

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Claverack REC

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1-800-326-9799

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Website: <http://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Luce, Zone 6
Chairman

570-833-5668

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7
Vice Chairman

570-833-4017

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

Guest Column



The value of co-op membership

By Shelley Young, *Director of Finance*

MANY businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but most of the time, that is all you get for your “membership.”

Being a member of an electric cooperative means far more. As a member of Claverack, you have a voice in the cooperative by exercising your right to vote for the board of directors each year, and you have ownership in your cooperative through capital credits.

The election of directors is an annual process. The board is comprised of nine directors, each serving a three-year term. Each year, an election takes place for directors in three of the nine zones that make up Claverack’s service territory. The election takes place through mail-in balloting. Results of the election are announced at our annual meeting.

Claverack is a not-for-profit electric distribution utility, which means we only collect enough revenue to cover our costs. When we collect more than we need to operate, we have excess margins (called profits in other businesses).

We return those excess margins back to our members in the form of capital credits. There are two stages of the capital credits process: allocation and retirement.

When you are an active member during a year in which Claverack achieves excess margins, you earn a share of those margins. The amount of your share of the margins is based on how much electricity you purchased during that year. Once the allocation process is complete, you are issued an

allocation notice. Typically, these notices are sent to members in May.

The second stage of the process is the retirement of capital credits. This occurs when allocated capital credits are paid to the members who earned them. Each year, your board of directors evaluates the financial health of the cooperative and determines if a retirement is feasible.

The retirement process is typically completed in June. Active members receive their retirement of capital credits in the form of a bill credit, while inactive members receive a check for their share of the capital credits retirement.

This year marked the seventh consecutive year Claverack retired capital credits to its members. The dollar amount returned to individual members varies greatly because it is based on electric use during the allocation periods. So larger consumers of electricity, like farms, receive significantly larger refunds than seasonal accounts that have minimal electric use during the year.

We are pleased to continue this tradition of retiring capital credits to our members. This is a true value of membership in an electric cooperative that you can take to the bank!

By now, you should have received both your capital credits allocation notice and a credit on your electric bill reflecting the capital credits retirement. If you have not, it may be because you became a new member of Claverack in 2017. If you have any questions regarding capital credits, please contact our office at 1-800-326-9799, and we will be glad to assist you. 

If you see something, say something

By Brian Zeidner

Director of Member Services

CLAVERACK owns and maintains more than 2,700 miles of poles and wires.

We have a preventive maintenance plan to inspect this infrastructure, but we also rely on you, our members, to report any obvious problems to us.

Our routine maintenance program includes inspecting, testing and treating poles, visually inspecting power line corridors, and performing right-of-way maintenance. We also use automated equipment and diagnostic systems to evaluate the proper operation of meters, substation transformers,

and switches.

Many things can happen on Claverack's system that may not cause an outage but do need to be corrected. Broken poles are sometimes discovered, often due to vehicle accidents. Guy wires that support poles can become loose or broken. Insulators or cross-arms can break, resulting in sagging wires.

While these problems may not cause an immediate interruption of service, we want to correct them promptly. **If you notice a potential problem with any of our equipment, please call the co-op office to help us to identify**

issues before they result in outages or hazardous situations.

It is important to note that if you see a wire on the ground, stay away from it and call us immediately. Downed wires must be treated as energized conductors, which are extremely dangerous. Contact with an energized line can result in severe injury or death!

So tune in to your cooperative, and help us continue to provide affordable, reliable, and safe electricity. You can call our toll-free number at 1-800-326-9799 any time of day, any day of the week, and speak to a live operator.

If you see something, say something.



LIGHTING THE WAY: State Rep. Tina Pickett, center, poses with Claverack's member service quality specialist, Karen Evangelisti, and director of member services, Brian Zeidner, during Pickett's 17th annual Senior Expo held June 9 at the Athens Lynch-Bustin Elementary School. The co-op's display at the event proved to be a popular stop, with hundreds of people visiting the booth to chat with Brian and Karen and pick up a complimentary LED lightbulb in support of Claverack's Local Energy Efficiency Program.

