

# 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  
570-924-3381  
1-800-570-5081  
Email: info@screc.com  
Website: www.screc.com

### STAFF

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ann B. Henderson - CCD\*/BLC\*\*/Gold Chair**

**Stephan Paul Brady - CCD/BLC/Gold\*\*\* Vice Chairman**

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

**David L. Aumen - CCD/BLC/Gold  
Karen Beinlich**

**Jeff Hamilton - 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.

We're proud to be part of your Christmas season.  
What do you mean, "What is the reason?"

Without us,  
Your holiday would be a fuss!

We keep your Christmas tree shining bright,  
That looks so festive late at night.

We keep your home warm,  
And everyone inside cozy from the storm.

We help cook your feast,  
Well ... we help turn on the oven, at least.

Throughout the month of December,  
When your lights turn on, just remember,  
SCREC is happy to be serving each member.

## Merry Christmas from our cooperative family to yours!

**Kendall Achey**  
Lineman

**David Aumen**  
Director, District 8

**Karen Beinlich**  
Director, District 2

**Stephan Brady**  
Director, District 9

**Nolan Chase**  
Lineman

**Diane Cusson**  
Accounts Payable

**Jeff Hamilton**  
Director, District 4

**Josh Heess, Jr.**  
Lineman

**Ann Henderson**  
Director, District 1

**Darrick Higley**  
Lineman

**Dave Kepner**  
Crew Chief

**James Lambert**  
Director, District 3

**Alex Laudermilch**  
Lineman

**Jay Lewis**  
Director, District 6

**Tom Livezey**  
Lineman

**John Lykens**  
CEO

**Todd Molyneux**  
Manager of Electric Operations

**Sarah Parrish**  
Cooperative Communicator

**Chad Phillips**  
Lineman

**Kim Phillips**  
Office Secretary

**David Rakestraw**  
Director, District 7

**Kathy Robbins**  
Director, District 5

**Heidi Roupp**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Jeff Spako**  
Operations Assistant I

**Diane White**  
Executive Assistant

**Lori Williams**  
Billing Clerk

**Tyler Worthen**  
Operations Assistant II

# Need a Last-Minute Christmas Gift? Electricity!

THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ONE PERSON on a Christmas shopping list who's difficult to buy gifts for. 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 find the perfect gift for them ... it turns out they already have that, too.



If at least one name pops into your mind while reading this and they live in our service territory, we have the solution to your gift-giving woes: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative gift certificates!

Save the strain on your family's and friend's wallets this season by giving them a break on their electric bill. Plus, keeping your money local at the co-op helps to benefit all of our members.

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

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

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



**OUTAGE PREVENTION:** Linemen Chad Phillips, standing, and Alex Laudermilch installed new lightning protection on our substation transformer in Dushore during the fall. This system improvement helps protect our equipment from failure in the event of a lightning strike. Thanks for the good work, guys!

## SCREC Receives Award for Scholarship Creation

MEMBERS OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) communications staff were recognized during the 2023 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Communications Awards Ceremony, held Sept. 19 at the organization's Locust Court Conference Center in Harrisburg.

The program, sponsored by the statewide organization representing 13 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey, is designed to recognize the work of cooperative communicators and was held in conjunction with the 2023 PREA Strategic Communications Forum. Awards were presented by Steve Brame, president & CEO of PREA and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) and Pete Fitzgerald, PREA/Allegheny vice president of public affairs & member services.

SCREC received an honorable mention certificate in the Best Wildcard category for its campaign for the SCREC Scholarship, which was established in 2023 for graduating high school seniors who live in the cooperative's service territory and want to further their education.

In the first year, \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to five students: a future Marine, elementary school teacher, electric lineworker, and biologists. The students had to complete an application, answer eight questions, submit academic proof (high school transcript, SAT/ACT results, and postsecondary education acceptance letter), and answer an essay question in at least 500 words.

To be eligible, a student must be a graduating high school senior; attending either a public or private school while living in the cooperative's service territory or homeschooled/cyberschooled in the service territory; and planning to obtain a postsecondary education. Applicants cannot be related to any employee or director at SCREC. Each scholarship application was reviewed anonymously by a scholarship committee composed of Directors Karen Beinlich, who chairs the committee, David Aumen, and Dr. Steve Brady.

