

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Claverack REC

570-265-2167

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Email: 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

570-280-8470

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



Celebrating the past, prepping for the future

By Bobbi Kilmer

THERE are two important deliveries headed your way during the month of June. The first is your invitation and director election materials for the 81st annual meeting of your cooperative. This year's event will be held Tuesday, July 17, at the Elk Lake High School in Springville.

The doors will open at 4 p.m., and members can enjoy a barbecued chicken dinner in the gym from 4 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Also during this time, representatives from the different departments of the cooperative will be available in the cafeteria to answer your questions about operations of the cooperative. This is a great chance for our members to meet some of our cooperative employees.

At 5 p.m., we have invited Van Wagner, a talented singer and songwriter from central Pennsylvania, to the auditorium stage. Van's website biography describes him as: "Van Wagner. Born in Pennsylvania. Lives in Pennsylvania. Makes Music. Mined Coal. Logged Trees. Teaches Kids."

If you were at last year's annual meeting, you may remember Van's music and photography focusing on the history of Pennsylvania. His performance was so popular last year that we've invited him back. Because so many of our attendees are still enjoying dinner during this time, we've asked Van to be our guest speaker during the business meeting.

Our business meeting will get started at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. After Van's special performance, we will get down to the business of hearing brief reports on the state of affairs at the

cooperative. Members will also hear the results of the election for directors in Zones 4, 5 and 6.

No annual meeting would be complete without door prizes at the beginning and end of the business meeting. Every registered member will also receive a \$10 electric bill credit, a Claverack hat and potholder.

We know many of you appreciate being home before dark so we will do our best to keep the meeting moving along!

At the beginning of this column, I mentioned there will be two special deliveries coming your way in June. The second is a box of four Energy Star-certified, 60-watt-equivalent LED bulbs that will arrive in your mailbox compliments of Claverack Rural Electric and our wholesale power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.

All we ask in return is that you immediately put these bulbs to work! By replacing four incandescent bulbs, you will begin to save up to \$6.22 per year per bulb. As Claverack members, along with members of the other 13 Pennsylvania and New Jersey electric cooperatives, plug in these energy-saving bulbs, we save even more by reducing the amount of power that Allegheny must purchase from the open market.

We have many reasons to celebrate at your cooperative: a safe and successful year, \$1.6 million of capital credits retired to our former and current members and some free lightbulbs. I hope you will consider attending our annual meeting to learn more about the good things happening here at Claverack. 

Director elections slated for Zones 4, 5 & 6

DEMOCRACY will take center stage at Claverack's 2018 annual meeting, with director election results highlighting the agenda.

Board seats are up for election in Zones 4, 5 and 6 this year. The election of directors will be conducted via mail-in ballots. Each member will receive a ballot listing the names of all candidates seeking seats on the co-op board.

Members can expect to receive the ballots this month. **The completed ballots should be returned in the addressed, stamped blue envelope included with the annual meeting notice. Claverack must receive members' completed ballots no later than July 14.**

The announcement of election results will take place during the business portion of the annual meeting.

In accordance with Claverack's by-laws, director elections take place on a rotating basis, with three zones up for election each year. Elected candidates serve three-year terms. Directors are responsible for establishing co-op policies and overseeing business operations.

Candidates who have filed petitions to run for board seats are: incumbent Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4; Travis J. Long, Zone 5; and incumbent James E. Luce, Zone 6. A profile of the candidates follows.

Zone 4

Zone 4 serves members in Athens, Litchfield, Orwell, Pike, Rome, Sheshequin, Ulster and Windham townships in Bradford County.



Gary Hennip
Zone 4

Gary Hennip
773 Moore Road
Rome, PA 18837

Gary L. Hennip of Rome was elected to his first term on the Claverack board of directors in July 2015 and was recently appointed to serve on the board of directors of Citizens' Electric Co. of Lewisburg.

Since his election, he has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director

curriculum offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Courses completed include: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning, and Financial Decision Making.

Hennip is a Northeast Bradford High School graduate and earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mansfield University. His work with cooperatives includes 18 years of employment with the Sire Power Cooperative in Tunkhannock, Pa., where he was director of marketing for membership sales and service in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. In addition, Hennip was employed 16 years as a dairy educator and county extension director with the Penn State University Extension Service in Bradford County.

