



# The Energizer

MAY 2024 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bath District Office  
9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-4161  
(800) 843-3414

Cherry Creek District Office  
5966 South Rd  
Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
(716) 296-5651  
(800) 883-8236

## OFFICE HOURS

Bath District Office  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Cherry Creek District Office  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Depository Box Available for  
After Hour Payments at Both  
Office Locations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - James McCormick  
District 2 - Janice Hoad  
District 3 - Edward Borkowski  
District 4 - Walter Longwell  
District 5 - Gerald Chase Jr.  
District 6 - Gordon Foster  
District 7 - Robert Nichols  
District 8 - Randy Stankey  
District 9 - William Moss III



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety

As the flowers bloom and the weather warms, May brings with it a reminder of the importance of electrical safety. This month, we join communities across the nation in observing Electrical Safety Month, a time to raise awareness about the potential hazards of electricity and the steps we can take to stay safe at home, at work, and in our communities.

Electricity is an integral part of our daily lives, powering our homes, businesses, and industries. While electricity provides countless benefits, it can also pose significant risks if not handled properly. Electrical accidents and fires are all too common, often resulting from preventable causes such as faulty wiring, overloaded circuits, and improper use of electrical appliances.

At Steuben Rural Electric, the safety and well-being of our members are our top priorities. That's why we're committed to providing resources, information, and support to help you and your loved ones stay safe around electricity. Here are some important electrical safety tips to keep in mind:

**Inspect Electrical Cords and Outlets:** Regularly check electrical cords, outlets, and appliances for signs of wear, damage, or overheating. Replace any frayed or damaged cords immediately, and avoid overloading outlets with too many devices or appliances.

**Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs):** Install GFCIs in areas where water and electricity may come into contact, such as kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help prevent electric shocks and are essential for ensuring safety in wet or damp environments.

**Practice Safe Work Habits:** If you're planning any DIY electrical projects, make sure to turn off the power at the circuit breaker before starting any work. Use insulated tools and follow proper safety procedures to minimize the risk of electric shock or injury.

**Stay Away from Power Lines:** Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines, and never attempt to touch or approach a downed power line. Contact your electric utility immediately to report any fallen or damaged power lines and stay clear until help arrives.

**Teach Children about Electrical Safety:** Educate children about the dangers of electricity and the importance of staying away from electrical hazards. Keep electrical cords and devices out of reach of young children, and teach older children how to use electricity safely.

**Schedule Electrical Inspections:** Regularly schedule professional electrical inspections to identify and address any potential safety hazards in your home or workplace. An experienced electrician can help ensure that your electrical system is up to code and functioning safely.

By following these simple safety guidelines and staying vigilant around electricity, we can all help prevent accidents and protect ourselves and our loved ones from harm. This Electrical Safety Month, let's make a commitment to prioritize safety and take proactive steps to create a safer environment for everyone.

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that electricity remains a safe and reliable source of power for generations to come.

# Lineworker Appreciation Day April 18th

Lineworkers are ranked as some of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country.

On Lineman Appreciation Day 2024, we come together to honor and express our gratitude to the dedicated men and women who work tirelessly to keep our lights on and our communities powered. These unsung heroes, our linemen, play a vital role in ensuring the reliability and safety of our electrical infrastructure, often in challenging and hazardous conditions.

Every day, rain or shine, our linemen bravely venture into the field, facing unpredictable weather, rugged terrain, and potentially dangerous situations to maintain and repair power lines, restore service during outages, and ensure the integrity of our electrical grid. Their unwavering commitment to their work

and our community is truly commendable.

Beyond their technical expertise and skill, our linemen embody qualities of teamwork, resilience, and dedication that inspire us all. They work around the clock, often sacrificing time with their families and personal pursuits to respond to emergencies and keep our essential services running smoothly. Their selflessness and determination serve as a shining example of service above self.

As we celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the invaluable contributions of our linemen and the impact they have on our daily lives. Whether it's restoring power after a storm,



installing new infrastructure to support growth and development, or simply being there to lend a helping hand, our linemen are the backbone of our electric utility and the heartbeat of our community.

To our linemen, we say thank you. Thank you for your dedication, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to keeping our lights on and our community connected. Your hard work and perseverance do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for everything you do.

On behalf of everyone at Steuben Rural Electric we extend our heartfelt appreciation

to our linemen and their families for their service and sacrifice. Today and every day, we salute you.

*Below: Cherry Creek linemen*



## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

### WE NOTIFY YOU

- During storm situations and large power outages.
- Of scheduled power outages.
- With electric billing situations.
- With all other customer service.

### CONTACT US

- If your email address changes.
- If you change phone numbers or disconnect a phone line.
- If you receive your mail at a different postal address.
- If your last name changes.

*It is important to keep your current information on file, so we can keep you informed. If you would like to update your contact information, please send a message through your SmartHub account, or contact our office by phone, in person, or by email.* 723800

# STEUBEN REC PARTNERS WITH WELL-CONNECT AN AFFORDABLE GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM

MICHIGAN'S #1 SELLING GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM IS NOW AVAILABLE IN NEW YORK.

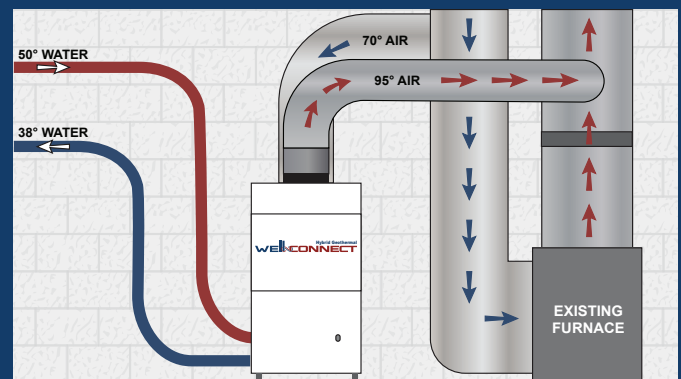
The Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce a new program offering SREC Members the opportunity to slash their heating and cooling expenses by 50% or more with zero up-front costs and **\$3,000** in immediate cash rebates from SREC.

Qualifying homeowners will receive a Well-Connect Hybrid Geothermal Heat Pump System installed through an exclusive financing arrangement that allows energy savings to offset the system cost. The system also qualifies for the **30% Federal Tax Credit** and the **25% NY State Income Tax Credit**.

Participation is limited to the first 180 qualifying members that complete the "Get Started" form at [wellconnectgeo.com/steuben](http://wellconnectgeo.com/steuben) or call 1-833-GEO-WELL

## HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORK?

- Attaches to your home's existing heating system, it does not replace it.
- Delivers 90% on average of your home's heating needs and 100% of your home's cooling needs.
- If you have a well and are heating with propane, fuel oil, electric or wood, your current heating and cooling cost is likely greater than it would be to fully finance and heat & cool with a Well-Connect.
- Installs in one day, any time of year.



**WELL-CONNECT** Geothermal Made Affordable®



Visit our website to learn more.  
**wellconnectgeo.com**  
1-833-GEO-WELL



# Lincoln Nichols Selected to Attend the 2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Each year, Steuben Rural Electric Rural Cooperative sends a cooperative-sponsored student to the nation's capital city, Washington D.C. for leadership and educational training, historical perspectives, tours of city sites, and experiences in the heart of the federal government.

Lincoln Nichols, son of Daniel & Tina Nichols of Lindley, NY, was selected to attend this year's Washington D.C. Youth Tour, April 21-24, 2024. Lincoln is a student at Addison Central High School. Lincoln stated in his essay, "This would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I hope to learn more about how the cooperative organization works and benefits the community."

Lincoln was one of three students in NYS to have received this honor. Lincoln joined SREC's Board of Directors in meetings with local and state representatives and their staff to discuss issues that are important in rural America. Lincoln and his chaperone also had the opportunity to tour the Capitol building and take in a Washington National's baseball game.

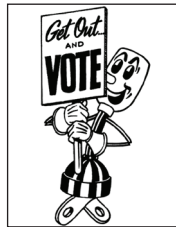


*Pictured from left to right:  
Lincoln Nichols - Steuben Rural Electric;  
Lincoln Dapson - Oneida-Madison Electric  
Pauline Kennedy - Otsego Electric*

## Nominating Committee - Interested in Being a Director?

SREC's Board of Directors is essential to the success of the co-op. Directors attend monthly meetings to discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of the members. Their responsibilities include mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, strategic planning, financial decision making, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, and meeting member expectations.

The elected representatives of SREC's Board of Directors are accountable to the membership and this year, three of those nine seats are set for election. The seats up for election this year are District 5 - the towns of Canisteo, Jasper, Troupsburg, and Woodhull currently represented by Gerald Chase Jr. ; District 7 - the towns of Addison, Erwin, Corning, Tuscarora, and Lindley currently represented by Robert V. Nichols; and District 8 - Cattaraugus County currently represented by Randy



Stankey.

The nominating committee will select candidates for each of these three districts at their Nominating Committee meeting in June. If you

are interested in being considered as a board candidate, please contact Kristen Cleveland at [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com) or call 607-776-4161.

In general, qualified candidates must be a current member of SREC with the membership in your name, and your permanent residence must be in the district that is up for election. More information on director qualifications can be found in our bylaws on our website at [www.steubenrec.coop/bylaws](http://www.steubenrec.coop/bylaws).

