

# Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Claverack REC

570-265-2167

1-800-326-9799

Email: [mail@claverack.com](mailto:mail@claverack.com)

Website: <http://www.claverack.com>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James E. Luce, Zone 6**  
**Chairman**

570-833-5668

**Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7**  
**Vice Chairman**

570-833-4017

**Steven T. Sliwinski, Zone 9**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

570-364-5250

**Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1**  
**Vice Secretary/Treasurer**

570-265-3599

**Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2**

570-574-3531

**Angela S. Joines, Zone 3**

570-756-4979

**Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4**

570-247-7233

**Michael J. Coleman, Zone 5**

570-934-2787

**Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8**

570-553-4385

**Bobbi Kilmer**  
**President & CEO**

### Staff

**Annette Bender, Executive Assistant**

**Steve Allabaugh, Director, Engineering**

**Doug Nichols, Director, Operations**

**Shelley Young, Director, Financial Services**

**Brian Zeidner, Director, Member Services**

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, CCC, Local Pages Editor

## From the President & CEO



## Our year-round commitment to you

By Bobbi Kilmer

I HOPE your New Year is off to a great start and that you're sticking to any New Year's resolutions you may have made.

I don't typically make New Year's resolutions, but if I did, my list would look the same every year: exercise and eat healthy, finish a few projects around the house, spend more time with family and friends — the standard stuff.

It's a similar situation here at Claverack. Our overarching goals really don't change a whole lot from year to year. Things like improving reliability, being fiscally responsible, providing excellent service and keeping our employees and members safe make our list of priorities every year.

In support of these goals, we have a number of projects and initiatives lined up for the new year.

Our planned system improvements for 2018 include two line upgrade projects around the Franklin Forks Substation in Susquehanna County, one in the Lake Roy area, the other in the area of North Road. We will also be completing a project to provide an alternate feed to our Steinbach Substation from Hop Bottom and are planning improvement work near the Gibson exit of Route 81. Additionally, we have projects planned in the Beaumont and Monkey Hollow areas in Wyoming County for the second half of the year.

We expect to complete the rebuild of our Monroeton station and finish enhancements to our Evergreen station

this year. We also anticipate beginning the rebuild of our Herrick Substation. These projects require a significant financial investment but are critical to maintaining the long-term resiliency of our system.

We will expand efforts to beef up our right-of-way clearing program again this year. We have been challenged by robust vegetation growth due to recent mild winters, and, of course, diseased ash trees. We have added \$200,000 to our budget to target diseased ash trees, bringing our total right-of-way budget for 2018 to \$2.2 million.

Another project on tap for 2018 involves conducting a thorough review of our electric rates. Our last rate study was in 2008, and it's time to take a fresh look to be sure we are charging our different rate classes fairly. We do not expect rate changes this year, but the study will help us prepare for any rate changes that may be needed in the future.

We also strive to offer exceptional service to our members. To that end, we have a third party conduct a member satisfaction survey of our members each year. We use those survey results to see what's on your mind and how we can improve our service to you.

And making improvements — to your customer service experience, to our electrical system, to our approach to maintenance activities — is at the heart of what we strive to do the whole year through. Wishing you and yours a happy New Year. 

