

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

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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.

Guest Column

Directors Power Up Their Knowledge



DIANE WHITE

SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS for Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) requires more than attending meetings once a month. The directors are tasked with approving the budget every year, borrowing funds, setting rates, and establishing policies. They also maintain the cooperative's articles of incorporation and bylaws, hire and evaluate the CEO, and hire the cooperative's attorney and auditor.

Their major responsibility is to represent all consumer-members in all districts. They do not take this responsibility lightly. They attend monthly board meetings, committee meetings, and meetings and conferences hosted by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Most important, they take various courses to attain the knowledge and skills they need to effectively represent you, the cooperative's consumer-members, and make decisions that affect our rural communities.

Your cooperative directors take courses through NRECA's director certificate programs, which create a path for continuous growth that helps them fulfill their responsibilities. The programs, which are taken in progression from fundamental to advanced, include:

- **Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate:** This builds a strong foundation with five courses focusing on governance and essential director skills. All current SCREC directors have achieved this certification.
- **Board Leadership Certificate (BLC):** These 10 courses take a deeper dive into emerging challenges, such as risk management and ratemaking. These courses can take years to complete. Eight of your nine directors have completed this certification.
- **Director Gold Credential:** This credential shows consumer-members that the director is determined to stay at the forefront of the energy industry. Directors must earn their CCD and BLC certificates before earning their Gold credential. To keep and maintain this credential, directors must complete an additional three credits from the BLC series of courses. After receiving their initial Gold certification, directors can maintain this status by taking three courses in a two-year period. Two of your directors have achieved Gold status four times, two have achieved it twice, and two directors have achieved Gold status once.

Almost all courses are offered in-person, and numerous courses are offered online. In his spotlight in the March 2025 issue of *Penn Lines*, District 7 Director Dave Rakestraw said his busy schedule makes attending in-person classes challenging, and he is thankful for the online options.

Whether your directors are new or have years of experience, these courses are designed to equip them with the resources to build their knowledge base.

"They've helped me better understand my role as a director and the ins and outs of helping our electric co-op function," District 6 Director Jay Lewis says.

Our co-op is thankful for this dedicated group of men and women who take time out of their busy schedules to continue serving our members. 

DIANE WHITE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Keeping Our Service Territory's History Alive

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

DURING SOME SPRING CLEANING at the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) office, staff came across a few old maps tucked away in a drawer.

The first was a February 11, 1969, map of Sky Meadows, located outside of Muncy Valley in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County. To preserve it, SCREC donated it to the Sullivan County Historical Society.

"You would think many people wouldn't be interested in maps," historical society President Melanie Norton says, "but you'd be wrong. A map can tell a story all by itself. It can tell you about the layout of the land, the tributaries through it, the people involved in it, and the dating of what has gone on in the past. They are a whole storyline of where we've been. Such is the case with SCREC's gift of the 1969 map of what was to be Sky Meadows.

"This was a project of investors to create a community where none previously existed," she adds. "When you look at this map, there is a vast amount of detail to every inch

of what was hoped to be: the streets, roads, proposed lots, and even the landscaping were detailed for the creation of Sky Meadows.

"But, alas, dreams and reality can fall short of each other," Melanie says, "and such was the case here."

A community that never was

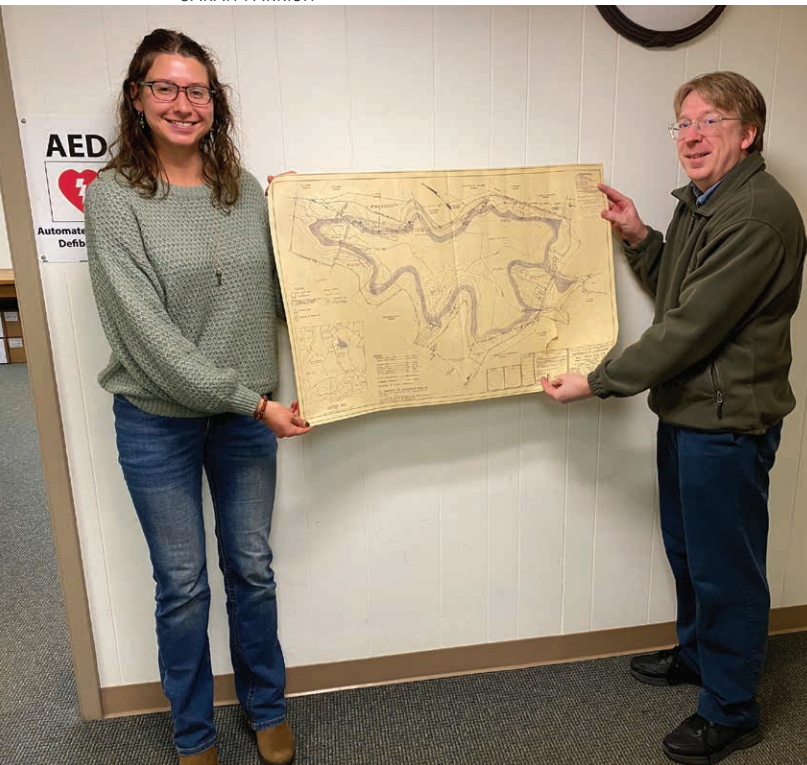
The project evolved around the same time that the Sullivan County School District opened the high school in 1964 and the elementary school in 1969.

"Sometimes there is just a little too much going on, particularly for rural areas, such as Sullivan County," Melanie says. "The influx of needed services to support Sky Meadows, as it was planned, would have taxed the people of the township and county in ways that meant not only money but also services."

In addition to fire and ambulance services, the county and its municipalities would have had to invest in new roads, housing, utilities, and other infrastructure.

