

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
Dennis Klem, Manager,
Finance and Administration
Todd Molyneux, Manager,
Electric Operations
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann B. Henderson - CCD*/BLC**
Chairman
Stephan Paul Brady - CCD/BLC/Gold***
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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.

Time to Focus on Challenges Ahead



TIME CERTAINLY DOES NOT STAND still for anyone. While time doesn't change from day to day or year to year, it seems to pass by faster the older we get. One year has passed since I was appointed by your board of directors to succeed Craig Harting as the CEO of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC). It doesn't seem quite possible that a year has passed since assuming the responsibility of overseeing the day-to-day operations here at the cooperative on June 3, 2022. As I look back, a lot has transpired over the last 365 days.

There are many new faces at your cooperative as longtime employees were able to retire after successful careers here. Craig Harting, Tom Eberlin, John Zelewicz, and Walt Tubach all started a new chapter in their lives while myself, Sarah Parrish, Josh Heess, and Hunter Talcott changed career paths to begin working for the cooperative. And Karen Beinlich joined the board of directors for District 2 to represent members in Elkland and Hillsgrove townships.

With new faces came new positions and responsibilities. The positions of cooperative communicator and operations assistant II were created to meet the changing needs of the cooperative. The communicator position handles all cooperative communications through a variety of different platforms. The operations position addresses technological advancements such as SCADA, substation/distribution automation and advanced metering infrastructure.

Safety continues to be a mission-critical component of the cooperative, not only for our lineworkers and employees but also for our members and the public. All of us at the cooperative are committed to our "Commitment to Zero" pledge to refocus our efforts, avoid complacency and mitigate hazards to eliminate accidents. Regular safety committee meetings, coupled with safety stand-downs and near-miss-incident reviews, support these efforts as well.

Making sure the lights stay on and ensuring power is restored in a timely manner when outside forces (trees, weather, animals, deterioration, etc.) causes them to go out, continues to be a priority for your cooperative.

Preventive maintenance also continues to be a high priority for the cooperative. American Energy Services inspected 2,504 of the cooperative's 20,817 wooden poles, and SCREC line crews replaced 140 of them. Spako's Tree Services crews maintained more than 160 miles of electric line rights of way, trimming nearly 8,461 trees and removing 10,909 trees. Asplundh Tree Service applied selective/targeted species herbicide to more than 71 miles of rights of way. Finally, SCREC lineworkers patrolled 142 miles of electric line to visually inspect every pole and every span of wire on the distribution circuits, identifying deficiencies and correcting them before failure.

Inflation and rising costs from generation suppliers, equipment and pole-line hardware manufacturers, fuel costs, and more had a major impact on your cooperative and nearly every electric distribution company (cooperative, municipal and investor-owned) across the country. While the cooperative board and employees continued to look for ways to mitigate cost increases throughout all aspects of our business, these multi-faceted cost pressures forced the cooperative to raise both generation and distribution rates for all member classes.

For now, we're focused on the challenges ahead. Commodity and service costs remain high, weather events continue to batter our service territory, and a few more employees will retire over the next 365 days. Your CEO, board of directors and all employees at SCREC are resolved to continue fulfilling the cooperative's mission of bringing "safe, dependable electrical energy and energy-related services to all members in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner." Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

From the Operations Department

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

NEW NAMES, SAME FACES, DIFFERENT POSITIONS...THE last several months have brought about a few changes in our operations department here at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC).

Personnel changes

SCREC veteran Walt Tubach retired as manager of electric operations December 29, 2022, after 38 years of service. Succeeding him was Jeff Truesdale, a native of Tioga County. Throughout his career, Truesdale held the positions of lineman, purchasing manager, line superintendent and construction production lead subcontractor.

His 24 years of experience in the electric operations field in various locations (Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida), broadened his horizons regarding many different structures of operations departments, and he was able to

implement some of these new and different practices into SCREC's own operations department.

Changes that happened behind the scenes included the way work was divided among the line crews and how the office staff and line crews communicated. According to Truesdale, the entire operations department is now involved in what is going on within the co-op. However, Truesdale's tenure at SCREC was short-lived as he decided to return to his family in Navarre, Fla.

"Departing from a great work environment is never easy," Truesdale said before his March 17 departure. "The opportunity I was presented here at SCREC was once-in-a-lifetime. However, family to everyone should always be put first. Our kids wish to graduate from their present school in Florida, so my wife, Katina, and I are going to respect our children's wishes. Every employee here is great to work with, and due to that the co-op will move forward in great strides. I want to thank everyone again for this great opportunity. I will surely miss everyone here."

Upon Truesdale's resignation, Senior Lineman Todd Molyneux was promoted to manager of electric operations. Todd has been with SCREC as a lineman for 25 years and is well acquainted with our system and 900 miles of line.

