

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

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.

Your Cooperative's Vision



JOHN LYKENS

JULY 4, 2026, WILL MARK this country's 250th anniversary of declaring independence from Great Britain and forming the United States of America. Our Commander in Chief and President of the United States Donald J. Trump recently made the following statement foreshadowing the momentous milestone: "With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history."

But the journey to independence began decades before July 4, 1776. While the American colonists had established a home here, they were ultimately still subject to British laws and policies. Unhappy with this "arrangement," colonial visionaries imagined an America independent and free from British rule. They had a vision to govern themselves. One may infer that if they had a vision statement, it might say, "To be free from authoritarian, oppressive rule, and establish a government of the people, by the people, and for the people." Or, it could have simply stated, "To be free and independent of British rule."

Vision steers organizations to what they are striving to achieve. The vision is aspirational and inspires people to make it a reality. A vision is not what an organization does every day; day-to-day operations are the mission. An organization without a mission is not viable and has no purpose. An organization without a vision can stagnate without a means to grow beyond its current capabilities.

Until recently, your cooperative did not have a written vision statement. Our employees, directors, and management team all had our own vision for the cooperative, but it wasn't written down as a unified, shared idea.

I am happy to report this is no longer the case. At your board's most recent planning meeting, your directors and management collaboratively drafted Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative's vision statement. This statement defines what your cooperative is striving to achieve: *"To enhance the quality of life for our members by powering growth, innovation, and community for a brighter tomorrow."*

You, our consumer-members, are the focus of this vision.

Our electric cooperative predecessors, whose vision to bring electricity to every rural home and business across the United States, has been fulfilled for some time. The vision of providing safe, reliable, and cost-responsible electricity to our members has largely been achieved, too, and is now the mission of your cooperative. A new cooperative vision will help guide the decisions we make and direct our path into the future.

Your electric cooperative has always been committed to you. Our focus, our mission, and now our vision revolves around our members. We will strive to fulfill our vision by ensuring our members continue to remain at the heart of everything we do. Together, we will achieve a brighter tomorrow. Together, we will build up our community. And together, the things that seemed achievable only outside of rural America will become attainable for all members. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

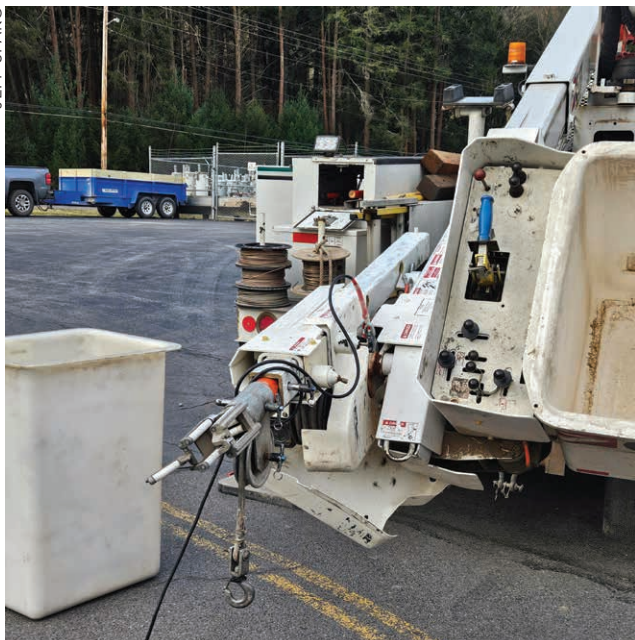
Testing for Safety

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

EACH AND EVERY DAY, our No. 1 priority at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is safety. You can see that when our line crews are in the field working, Lineworkers wear personal protective equipment (PPE), hold safety meetings before starting a job to discuss possible hazards, and communicate using two-way radios while working.

There's also a lot of behind-the-scenes work to ensure the equipment our lineworkers use will keep them safe, especially when working on lines energized with 14,400 volts of electricity.

JEFF SPAKO



BOOM TESTING: A bucket truck's boom is ready to be inspected.

JEFF SPAKO



HAPPY TO HELP: John Summers at VOLTS Testing, LLC stands in his portable testing trailer, ready to inspect our lineworkers' hot sticks.

This past spring, all of our bucket truck and digger derrick truck booms, insulated line tools, and rubber blankets and line hoses were tested by John and Carol Summers at VOLTS Testing, LLC. The pair has 35 years of experience, performing most of their work between Pennsylvania and Georgia for electric cooperatives and companies in the high-voltage utility business.

Other equipment tests are performed throughout the year, too. The following details the procedures:

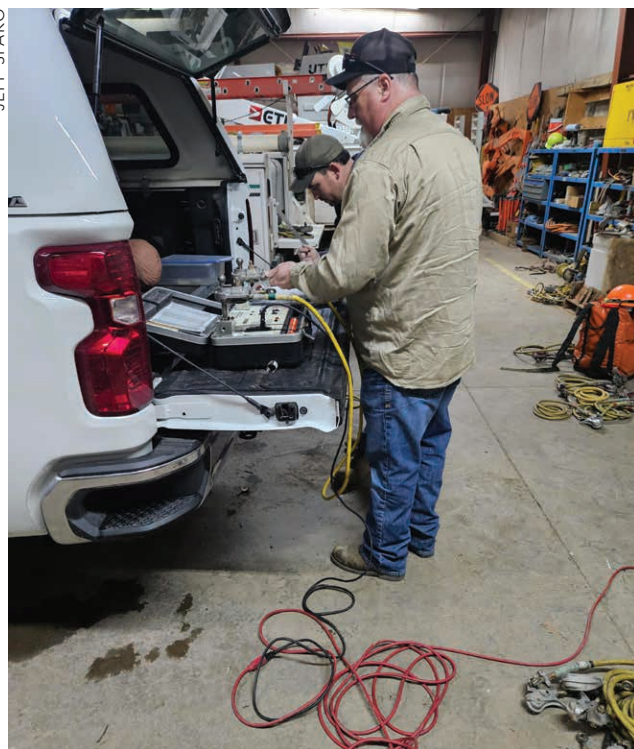
Boom testing

When testing the booms, VOLTS performs a "leak test" by energizing the boom tip with 100,000 volts. The opposite side of the insulated boom is then grounded to see if any tracking (burn) marks appear in between. If a boom tests poorly, it is examined and either repaired or removed from our service.

Bucket insert testing

Our dielectric bucket inserts are submerged in a tank of water; the inside of the liner is energized and the outside area is grounded. Any holes or cracks will show a visible burn through the liner. Those that fail are taken out of service and replaced with a new one.

JEFF SPAKO



GROUND SET TESTER: Ken Musick, forefront, a Job Training & Safety instructor with the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, and Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Apprentice Lineman Shane Kline inspect our grounds.

Hot stick testing

Lineworkers use hot sticks to safely reach energized lines or equipment. To test their structural integrity, the hot sticks are first cleaned with a silicone-based spray to remove any debris or dirt. After being visually inspected for cracks or broken/missing parts, the hot sticks are tested more thoroughly when 75,000 volts AC is applied to every foot of the stick — our shortest stick is 1 foot and our longest is 35 feet. If the stick passes its test, it's labeled with the test and expiration dates. If it fails, extendable sections can be replaced. However, small sticks that do not extend cannot be fixed. They are cut in half and removed from service.

Rubber blanket testing

Rubber blankets are placed on a grounded steel table, then energized with 40,000 volts AC through a wet towel for 1 minute. This quickly identifies any holes or degradation that make a blanket unusable.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires hot sticks to be tested every two years and rubber blankets, line hoses, truck booms, and bucket liners to be tested yearly.

Ground set testing

The American National Standards Institute states that grounds must be inspected each year. Grounds are a lineworker's last line of defense when working on a de-energized line. They provide a low-resistance path to ground so that if the line becomes energized, an upstream circuit protective device (fuse, recloser or breaker) will open to shunt the current through the grounds, not the lineworker.

During the test, conducted at SCREC by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's Job Training & Safety crew, grounds are checked for resistance and continuity. If the ground does not test properly, all the connections are cleaned (corrosion on copper is common). If needed, new ferrules, which are small, metal tubes, are pressed onto the end of the ground and new conductor clamps are also put on. The ground is then retested. If it fails, the ground is disposed of.

"Grounding is one of the many life-saving practices for lineworkers," SCREC Operations Assistant I Jeff Spako says. "Testing our grounds to make sure they operate and function properly can protect our lineworkers from the unknown hazards of the job."

When working on a de-energized line, lineworkers follow these steps:

1. **Put on PPE.** Lineworkers put on their personal protective equipment before working (hard hat, rubber gloves and sleeves, fire-resistant clothing, and safety glasses).

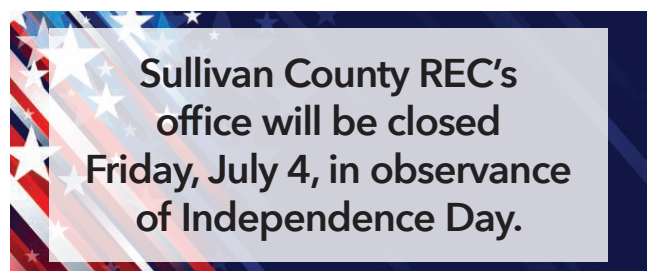


JEFF SPAKO

REJECT: This rubber blanket was rejected after high-voltage tests detected a pinhole – a safety hazard for lineworkers.