Even out your payments with Levelized Billing

You can avoid large fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by participating in Claverack's Levelized Billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year.

Levelized Billing is available to members with at least one year of electric use, provided they have fewer than two late payments in the prior 12 months.

This plan is particularly helpful to members with electric heating or central air conditioning systems, since their electric bills tend to increase significantly during the heating and cooling seasons. It's also convenient for those on fixed incomes.

If you are interested in a Levelized Billing plan, please call the member services department at 1-800-326-9799.



YOUTH ON TOUR: Claverack's 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour student delegates pose for a photo outside the Capitol during their tour of Washington, D.C., in June. Students representing the cooperative on the trip were, from left, Benjamin Alderson of Warren Center, Whitney Madill of Monroeton, Emma Bly of Granville Summit, Emma Mangel of Hallstead, Delia Geyer of New Milford and Steven Chenot of Towanda.

Pilot's project takes flight

By Jeff Fetzer

IN A December 2015 *Penn Lines* article, "The Pilot's Project," we detailed Claverack member Russ Darrow's efforts to restore a one-of-a-kind, 1940s-era airplane.

After toiling for two and one-half years to restore the world's only Trella T-21, the Brackney man took his rebuilt "pusher" plane for its maiden flight from the Tri-Cities Airport in Endicott, N.Y., on June 4.

By the end of the month, Darrow had flown the plane about a half dozen times, staying in close proximity to the air strip as he performed testing procedures and documented flight characteristics of the plane.

"After two and a half years of work, being able to fly it was unbelievable," says the retired IBM engineer and long-time aviator. "That first flight was exciting, and it does fly very nice."

Darrow says he still has some minor issues to work out and more testing to do before he's ready to pilot the plane away from the airport environment.

He holds out hope that he can fly the finished bird to Wisconsin this summer for Air-Venture Oshkosh, the world's largest air show. If he doesn't make it to the show this year, he says he will defi-



PROUD PILOT: Russ Darrow of Brackney displays the Trella T-21 airplane he painstakingly restored after purchasing the plane in pieces from an estate in December 2014. The pilot and certified air frame and power plant mechanic painted the aircraft to its original color scheme from a single photo of the plane he found on the internet. A video of Darrow's first flight in the restored bird can be viewed on Facebook by searching Bubba-J Aviation Services.

nately have the Trella there in 2018.

The pilot purchased the plane, built in Detroit in the late 1940s, in December 2014 from an estate. Parts for the plane arrived unlabeled in cardboard

boxes, and its tail booms and wings had been separated from the fuselage for transport purposes.

Ravaged by time and animals over the years, the plane proved challenging to rebuild, according to Darrow, because it came with no documentation, drawings or service manual, and there were no replacement parts available for the only Trella T-21 ever manufactured.

"I wound up having to figure things out as I went," he says. "There were a lot of missing parts, a lot of things I had to repair, so it took a lot longer than I expected."

Working on the plane four or five days a week, about four hours each session, Darrow said the restoration took about a year longer than he anticipated.

"It was nearly a job, but I love the work," he says. "It has been a labor of love. I did it because I wanted to fly it because it was so unique, and that was my motivation all along."

Mission accomplished. 🌞



READY FOR TAKEOFF: Claverack member Russ Darrow's Trella T-21 experimental airplane returns to the great blue yonder for testing purposes in June after undergoing two and one-half years of restoration work by the owner. The pusher plane, with a single propeller located behind the engine, took its maiden flight in 1949 near Detroit, where it was originally constructed.

SmartHub: Manage your account from anywhere

SmartHub, Claverack's online bill payment and account management program, lets you manage all aspects of your account online or with your mobile device.

With SmartHub you can:

- ▶ View bills online
- ▶ View billing history
- ▶ Change account information
- ▶ Receive billing notifications
- ▶ Pay your bill online using your checking account, credit or debit card
- ▶ Receive a paperless bill
- ▶ Access your account info on your smartphone or tablet with free mobile app.



Signing up for SmartHub is easy. Visit our website, www.claverack.com, click on the "Pay Bill" button on the left side of your screen and follow the registration instructions. The SmartHub mobile app is available for download through your app store.

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

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