

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

Craig A. Harting, CEO
Dennis Klem, Manager, Finance and Administration
Walt Tubach, Manager, Electric Operations
Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann B. Henderson – CCD/BLC
Chairman
Wayne E. Gavitt – CCD
Vice Chairman
Kathy A. Robbins – CCD/BLC
Secretary/Treasurer
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Stephan Paul Brady – CCD/BLC/Gold
Benton J. Fiester
Jeff Hamilton – CCD
Jay Lewis – CCD
Curtin R. Rakestraw II – CCD/BLC/Gold

*Credentialed Cooperative Director
**Board Leadership Certificate
***Director Gold Certificate

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

From the CEO



Coronavirus

By Craig A. Harting

THE CORONAVIRUS has impacted all of us and will continue to do so. As I write this on the first day of April, we are starting to see impacts in our area, and this evening the governor declared a stay-at-home order. How will this virus impact your cooperative, and what are we doing to prepare for it?

At this point, there are many unknowns as to the length and breadth of this virus. There are some discussions that there could even be a second wave coming through in the fall. We hope and pray this is not the case. We continue to prepare and adjust the best we can to continue service to you and minimize the impacts to the cooperative.

Preparations

As noted on the billing insert or email you received in early April, we instituted procedures to protect both you and our employees. This has meant closing the office to the public and adjusting procedures regarding deliveries and additional cleaning. Please consider using our online services on our webpage.

We also split our workforce to minimize contact and increase distances both in the office and in the field. We ask that you not approach linemen working in the field and maintain social distances.

Impacts

We know there will be a lasting impact in many ways to our economy

and perhaps to you personally. It is clear our economy will be impacted for some time. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns going forward regarding your billings.


By necessity, there will be some improvement jobs on the electric system that will be put on hold until later, but we will keep up with any necessary work, including any new services you would need.

While it is still early in the year, at this point we are on track with our budget both for sales and for expenses. We will continue to carefully watch both revenues and expenses and try to stay on budget. It appears that we may be OK this year.

Not changed

Many things have changed and will continue to change with this virus. Some things will never be the same, but rest assured your cooperative will always continue to work hard to serve you the best we can under any condition.

Restoring outages will continue to be our highest priority, and we will always strive to restore any and all outages as quickly as possible. We will use all of our crews and call in additional crews only if necessary. In any event, we would continue to work as long as it would take to get everyone connected.

We will get through this together, and hopefully it will be over soon. In the meantime, please stay safe. 

Local artist shares love of art

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

ART IS created in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. It can be anything from a 30-foot statue created out of marble to a delicately crafted piece of pottery. It can also be a sketch using a pencil or a painting done with oils, acrylic paint, or watercolors. But what exactly is art?

According to Wikipedia, “art is a diverse range of human activities in creating visual, auditory or performing artifacts (artworks), expressing the author’s imaginative, conceptual ideas, or technical skill, intended to be appreciated for their beauty or emotional power.”

Of course, not everyone can be an artist, or for that matter, play the violin or write a novel. But there are those who have a burning love of art inside them that can only be quenched by creating art. Local artist Dan Curry is just such a person.

Some people may take to art early in life like a fish takes to water. But that wasn’t the case with Curry. Curry first got interested in art while serving in the military.

“I met my wife, Donna, in Philadelphia in 1971,” he says. “Donna noticed my casual interest in art, and her encouragement was important in my decision to pursue training first at the

Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts) and later at The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1973-77.”

During his studies at the academy, Curry was strongly influenced by two instructors, Louis Sloan and Morris Blackburn, as well as by many of his fellow students. Curry became interested in the French impressionists and post-impressionists, including Claude Monet and Paul Cezanne.

He was also strongly influenced by the American naturalist/transcendentalist writers from the 19th century, including Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“This interest influenced my decision to move to a rural location like Sullivan County,” Curry explains. “We moved here in 1977 and built our home and life on Ringer Hill. My art and landscapes, in particular, have grown out of the richness of my life with my family here in Northeast Pennsylvania.”

Living in rural Sullivan County, the local landscape has helped Curry create a large body of work representing his experience in this beautiful area of Pennsylvania.

Uses technique known as plein air painting

Many of the artworks created by Curry are done using a technique known as plein air painting, which is done by painting outdoors in natural light. This more accurately depicts the appearance of outdoor settings in various light and weather conditions.



A LIFE OF ART: Dan Curry’s wife, Donna, noticed his casual interest in art and encouraged him to pursue training at the Philadelphia College of Art.

