


# Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

P.O. Box 65  
Forksville, PA 18616  
Office: 570-924-3381/1-800-570-5081  
Outage: 570-924-3418/1-800-596-8397  
Email: [info@screc.com](mailto:info@screc.com)  
Website: [www.screc.com](http://www.screc.com)

## STAFF

John Lykens, CEO  
Todd Molyneux, Manager,  
Electric Operations  
Heidi Roupp, CFO  
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dr. Stephan Paul Brady - CCD\*/BLC\*\*/Gold\*\*\***  
*Chair*

**David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold**  
*Vice Chair*

**Kathy A. Robbins - CCD/BLC/Gold**  
*Secretary*

**Karen Beinlich - CCD/BLC**  
**Jeff Hamilton - CCD/BLC/Gold**  
**Ann B. Henderson - CCD/BLC/Gold**  
**Jim Lambert - CCD**  
**Jay Lewis - CCD/BLC/Gold**  
**David R. Rakestraw - CCD**

**\*Credentialed Cooperative Director**

**\*\*Board Leadership Certificate**

**\*\*\*Director Gold Certificate**

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## The Gift That Keeps Giving



**JOHN LYKENS**

**WHAT AN INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL TIME OF YEAR.** The landscape of rural America lights up every December. Households across the country string up Christmas lights, display figurines and nativity scenes, and project holiday images onto their homes. I would say Americans go all out when it comes to decorating for the holidays.

It wasn't long ago when rural America was not illuminated, while urban areas were rapidly lighting up in the early 1900s. The National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., was first lit with electric lights in 1923. In contrast, it would be another 14 years until the rural areas of the

United States were given the gift of electricity.

In 1935, the Roosevelt Administration created the Rural Electrification Administration, with the objective of electrifying rural America. In 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act, which provided the financial means for farmers and their neighbors to band together and create electric cooperatives. Cooperatives then started forming in 1937 and immediately began building power lines and substations to serve members.

Electric power outside of heavily populated areas began propagating in the countryside in the late 1930s. Some of our members remember the day power first lit a single incandescent light in their homes. The excitement of flipping the light switch for the first time must have been empowering!

Most of us don't remember a time without electricity. We were born into homes powered by electricity and often overlook the gift of safe, affordable, reliable power.

Since Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) was incorporated in 1937, it has completed many significant projects that have enhanced the electric distribution system. A parallel can be drawn between these projects and gift giving this time of year. Careful thought and consideration go into choosing the perfect gift, and this applies to projects your cooperative implements each year.

That perfect gift is intended to benefit those who receive it, and hopefully, the receiver appreciates it. In this same manner, large capital projects are intended to benefit you, our members, and it is our hope that the results are notable.

One project we worked on this year was converting our legacy customer information system to a new platform. In fact, we are set to unwrap it on Tuesday, Dec. 9. We are excited to provide this system and give our members the ability to access their account data, report outages, and pay their bill online through SmartHub.

They say it is better to give than to receive. Improving the services we offer our members gives us great joy. As you drive around our area this holiday season, taking in all the light displays, know that your electric cooperative is always here to provide electricity for your own displays, and that we will continue to complete projects intended to improve electric services.

From all the employees and directors here at SCREC, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

**JOHN LYKENS**  
CEO

# SCREC Linemen Replace Six Transmission Poles

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN OUR LINEMEN** replacing poles throughout our service territory from time to time. If Mother Nature doesn't cause one to break, there are other factors that result in pole replacement, including ground-line rot, destruction by ants, woodpeckers and bears, and more.

The poles you see around your home hold up our power distribution lines. The poles are typically 40 feet tall, and the electric lines carry 14,400 volts. However, these aren't our only poles. Our cooperative also has transmission poles it must maintain. These can be up to 90 feet tall, and the electric lines attached to them carry 69,000 volts.

In September, our linemen replaced six transmission poles in Upper Fairfield and Mill Creek townships, Lycoming County. These poles were primarily damaged by woodpeckers, which led to further decay and ground-line

rot. To prevent this in the future, the wooden poles were replaced with ductile iron poles.

Before replacing the poles, our linemen spent a week pre-emptively backfeeding electricity so they could de-energize the transmission line to safely work on it. Power was backfed from Laporte to Huntersville, Barbours to Shore Acres, and Kellyburg to Huntersville. Many of our members experienced power outages during this time, and we'd like to thank them for their cooperation.

Once it was time to replace the poles, the cooperative rented a track digger bucket that can reach 110 feet (our normal bucket truck reaches 60 feet) to handle them. Roads were also constructed to reach inaccessible poles. It took five days to replace the six poles, and then another week to switch feeds back to normal.

Overall, the project took two years to plan, but it is now finally complete. 🎉

JEFF SPAKO




JEFF SPAKO



DAVE KEPNER





The Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25 and 26, for Christmas, and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, for New Year's Day. To report an outage, call 570-924-3418. We wish our members the merriest of Christmases and a happy and healthy New Year!

# SCREC Communication Efforts Recognized by Statewide Organization

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**MEMBERS OF OUR COOPERATIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS** staff were recognized during the 2025 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Communications Awards Ceremony Oct. 1 in Harrisburg. PREA represents 13 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey.

