



# The Energizer

DECEMBER 2024 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

As December kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Steuben Rural Electric cares about your well being. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

**Safety First.** My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

**'Tis the season for savings.** Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.



I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available,

and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food - not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller counter-top appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit [www.steubenrec.coop](http://www.steubenrec.coop). We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

Bath District Office, 9 Wilson Avenue, Bath, NY 14810  
Phone: (607) 776-4161 or (800) 843-3414  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Cherry Creek District Office, 5966 South Rd, Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
Phone: (716) 296-5651 or (800) 883-8236  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm

# Apply Today For Youth Tour Opportunity

Attention High School Juniors of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative!

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is looking for high school juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime free trip to our nation's capital in April of 2025.

There is no cost to the student who is selected to go on the trip. All expenses are paid by Steuben Rural Electric.

Attention all area 11th grade high school students whose parents are members of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative. An all-expense-paid opportunity of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., will take place April 27 through April 30, 2025.

The difference between electric cooperatives and other utilities is that "giving something back to the community" is part of our business plan. So, why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington? Because they're committed to giving our next generation of community leaders the political insight and hands-on leadership experience they need to flourish.

Annually, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, along with the other three New York Cooperatives, sponsor a selected youth-delegate with the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation's political leaders in April and learn about our Nation's legislative process.

The selected student will be going with representatives from Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative in meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress as part of the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference. The conference is a national lobbying effort by our nation's rural electric cooperatives to inform our members of Congress about rural areas like those in Steuben, Schuyler, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties.

This unique trip gives young people the opportunity to watch history come alive, explore museums, memorials, and monuments, make friendships that will last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. Senators and CEO's.

Students interested in being considered for this event must complete the application and have it submitted to the office of Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative by 4pm on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Co-op representatives will conduct in-person interviews with the finalists. You can find more information and download the application at [www.steubenrec.coop/nreca-legislative-youth-tour](http://www.steubenrec.coop/nreca-legislative-youth-tour) or stop by our office for a printed copy.

Contact Kristen Cleveland at [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com) or call 607-776-4161 for more information.



## Ready Your Home FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



### INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

### TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

### PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

### PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

### INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at: 

# LEVELIZED BILLING

What is Levelized Billing? Levelized billing is different than the typical fixed budget billing option, where you pay the same amount each month regardless of your energy usage and make up any shortfall or receive a credit at the end of the year. Levelized billing is a variable budget payment that adjusts to a member's usage patterns and energy rate changes, so there is no unexpected catch-up payment due for any shortfall at the end of the year.

## LEVELIZED BILLING



Levelized billing allows our members to manage their utility bills by having a more consistent monthly payment, without the surprise that can occur with catch-up payments. With levelized billing, your monthly payment will be based on a rolling average of your current energy bill and previous eleven months of energy bills. Prevent drastic changes in your bill, even during the hottest or coldest months of the year. Please call our office at 607-776-4161 for enrollment information.

## 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

# Cooperative News

## How Local Renewable Energy Projects Affect Steuben Rural Electric

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative purchases power as a full requirement customer of the New York Power Authority (NYPA). This means that NYPA supplies all of our electricity needs. Approximately 85% of our power comes from NYPA's hydroelectric resources, while the remaining 15% is sourced from the wholesale market.

Although we don't buy power directly from local renewable projects, these projects can still influence our power supply. When local renewables generate energy, they can reduce the overall demand on the wholesale market. This has the potential to impact market prices, which in turn affects the cost of the remaining 15% of our power that NYPA procures for us.

Local renewable projects contribute to the broader power supply, and this can lead to fluctuations in wholesale market prices that may indirectly affect our cooperative's power costs. Whether these impacts result in cost increases or decreases

depends on various market conditions and factors.

Our contract with the New York Power Authority has been renewed until 2040 at cost-based rates. These rates are extremely low compared to market rates, providing significant cost savings for our cooperative and members. Because of these favorable rates, there is not much opportunity to enter into direct purchase agreements with local renewable projects without raising costs.

Overall, the overwhelming majority of the power we purchase comes from our hydro allocation, which remains consistent and reliable. Local renewables, such as wind and solar, tend to have a minimal impact on our operation, as they only influence a small portion of our power sourced from the wholesale market.

## Mutual Aid: The Power of Cooperation

At Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, we understand that when emergencies strike, swift and reliable support is essential to restoring power and ensuring community safety. That's why we participate in mutual aid—a cornerstone of our commitment to serving our members and supporting other electric cooperatives across New York State.

Mutual aid enables cooperatives to quickly mobilize resources and personnel when needed, such as during severe weather or other disruptive events. Here in New York, the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NYSRECA) plays a vital role in coordinating these efforts among electric cooperatives. When assistance is required, NYSRECA facilitates the response among its member cooperatives, prioritizing the needs of New York cooperatives first.

Beyond NYSRECA, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is also part of a larger mutual aid network that includes the New York Association of Public Power—a group of municipal and cooperative utilities. This extended network ensures that resources are available when needed, improving resilience for all our communities. Steuben often

responds to broader disasters through NYAPP's mutual aid network, which encompasses investor-owned utilities, municipal systems that are members of the American Public Power Association, electric cooperatives that are part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association network, and beyond. Each disaster is handled strategically and tactically, with resources sought regionally if available, and nationally in cases of larger disasters. These networks that the Cooperative is part of are broad-reaching and highly effective.

Mutual aid efforts require agreements to be in place ahead of time to ensure readiness. Safety is always our highest priority—every effort is made to ensure that crews are well-prepared and adhere to strict safety protocols when responding to calls for assistance.

Mutual aid embodies the cooperative spirit—neighbors helping neighbors. By working together, we are all stronger, and we are proud to be part of a network that stands ready to respond when our members need it most.

# 80th Annual Meeting Recap

## CELEBRATING STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP



Bath District Members at the Campbell-Savona High School auditorium.



Bath District Linemen Trenton LaBarr and Matthew Straus

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Youth Delegate Lincoln Nichols



Cherry Creek District Employee Katie Smith



Bath District Members enjoying morning refreshments

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative held its 80th Annual Meeting at the Campbell-Savona High School in Campbell and was also live streamed to our Cherry Creek members at the Pine Valley High School in South Dayton on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Food, raffle prizes, gifts, and fun was enjoyed by all. The annual meeting provides members with the opportunity to get to know their cooperative.

The annual meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation, offered by Pastor George Coon. Board President, James McCormick welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the Cooperative's board of directors, management, and special guests.

At the annual meeting, Cooperative members elected three of their peers to serve on the Cooperative's Board of Directors. In District 5 (Canisteo, Jasper, Troupsburg, Woodhull), Gerald Chase Jr. was re-elected. In District 7 (Addison, Erwin, Coming, Tuscarora, Lindley), Robert V. Nichols was re-elected. In District 8 (Cattaraugus County), Randy Stankey was re-elected.

In addition to the election of the directors, the Cooperative provided its members reports on its end-of-year financial status, updates on the Cooperative and what's ahead for the future.

The Board recognized the following for their years of service to the Cooperative; Ernie Jessup, Stores & Facilities Attendant 35 years; Justin Young, Lineman 1st Class 20 years; Bryant Dillon, General Manager 10 years; Katie Smith, Senior Branch Office Clerk 10 years; Richard Pendle, Crew Chief 5 years; Susan Roche, Finance Manager 5 years; and Gerald Chase Jr., Director 5 years.

Two hundred seventy members registered at this year's annual meeting. Thank you to all those members who attended and showed their support for their local cooperative. Next year's meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th, 2025. We hope to see you there.

# HAVE A WELL?

## USE IT TO SAVE THOUSANDS ON YOUR HEATING & COOLING COSTS

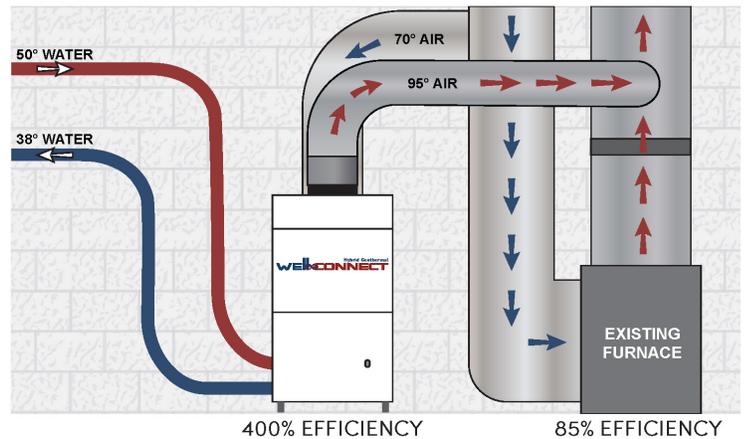
**\$100** AVERAGE MONTHLY ENERGY SAVINGS  
**- \$40** AVERAGE MONTHLY FINANCING  
**\$60** IN YOUR POCKET EVERY MONTH



### WHY WELL-CONNECT?

Well-Connect is a clean energy solution for homeowners to drastically reduce the expense associated with burning traditional fossil fuels.

