



Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

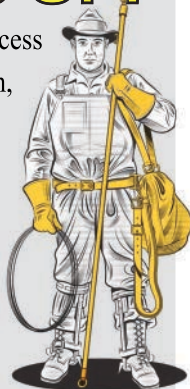
Currents

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WATTS UP?

During the initial process of rural electrification, linemen were untrained and did not have the tools or safety measures they use today.



Horses transported equipment, holes were dug by hand, and groups of men worked together to erect each pole. Today, linemen use bucket and digger trucks to work more efficiently and can work safely using hard hats and insulated, fire-retardant clothing.

For weekly fun facts on energy efficiency, electric safety, and more, follow us on social media and look out for #WattsUpWednesday!



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Our Board of Directors

Chairman	-	Jack Haggerty, Jr.
Vice Chairman	-	William Kovach
Sec./Treasurer	-	Raymond Cordts
Barbara Miller		Thomas Madsen
Ronald Dupont		Brad Sparta
Michael Hopkins		Joseph Barca
President & CEO	-	Christopher P. Reese



Lineworker Appreciation Day
On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker.

Thank a Lineworker

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
contacttheceo@sussexrec.com



Since the beginnings of rural electrification, the lineman has been an enduring symbol of the cooperative mission - reliable, adept, and united in the goal of empowering our communities. The image of a lineman atop a pole, 40 feet high, carrying heavy gear, and braving challenging conditions to keep members' lights on exemplifies all that we do. Our lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power, 24/7.

The first lineworkers in Sussex County were responsible for creating the original infrastructure of our electric grid without the equipment or formal training that lineworkers have today. While modern technology and conditions have eased some of the physical challenges of linework, being a lineman is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. "Lineworker" consistently ranks among the most dangerous professions in the U.S. each year, due to the intricate tasks they must perform near high-voltage power lines, often in poor weather conditions.

Despite the challenging nature of the job, career lineworkers demonstrate a dedication to their communities that truly sets them apart. This is part of the reason why each year, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative and all electric cooperatives nationally honor our linemen on the second Monday of each April, Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Register for our Online Meeting & be entered for a chance to WIN free electricity FOR A YEAR!
details on page 4

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Thank a Lineworker

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Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's linemen are a part of the community we serve. They may be your friends, your neighbors, or even members of your family. But when a powerful storm rolls into the area and damages equipment that keeps the lights on, these men are the ones who bear the responsibility of heading out into the night and setting things right. They work long, sometimes irregular hours, brave harsh conditions, and perform meticulous and perilous tasks in order to keep the rest of us comfortable. This is something that is often taken for granted.

If you have a lineworker in your life, or if you encounter one out in the community, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. This is doubly true on April 12th, but isn't limited to that day. These men are always on call in case of an emergency – be sure to let them know you appreciate the service they provide you!



Medical Alerts

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate
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Our members' health and safety is a foremost priority to us at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. We highly encourage all members whose health needs necessitate medical equipment to sign up for our Medical Alert Program. If you or another member of your household rely on electric-powered medical equipment, we advise that you should enroll in our Medical Alert Program. If you or another member of your household makes use of life-sustaining equipment (ex. respirator, dialysis machine) or equipment that is not life-sustaining but meets a serious medical need (ex. CPAP machine), your account qualifies for medical alerts.



Enrolled members will receive advanced notice of planned outages scheduled by the Co-op to perform upgrades and maintenance on our utility equipment. This notice should give Medical Alert members time to enact any back-up plans they have to ensure their medical devices remained powered on while our crews work on de-energized lines. We cannot provide notice of unplanned outages nor does this change any priority for outage restoration. If you qualify, please visit our website at www.sussexrec.com/medalert. You will find the enrollment form and all the details you need to know about the program there.

Your Directors for Re-Election



District 1 Thomas E. Madsen

192 Mudtown Road, Wantage, NJ 07461

Tom Madsen has been owner of the general contracting firm Tom Madsen, LLC for over 38 years. Tom is seeking re-election to the seat in District One. Tom is a long-time member of the co-op community and is very passionate about the continued success of the Rural Electric Cooperative Program.

Tom's community activities include serving as past president and member of the Kiwanis Club, past chairman of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, and past chairman of the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. Tom is a commissioner and past chairman for the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority. Tom is a Certified Credentialed Co-op Director, holds Board Leadership Certificate designation, Director Gold, and represents New Jersey as a director on the National Rural Electric Association Board of Directors. Tom serves on Sussex REC's Annual Meeting, Compensation, and Building Committees. Tom and his wife Barbara reside in Wantage and have two daughters and one grandson.



