



The Energizer

AUGUST 2022 | 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Friend of the Cooperative



A friend and long-time contractor of the Cooperative unexpectedly passed away in May of this year.

Stephen Lewis Strauss, Sr. (Steve) was a long-time resident of Addison NY. Among many other successful endeavors, he was the owner-operator of Strauss Tree Service, Inc.

Strauss Tree Service, Inc. has provided routine right-of-way and emergency response services to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative for the better part of three decades under Steve's direct involvement and leadership. Steve spent countless hours serving the Cooperative and was well known as a friend to many SREC members, vendors, and employees. Steve's work ethic and commitment to his businesses and family was exemplary. Steve was 100% dependable, exhibited a model work ethic, and was one of the best at his craft.

The Cooperative could always count on Steve to find a way to meet the task at hand, no matter the technical difficulty or circumstances. Aside from the day-to-day grind of routine vegetation management on our systems primary distribution lines, we could always count on Steve to answer his phone after hours. Steve sent crews and responded personally to many emergency calls through the years, and was imperative in power restoration efforts during every major storm event on the SREC system in recent memory.

Above and beyond work, Steve Strauss was a friend to many, providing advice or a humorous quip to those he worked with or encountered along the way. Steve will be missed but not forgotten.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Diane Strauss; sons: Stephen Jr. (Yvonne) Strauss, Jason Strauss, Mathew Strauss; mother: Barbara Strauss; grandchildren: Anna, Grace, Sadie, Henry, Charlie, Emily, and Isaac Strauss. He is also survived by four siblings: Diane (Kevin) Reed, John (Candace) Strauss, Debbie (Kenny) Causer, and Craig (Bonnie) Strauss.

First Regular In-Person Annual Meeting Since 2019

In 2020 Steuben Rural Electric canceled their Annual Meeting and in 2021 the Cooperative hosted its Annual Meeting drive-through style due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the health and safety of members and employees. As public health restrictions have been lifted, the Cooperative will offer members an opportunity to get together in person and hear from co-op leaders for the first time since 2019.

All members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to hear from Steuben Rural Electric leadership about the ways the Cooperative has continued to serve members throughout the previous year. This is the day set aside for you to meet with your directors and cooperative employees.

Four candidates are running for election to the Board of Directors. The director candidates are James McCormick (District 1), Janice Hoad (District 2), William

Moss III (District 9) and Walter Longwell (District 4).

The in-person meeting will be held at the Caniseto-Greenwood High School on Saturday, October 15, 2022. Registration opens at 9:00 am and the business meeting starts at 11:00 am. Look for the information on the annual meeting in a special newsletter to be issued in September.

765800



Keep Cool this summer without blasting your A/C

There's so need to lose your cool when you get your summer electric bill during the hottest days of the year. Instead, try some alternatives to cranking up the air conditioning when the sun is blazing and it hasn't rained in days.

1. Install a dehumidifier. If the indoors feels as humid as the outdoors, there's too much water in the inside air. If you see water dripping out of the air conditioner or if you have to set it so low

that you're freezing just to feel comfortable humidity-wise, the dehumidifier will help.

2. Cook outdoors or eat cold food. Salads, raw veggies and fruit make great summer meals, and they don't require you to turn on the stove or oven, which can make the air in the kitchen too warm. Instead, gather the family for a barbecue and fire up the outdoor grill or serve a cold buffet on extra hot evenings.

3. Hang bright curtains. Red, orange, and yellow tend to deflect heat, so for curtains, those colors are energy efficient. Closing the curtains or blinds during the day will keep sun rays from heating up the home you're trying to keep cool. Or install solar screens or a window tint to let in the light but keep out the heat.

4. Run fans. Ceiling fans whose blades turn counterclockwise pull heat up out of the room and send a soft breeze down into it, so electric fans placed in windows facing outward can suck heat out of a room on days when you want to give your a/c a break.

5. Run your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer after dark. Appliances that use heat to operate also



throw some heat into the rooms where they are located. So run them during the coolest part of the day after the sun goes down.

6. Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home. Check doors, windows, and anywhere else that outside air might enter your house.

Be sure to SLOW DOWN WHEN APPROACHING A MAINTENANCE WORK ZONE

Although road maintenance crews come to mind when thinking of orange warning signs and work zones, other workers perform job duties near the road as well, including utility and tree-trimming crews. Slowing down and paying attention in work zones is not just important for your own safety, but also for those working in dangerous roadside locations.

Please move over and slow down to avoid accidents. This protects not only line workers

and field personnel, but also road construction crews, other utility companies, first responders, etc.

426900

Line workers are always dedicated to keeping your lights on. We ask that you please take the time to slow down and pay attention when near work zones so they too can go home and enjoy their own lights and family.

Streets and highways are lines with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in traffic lanes. Their work is often taken for granted but benefits us all; and like everyone, they deserve a safe workplace. Please slow down, move over, and be alert to utility crews and other work zone workers for their safety as well as yours.

SAFE ELECTRICITY SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO HELP KEEP ROADSIDE CREWS SAFE YEAR-ROUND:

- ◆ **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE** between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- ◆ **BE PATIENT.** Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks in your schedule.
- ◆ **OBEY ALL SIGNS** and road crew flag instructions.
- ◆ **MERGE EARLY** and be courteous to other drivers.