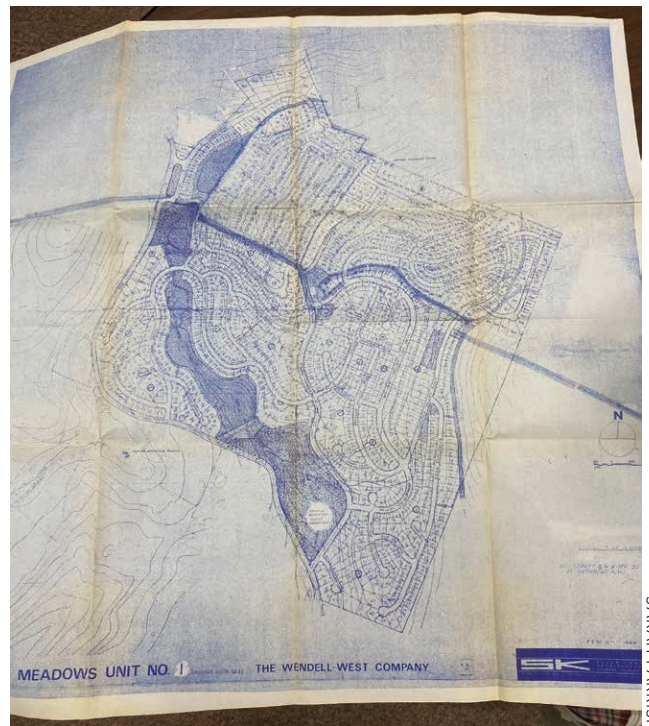
"That's not to say that Sullivan County does not

SARAH PARRISH



PRESERVING HISTORY: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Co-op Communicator Sarah Parrish presents a recovered map to Scott Sagar, curator of collections at Taber Museum and Lycoming County Historical Society. The map shows the Mill Creek Dam that resulted in the creation of Rose Valley Lake, which the co-op services.

WHAT WAS TO BE: These are the plans for Sky Meadows, an investor-owned development proposed in the early 1970s in Sullivan County.



SARAH PARRISH

encourage new people — this was just a lot more than could be anticipated,” she says. “So although the Sky Meadows project failed to succeed, we can, with this map, appreciate the vision that was being formed in 1969.”

To preserve the map, the historical society cleaned the front and back with putty and put archival-friendly tape on the back of the folds. The document was then refolded and pressed before being properly stored.

Something new about the past

The cooperative also found a map of Mill Creek Dam at Rose Valley Lake, which is in Gamble Township, Lycoming County. Dated Oct. 7, 1970, the map was donated to the Taber Museum and Lycoming County Historical Society.

“The Taber Museum and Lycoming County Historical Society are very happy to have received this map showing the plans for Mill Creek Dam and Rose Valley Lake in 1970,” says Scott Sagar, curator of collections. “Construction of the dam began in 1971 and finished in 1972. The resulting lake was named for the surrounding area, long known as Rose Valley after the first European settler, John Rose, who came to America from Scotland in 1794.

“Rose Valley Lake is one of the premier recreational sites in Lycoming County, and to have this detailed record of its origins is a unique addition to our collection,” Scott says. “As a bonus, it shows the surrounding property owners as well, further documenting the history of the area. Many thanks to Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative for donating the map to our historical society.”

SCREC provides its own rich history to the counties we serve — one based on working together to take our



SARAH PARRISH

MAP DONATION: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Co-op Communicator Sarah Parrish, left, and Sullivan County Historical Society President Melanie Norton hold a map found at the cooperative's office during spring cleaning. The map details the development of Sky Meadows, a community that never came to fruition.

communities out of the dark and into the light. Because of this, we're honored to continue preserving the area's rich heritage. 📖

Director Lewis Receives Gold Recertification

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Director Jay Lewis has achieved his Director Gold credential for a second time since he first obtained Gold status in 2022.

The Director Gold credential is for directors who are committed to continuing their education and want to earn a credential that reinforces their stature as an experienced and educated board member. Director Gold demonstrates to co-op members that these directors want to advance their knowledge and perform their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. 📖



DIANE WHITE

RECERTIFIED: Dr. Stephan Brady, left, chair of the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, presents board member Jay Lewis with his Director Gold credential.

The Principles of Co-op Membership

Cooperative Principle 2 - Democratic Member Control

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL is defined by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) this way: "Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors) are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member equals one vote)."

As a member of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, you have an elected director who represents the township or borough you live in. Each director serves a three-year term and then is eligible for re-election.

Any member may run for a seat on the board as long as they meet the following qualifications:

1. They are a *bona fide* legal resident of their district.
2. Their account is current and not in litigation with the co-op.
3. They have not been removed from the board in the past.
4. They have been a member of the cooperative for at least one year.
5. They have not been an employee for at least two years.
6. They have a high school diploma or GED.
7. They are not a close relative of an employee.

Directors' duties have been highlighted in recent *Penn Lines*

interviews with each director. They include approving the annual budget and financial plans, maintaining our bylaws and policies, hiring our CEO, attorney, and auditor, etc. Directors are also encouraged to take part in continuing education classes and meetings offered through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and NRECA.

More information about our directors can be found at screc.com/directors or by contacting Executive Assistant Diane White at 570-924-3381 or dianewhite@screc.com. We're grateful for our members' input and the directors they select to represent them on our board. 🇺🇸

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Dear Valued Member,

As a reminder, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is seeking your feedback and opinions on our performance and how we can better meet your needs. Your feedback will be instrumental in shaping the way our cooperative serves you in the future. If you haven't already, SCREC would appreciate 5 to 10 minutes of your time to fill out this confidential survey based on your experiences.

Scan this QR code to take the survey:



For technical support please email surveyhelp@cfigroup.com.

Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,
Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat, such as clothes dryers and dishwashers, during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov