

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

Financial Responsibility

SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (SCREC) has a financial responsibility to inform the membership of how its money is spent. You can drive around your community and see trees being cut and trimmed to keep the rights of way clear, you can see aging poles being replaced, and you may even see a new bucket truck rolling down the road. These are the obvious ways the cooperative uses money to keep your lights on, but there's another aspect to being financially responsible: budgeting.

Every year, the management team puts together a budget that helps us see where the cooperative is and where it's headed — and the 2025 budget includes some exciting changes.

The last time the cooperative had a software program change, I was headed to college. We have started a year-long project to transition our system to the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) platform. This organization serves more than 950 electric and telecommunications cooperatives across the United States, making it a leader in software designed specifically for these industries. Right now, we're in the early stages and collecting historical data from our current software system. But once the transition is made, SCREC will have one program that will replace the multiple programs we currently use to run our day-to-day business.

How is this going to impact the membership? First, members will notice changes to their monthly electric bill, which will include more information, such as a list of billing periods and a graph with your past kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage. The bill will also be a little more colorful.

The next big change members will notice is making online bill payments under a new website. The new system will allow the cooperative to receive payments faster and members' accounts will be credited automatically. When members call in for a new service or upgrade, the process will be streamlined with member services representatives being able to answer questions on the progress of the service order. Members will also be able to view their account's daily kWh usage thanks to the new meter data management system.

With the new software upgrade, the cooperative staff will have to go through training and learn a whole new way of doing business that will impact its daily workflow. This will take time along with patience from the membership as we make the transition. Our staff will see many changes, too, from how a service order is processed to how to fill out their timesheet. The board of directors will also see changes in their monthly reports. As of today, the customer care and billing system is scheduled to be upgraded first and will go live in September. Customer care and billing includes billing, payments, collections, service orders, capital credits, and meter management. The financial and operations upgrade is set to go live in early 2026. These programs include general accounting, plant and asset accounting, purchasing and material inventory, work orders, and the human resources and payroll system. Lastly, the mapping, staking, and outage management programs will be upgraded in spring 2026.

With all the exciting changes that are coming, there will be some bumps in the road the cooperative staff will have to navigate. As we continue to make progress on the software upgrade over the next few months, the cooperative will be sure to provide updates to members. 📺

HEIDI ROUPP

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Students Represent Co-op at 2025 Youth Tour

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

EACH YEAR, STUDENTS FROM Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) member families represent your co-op at the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour started in 1964 to introduce rural students to our nation's capital so they could experience everything it offers — sights, museums, politics, culture, food, and more. Organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, students from our cooperative join others from Pennsylvania and New Jersey for the trip to D.C., where they meet up with more than 1,700 students from across the nation.

This year, the following students will be attending Youth Tour, June 16 to 21:



Emily Lewis attends East Lycoming High School and is the daughter of Jay Lewis. Emily has been a member of the marching band's Color Guard for five years, holding the positions of captain, vice president and president. She has performed in plays and participated in musical theater, serving as manager

and secretary. In addition, Emily has been in chorus and served as a section leader. Her special interests include music and art. Emily is a member of the Future Business

Leaders of America and has participated in the state competition three times. Emily's career goal is to be an interior architect.



Noah Rakestraw attends Montoursville Area High School and is the son of David and Kimberly Rakestraw. A football player, he has been named an offensive and defensive line all-star. He also became a member of the Pa. Football Gold All-Academic Team in 2025. Noah has been weightlifting since 2022. He enjoys

building computers, playing basketball, participating in Tough Mudder and Spartan races, and being outdoors. Noah's career goal is to be an electrician.

These students can expect a week of monument tours and sightseeing, trips to the Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon Memorial, and the Washington National Zoo, and congressional visits. They will also learn about rural electrification and the cooperative business model and spend time with other Youth Tour students, eating, dancing, and trading state pins.

We at SCREC would like to congratulate these students and hope they have a terrific time at this year's Youth Tour. For more information, visit screc.com/yt.

2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY REC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15

Agenda:

- 6:30 p.m. - Call to Order
- Report of 2025 Director Election (Attorney Chappell)
- Board Chair Report (Steve Brady)
- CEO Report (John Lykens)
- Q&A (submitted during meeting)
- 7:15 p.m. (approx.) - Adjournment

Members must register before May 14 by visiting <https://bit.ly/screcAnnualMtg2025> or contacting Diane White at dianewhite@screc.com or 570-924-3381.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov

Certificates Given to Directors Brady and Beinlich

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Chair Steve Brady has recertified his Director Gold status through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

This credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) levels. Steve, who has achieved Gold

status four times, represents District 9, which encompasses Cascade, Gamble, and Lewis townships in Lycoming County.

Karen Beinlich has just earned her BLC, a curriculum that consists of 10 courses designed to provide essential knowledge required of cooperative directors. Karen previously achieved CCD status by taking the required five courses. She represents District 2, which covers Elkland and Hillsgrove townships in Sullivan County. 🇺🇸



DIRECTOR GOLD STATUS: SCREC Board Vice Chair Dave Aumen, right, presents board Chair Steve Brady with his Director Gold certificate.



BOARD LEADERSHIP CERTIFIED: SCREC Board Chair Steve Brady presents Director Karen Beinlich with her Board Leadership Certificate.

The Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. To report an outage, please call 570-924-3418 or 800-596-8397.

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Directors

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

"I JOINED THE BOARD BECAUSE

I wanted to give back to my community."

Cooperative Director Karen Beinlich and her family have been a part of the Sullivan County community for decades. This actually isn't their first *Penn Lines* appearance. The Beinlichs' infamous "round house" in Estella was highlighted in the February 1993 issue (see below).

Karen and her husband, Dave, have three children, Tiffany, Jordan, and Kassidy. They also have a granddaughter — Sophie, daughter of Tiffany and her husband, Tanner McCarty. For years, the couple was busy taking their children to sporting games, practices, and tournaments. They also helped at the concession stands and did other volunteer work. On top of that, Karen worked with the 44th Judicial District for 33 years, has been involved with the Sullivan County Health Fair for 22 years, and volunteered with the Sullivan County Fair and PennDOT's Roadside Beautification program.

After years of being on the go, Karen retired in October 2022 for a slower lifestyle. She's been enjoying

time with her 1 ½-year-old granddaughter, traveling, riding her bike on rails-to-trails, and savoring life.

While retirement is great, Karen wanted something to keep her busy — not quite full time — and something different. Nearly a lifelong member of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC), she wanted to give back to her community in a new way.

"I really liked our mission statement — 'SCREC will provide safe, dependable electric energy and related services to its members in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner' — and wanted to be a part of that," she says.

Karen filled the seat vacated by Ben Fiester, who resigned in 2022, and has run in two uncontested elections since then. She serves the members of District 2, which covers Elkland and Hillsgrove townships in Sullivan County. Thanks to years as a volunteer and active community member, she knows her territory and its members very well.

Karen's very first meeting was former

CEO Craig Harting's last meeting. Since then, she has worked with our current CEO, John Lykens, who introduced her to the co-op building, operations, and employees.

"Being a director is a lot of work; there's so much out there to learn, but it's been good for me," Karen says. "It keeps me up to date on what's going on in the world."

Karen recently received her Board Leadership Certificate (see page 14C) and has already earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. She's now taking courses offered through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to achieve Director Gold status. On our board, Karen is a member of the Audit, Marketing, and Scholarship committees.

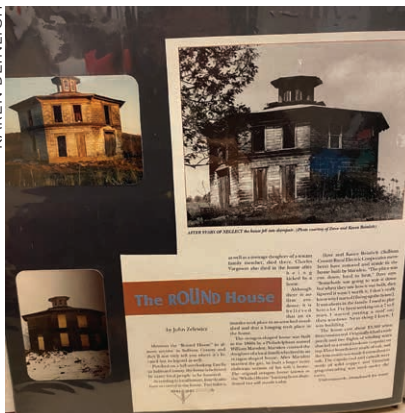
"Everyone was so welcoming when I joined. We have a really good, solid group of people who love the community," she says. "The co-op system is really cool — it's different from any other business. It's so powerful with all the members contributing to it."

A perk of co-op membership is that it's governed by an elected board of directors, who represent members from the nine districts that make up our service territory. The board's actions directly affect them, too. Hopefully meeting each of our directors has given you an insight into the vital role they play at our co-op. 📺

SCREC



KAREN BEINLICH



REPRESENTING DISTRICT 2: Our last director to be featured in the spotlight column is Karen Beinlich, who represents District 2, covering Elkland and Hillsgrove townships in Sullivan County. Karen and her husband, Dave, were first featured in *Penn Lines* in February 1993 in a story about restoring their 1860s round house outside of Estella.

KAREN BEINLICH

