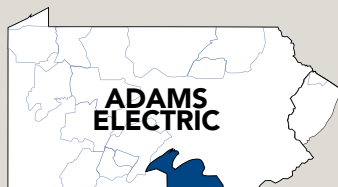




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

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P.O. Box 220
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

From the CEO/General Manager



Voters wanted

By Steve Rasmussen

WITH the challenges we've faced in 2020, now more than ever it is crucial to elect officials who are focused on issues that matter. Since 1966, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) has been the voice for cooperatives, their employees and their communities.

Members, directors and employees are invited to join me in ensuring we continue to have a strong voice on issues that matter to rural Pennsylvania. By participating in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, we can work toward the goal of supporting candidates who understand issues important to our cooperative community.

One vital responsibility that goes hand in hand with that goal is voter registration. Election Day 2020 is coming, and getting newly eligible voters registered is more important than ever. With Department of Motor Vehicles offices shut down because of COVID-19, and registration drives on hold, millions of voter registrations are not being collected or updated. In order to be able to take advantage of some of the options being rolled out to reduce the spread of COVID-19 — such as vote by mail — eligible voters need to be registered at their current addresses at least 15 days ahead of Election Day.


September 22 is National Voter Registration Day, and this year's new voter registrations are far behind. Despite ever-changing circumstances, 41 states plus the District of Columbia allow voters to register online. This year, the day will also be used to raise public awareness of voter registration options and alternative means of voting across the country.

To find official voting information for Pennsylvania or to register to vote, visit nonprofitvote.org, votespa.com, or vote.coop. From these sites, you can also check your voter registration status, find your polling place, request an absentee ballot, look up your elected officials and find the 2020 candidates, and review voter registration deadlines.

The rural vote and the initiatives of rural Pennsylvania are so important, especially now when issues like broadband integration, net metering reform, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) expansions are hot-button items in the legislature.

Electric cooperatives demonstrated our grassroots political strength when cooperative leaders sent messages to elected officials in support of cooperative broadband bills, House Bill 2438 and Senate Bill 1118. The bills requested support for deployment of high-speed broadband internet service to rural areas in Pennsylvania and passed in the House in June with a 202-0 vote.

While Adams Electric is not actively engaged in a broadband project, we are in strong support of our fellow Pennsylvania co-ops and other organizations that are pursuing such projects in rural Pennsylvania.

If you have an interest in political issues and engagement — or just want to keep rural Pennsylvania strong — consider joining me, our board, employees, and fellow members in the ACRE Co-op Owners program. Enrollment is open year-round and costs as little as \$2.08 a month. For more information, call 1-800-726-2324. 

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Former member makes 600 masks in 3 weeks

By Kami Noel, CCC, Communications/Member Relations Coordinator

IN 2009, after 33 ½ years of marriage, Shirley Ann Byers found herself in unknown territory. She'd suddenly lost her husband, Nelson, in an accident on the family farm. They'd lived on Adams Electric lines for 34 years, but life didn't feel right without Nelson there.

"He did the farm, we just helped out," Byers said of herself and her son. "Without Nelson, it didn't feel the same, so we moved away."

Byers moved around a few times, remarried, which didn't work out, and in February 2019, she finally settled into a space where she felt at home again, a townhouse in Chambersburg. Having spent just one year in her new community, she felt drawn to help when the COVID-19 pandemic spread.

"I love to sew and make a habit of quilting, so I thought I'd make a few masks, but I didn't have an outlet for them," she says.

Then a friend mentioned a local fabric store involved with such projects.

The JOANN Fabrics store on Route 30 in Chambersburg was selling mask kits and, once completed, the masks



CO-OP CASH BACK: Shirley Ann Byers is a former member of Adams Electric Cooperative. She used her returned Ownership Rewards margins to buy materials to make some of the more than 600 COVID protective masks she produced for the JOANN Fabrics "Take and Make" program.

were being distributed to Gettysburg Hospital, local nursing homes, and first responder groups.

"The kits made 10 masks," Byers explains. "So, I bought one, took it home, made the masks and took them back to the store the next day. I just kept going back and forth every day. It wasn't that I didn't have other things to do, but this is where the need was."