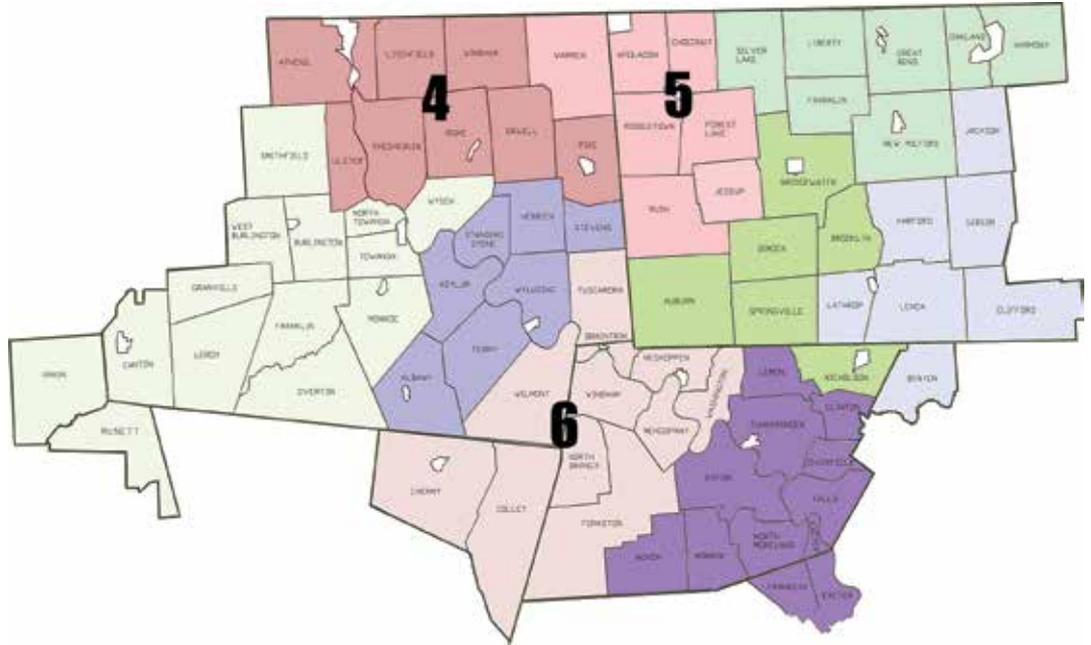
# Official notice of director elections

## Candidates sought for Zones 4, 5 and 6

ELECTION by majority is one of the hallmarks of membership in a rural electric cooperative.

As a member, you can take an active role in democracy at Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative by running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors. Or you can exercise your democratic rights by simply voting in the director elections.

This year, Claverack will hold director elections for Zones 4, 5 and 6, currently served by directors Gary L. Hennip, Michael J. Coleman and James E. Luce, respectively.



### Duties of a director

Directors are responsible for developing co-op policies and long-range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Claverack's management staff.

Nine directors comprise Claverack's board. Each board member represents a specific area within the utility's service territory.

Directors serve three-year terms. Elections take place on a rotating basis, with director seats in three of the co-op's nine zones up for election each year. The board meets at Claverack's headquarters in Wysox on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

To be eligible for director candidacy, you must meet all guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws, which may be viewed online by visiting [www.claverack.com](http://www.claverack.com). A copy of the bylaws can also be obtained by contacting the cooperative or visiting the co-op's Wysox office.

To serve on the board, you must be a member and a bona-fide resident of the zone you seek to represent. You

cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business, or be a close relative of an employee or board member.

### Election procedures

Residential members from Zones 4, 5 or 6 interested in running for a position on the cooperative's board of directors must be nominated by a petition signed by at least 15 members residing in the candidate's respective zone. Petitions and further instructions are available by contacting Annette Bender at the Claverack office at 1-800-326-9799 or 570-265-2167 or by email at [mail@claverack.com](mailto:mail@claverack.com).

**Petitions must be received by Monday, March 19, 2018, in order to be considered.** The election of directors will be conducted via mail-in ballots; therefore, adequate time is needed for the petitions to be received and reviewed by the cooperative's Credentials and Election Committee.

Qualified candidates will also be asked to submit a brief biography, which will be included with the official ballot and published in *Penn Lines*. 

### Townships scheduled to elect directors in 2018

**Zone 4:** Athens, Litchfield, Orwell, Pike, Rome, Sheshequin, Ulster and Windham in Bradford County.

**Zone 5:** Warren in Bradford County; Apolacon, Chocanut, Forest Lake, Jessup, Middletown and Rush in Susquehanna County.

**Zone 6:** Cherry and Colley in Sullivan County; Braintrim, Forkston, Mehoopany, Meshoppen, North Branch, Washington and Windham in Wyoming County; Tuscarora and Wilmot in Bradford County.

# Students can compete for free tour of nation's capital

CLAVERACK Rural Electric will send six students from the co-op's service territory on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital this summer.

If you are a high school junior who enjoys sightseeing, history, politics and making new friends, then this trip may be for you.

The lucky students will have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., with a group of their peers from across the country during the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a six-day sightseeing excursion that mixes fun and education.

During the tour, which takes place June 10-15, participants will have the opportunity to explore Washington's historic sites, visit the Smithsonian, make friends with Youth Tour students from throughout the United States, meet with federal legislators and learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative movement.

The Youth Tour is expected to draw more than 1,800 students to Washington, D.C., for the week. If you are interested in being one of them, here's what you need to know:

## Rules for 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour

1. This contest is open to any high school junior (2017-18 school year) whose parents or legal guardians are members of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative.
2. Create a 3-5-minute video on the following: If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history.