It works with an existing furnace, it does not replace it, making it an affordable add-on solution.



## \$3,000 SREC/NYSERDA REBATE

PLUS 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT AND 25% NY STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT

VISIT [WELLCONNECTGEO.COM](http://WELLCONNECTGEO.COM)  
TO LEARN MORE

No Home Visit Required for a Free Estimate



Your Local Well-Connect  
Installer

Value Geothermal  
Canisteo, NY  
(607) 290-3559

# Is Your Name On the List?

Please review the list of unclaimed capital credits on our website at [www.steuben-rec.coop/unclaimed-capital-credits](http://www.steuben-rec.coop/unclaimed-capital-credits). The listing includes members whose capital credit checks have been returned to the cooperative by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. If you have any information that would be helpful to us in locating these members, please contact us at 607-776-4161

*Waiting to be Claimed*



**CHECK THE LIST...**  
*Unclaimed Capital Credits*

## SREC Returns \$552,213.68 in Capital Credits to Members

The retirement of capital credits is the tangible demonstration of your ownership in Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative. As a member-owned cooperative, SREC operates as a not-for-profit utility. This is accomplished through the retirement of capital credits. This year we paid out \$150,147.79 to settle estates, and \$402,065.89 in general retirement. This general retirement will close out the retirement of 1997 and 93.09% of 1998. The general retirement checks were mailed out on September 30th to members who had usage in 1997 and 1998.

What are Capital Credits? Any profits made by the cooperative are referred to as margins. At the end of each year, the margins (profits) are allocated to each member in proportion to the amount of electricity purchased. The more electricity purchased, the greater the share of the margin allocation that will be made to the member's capital credit account. We have been allocating capital credits since 1972 and have returned more than \$9,501,677.64 in capital credits to our members. When

the allocated funds are returned as capital credits to the cooperative's member, we say that those capital credits have been retired. 893000

Assets of the cooperative are owned and held collectively in common by all the member-owners. From the time the margins are generated until they are returned, this money

is put to work within the cooperative, minimizing debt financing and strengthening our financial position.

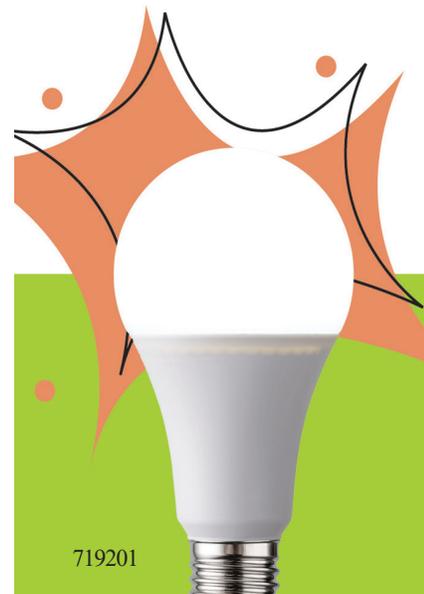
What is the difference between allocated and retired capital credits? Allocated capital credits appear as an entry on the permanent financial records of the cooperative and reflect your equity or ownership in Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued to you and your equity in the cooperative is reduced. Checks are generally issued 27-30 years after the year in which the margins were earned.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



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# Steuben Rural Electric Welcomes Three New Employees to Our Co-op Family



Joseph Englehart



Karlie Sheetz



Katrina Case

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative would like to welcome Joseph Englehart as a First Class Lineman, Karlie Sheetz, as a Cashier/Clerk, and Katrina Case as an Accountant (Billing).

At the core of every electric cooperative is a line crew that keeps power moving through the lines, rain or shine, snow and wind, they face it all. Joining SREC's line crew in the Bath District on September 23rd is Joseph Englehart. Joseph previously worked for the IBEW.