According to the JOANN Fabrics corporate website, the corporation set a goal of making 200 million masks to give away for COVID-19 relief. The site includes how-to videos for

mask making and offers to help donate completed masks. The "Take and Make" mask kits include some fabric and guidance on proper assembly. But other supplies like elastic became hard to find, and costs began to spike.

"A yard of material made 12 masks, but a yard of interfacing only made six, and was \$8 a yard," Byers says. "The whole task was getting to be a big expense. I had some donations, and spent a lot of my own money, but then the check came!"

The check she refers to was her Adams Electric Ownership Rewards check for \$126.50. Following her years of living on co-op lines, Byers made it a practice to keep the co-op up to date whenever she relocated. That ended up working out to her advantage as she still had unclaimed margins sitting in her former co-op's electric account that had yet to be paid out.

"The annual check came in the mail, and suddenly some of my costs for mask making were defrayed!" she says.

Byers sewed nonstop for three weeks straight, completing more than 600 masks for the Take and Make program. All in, Byers invested around \$600 in mask making, averaging about \$2.50 a mask.

"My dining table looked like an assembly line, packs of fabric, interfacing, elastic — which I kept running out of — I was really enjoying it," she says. "I even got requests to keep going, but at 671, I was done!"

And while Byers knows the need still exists, she's not planning to jump back in feet first just yet.

"It's all been so rewarding," she says. "I still make some now and then, like for my Sunday School students — who I haven't gotten to see since this all started. But I think I'll let the calluses heal first." 🌻



MOUNDS OF MASKS: Remains from an assembly line of materials and finished masks line the kitchen table of Shirley Ann Byers' Chambersburg living room, following weeks of production. Byers says she was just happy to be able to use her sewing talent to help people who needed masks for protection.

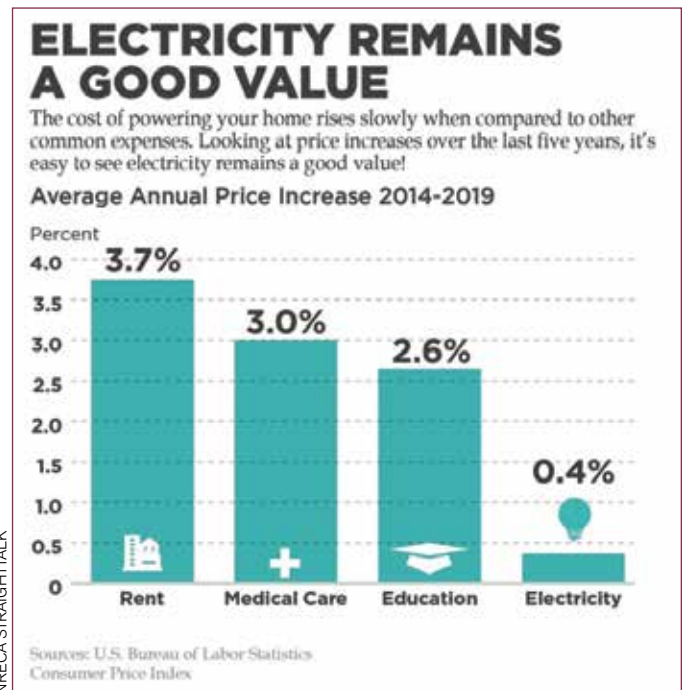
Electricity brings everyday value

ELECTRICITY isn't something we tend to think much about. However, many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months and have likely been using way more energy. We still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. But then the power goes out or the monthly bill arrives, and suddenly it's at the top of your mind.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Most homeowners still use a cellphone to stay connected and subscribe to at least 50 cable channels so they can enjoy some viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern life. We can see what we are getting for our money, and we pay a price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting in return on our investment.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremen-



THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

\$5.30
average cost of a Big Mac® value meal

\$3.87
average daily cost of power

Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.

dous value for our quality of life as well as our budget. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. In fact, over the last five years on average, most consumer-members of Adams Electric experienced less than two outages per year and a total outage time of around 2 hours and 15 minutes, excluding major weather events. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, that's a pretty impressive track record. At the same time, electric utilities are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter, safer grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

As your trusted energy adviser, our goal is to provide reliable service expected and deserved by valued consumer-members. And we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many. If you have questions about your electric bill or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. We're here to help serve the needs of our community. Now that's everyday value! 🌞

NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUND YOUR COOPERATIVE

Tips for an energy-efficient school year

Electronics are important to today's students. They use them for education, entertainment and daily living. Energy-efficient electronics can help students reduce energy use and save money.