ON TOUR: Claverack's 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour student delegates are all smiles as they wait outside the Kennedy Center for a performance of "The Sound of Music." Students representing the cooperative on the trip were, from left, Steven Chenot of Towanda, Whitney Madill of Monroeton, Emma Bly of Granville Summit, Emma Mangel of Hallstead, Delia Geyer of New Milford and Benjamin Alderson of Warren Center.

3. Complete the online Youth Tour application form, which can be found on the Claverack website, [www.claverack.com](http://www.claverack.com). Be sure to attach an appropriate school photo of yourself as required on the form. Also be sure to provide a link to your YouTube video.
4. If you are uncomfortable providing a link to your YouTube account, please bring a disc or flash drive of your video to the Claverack office in Wysox. If you do not have the ability to create a video or complete the online application, you may call the cooperative to schedule an appointment to have your presentation videotaped and have someone help you complete the online application.
5. Questions should be addressed to: Karen Evangelisti, [karene@ctenterprises.org](mailto:karene@ctenterprises.org), 570-268-1332.
6. Entries must be received by Friday, Feb. 16, 2018.
7. Finalists will be notified by Friday, Feb. 23. Six students will be selected, and this will entitle them not only to the trip to Washington, D.C., but will also make them eligible for special scholarship opportunities. **All finalists will be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting Tuesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Claverack office in Wysox.** Finalists will be interviewed by a panel of judges, and one delegate will be chosen as Claverack's Youth Leadership Council candidate. The YLC candidate will compete with other candidates for the chance to be the Pennsylvania YLC representative and to attend the 2019 NRECA Annual Meeting.
8. The decision of the judges is final. 🌟



**PARK PRESENTATION:** Claverack representatives present a \$1,000 grant to the Friends of Salt Springs Park, a non-profit organization that supports the Susquehanna County state park's mission of providing environmental, historical and recreational programs to the public. Claverack also secured a \$1,000 matching grant from CoBank, one of the cooperative's lenders, that was awarded to the Friends group. On hand for the check presentation are, from left, Claverack President & CEO Bobbi Kilmer, Claverack Director Charles McNamara, and Friends of Salts Springs Park President Thomas Stoll and Treasurer Jack Maynard.

## Energy assistance program offers help with heating bills

If you need assistance paying your heating bills or have a heating emergency, help may be available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP offers both cash grants and crisis grants. Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. If you are eligible for a cash grant, the grant will be sent directly to your utility or fuel dealer, and the payment will be credited on your bill.

Crisis grants are available to help those who have emergency situations in which they are in danger of being without heat. Those situations include: having broken heating equipment or leaking fuel lines; lack of fuel; having utility service terminated; or being in danger of not having fuel or having service terminated. Crisis grants are sent directly to the vendor or utility.

If you have a heating emergency, or for more information about LIHEAP, call your county assistance office or the toll-free LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095.

You can apply for energy assistance directly through COMPASS, the state's health and human services benefits application site. By using COMPASS, you can apply for LIHEAP at any time, day or night, from home, a library or any location with internet access. Apply online at: [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

## Are you prepared for the return of cold weather?

During extended periods of unusually cold weather, co-op members can face significant increases in their electric bills.

Those who heat with electric baseboards or heat pumps are especially prone to experiencing significant spikes in their electric consumption during prolonged periods of frigid weather.

Claverack's director of member services, Brian Zeidner, said extended low temperatures can also cause a member's electric bill to increase by over \$100 *per device* if they use any of the following:

- ▶ Portable electric heaters,
- ▶ Engine block heaters,
- ▶ Heat tapes or heat lamps, or
- ▶ Livestock water de-icers.

Zeidner encourages cooperative members to use energy wisely. To learn more about energy conservation and efficiency measures, visit the Claverack website, [www.claverack.com](http://www.claverack.com), and click on the Touchstone Energy "Together We Save" link at the bottom of the home page.

If you are concerned about seasonal spikes in your electric bill, Zeidner also encourages members to consider signing up for Claverack's leveled billing program. The program allows you to avoid large fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by leveling out your monthly payments throughout the year.

Leveled billing is available to members with at least one year of electric use, provided they have fewer than two late payments in the prior 12 months.

If you are interested in a leveled billing plan or wish to speak to a Claverack employee about energy conservation and efficiency measures, please call the co-op office at 1-800-326-9799.