Karlie Sheetz joined SREC as a cashier/clerk in the Bath District on October 28th. Karlie previously worked in the dental field. She enjoys shopping, kayaking, home renovating, camping, spending quality time with her husband, daughter, and two small dogs. "Where you will find me the most is on the sideline either at a soccer game or track meet supporting my daughter," Karlie said.

Katrina Case joined SREC as an Accountant (Billing) in the Bath District office on

November 8th. Katrina lives in Bath and has three children (Noelle, Madison and stepson Eastin). In addition to her love of baking, she has a side business in photography. Katrina and her partner, Kyle, are working on converting a barn into a house and they are both excited and looking forward to the completion of their home. In April 2026, Katrina will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in project management from Southern New Hampshire University. "I currently have a 3.95 GPA, and I'm incredibly proud of that. I previously worked with Coming Natural Gas for 14 years. I'm thankful and eager to apply my knowledge and experience here at Steuben Rural Electric," Katrina said.

SREC is excited that Joseph, Karlie, and Katrina have joined our team. Based on their experience, we know they are going to hit the ground running and will be great assets to our organization as we carry out our mission serving our member-owners.

## PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

### Need help paying your electric bill?

Here at Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative we want you to know that there are resources and actions to help assist you with your electric bills this winter.

First and foremost, contact us as soon as possible if you cannot pay your bill on time. You may be eligible for a payment arrangement. Your household may also be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which is based on household income size.

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards their 2024-2025 heating bills.

The 2024-2025 Regular HEAP benefit opened on November 1, 2024. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year to help you pay for heating your home. Eligibility and benefits are based on: income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older or permanently disabled.

The 2024-2025 First and Second Emergency benefit is scheduled to open January 2, 2025. If you are eligible, the Emergency HEAP benefit can help you heat your home if you are in a heat or heat related emergency. Emergency HEAP benefits and eligibility are based on: income, available resources, and the type of emergency.

For eligibility, including guidelines and how to apply contact your local Department of Social Services or the NYS OTDA hot-line at (800) 342-3009.

This program helps prevent the disconnection of utility service, energy crisis and long term energy cost burdens for eligible families. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel your are eligible for assistance.



# THE TRADING POST

• **FOR SALE:** Set of four Mastercraft tires, size 245/70 R16, of which 2 of said tires have less than 800 miles of wear and the other 2 tires are almost like new. Asking \$625.00 or best offer. Call 607-776-7150.

• **FOR SALE:** 39" round glass top picnic table with four arm chairs and umbrella - \$125.00; antique Duncan Fyke drop leaf table, opens to 64" - \$80.00; mahogany desk, 2 large side drawers each side & center drawer w/beautiful chair, 46Wx30Hx19D - \$75.00; large window air conditioner - \$100.00; smaller window air conditioner, used twice - \$80.00. Call 716-296-8119.

• **FOR SALE:** 1994 Honda Gold Wing Trike, just had it completely serviced, excellent condition, original owner's manual, 59,382 gentle miles, new brakes & tires, FM stereo, CB radio, cruise control - \$13,000.00

or best offer. Call 607-776-7812 and leave message. Serious inquiries only.

• **FOR SALE:** MEX 650 Reloader, 12 gauge. Includes a size reloaded. Mounted on a metal cabinet, formica top (great for supply storage). Asking \$225. Call 716-257-8367.

• **FOR SALE:** 3 point hitch, 6ft., box scraper, very good condition - \$600.00 cash; firewood, 4 face cord, 32", all oak, seasoned 5 years indoors, you load and haul - \$400.00 cash. Call 716-471-5037.

• **FOR SALE:** Kero Heat CV2230 convection kerosene heater, like new, seldom used - \$80.00 (cost \$204.00 new); Grand MAC Charcoal Smoker & Grill, new, never used - \$75.00 (cost \$115.00 new). Call 607-794-2510 8:00am-4:00pm M-F.

• **FOR SALE:** Champion Invertor Generator, 2,000 starting watts, 1700 running watts. Like new with box, never used \$400.00 (cost \$520.00 new). Call 607-794-2510 8:00am-4:00pm M-F.

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## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, domestic violence victim status, family/parental status, salary history, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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**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 [kleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto: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

Dec. 24 - Christmas Holiday  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Holiday  
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day  
Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Jr.  
February 17 - Presidents' Day  
April 18 - Good Friday

## 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.



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