According to the Energy Education Council, students can learn an important lesson in energy efficiency by using the right electronics.

The Energy Education Council recommends considering some of the following electronics to kick the school year off with an efficient start:

- ▶ **Smart Power Strips** – These power strips are controlled by a primary electronic device, such as a computer, and all peripheral electronics are controlled by the primary. For example, if you plugged a computer in and then plugged a printer in, the smart strip would shut off power to both the computer and printer when the computer was off.
- ▶ **Energy Star® Products** – Many students purchase computers, stereo systems and TVs for their dorms. Look for the blue Energy Star label on electronics. Energy Star products can use 30% less energy than comparable non-Energy Star products.
- ▶ **Battery Chargers** – Remotes, calculators and other gadgets require batteries. A rechargeable battery set is an efficient way to avoid the hassles of running out of batteries. Also, it helps keep batteries out of landfills.
- ▶ **Solar Chargers** – Solar chargers are a convenient option for stu-

dents on the go. Just leave these chargers in a sunny window, and after a few hours they are ready to charge cellphones, tablets, MP3 players, and more.

- ▶ **LEDs** – Traditional incandescent lightbulbs can use 75% more energy than a CFL or LED, and you pay for every extra bit of energy incandescent bulbs use. Not only are LEDs more efficient, they last longer.

In addition, whether you want to fully replace school or supplement your child's in-school experience, which may be unpredictable due to COVID-19, Adams Electric may be able to help. The co-op still has a few of its "Super Energy Saver" resource kits (grades K-5) and "Get Charged!" Science Curriculum kits designed by the Discovery Channel School and Touchstone Energy (grades 5-9) available for distribution. Using engaging and fun activities, students learn about electricity.

Also, the Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab is available to schools in Adams Electric's service territory. The lab, geared toward students in grades 3 through 7, spends a week at each school providing up to six, 50-minute classes per day, and virtual lessons are also available. Lessons taught in the lab meet Department of Education standards for the science curriculum. Contact the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation for more information.



WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER
JOIN THE PROJECT HELPING HAND
ROUND UP PROGRAM

As an Adams Electric member, you are a part-owner in our cooperative business. When business is profitable, you reap the benefits through Ownership Rewards. However, when one member doesn't pay their bill in a timely fashion, all members could be affected through rates. **If everyone joined Project Helping Hand (PHH), more members could receive assistance and help keep rates stable.** Support your neighbor's and your cooperative's financial stability – choose to Round UP your bill.

How it works:

- **Join the Round Up program through SmartHub or by calling the co-op.**
- **Your monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the next even dollar amount, on average this is about 50 cents a month. Annually, it could equal as little as 12 cents and no more than \$11.88.**
- **The money collected through Round Up is added to the cooperative's PHH member assistance fund, which has helped members keep the lights on for more than 30 years.**

Note: Project Helping Hand donations directly help qualifying Adams Electric Cooperative members who are struggling to pay their electric bills. PHH is a fund of the Adams County Community Foundation and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please check with your tax adviser on deductibility. Donors will receive acknowledgement of gifts over \$10 via a letter from the Adams County Community Foundation, which helps administer the co-op's PHH program. The official registration and financial information of Adams County Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

For more information: call 1-800-726-2324 or visit adamsec.coop





SUPPORTING THE ARTS: Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the 2020 Summer Camps sponsor at the Adams County Arts Council's Arts Education Center, in Gettysburg. Adams Electric's \$2,500 donation helps the Arts Council bring high-quality arts learning opportunities to children both in person and via Zoom. Pictured with students in Fun Behind the Lens photography camp, taught by instructor Bert Danielson, are Adams Electric's Communications/Member Relations Coordinator Kami Noel, Adams Electric's Manager of Human Resources/Communications Lisa Willet, and Arts Council Program and Gallery Director Wendy Heiges.

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