He is the co-superintendent of the All-American Dairy Show, member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, member and administrative council chairman of the North Orwell Union Church, Northeast Bradford Foundation vice president and trustee, and the current Northeast Bradford High School girls' varsity softball coach and assistant girls' basketball coach.

Gary and his wife, Marianne, have three children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, working outdoors and spending time with family.

Zone 5

Zone 5 serves members in Apolacon, Choconut, Forest Lake, Jessup, Middletown and Rush townships in Susquehanna County, and Warren Township in Bradford County.



Travis J. Long
Zone 5

Travis J. Long
231 Long Drive
Montrose, PA 18801

Travis J. Long of Montrose resides in Middletown Township, Susquehanna County, where he was raised until leaving to attend Juniata College

in 1996. Long obtained a bachelor's degree in environmental science and ecology in 2000.

Since then, Long has worked in the consulting engineering field, serving as a senior environmental scientist/senior project manager responsible for overseeing projects for both the public and private sector. Long is a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) with over 18 years of experience, of which 15 have been spent serving as a key staff member, as well as a board director, for Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Consulting Engineers. Long has utilized his technical experience in regard to environmental engineering to provide state-of-the-art public utilities for communities in need by offering guidance, education and results.

Long has been a member of the rural electric cooperative for over 15 years.

Travis, his wife, Christina, and their three children recently built a new home on a family farm, where they continue to work together to help mold their family and enjoy nature, country living, and the outdoors.

Zone 6

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



James E. Luce
Zone 6

James E. Luce
1077 Bluestone Road
Laceyville, PA 18623

James E. Luce of Laceyville has served on the Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative board of directors since January 2003 and currently holds the

position of chairman. Prior to joining the Claverack board of directors, he had served on the cooperative's Nominating Committee for more than two decades. He also serves as the vice chairman on the board of directors for C&T En-

terprises, the for-profit management services subsidiary of Claverack REC and Tri-County REC, and is secretary of the Wellsboro Electric Co. board of directors.

A lifelong resident of Wyoming County, Luce operates a fifth-generation farm in Meshoppen Township. A Credentialed Cooperative Director, Luce has also completed Board Leadership Certificate training from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Luce is a graduate of Elk Lake High School and holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from Penn State University. He is also a graduate of the Penn State-coordinated Kellogg Rural Leadership program. Luce serves as chairman of the Wyoming County Farmland Preservation Board and is a director on the Wyoming County Conservation District board, representing that board on the Endless Mountains Resource, Conservation and Development Council. He served the maximum number of terms as a member of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region Board of Directors.

A former 4-H leader and lifetime NRA member, Luce is a member of the Meshoppen Methodist Church, the Tunkhannock Lions Club, the South Auburn Grange, the Meshoppen Rod & Gun Club, and is president of the Meshoppen Men's Club. 🌻

**All Claverack
offices will
be closed
Wednesday,
July 4, in
observance of
Independence
Day**

Join us at the 2018 Claverack REC Annual Meeting

Elk Lake High School Auditorium
Springville, Pa.

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

4 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Barbecued chicken dinner, registration, exhibits

5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Entertainment by musical historian
Van Wagner

6:30 p.m. – Business Meeting

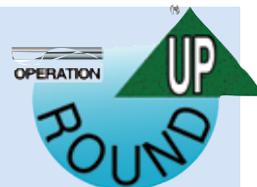
8 p.m. – Meeting adjourns

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Guest speaker Van Wagner, musical historian ◀
- ▶ Door prizes ◀
- ▶ Barbecued chicken dinner ◀
- ▶ Educational exhibits ◀
- ▶ Live entertainment ◀
- ▶ \$10 bill credit for all registered members ◀

OPERATION ROUND-UP

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



With today's higher energy costs, more and more cooperative families struggle to keep up with their energy bills.

You can help some of your neighbors in need by participating in Claverack's Operation Round-Up program.

This voluntary program allows you to assist members of the cooperative who are experiencing difficulties paying their electric bills. Participating in the program is inexpensive – less than \$1 a month – and allows you to help make a difference in a neighbor's life.

CONTRIBUTING IS EASY

The concept is simple. Claverack rounds up your monthly electric bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the round-up amount and your actual bill amount goes into our member assistance fund.

For example, if your electric bill is \$100.32, then you would pay \$101. The extra 68 cents goes into our member assistance fund for needy families of the cooperative.