If that wasn't enough, these aren't the only changes within the operations department. Tyler Worthen was promoted to operations assistant II, effective March 27. Tyler has a bachelor of science degree in computer and information science, served for eight years in the U.S. Navy, and worked for six years as a sales and service technician at Frontier Communications. He was hired by SCREC Nov. 9, 2020, as an apprentice lineman.

Operations department projects

Todd, Tyler, and Jeff Spako, operations assistant I, have kept the same freedom and communication throughout the operations department as established by Truesdale. They already have a slate of improvements to be made throughout the operations department, which will enhance service to our members. These include the implementation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that can be managed



BEFORE AND AFTER: Contracted crews from Spako's Tree Services have been busy clearing miles of rights of way. This makes access to our lines easier for crews and lessens the chance of a tree or limb coming down on lines.



from our office, distribution and substation automation, automatic meter infrastructure, and improved communication technology throughout our service territory.

“We’re taking a more modern approach to maintenance, which will be safer for everyone,” Spako says.

Another project already in the works is right-of-way clearing. Contracted crews are trimming trees in the rights of way from our Shore Acres substation to our Mill Creek substation, and from there to our Laporte substation. Cleared rights of way reduce outage time greatly; they lessen the chance of trees or limbs on lines and make access to lines/transformers easier for our line crews.

New names, new responsibilities

When Todd and Tyler moved into their new positions, our line crew dropped from nine to seven. Two apprentice linemen have been hired to fill these vacant positions. Keep an eye on screc.com, social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and in area newspapers to meet the new members of our team.

SCREC line crews are now establishing an official crew chief. This person will be responsible for the crews and their safety while they are working in the field. The crew chief will be on the job site to determine what materials will be needed, decide what work needs to be done and make any major decisions. This person will also be responsible for



ALL IN A DAY’S WORK: SCREC crews work on establishing lines to a new pole.



WIND DAMAGE: A windstorm swept through our service area this past spring, snapping utility poles and trees.

answering questions from members and/or landowners while out in the field.

If you stop by our Forksville office or see our crews working out in the field, you’ll most likely see some new faces or the same faces in different positions! Everyone is working together to provide you with safe, reliable power. 🇺🇸

DIRECTOR DAVE RAKESTRAW RECENTLY CERTIFIED

Dave Rakestraw is the newest Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative board member to obtain his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification. The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide essential knowledge required of cooperative directors. Dave is the board representative from District 7, which includes Upper Fairfield Township in Lycoming County.



DIRECTOR EDUCATION: SCREC Chair Ann Henderson presents fellow director Dave Rakestraw with the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate.

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Employees

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

THIS MONTH'S EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT also serves as a farewell message.

Manager of Finance and Administration Dennis Klem will be retiring from Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) on Friday, June 16, after 11 years with the co-op.

Dennis' journey at SCREC began on Halloween 2011. He had previously worked in accounting for various companies in Williamsport. When approached by his neighbor and former Manager of Electric Operations

Dave King about the opening at SCREC, he put in for the position and has been working to keep the co-op financially stable ever since.

Dennis has been instrumental in not only the co-op's finances but also the OMS mapping system in the operations department.

"I enjoy finding ways to help my co-workers do their jobs better and easier," Dennis says. "Not only in accounting or finances, but in all the departments."

As part of simplifying the co-op's finances by organizing it all digitally, Dennis has been able to get capital credits returns back on track to our members and has been able to help budget money to fund improvements in the operations department. Dennis encourages his successor to keep up with the progress SCREC has been making over the last decade.

"Keep the momentum moving in a forward, positive direction for the co-op, its members, and its employees," Dennis recommends. "Talk to people, get their input."

On a day-to-day basis, Dennis has managed the co-op's cash

flow, planning how he could make things more efficient. He also handles payroll, human resources duties, capital credits returns, purchasing and work-order updates. Before Tyler Worthen stepped into the role of operations assistant II, Dennis had been the co-op's information technology and mapping expert.

Dennis and his wife, Diane, live in Hillsgrove with their two dogs, Snickers and Homer, and flock of chickens. They have one son, Donovan.

In his free time, Dennis enjoys working around the house outdoors — cutting wood, landscaping and walking the dogs. He has also been president of the Hillsgrove Volunteer Fire Company for the past 25 years and also serves as its treasurer.

Dennis is most looking forward to spending more time outdoors at his lake house in New York state during his retirement, especially kayaking, boating and fishing.

"Dennis has done a fantastic job for the cooperative over the last 11 years and put SCREC in a position to continue investing in its future," says CEO John Lykens. "His retirement is well deserved."

"I'd like to thank all of the employees that have helped me do my job better," Dennis says.

SCREC wouldn't be where it is today without Dennis' efforts in modernizing its finances and OMS mapping system. From all of us at the co-op, we thank him for his work here and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement! 🍷



TIME OUTSIDE: Retiring Manager of Finance and Administration Dennis Klem is looking forward to spending his retirement outdoors at home and at his lake home in New York state with his wife, Diane, and two dogs, Snickers and Homer.