Awards were presented by Pete Fitzgerald, PREA vice president-public affairs & member services, and Colleen Taylor, a regional vice president with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, which helps sponsor the awards program.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) received two Awards of Excellence: one for "Best Website" and one for the *Penn Lines* article, "Your Cooperative's Vision," by CEO John Lykens, who was honored with the Second Annual Craig Harting Leadership Communications Award, a tribute to our former CEO who was a strong advocate of cooperative communications. The co-op was also awarded an Honorable Mention in the "Best News Story" category for "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," a *Penn Lines* article written by Cooperative Communicator Sarah Parrish.

The awards program was held in conjunction with the 2025 PREA Strategic Communications Forum. During the day-and-a-half educational event, cooperative communicators learned about challenges facing the electric grid, heard an overview of the state and national budget impasses, received a primer on data centers, and discussed new approaches to annual meetings.

Fourteen representatives from 11 Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives attended the forum. Parrish represented SCREC.

Our co-op's pages for each issue of *Penn Lines* are posted on [screc.com](http://screc.com). To read them, select "Penn Lines" and then click on "Co-op Penn Lines Pages." Updates are posted on our Facebook page, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Instagram, [@sullivancountynec](https://www.instagram.com/sullivancountynec). 📱



**JOB WELL DONE:** Sarah Parrish, representing Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, is presented with two Awards of Excellence and an Honorable Mention during the 2025 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's (PREA) Communications Awards Ceremony. Presenting the awards on behalf of PREA is Pete Fitzgerald—vice president-public affairs & member services.

## GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES A PRACTICAL GIFT: A FREE ELECTRIC BILL!

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

There's always one person on your Christmas shopping list you can never seem to cross off. They have more mugs and socks than anyone else you know, their junk drawer is stuffed with flashlights and mini screwdriver sets, and just when you think you've found the perfect gift for them, it turns out they already have that, too.

If someone pops into your mind while reading this, cross your fingers that they live in our service territory because we have the solution to your gift-giving woes: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative gift certificates!

Give your family and friends a break on their electric bill this holiday season with this unique and thoughtful gift. Plus, keeping your money with the co-op benefits all of our members.

To purchase a gift certificate, stop by our office (5675 Route 87, Forksville, Pa. 18616) or call 570-924-3381. You may purchase a set amount (\$50, \$100, etc.) or simply pay a member's bill for the month. Cash, credit/debit cards and checks are accepted. If you are unsure if someone lives in our service territory, we will look up their name in our system.

Gifts can be made anonymously, or you can fill out a gift certificate to present to a member. They make great stocking stuffers, but they also fit inside a greeting card.

Useful, practical gifts are always the best – and there's nothing more useful and practical than electricity.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation. Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# The Principles of Co-op Membership

## Cooperative Principle 7: Concern for Community

### *A Monthly Spotlight*

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**YOUR COMMUNITY IS OUR COMMUNITY.** The organizations, churches, events, fairs, fire companies, ambulance services, and clubs in your community are the same ones our employees and directors participate in — and the same ones our cooperative supports.

Being a local, member-owned business enables Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative to make personal connections with our members and, in turn, take an interest in the causes they support. We're always ready to lend a helping hand whenever possible, whether that's hanging Christmas lights, making a financial donation, or

helping a group set up for an event.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association describes "concern for community" as cooperatives working "for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership."

Supporting our communities today ensures they can develop and prosper tomorrow. We're proud to be owned by our members and support the areas they call home. It's just one of the ways we give back to our members. 📍

## SmartHub Goes Live Dec. 9

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME** for Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) to take the plunge: Our new customer information system goes live Dec. 9. So, what can our members expect?

**SmartHub:** SmartHub is a platform where members can view their electric kilowatt-hour use, pay their monthly bill and receive communication from SCREC. For the most current SmartHub information, visit [screc.com/smarthub](https://screc.com/smarthub).

**New bill design:** Members will see a completely new bill design, which offers more information than our previous ones, including meter reading dates, month-by-month kilowatt use comparisons, month-by-month temperature highs and lows, average daily electric costs, and much more. Members will better understand how temperature and electric (kilowatt) use influence their electric bill.

**New online bill payment:** Instead of receiving an email guiding you to [invoice.com](https://invoice.com) to pay your bill, members are now being encouraged to create a SmartHub account to pay their bill online. This can be done in a browser on your computer or phone. Members can also download the SmartHub app.

**Communication:** Members can communicate directly with SCREC through SmartHub and submit questions about their account or payments. Also, we're happy to help our members by phone at 570-924-3381.

**Please note:** Starting at midnight Dec. 1, some of our payment options will not be available. This includes online payments, pre-pay, auto pay, and paperless billing. We will accept payments by mail, during office hours (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), or in the night deposit box. However, payments will not be posted to our members' account until the conversion to SmartHub is complete.

To make the conversion, our office will be closed to the public on Monday, Dec. 8. Outages may still be reported at 570-924-3418. SmartHub will go live for members on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

All members previously enrolled in auto pay will need to re-enter their payment information and create a new SmartHub account. If you have any questions, call our office at 570-924-3381.

Our employees have undergone extensive training to understand and familiarize themselves with the new system. Still, we ask our members to have patience. Larger call loads, delays and questions are to be expected. In time, however, this transition will streamline our operations and services and, in turn, provide you with more information and clarity about your electric cooperative. We thank you for your cooperation in advance. 📍