According to Curry, this style of painting is vastly different from painting still life or painting from a photo taken of an outdoor scene.

“The artist has to work quickly, which makes it spontaneous and energizing ... there’s a bit of an interpretation,” he says. “Most artists, or those who love art, understand the difference between studio painting and plein air painting. The spontaneous, on-the-spot moment inspires plein air painting, and the results are often loose and interpretive.”

Painting is more than the process of applying paint to canvas. For Curry, painting plein air landscapes allows him to encounter beautiful and various natural light effects. But it’s more than that for Curry; it’s a way to look inside



ART FOR SALE: Dan Curry has a wide range of paintings and prints available for sale. Anyone interested in learning more about Curry or his paintings can visit his website at dan-curry.com.

himself for self-discovery.

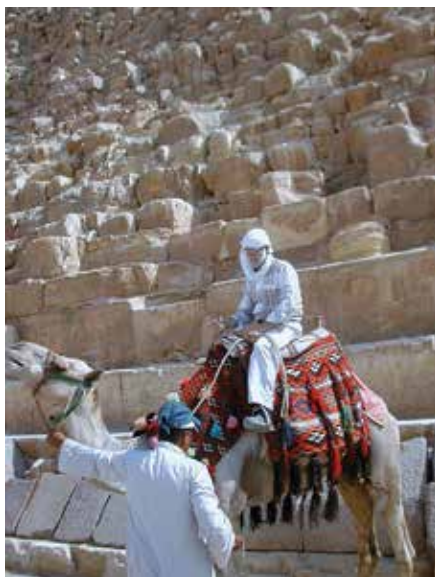
"I view my efforts at creating images as a sensitizing process that promotes the possibility for elevating and transforming my spiritual being," he explains. "I hope to discover mystery and beauty in my art. I feel that the art forms created are not the end product. They can be beautiful symbols and traces on the path of self-realization and spiritual awakening."

One of Curry's most well-known and loved paintings is that of the "Forks-ville Covered Bridge." He is quick to point out that he wouldn't be as well-known or successful as an artist if it wasn't for the support of others.

"I have been very fortunate that there have been many local people who have patronized my work, and I appreciate that," he says.

Of course, Curry is known for his artwork by more than just the residents of Sullivan County. Recently he was invited to do a show at the North Carolina Estuarium Museum.

"I've been very busy preparing for the show in North Carolina," he says. "I was invited to do a show there but I had to figure out what to show. I decided not to show paintings from Pennsylvania, so



AROUND THE WORLD: Dan Curry's art is displayed around the world. His paintings have been at the Cairo Opera House Contemporary Art Gallery in Egypt, the U.S. Capitol, and United Nations buildings in New York and South Africa. Here, Curry enjoys a camel ride while savoring the rich history of Egypt.

I'm showing 20 paintings I've done of Ocracoke."

Love of art leads to teaching others

Curry feels that painting isn't enough — he wants to share his passion for art by teaching others. Since 1998, Curry has been a roster artist for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and he works through the Northern Tier Partnership for Arts in Education in Towanda.

"This organization places me in various settings where I teach while they sponsor and pay me," he explains. "Recently, through the Sullivan County Library and the United Way, I have been co-sponsored with matching funds grants so I can teach without charging the participants."

Curry has a long history of teaching and inspiring others with a love of art. He taught at Red Rock Job Corps from 1982 to 2012, and began teaching an art class in Dushore at the Sullivan Terrace in 2016, which he plans to teach as long as the sponsorship continues.

Recently, Curry set up free painting and drawing classes at the Sullivan County Library that were to begin on March 14 and continue for 10 consecutive Saturdays.

Unfortunately, as the saying goes, the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and so it was with the classes. The classes were placed on hold (as many activities were) due to the coronavirus.

While Curry normally teaches in groups, he does engage one on one during classes. He is also open to private sessions with an individual if desired.

Anyone interested in learning more about Curry or his paintings can visit his website at dan-curry.com.

So, the next time you see a painting of soup cans, a cottage sitting near a rippling creek as darkness falls upon the land or even a 200-foot metal sculpture...remember that art isn't just a way to express one's feelings, but a



NORTH CAROLINA ART: While Dan Curry is known locally for his beautiful paintings of Pennsylvania, he has also painted a wide range of topics including scenes of Ocracoke, N.C.

way of thinking.