To learn more about the SCREC Scholarship, visit [screc.com](http://screc.com) under "Scholarship." 📶



**RECOGNITION:** Cooperative Communicator Sarah Parrish accepts an honorable mention certificate in the Best Wildcard category during the 2023 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Communications Awards Ceremony. She is shown with Steve Brame, president & CEO of PREA and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.





The SCREC office will be closed Dec. 25-26 in observance of Christmas and Jan. 1, 2024, in observance of New Years Day. To report an outage, please call 570-924-3418 or 1-800-596-8397. Happy Holidays!

## Director Dave Aumen Recently Recertified

**DIANE WHITE**, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** Director Dave Aumen has recertified his Director Gold status. Director Gold recognizes directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond the Credential Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate levels.

Dave represents District 8, which includes Plunketts Creek Township in Lycoming County. To recertify, he had to take three courses over the past two years. Because he recertified his Director Gold status, Dave has demonstrated his ongoing commitment to advancing his knowledge and performing his fiduciary duty to the best of his ability. 🎉



**GOING FOR GOLD:** Ann Henderson, chair of the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, presents Director Dave Aumen with his Director Gold certificate.



**FROM ALL OF US HERE:** The holidays are best spent with family and friends and appreciating how thankful we all are. The employees of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative are proud to serve our members with reliable electricity, and we're thankful that each and every one of you support your cooperative and its efforts. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Employees

*A Monthly Spotlight*

**SARAH PARRISH**, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

**"I LOVE THIS AREA;** the outdoors and everything it offers. It's a great place to raise a family." Who better to guide a member-, family-, and community-based electric cooperative than the holder of this sentiment: our CEO, John Lykens.

John took over the financial oversight and electrical engineering duties of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) on May 16, 2022. Before joining our co-op, he worked at Penelec, Tri-County REC, and Utility Engineers. He received his postsecondary education at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

"I love working for cooperatives and what the cooperative is — a not-for-profit helping members," John says, commenting on why he applied for the CEO position. It has been an adjustment from his previous position at Utility Engineers, which required hands-on engineering. John has also had to adjust to reporting to a board of directors and coming

up with topics for his monthly *Penn Lines* article. (I think we can all agree he does a fantastic job!) Working with our members has made the changes and challenges all worthwhile.

"I like assisting members and answering questions, whether it's about solar connections or understanding high usage," John adds. "I like that cooperatives put the member first, and there's no shareholder. Everything at a cooperative revolves around the member and membership."

Something out of his control that has been a huge undertaking is the recent employee rollover at our co-op — and it all began right when John was named CEO. He had to replace five employees and then created two new positions: cooperative communicator and operations assistant II. He's also been tasked with creating job descriptions for new and existing positions. Thankfully, after several months of no changes, things are beginning to flow smoothly.

Soon, John hopes to implement as much technology as possible at Sullivan County REC and throughout our system. Namely, he wants to introduce monitoring, analysis and control systems to our substations, distribution and substation automation, and more member access to metering information.

John and his wife, Stacy, live outside of Wyalusing and have three daughters, Emily, Alicia, and Olivia.

After work, John is busy keeping up with his property and landscaping. On weekends, he enjoys going to the beach outside of Sea Isle, NJ, playing cornhole, and hanging out with friends and family by the campfire. Some of his favorite vacation memories are at Dalhousie Lake, Ontario, where he and his wife and daughters spent many summers fishing, camping, and playing in the lake.

John is the finance officer of American Legion Post 510 Laceyville and is a member of Calvery Chapel Endless

Mountains. He was also a volleyball coach at North Rome Christian School and served on the school board for 12 years each.

John and everyone else at your cooperative are family-minded. This Christmas season, our line crews will work around the clock when needed to keep your Christmas lights lit, your tree bright, and feasts cooking. We hope that being a member of our cooperative enables you to spend a blessed and happy Christmas season with your family, too. 🎄



**FAMILY FIRST:** Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative CEO John Lykens, standing third from left, celebrates his daughter Emily's wedding.