS  
HIDING  
IN THIS ISSUE**

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