"Art is about creativity. If a person learns how to be creative, it will help with whatever they do in life. It helps you to be more dynamic and to think outside the box," Curry says. 🌟

CHANGES COMING TO YOUR BILL

Recently, some changes were made to your electric bill to make it easier to understand. One of the major changes is that the **Facility Charge** is now called the **Basic Service Charge**. The Basic Service Charge is the monthly basic distribution charge to partially cover the cost of delivering the electricity to your home. This amount is the same each month no matter how much electricity you use.

You probably pay a monthly service charge for such things as telephone and television. This amount doesn't change no matter how many or how few calls you make each month, or if you only watch an hour of television a week or 24 hours a day. It's similar to the co-op's monthly Basic Service Charge. Most of the co-op's delivery costs are fixed regardless of how much power you use or don't use.

Another change you may notice on your bill is that **Distribution** is now shown as **Energy Delivery**. Your co-op is responsible for delivering the power we purchase for you, which is billed separately as **Generation**.

As always, if you have any questions concerning your electric bill, please call our office Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at 570-924-3381.

Youth Tour canceled

EACH YEAR, students are selected from Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative member families to represent your co-op at the annual Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, this year's Youth Tour will be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even though the coronavirus pandemic has canceled Youth Tour, it hasn't changed the fact that we have great students in our cooperative area.

Here are some of those great students that were selected to participate in Youth Tour this year:

Jade Eberlin, a student at Sullivan County High School, is the daughter of Colleen and Keith Eberlin. Jade is the treasurer for Students Against Drunk Driving, and a member of the



Jade Eberlin

Drama Club, History Club, and Future Business Leaders of America. Jade serves as the co-captain for the wrestling cheerleaders and is the class historian for her class council.

When Jade is not in school, she works numerous jobs and is the treasurer for the Sullivan County 4-H Council.

Sydney Fiester, a student at Sullivan County High School, is the daughter of Laura and Marc Fiester. Sydney is a member of the History, World Language and Ski clubs.



Sydney Fiester

She also serves on the Student Government, and is a member of Students Against Drunk Driving and Future Business Leaders of America.

Sydney is a member of the National Honor Society and is a basketball cheerleader. When she is not in school, she dances at the D&K Studio of Dance and is a big sister for Big Brothers & Sisters. Sydney's career goal is to become a nurse.

Jenna Moyer, a student at Montoursville Area High School, is the

daughter of Christiana and Gregory



Jenna Moyer

Moyer. Jenna has been in various school musicals and plays, and is a member of the District/Regional Chorus. She is in the marching band and is vice president of the choir. She is a member

of the National Honor Society and participates in academic decathlons. Jenna's career goal is to become a music therapist.

We at Sullivan County REC would like to congratulate these three students on their selection as this year's Youth Tour representatives! 🌟



Co-op welcomes new lineworker

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative would like to welcome the newest member to our co-op family, **Alex Laudermilch**.



Alex Laudermilch

Originally from Berks County, Laudermilch has been a resident of Sullivan County for 11 years.

Before coming to work at the co-op, Laudermilch worked at Williamsport Electric for seven years. He mostly worked on industrial electric, although he did have a chance to do some work on a line crew.

"I had thought about being a lineman and had actually started line work while working for Williamsport Electric," he says. "I decided that I wanted to do more of it."

Laudermilch and his fiancée, Martha, have two children.

"I'm looking forward to working with the lineworkers and office staff, as well as meeting the members and learning more about the electric industry," he says.

Like many people living in rural areas, Laudermilch enjoys hunting.

We at the co-op look forward to working with him. 🌟

Another chance to win \$250 bill credit or iPad Mini

Sign up for a paperless bill and you can manage your account with just a few clicks of the mouse. It's easy, convenient and totally secure. With an online account, you can:

- ▶ Look at full copies of your bill
- ▶ See charts of past history
- ▶ Look at kilowatt-hours used
- ▶ Pay your bill online
- ▶ Schedule automatic payments
- ▶ Manage your email address
- ▶ Update your credit card information

Go to our web page at srec.com and click on the green "Manage Account" button on the top left of the button chart and follow the instructions. You will need some information from your paper bill.

How great is it that you can help the environment and get a chance to win a prize? Just by changing to a paperless bill, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 bill credit or an iPad Mini. Those of you already on paperless billing will be automatically entered into the contest.

Here's how to get entered into the drawing:

Just change to paperless (electronic) billing by July 1 and your name will be entered into the drawing. With paperless billing, you will receive an email each month showing your total billing. Saving the planet and winning a cool iPad Mini or a \$250 bill credit – what could be better than that?