

# 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: screc@epix.net  
 Website: www.screc.com

### Staff

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David L. Aumen – CCD\*/BLC\*\*/Gold\*\*\***  
*Chairman*  
**Ann B. Henderson – CCD/BLC**  
*Vice Chairman*  
**Kathy A. Robbins – CCD/BLC**  
*Secretary*  
**Stephan Paul Brady – CCD/BLC/Gold**  
**Benton J. Fiester**  
**Wayne E. Gavitt – CCD**  
**Jeff Hamilton – CCD**  
**Jay Lewis – CCD**

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

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

## From the CEO



### Plan D

By Craig A. Harting

YOU'VE heard about Plan B ... but you may want to have a Plan B, C & D. The wet snowstorm we had on Jan. 3 reminded us that we all need to be prepared for four possibilities:

Plan A – power stays on; Plan B – short outage, 2-3 hours; Plan C – long outage, 10-12 hours; Plan D – very long outage, a day or more.

We had all four of these situations with this storm. A wet snowstorm like this one creates a large number of outages over our entire system. The heavy, wet snow slowly accumulates and finally pulls down trees and tree branches.

### Our Plan B, C & D

We have a number of backup plans. Our goal is to get the most members on in the shortest time. Then, for the most part, we clean up an area when crews are there rather than waste time driving back and forth.

Sometimes we are able to backfeed an area, and we did that this time when Penelec dropped our Kellyburg Substation. With a large number of outages, we called for two outside crews on Sunday night.

One of these crews got diverted to another co-op, but the other one arrived around 11 a.m. on Monday


morning. We have a great network of co-op crews around the state, but it takes time to get them here and have our crews take them around.

Wet snow is the gift that keeps giving. When the snow finally falls off, it creates additional outages and sometimes they are in the same area. We had to send the guys back to several locations more than once.

### Your Plan B, C & D

Every day we work hard to do the very best we can to clear rights-of-way and maintain and improve the system. We have installed backfeeds where we can. Outside crews are called in when needed and when they are available. Unfortunately, it takes time to restore outages no matter what we do, and someone is always going to be last.

For every event, you need to be prepared with a Plan B, C & D. Every storm we hear the same pleading from someone without heat, water or the ability to cook food. The best time to plan is before a storm. Everyone has a different solution that works best for them, and if you are interested in a generator, note that we sell generator switches, so give us a call.

This year, let's continue to work on our Plans B, C & D. 

# Giving to help others

By John Zelewicz  
Penn Lines Writer

ANYONE who wasn't asleep for most of 2020 knows the trials and tribulations that many have gone through. The pandemic didn't simply distance us from friends and family, but it hurt businesses big and small. People lost jobs and often found themselves wondering how they would meet all of their financial obligations and still put food on the table.

Unfortunately for some people, this was already the case before COVID-19 spread across the country. Thankfully, there are organizations in place whose mission is to help those in need. One of those organizations is the Sullivan County Food Pantry.

The food pantry got started thanks to Pastor Reeser, who created it at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Dushore in 1987. Reeser began by providing assistance to six families in need of food. As is often the case with



**RULES CHANGE:** The food pantry has over 50 volunteers, but due to COVID-19, only 15 volunteers can work at a time filling bags with much-needed food.



**FOOD PANTRY SUPPLIES:** Soup, pork and beans, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce — this and much more is securely packed away until it's time to load bags of food once more.

such endeavors, it wasn't long before others pitched in to help. In 1999, the Methodist churches in Estella, Forksville and Hillsgrove were helping with the distribution of food.

As with any organization, you need someone to oversee things. And so it was that Barb and Spencer Davis became involved with the food pantry.

"We hadn't been in the county very long when Pastor Ed Nelson asked us if we could help out with the food pantry for a little bit, and after 21 years, we're still doing it," Barb says. "When we started, we didn't know exactly how things worked. It was Christmas time and we thought we'd have to deliver all the food, and we were still trying to get to know where things were in the county. I have to say, though, it's been an exciting adventure. The people we work with are amazing, and the volunteers are so faithful."

As with any successful organization, the food pantry's greatest resource is the nearly 50 volunteers willing to give of their time to help others. How-

ever, things have changed due to the pandemic. Although there are still 50 volunteers, only 15 people are allowed to work inside the church at one time.

Volunteers meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month around 8:30 a.m. (except for December when it's the first and third Monday) and begin the process of packing the bags of food.

"We have separate tables set up for different locations and separated by the number of people in each household," Barb says. "We bring in the canned goods, and we unload our delivery truck when it comes in. The first Monday of the month is our busiest time since it's when we have to order everything. Bags are packed and then loaded to go to the other two locations. Then we bring out the cold bags of food."

## A wide variety of food available

A typical family of four would get three canned vegetables, two cans of

soup, one can of pork and beans, one jar of peanut butter, one can of fruit, a cake mix or cookies, a package of pasta and pasta sauce, a can of tuna, a box of cereal, a box of crackers, one pound of margarine, a dozen eggs, four quarts of milk, a pound of meat, and a pack of hot dogs. Families with kids also get juice boxes.

The pandemic has changed many of the routines we've enjoyed our entire life. Now people are required to wear masks, social distance, eat outdoors (weather permitting), or get food to go and eat it at home. Another change due to COVID-19 is that in the past people would come inside the church to get their bags of food. That is no longer permitted due to restrictions.