District 2 Ronald J. Dupont, Jr.

P.O. Box 683, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422

Ron Dupont was born and raised in Vernon Township. He is a 1985 graduate of Columbia University and is part of the third generation to run his family's business in Highland Lakes, Highland General Store. He lives in Highland Lakes with his wife Emilie and sons Sam and Ben, who are attending college. He has served as an officer or trustee in a number of county heritage organizations and is currently a trustee of the Sussex County Historical Society. For over thirty-five years he has been an author writing on regional history and the outdoors, including six books, numerous newspaper feature articles, and a newspaper column. A

board of directors member representing District 2 since 2008, Ron received his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2010 and his Board Leadership Certificate in 2018. He serves on the Cooperative's Annual Meeting and Building and Equipment Committees, and is chair of the Finance Committee.



District 3 Barbara Berge Miller

112 Statesville Quarry Rd, Lafayette, NJ 07848

Retired principal of High Point Regional High School, Barbara is seeking re-election to the seat in District 3. She has earned the Credentialed Co-op Director (CCD) certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and the Director Gold Credential. On the SREC Board, Barbara serves as chairperson of the Policy and Governance Committee and is also a member of the Finance and Compensation and the Audit Committees. She is the Sussex Rural Electric delegate to the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Board of Directors and she currently serves as secretary of that board.

Barbara's education background includes a B.A. from the College of New Jersey, a M.A. from Montclair State University, and an Ed.D. from Seton Hall University. In the community, Barbara is an active member of the Newton Rotary Club and the Sussex United Methodist Church. She and her husband Ned reside in Lafayette and have five grown children and eight grandchildren.

2021 Online Meeting - Bringing the Meeting to You

By: Claudia Raffay, Director of Marketing & Member Services
craffay@sussexrec.com

Longtime members SREC members are likely familiar with our Annual Meeting, of which we've had 82. This meeting is a special opportunity for members to gather, to hear from Co-op leadership, and perhaps most importantly, to interact face-to-face with staff. However, just like last year, our Board of Directors has once again had to make the difficult decision to cancel our upcoming Annual Meeting. We always aim to demonstrate care for the health and safety of our members and employees, and this decision was made in careful consideration of continuing state regulations at the time of planning the event.

While we will not be gathering in person this year, we are still committed to providing an alternative for our members to stay connected with the Co-op. In place of an in-person meeting, we will be bringing the meeting to you!

On the morning of Monday, June 7, you will find an updated webpage at sussexrec.com/annual-meeting which covers each segment of an Annual Meeting - financials, board election results, an address from the Chairman of the Board, announcement of prize winners, and more! Because we cannot meet in person, this cannot take the place of a traditional Annual Meeting. However, we still aim to imbue our Online Meeting with all the value of a normal year's Annual Meeting.

At this webpage, you will also be able to register for our prize drawings. Because we are not meeting in person and not asking you to be at a certain location at a certain time, we will not be providing bill credits to those who register. However, we are offering many great prizes to registered members including our normal energy-efficient gifts, diecast trucks (alongside two new Asplundh trucks with working lights), and the grand prize of a year's worth of free electricity, up to \$1,250!*

Your registration form includes a place for you to enter a question for our CEO that he may answer in a possible question-and-answer session. To be eligible for our prize drawing, you must register at sussexrec.com/annual-meeting by Monday, May 24.

Earlier in May, all members will receive an Board Elections Ballot Packet in the mail. Please keep an eye on your mailboxes for this important envelope! Inside, you will find a ballot to vote in the board of directors election, an information sheet with all board candidate bios, and a return envelope. Once you've sent back your completed ballot, we will use that information to count your vote for the board. You will then also be registered for our prize drawing! If you vote and register online, you will have *TWO* chances to win prizes in our prize drawing.

From all your friends at SREC, we want to thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we proceed with this online platform in place of our Annual Meeting! Remember to register for the meeting at sussexrec.com/annual-meeting before May 24 to qualify for our prize drawings!

**\$1,250 value is based on the average, annual electricity usage for a SREC residential member. The winner will receive a credit, up to \$1,250, on their bill during July 2021 - August 2022. This prize is subject to tax and the recipient may receive an IRS Form 1099.*

For more information, visit www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting.



2021 ONLINE MEETING

Bringing the meeting to you!

Join us on Monday, June 7th

Register at

sussexrec.com/annual-meeting



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