




# Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## CURRENTS

### The Power Behind Your Power

By Chris Reese

[contactthecoo@sussexrec.com](mailto:contactthecoo@sussexrec.com)



**APRIL 2018**

**Behind Your Power**  
**Page 1**

**Announcement of**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Page 2**

**Board Members for**  
**Re-election**  
**Page 3**



### CURRENTS

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Electric Cooperative  
64 County Route 639  
Sussex, NJ 07461

[www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com)

Phone: 973.875.5101

Fax: 973.875.4114

[info@sussexrec.com](mailto:info@sussexrec.com)

#### Board of Directors:

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As April arrives, it usually brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. After all of the March storms, I'm sure we are all more than ready to say goodbye to winter. I've begun to consider the word "nor'easter" a dirty word. April, however, also heralds the beginning of our next weather season, thunderstorms, and that can inherently include the possibility of power outages. While Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans.

The nor'easter of March 2nd was the worst storm, with the most outages, to hit our area since Superstorm Sandy. The work done by our linemen, inside employees, and tree crews was nothing short of amazing. The patience of their families at home, some with no power, was very much appreciated. SREC sent out the first storm message and post at 7:48 pm on March 1st. In the next six days we sent out 23 more e-mails, tweets and Facebook posts. Our Facebook posts alone had a cumulative reach of 64,705 people, received 611 comments, 1,864 Likes and were shared 431 times. 98% of those comments were messages of thanks and prayers from our members. If you have not "liked" us on Facebook yet, please go on and do so, or, you can go on our website and sign up for our email alerts. We use both to communicate with our members.

Crews from Asplundh, Central Rural Electric Cooperative, Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and REA Energy in Pennsylvania all came to help us. Until then, it was just our folks and they did a spectacular job, all while staying safe, as there were no accidents during the restorations. When the mutual aid crews arrived we doubled our workforce.

While April is known for spring showers, it is also the time for Lineman Appreciation Day on April 9. Being a lineman is not necessarily a glamorous profession. At its essence, it can be dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any

time of the day or night. Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. So, if you get the opportunity on April 9th, or, really, any day, please thank a lineman!

During the March 2nd storm, however, it was not just the linemen. Everyone pitched in, from SREC Resources, along with the Staking, Warehouse, and Meter Departments helping with spotting and flagging, the Billing and Customer Service departments communicating with our members, and the Accounting department for coming in to create work order numbers and help with time entry. Everyone contributed and I could not have been more proud of the way the storm was handled and the way everyone worked together. So, a sincere thank you goes out to all our employees for their work during the last storm!

SREC will continue to be ready for whatever Mother Nature throws our way, you can count on us!



**APRIL 9, 2018**  
**is Lineman**  
**Appreciation**  
**Day**



## **Announcement of Annual Meeting**

### **81st Annual Meeting**

**June 4, 2018**

High Point Regional High School  
299 Pidgeon Hill Road, Sussex, NJ 07461

Doors open at 5:30 PM  
Refreshments at 6:00 PM  
Meeting Begins at 7:00 PM

Door Prizes will be drawn and each member who registers will receive a \$10 bill credit.

Registration cards and the annual report will be mailed in mid-May.

**Please Join us!**

# Your Directors for Re-election



**District 1 Thomas E. Madsen**

192 Mudtown Road, Wantage, NJ 07461

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

Tom's community activities include Past President & member of the Sussex Kiwanis Club, Past Chairman of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, & Past Chairman for the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. Tom is a Commissioner and Chairman for the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authorities. Tom is a Certified Credentialed Co-op Director, also 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 & Building Committees. Tom and his wife, Barbara reside in Wantage, 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, The Highland General Store.

He has served as an officer or trustee in a number of county heritage organizations, including President of the Sussex County Historical Society. For over twenty-five years he has been an author writing on regional history and the outdoors, including four 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. He also serves on the Marketing, Annual Meeting and, serves as Chair of the Building/Equipment Committee. He lives in a c1830 farmhouse in Highland Lakes with his wife Emilie and sons Sam and Ben.



**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 both the Credentialed Co-Op Director (CCD) certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). 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 Audit committees. She is the Sussex Rural Electric Delegate to the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Board of Directors and currently serves as Secretary of that Board.

Barbara's education background includes a B. A. from the College of New Jersey, M. A. from Montclair State University, and Ed.D. from Seton Hall University.

In the community, Barbara is a member of the Newton Rotary Club and is the District Trainer for Rotary International District 7470. She and her husband, Ned, reside in Lafayette and have five grown children and eight grandchildren.





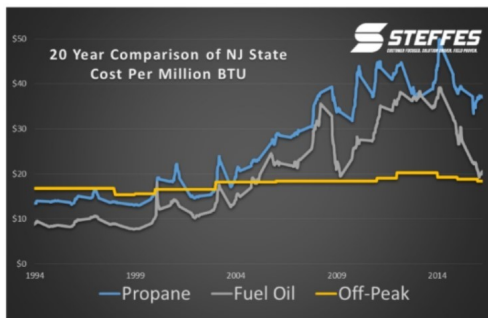
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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



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