

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

570-280-8470

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

570-574-3531

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

570-265-3599

**Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8
Vice Secretary/Treasurer**

570-553-4385

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3

570-756-4979

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-247-7233

Robert W. Fearnley, Zone 5

570-278-2288

Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6

570-833-2320

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9

607-765-2615

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, Local Pages Editor

From the President & CEO



Annual meeting on the move

By Bobbi Kilmer

ALTHOUGH we are still in the throes of winter as I write this, we are gearing up for some very important yearly milestones taking place this spring and summer.

You will see one of those milestones featured prominently on the next page: the official notice of director elections. Zones 1, 2 and 3 are up for election this year. Those seats on your cooperative's board of directors are currently held by Danise Fairchild, Dr. Robert Faux and Angela Joines.

One of the most important activities the cooperative conducts each year is the election of directors — the nine men and women we entrust to provide the cooperative with strategic direction and good governance.

As a member, you have the right to help set the direction for the co-op, either through the voting process or by running for a seat on the board. Any Claverack residential member in good standing who lives within an eligible zone can seek election to the board. If you are interested in having your name appear on the ballot, you'll find additional details on the following page.

A process that has been occasionally questioned over the years is our practice of conducting an election when there is only one candidate running for directorship within a particular zone. In this situation, the board could opt to elect a director without balloting. We prefer, however, to give members the opportunity to participate in the election.

We believe the process of balloting


helps the membership become better informed about their elected directors and serves to reinforce the democratic nature of the cooperative's governance structure.

While we're on the subject, please note that this year's director election will take place later in the summer than usual. That's because we will be moving our annual meeting to the Wyoming County Fair this year.

I am excited to announce that the 2020 Claverack Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds near Tunkhannock.

Our big day will coincide with the fair's Senior Day, so anyone 62 and older will be admitted to the fairgrounds at no charge. Members who attend the annual meeting, which will take place in a centrally located tent, will receive a bill credit, food vouchers and, for those who are not seniors, a credit toward admission.

We're optimistic that pairing the annual meeting with the county fair will be a winning proposition. The county fair draws a wide audience to the fairgrounds, which are easily accessible from Route 6 and centrally located within our service territory. We expect our presence there will help support the fair and the many vendors and community organizations that rely on the event to raise funds.

We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sept. 2 as we move our meeting to Wyoming County! 

Official notice of director elections

Candidates sought for Zones 1, 2 and 3

ELECTION by majority — it's what makes America a democratic nation. It's also 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 1, 2 and 3, currently served by directors Danise C. Fairchild, Dr. Robert R. Faux and Angela S. Joines, respectively.

Duties of a director

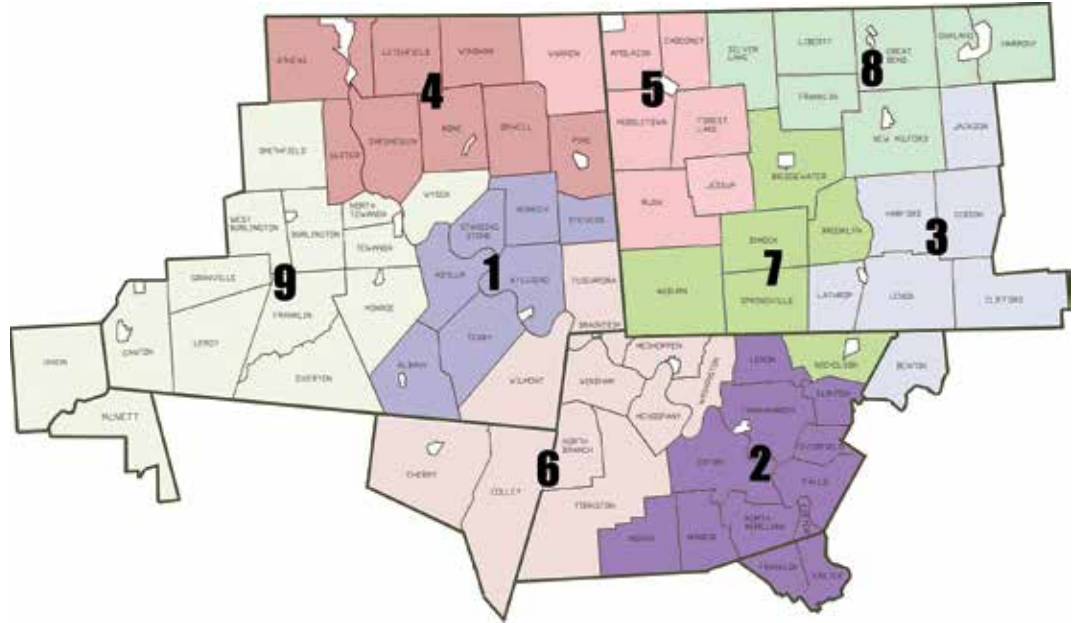
Directors are responsible for developing co-op policies and long-range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Claverack's management staff.

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 at 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 1, 2 or 3 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.

Petitions must be received by Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 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 2020

Zone 1: Albany, Asylum, Herkirk, Standing Stone, Stevens, Terry, and Wyalusing townships in Bradford County

Zone 2: Exeter and Franklin townships in Luzerne County; and Clinton, Eaton, Exeter, Lemon, Monroe, North Moreland, Noxen, Overfield, and Tunkhannock townships in Wyoming County

Zone 3: Benton Township in Lackawanna County; and Clifford, Gibson, Harford, Jackson, Lathrop, Lenox townships and Hop Bottom Borough in Susquehanna County



OFFICIAL FAREWELL: Longtime Claverack employee Debbie Allyn (in floral print top) stands with coworkers following a retirement luncheon held in her honor on her final day of work at the co-op's Wysox office. Allyn, who began working for the cooperative in 1988, officially retired from her position as engineering and operations administrative assistant on Jan. 8, 2020. Replacing her in that position is Betsy Scranta, second from left, who has worked as a Claverack member service representative since 2014.