In addition to being a great way to help neighbors in need, participating in the program can also make balancing your checkbook easier.

A FEW PENNIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year, hundreds of Claverack members receive energy assistance in the form of government money. That financing is often targeted in congressional budget cuts; so help for needy families is never certain. That's why we began Operation Round-Up – to help more members.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

If you would like to help others, Operation Round-Up is an easy way to do so. An average yearly donation is about \$6. And if you change your mind and decide to quit, just call the office and ask to stop.

The choice is yours. Sign up today to start helping others by calling us at 1-800-326-9799. You can also sign up through our website, www.claverack.com, by clicking on Operation Round-Up under the "Your Bill" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.

Six high school students to represent co-op on Youth Tour

SIX high school students from Claverack's service territory have been selected to join more than 1,800 students from all over the United States in June for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour, a weeklong tour of the nation's capital.

During the tour, students will visit historical sites including the Vietnam and Korean war memorials, the Smithsonian museums, National Cathedral, National Zoo and the World War II Memorial.

Selected on the basis of an application, essay and extracurricular activities, the following students will represent Claverack on the 2018 Youth Tour June 10-15: Riley Brown of Hallstead, John Cowles of Rome, Karissa Cowles of Rome, Carissa Hiduk of Wyalusing, Madison Sickler of Meshoppen and Isaac Walker of Montrose. All of the students will be entering their senior year of high school this fall.

Riley Brown, son of Richard and Teresa Brown, attends Montrose Area Jr.-Sr. High School.



Riley Brown

He is co-captain of the school's golf team, serves as a class officer and was chosen for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program. Riley participates in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), student council, Key Club, and he has been active as a director and emcee of the Veterans Day program. He enjoys news and politics, public speaking, motivational speaking, golfing and hunting. Riley's major study interests are history education and political science, and his career goal is to be a teacher and politician.

John Cowles, the son of J. Christopher and Michele Cowles, is a student at Northeast Bradford High School. He plays on his school's varsity soccer team, and was named to the Northern Tier League's (NTL) first team for defense. A member of the National Honor Society, John is also involved in the Northeast Bradford Student Gov-



John Cowles

ernment Association. He participates in travel soccer and also coaches and referees youth soccer. He enjoys biking, running, spending time with family and helping his father with outside

projects. John aspires to a career as a physical therapist or athletic trainer following high school.

Karissa Cowles, daughter of J. Christopher and Michele Cowles, attends Northeast Bradford High School, where she participates in choir, show choir and student government association, and plays on the school's soccer team. She was named to the NTL's



Karissa Cowles

first team for defense this season. Karissa has volunteered with Animal Care Sanctuary and serves as a youth soccer referee. She enjoys drawing, painting, singing, writing music and spending time with family and friends. Her major study interests are arts and sciences, and her career goal is to work in the art production field.

Carissa Hiduk is the daughter of Tom and Christy Hiduk, and is a junior at North Rome Christian School. Carissa serves on student council and plays basketball and soccer for her school, earning awards for her play in both sports, including best defensive player in basket-



Carissa Hiduk

ball and MVP in soccer. She also plays piano and takes voice lessons. Carissa is active in 4-H, helps with children's church and music at her church and volunteers at Stoney Point Camp. She enjoys horseback riding, piano and photography. Carissa's career goal is to be an elementary teacher.

Madison Sickler, the daughter of Elwood and Kimberly Sickler, attends



Madison Sickler

Elk Lake High School, where she is president of her school's FBLA chapter and former regional FBLA vice president. She has participated in Skills USA and serves as secretary for student

council. She has served as president of the Junior Fair Board, treasurer of her 4-H club and as a church volunteer with the children's ministry program. She represented the Wyoming County Fair as Junior Fair Queen and alternate. Madison enjoys volunteering in the community for student council, 4-H projects and poultry program. Her career goal is to become a certified public accountant.

Isaac Walker, son of William Walker, attends Montrose Area High School,



Isaac Walker

where he participates in FBLA, serves as president of the Envirothon Club and is active in Key Club and student council. He is co-captain of his school's golf team and also plays on

the tennis team. He has volunteered with the Montrose School District's Veterans Day program, Montrose Blueberry Festival and Salt Springs State Park clean-up days. He plans to study environmental science following high school, with a goal of becoming a forester or working in watershed management. 🌱