2. **Create a visual open.** Crews open and verify a break in the line at a line-controlled device.
3. **Test.** Lineworkers test the circuit to ensure the line is dead.
4. **Tag.** Lineworkers tag the pole(s) to alert other lineworkers that someone is working on that line. This also indicates that no one should re-energize the line until the tag is removed, grounds are removed and all personnel are in the clear.
5. **Ground.** Once it is confirmed there is no energized source, both sides of the work zone are grounded.

A lineworker's job is filled with risks. We're grateful for the brave group of lineworkers we have who are ready to work 24/7 for our members. Performing these necessary tests to keep them safe while they are working in all kinds of hazardous conditions can give them, their family and co-workers a little more peace of mind when they're in the field. 🇺🇸



The Principles of Co-op Membership

Cooperative Principle 1: Voluntary and Open Membership

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to be a member of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative? To some folks, it may feel like just another bill to pay or just another utility service. But the cooperative business model is far from that because it gives our members opportunities other businesses can't. Over the next several issues of *Penn Lines*, we'll be highlighting these opportunities and how they affect you, our members. We'll also explain how members can take advantage of the benefits by discussing our core seven cooperative principles.

Our first cooperative principle is "voluntary and open membership." The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association says this principle ensures "membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances."

Put plainly, anyone living within our service territory is eligible for membership and cannot be denied service. And those who join must be willing to accept the responsibilities,

which include abiding by the cooperative's bylaws and policies, paying their monthly bill, and cooperating with our operations department during periodic maintenance outages, right-of-way maintenance, and outage restoration.

Any healthy relationship is a two-way street and maintaining that relationship with our members is very important to us. If you have any questions about your membership, please call the office at 570-924-3381, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 📞

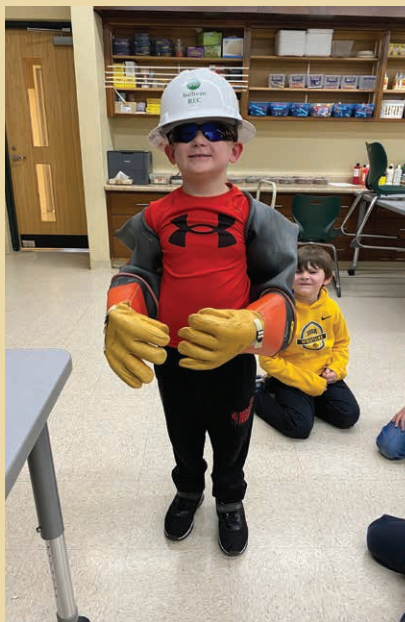
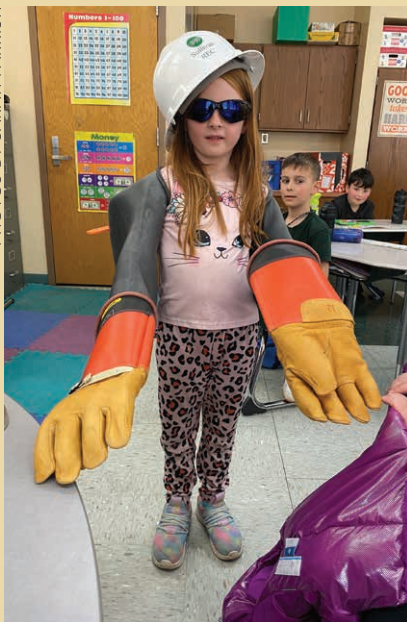
Electrical Safety 101

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

EDUCATING OUR MEMBERS and the public on electrical safety is one of our priorities here at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative. That's why Executive Assistant Diane White and Cooperative Communicator Sarah Parrish visit elementary schools in Sullivan and Lycoming counties to teach electrical safety to first graders each year.

Diane and Sarah give students a crash course on how electricity is generated and distributed to their homes and schools and provide tips on how to safely navigate outlets and plugs, downed lines, substations, and overhead lines. A few lucky kids also get to try on lineworker gear! All students go home with an activity book, stickers and a ruler. 📖

PHOTOS BY SARAH PARRISH



FUTURE LINEWORERS: The next generation of lineworkers begins with today's kids; these two might some day be part of the crews keeping your lights on.

LET'S LEARN SAFETY: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Executive Assistant Diane White shows students some real-life scenarios involving electricity and the "shocking" outcome.