Join the Automatic Bill Payment Program

When you join the automatic bill payment program your funds automatically are deducted from your checking, or credit card account each month. No more writing checks, paying for postage, or mailing your electric bill. It's all taken care of, and there's never a late payment. Simply register or log in to SmartHub and enroll your account(s) today.

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT PROGRAM DETAILS:

- ◇ **You can sign up** through SmartHub, or over the phone through our IVR system.
- ◇ **Your electric bill** deducts from your bank account or credit card automatically.
- ◇ **Payments will be deducted** on the due date, as stated on your bill. If this date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deduction will take place the following business day.
- ◇ **You will continue to receive** your monthly electric bill(s), electronically or by mail.
- ◇ **There is no charge** to use your credit card.

Prepare a storm kit to help you get through a power outage

Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties, and lives. These storms can also take down power lines - creating a dangerous situation for all of us, including the linemen working hard to get your power turned back on.

How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas. There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process - clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to members within the various damaged areas.

Be sure to contact your electric utility immediately to report the outage.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your



electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment - one at a time.

To help you get through, have a storm kit prepared. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place, and make sure all members of the family know where it is.

Storm Safety Kit includes: drinking water, food, pet supplies, blankets, clothing, first-aid supplies, flashlights, battery-operated radio and clock, cell phone, extra batteries, important documents, and emergency numbers.

CHOOSE PAPERLESS

No matter the reason you choose to enroll in paperless billing, it helps the Cooperative reduce fixed costs, which means less costs passed on to you, the members.



To get started, visit www.steuben.rec.com

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Make Sure You're Receiving Notifications

Steuben Rural Electric uses recorded phone messages to let members know when a preplanned outage has been scheduled in their area for maintenance work. As new software become available, the Cooperative may have more options to send important communications to members.

Electronic communications are tied to individual accounts and use the phone numbers the Cooperative has on record. If your contact information on record isn't up-to-date or is entered incorrectly, you may be missing out on important notifications from Steuben Rural Electric.

You can update your contact information by going to <https://steubenrec.coop/content/update-my-personal-information> or it can also be updated by calling Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative at 607-776-4161 or 800-843-3414.

THE TRADING POST

For Sale: 6 cylinder Ford motor Yamaha moped; 1986 Yamaha moped - \$550.00. Call 607-527-8891 or 607-346-3208.

For Sale: Fencing Supplies for horses, sheep, goat, cattle, etc. Rolled wire, panels, round pens, gates, etc. Handling Equipment. All in stock. Good prices! Good people! Ridge View Agriculture in Conewango Valley. Call 716-640-1330.

For Sale: Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog - \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St in Addison. 473105

For Sale: Trapping supplies. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford. Call Bill at 607-583-4600.

Wanted: Older model truck 4x4 with plow. Call 607-527-8891 or 607-346-3208.

Wanted: Raw fur and deer hides. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford. Call Bill at 607-583-4600.

Electricity Theft the Invisible Crime

When someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected, or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage, it hurts everyone.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves pay for the power they steal with their lives. Electricity theft is not just dangerous for those who steal. They put other lives in danger by potentially overloading lines with power. Notify Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative if you know of illegally connected power. Do not cut the seal or tamper with an electric meter. Remain aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activities to SREC.



The Cooperative Difference

Cooperatives are at the forefront of creating people-centered solutions. At Steuben Rural Electric people are the priority of the organization. The cooperative business model itself is hardwired to benefit the people who are members. This is fundamentally different from a business that is controlled by outside investors or a philanthropy where the beneficiaries have minimal say in the enterprise.

Caring for the community while not making a profit is what a cooperative is all about. We work better together because it's in our bones, and it's what we are made of. Cooperatives also seek to continually educate members and employees to achieve high-level knowledge of what a cooperative is all about. That is the cooperative difference!

Membership has its Benefits

Unlike investor-owned utilities, Steuben Rural Electric is not driven to make profits for shareholders. Instead the focus is on delivery of reliable, affordable, electricity. When revenues exceed expenses, members are allocated equity. Every customer receiving electricity from Steuben Rural Electric is a member of the cooperative and entitled to receive an equity allocation. The total amount of member equity depends on the length of time a member has been served by Steuben Rural Electric and the amount of the member's monthly electric bills.

Cooperatives use equity to offset expenses for new construction, storm repair, and other operational costs. Equity is also used to reduce debt and build or maintain financial strength. When there is a "profit", or margins, and Steuben Rural Electric is financially able, equity is returned to members in the form of capital credit retirement.

Capital credit retirement is unique to the cooperative business model and an added value for members. It's just one of the benefits of belonging to a financially strong cooperative like Steuben Rural Electric. To learn more about capital credits, visit <https://steubenrec.coop/content/capital-credit-faqs>.

The Trading Post Rules: Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by the 21st of November in order to be published in the December newsletter. You can submit ads by mailing them to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, 9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to kleveland@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

Sept. 5 - Labor Day
Oct. 10 - Columbus Day
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 25 - Day after Thanksgiving
Dec. 23 - Christmas Holiday

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 discontinuance 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. 75205



\$10 IS HIDING IN THIS ISSUE

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in this newsletter, please contact Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative immediately to claim a \$10 credit on your bill!