Information regarding the candidates up for election this year will be included in the September 2024 Annual Meeting Newsletter.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

*Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)*



# Member Disclosure Consent Form

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires many businesses and organizations to implement an identity theft prevention program in their day-to-day business operations. Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative adheres to the FTC's *Red Flags Rule* to protect our members' information. The data privacy of our members is very important to us, and you may be asked to provide additional information and identification when you make inquiries on your account.

A member may complete an *Member Disclosure Consent* form to allow Steuben Rural Electric to give account information to anyone other than the member themselves. The authorized user is permitted to make inquiries on the account which they are authorized on. An authorized user can inquire about the balance or pay on the account. He or she is not authorized to start/stop service, change account information (such as mailing address), not entitled to unretired capital credits, nor is he/she financially responsible for the account.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**STEUBEN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
ANNUAL MEETING**

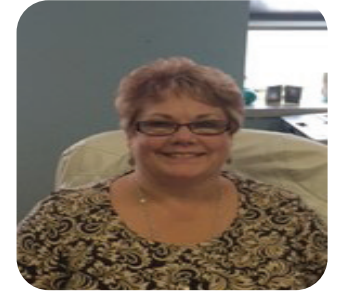
As we flip our calendars to 2024,  
add our event to your calendar!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**

Campbell-Savona High School  
Pine Valley High School  
Registration 9:00-11:00am  
Business Meeting 11:00am

We look forward to having you join us!

# EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT



Kim Cruse retired on February 2, 2024 after 12 years of service with the Cooperative. Kim was hired by the Cooperative on May 21, 2012 as a Bookkeeper at the Bath office. We will miss Kim's positive attitude and great sense of humor. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Steuben Rural Electric, we would like to wish Kim the best in her retirement and thank her for 12 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative!

## CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG



Spring is here and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting [www.udignity.org](http://www.udignity.org). 811 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 425601

## 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

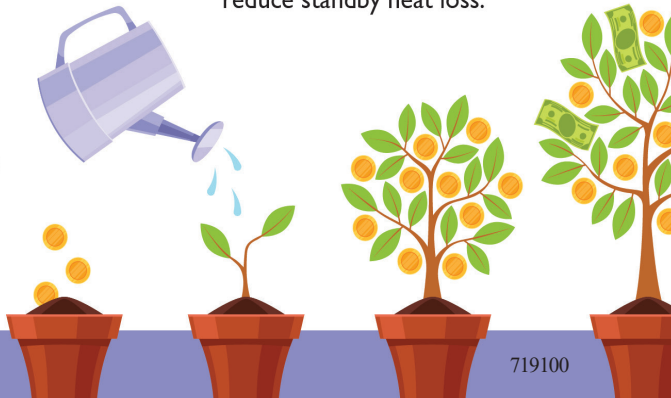
When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

### 1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

### 2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.



### 3. Seal leaks with caulk and

**weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

### 4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

### 5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.

Source: Dept. of Energy

719100

# THE TRADING POST

• FOR SALE: Free laminate flooring enough to do an 8x10 ft. room. Very good condition, light oak color. If interested call 607-324-2206.

• FOR SALE: "Grass Fed Angus Ground Beef". All Natural, no grains, no added fat, "No Nuthin", just beef. Stock up for the summer months. Call 585-728-5243 or 585-991-9173.

• FOR SALE: 32 ft. extension aluminum ladder - \$100.00. Call 607-382-6038.

The Trading Post Rules: Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by the 26th of January in order to be published in the February newsletter. You can submit ads by mailing them to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, 9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com). All ads must be typed or printed clearly. Include your name and account number on all submissions. Ads are not allowed to be automatically repeated. They must be resubmitted for each issue. The cooperative reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary. Ads are published on a first-received basis with no guarantee your ad will appear.

Disclaimer: Items in the Trading Post are published at the request of our members. SREC does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products advertised.

# HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

May 27 - Memorial Day  
July 4 - Independence Day  
September 2 - Labor Day  
October 14 - Columbus Day  
November 11 - Veterans Day

## THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the provisions of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is required to permit a residential member to designate, in writing a third party to receive a copy of every notice of disconnectinuance of service to the member, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive these notices, please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.



## \$10 IS HIDING IN THIS ISSUE

Each month, we hide five account numbers within the text of the newsletter. If you find your account number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at 607-776-4161 to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.

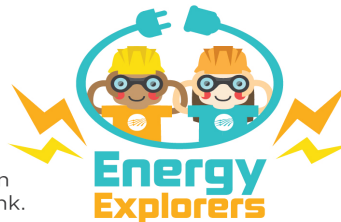


## WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.

*Psst! Check your work in the answer key.*

1. When possible, use \_\_\_\_\_ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
2. If you hear \_\_\_\_\_ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
3. Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
4. All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Never handle electrical devices if you are \_\_\_\_\_ from swimming or other water activities.



### WORD BANK

thunder    wet    battery    dry    electrical



901106

Answer Key: 1) battery 2) thunder 3) electrical 4) dry 5) wet