Claverack promotes two to new operations positions

CLAVERACK promoted two employees to new positions within the operations department in January.

John “Bucky” Camburn has been promoted to manager of field opera-



Bernie Barrett and John “Bucky” Camburn.

tions. In this new position, Camburn will be supervising the operations of the cooperative's Tunkhannock, Montrose and Wysox district offices.

A graduate of Tunkhannock High School with an associate degree in electrical technology from Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, Camburn began his career with Claverack as an apprentice lineman assigned to the Tunkhannock District in 1997.

He was promoted to crew chief for the Tunkhannock District in 2013 and to Tunkhannock District supervisor in 2017. In 2019, he was named district

supervisor for both the Tunkhannock and Montrose districts.

Camburn and his wife, Sarah, reside in Tunkhannock.

Bernie Barrett has been named to the new position of manager of operations planning. Barrett will be working closely with the operations department to coordinate work planning and scheduling.

Barrett began duties with Claverack's engineering department in 2013. He has worked as both GIS field technician and staking engineer within the department.

A Towanda High School graduate, Barrett holds an associate degree in land surveying and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

He resides with his fiancée in Asylum Township.

“Bucky and Bernie will be working closely together in these new positions, and we believe this new structure will help us better serve our members and provide better coordination between the engineering and operations departments,” said Claverack President & CEO Bobbi Kilmer in announcing the promotions. 🌞

Call 8-1-1 before digging in to spring projects

WITH THE arrival of warm weather, many members are gearing up for outdoor construction projects. If you are planning excavation work, get your project off to a safe start by calling 8-1-1 before you dig. 8-1-1 is the abbreviated national telephone number homeowners and professional excavators can call to contact their state's One Call center.

State law requires that anyone doing excavation work moving earth with power equipment is required to notify the Pennsylvania One Call System three days before digging begins.

The purpose of the Pennsylvania One Call System is to prevent damage to underground facilities such as electric, cable, telephone, gas, water and sewer lines during excavation projects.

Digging by an uninformed homeowner or contractor not only has the potential to damage utility lines, it can also be extremely dangerous when underground electric or gas lines are involved.

By calling 8-1-1 at least three working days before you plan to begin your project, you or your contractor will know exactly what lies beneath the surface — safeguarding everyone involved.

State law requires that the person performing the excavation be responsible for notifying the Pennsylvania One Call System. There is no charge involved when a homeowner is doing work on his or her own residential property. 🌞



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Rebates available when you buy Energy Star appliances

WHEN you purchase an Energy Star-rated appliance, you are conserving energy and saving money on your electric bill.

To encourage members to practice energy conservation and responsible energy use, Claverack is offering rebates of \$50 to \$100 to consumer-members who purchase qualifying Energy Star refrigerators, washers and dryers.

Energy Star certification means products meet energy-efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Energy Star-rated products are expected to help consumers reduce their energy bills, conserve energy and help protect the environment.

With Claverack's new Energy Star rebate program, members not only benefit from energy savings generated from the product itself, they get the added benefit of a direct rebate from the co-op for their purchase. For Energy Star-rated refrigerators, the rebate amount is \$100; for washers or dryers, members will receive a \$50 rebate.

To apply for the rebate through the Claverack Energy Star Rebate Program, members must:

- ▶ Purchase an Energy Star-rated refrigerator, washer or dryer in the current calendar year.
- ▶ Complete a rebate form. The form is available by clicking on the "rebate" button on the Claverack homepage, claverack.com, or by calling the office at 1-800-326-9799.
- ▶ Include a receipt or invoice showing the date and purchase price of the Energy Star items.
- ▶ Include a copy of the Energy Star label from the appliance.
- ▶ Mail all documentation to: Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Attn: Appliance Rebate Program, 32750 Route 6, Wysox, PA 18854.

Once all documentation is received, a bill credit will be



applied to your account. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of one rebate per appliance type per member account, and appliances must be installed within Claverack's service territory.

Please note that funding for rebates is limited and the rebate program is subject to change or being cancelled without notice.

For more information, contact the Claverack member services department at 1-800-326-9799. 📞

Even out your payments with Levelized Billing

You can avoid large fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by participating in Claverack's Levelized Billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year.

Levelized 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.

This plan is particularly helpful to members with electric heating or central air conditioning systems, since their electric bills tend to increase significantly during the heating and cooling seasons. It's also convenient for those on fixed incomes.

If you are interested in a Levelized Billing plan, please call the member services department at 1-800-326-9799.

SmartHub: Manage your account from anywhere

SmartHub, Claverack's online bill payment and account management program, lets you manage all aspects of your account online or with your mobile device.

WITH SMARTHUB, YOU CAN:

- ▶ View bills online
- ▶ View billing history
- ▶ Change account information
- ▶ Receive billing notifications
- ▶ Pay your bill online using your checking account, credit or debit card
- ▶ Receive a paperless bill
- ▶ Access your account info on your smartphone or tablet with free mobile app
- ▶ Report power outages



Signing up for SmartHub is easy. Visit our website, claverack.com, click on the "Pay Bill" button on the left side of your screen and follow the registration instructions. The SmartHub mobile app is available for download through your app store.