"We set up a tent in the church driveway," Barb notes. "People drive up, tell us who they are and how many people are in the family. They pop the trunk open, we put the food in, and they're off. We don't come into contact with anyone that way."

In addition to the food distributed at the church, bags of food are taken to the Forksville Fire Hall and to the Sullivan Terrace for distribution.

According to Spencer, one change



**FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY:** It takes a lot of food to help feed over 250 families. Monetary donations from local churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals ensure the food pantry is open to help individuals and families in need.

that affects some of those coming for food is the missed opportunity to spend time with others.

"COVID-19 has changed things so much," he says. "On the day we distribute food, it was more than just a day to get food. It was more of a social event. We would have older people who would come in and just hang around and talk to everybody, but now

we can't do that."

Another change is that in the past people would donate canned food to help supplement what the food pantry had to offer. For now, donations are limited to monetary ones. But the food pantry does all it can to stretch each and every precious dollar they receive.

"A lot of people give us monetary donations, which are so helpful to us," Barb says. "We can use the money to go and buy so much more from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. For example, we can buy a case of cereal for \$10 where it would cost around \$3 or more to just buy one box in a store."

### Donations keep food pantry going

The food pantry gets \$729 four times a year from the state — a total of \$2,916, so donations are critical. In addition to the money the food pantry receives from the state, they rely on the generosity and support from local churches, businesses, organizations and individual donations.

"The community supports us 100%, and we couldn't do it without them," Barb emphasizes. "Our budget is \$90,000 to \$95,000, and in 2017 our expenses were \$103,612. If it wasn't

*(continues on page 12d)*



**WIDE DISTRIBUTION:** Barb Davis, far right, helps load food for delivery. In addition to food being distributed at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Dushore, food from the Sullivan County Food Pantry is also distributed at the Forksville Fire Hall and the Sullivan Terrace.

## Co-op welcomes new employee

WE AT Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative are pleased to welcome the newest addition to our co-op family. On Monday, Nov. 9, Tyler Worthen started work as a lineworker.

Tyler previously lived in California and Utah before moving to Sullivan County six years ago. What brought Tyler to Sullivan County? As is often the case, he came here with his wife, Amanda MacElhaney, who is from the



area. The Worthens have two children, Isaac and Isabella.

Tyler served in the Navy for eight years, four as a structural mechanic and four as a diesel mechanic. Before coming to work at the co-op, he worked for Frontier as a cell and service technician.

He says, "One of the nice things (about the job) is that it's close to home. And while it's not entirely the same work I was doing for Frontier, it's very similar. I like being outdoors and I didn't want to have an office job. I heard good things from the people who work here, so I decided to apply for the lineman position."

Tyler is looking forward to getting to know the cooperative lineworkers better and learning more about being an electric lineworker.

Tyler's hobbies include working on vehicles, video games and computers.

The co-op is pleased to have Tyler as a lineworker and looks forward to many years of working with him. 🌟

### Giving to help others

*(continued from page 12c)*

for the community and their donations, we wouldn't be able to do it. I've never seen anything like it. You'd think that people would give once or twice and that would be it. But we have people who give year after year."

The food pantry also receives support from Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH), a program dedicated to providing food to those in need. HSH is a public/private nonprofit program that's been around since 1991. It was founded by hunters, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, agricultural organizations and others who recognized extra deer meat could be shared with those who needed it. HSH is a Pennsylvania registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit venison-donation program.

Basically, how the program works is that when a hunter gets a deer, he tags it, carefully field dresses it and then takes it to one of the local participating HSH butchers. The hunter then fills out a slip for his donated deer.

Once the deer is dropped off at the butcher shop, the employees there pro-

cess the meat and help coordinate meat deliveries to local food banks. HSH pays butchers for their services through sponsor-supported donations. HSH will cover all the costs for processing a whole deer. But if a hunter decides he wants to keep some of the meat, that's not a problem. For more information and to locate local participating HSH butchers, visit [sharedeer.org](http://sharedeer.org).

Sadly, the need for food continues to grow. Thankfully, there are organizations like the Sullivan County Food Pantry available to help those in need.

"It started with six families and has grown to over 250 families," Barb says. "In the last three months, we picked up 68 families. We've had a lot of older people not come out for food, but we think this is due to COVID-19 and people not wanting to go out, but now we're getting more families with children."

For more information about the food pantry, call 570-924-4465 or 570-928-8758.

Monetary donations can be sent to Sullivan County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 55, Dushore, PA 18614. 🌟

### Are you prepared for an outage?

The cooperative will install a generator switch behind your meter that connects your generator to your home.

The switch will automatically switch to generator power during an outage and it comes with a removable cord that plugs into the switch and your generator.



A 30-amp switch costs \$583 (tax included) and a 40-amp switch costs \$689 (tax included). Our lineworkers will install the switch at no cost. Call the office if you are interested in a generator switch.

### Hot water for life!

The last water heater you will buy.

Rheem Marathon Water Heaters are available for purchase from the cooperative.



- ▶ High Efficiency – 2 1/2 inches of polyurethane foam insulation
- ▶ Lifetime Tank Warranty – Built to last for as long as you own your home
- ▶ Non-Metallic Tank – Will not rust or corrode

\$731.40 (tax included) – 50-gallon tank

We also offer a Freedom 50-gallon hot water heater for \$429 (tax included).

Call the office if you are interested in any of the above water heaters.