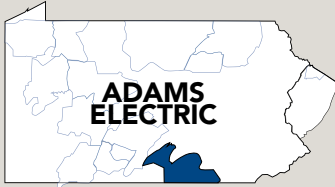




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

10 Duncan Road  
P.O. Box 220  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glenn E. Bange, President  
Nadine M. Hubner, Vice President  
Jay E. Grove, Secretary  
Thomas J. Knaub, Treasurer  
Jay A. Herman  
S. Eugene Herritt  
Dale E. Myers  
F.L. "Ray" Schwartz

### District Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Check out [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop)

Like us on Facebook at  
[Facebook.com/AdamsEC](https://www.facebook.com/AdamsEC)

Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

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

## From the CEO/General Manager



## Hindsight was 20/20

By Steve Rasmussen

WE DID OUR best to deal with the curveballs 2020 threw at us, but looking back, it's clear to see that some things could have been done differently to circumvent the roadblocks that kept our cooperative from fully engaging our membership last year. COVID-19 numbers are not getting any better, and a vaccine may still be months away from full deployment, so instead of looking back, we are planning how to face the future.

Looking ahead, your board of directors had to be realistic as to what 2021 could be, and with that thought in mind, the decision had to be made now to cancel in-person member meetings for this year. So, as we move forward into 2021, we're developing a new vision on how to remain reliable, stable and responsive.

While we are still working through the creative process, starting now gives us the opportunity to focus on a plan for how we will distribute the information you would typically receive at our member meetings in March. In addition, we can properly plan a drive-thru event for our annual meeting in May, with all the typical bells and whistles.

We haven't forgotten our co-op principles. We still need to find a way to complete the business of a director election with proper ballot handling, we need to determine how to approve outstanding meeting minutes, and we

need to deliver our "state of the co-op" address, but without Kathy's Deli to fill our bellies. Don't worry — we saved your membership gifts from our 2020 80th anniversary, and distribution of those will also be a part of our planning, along with ways to continue to speak to those in leadership at the cooperative and get your questions answered.

Working in partnership with our members and community has never been more important. Evidence of our vision is ever present throughout our district offices, as well as our communications. This is not an accomplishment by any one person, but a collective effort.

We have worked collaboratively to make careful decisions to keep all members and employees healthy and to always continue toward delivering reliable power, stable rates, and offering responsive efforts to support the communities we live and work in.

Next to their own safety, our employees put our members first in everything that they do. I am grateful to be part of a board and cooperative that has always and will continue to work together for the members. As we continue to put our 2021 vision into action, we'll share those plans and developments with you here and in all our member communications.

Happy New Year! 

# COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

## A song of optimism to start the new year

By Thomas Hand, Penn Lines Correspondent

LAST SUMMER, composer Matt Carlson faced a difficult challenge. He needed to write a piece of music for the Gettysburg Children's Choir that could be rehearsed and performed in an entirely virtual setting. The song he came up with is called "Begin," and it is a testament to the power of unity during a global pandemic.

"One of the challenges of students recording their parts remotely is that I can't be there to conduct them during their 'performance,' or final recording," says Carlson, an assistant director for the Gettysburg Children's Choir. "Under normal circumstances, we're performing together at the same time, and I'm able to remind them of what we have practiced through conducting and rehearsals. Under these circumstances, that instruction and preparation fall more on the student, so it's important to have quality resources for them to use."

Along with sheet music, Carlson provided his students with instructions on when to breathe, where to place consonant sounds and where to watch for changes in tempo. He also

sent them recordings of their vocal parts paired with a metronome to keep them in tune and in time. And these extra efforts paid off.

"It was so fun for all of us, teachers and students alike, to get back to making music together after we lost all the fun music events we usually perform in the spring," he says. "It's more important than ever for people to have a way to express themselves these days, and music has been that outlet for both myself and my students."

But the socially distanced rehearsals and the final video performance aren't the only ways in which "Begin" reflects the difficulties of the past year. Lyrically, it also explores feelings of exhaustion and isolation while emphasizing the importance of optimism and growth.

"We're living through an unprecedented moment in our history, and we're all experiencing some sort of pain as a result," says Carlson. "It's important to feel those feelings, but it's also important to uncover what we can learn about ourselves as a result; to

take that frustration or uncertainty and focus it toward making a better and brighter future."

"Begin," as performed by the Gettysburg Children's Choir, is a product of 2020 in the most positive way imaginable.

Last year, it offered comfort in a time of change and hardship. And moving forward



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTCARLSON.CO

**VOCAL VIRTUOSO:** A graduate of Gettysburg College and Michigan State University, Matt Carlson is a vocal music teacher in the Bermudian Springs School District, where he also conducted a virtual vocal recording of his composition of "Begin" by the school choirs.

into 2021 and beyond, it stands as a powerful reminder of the strength and kindness that helped us to endure a global pandemic.

"With 'Begin,' I wanted to write a song that captured the complex feelings we're all experiencing, and give us a chance to sing about them," says Carlson. "It has been a highlight of my career to see how deeply this song has affected students and listeners alike. It has a message to which we can all relate, and I'm hoping that message lives on past the pandemic."

The Gettysburg Children's Choir's performance of "Begin" can be viewed at [gettysburgcc.org](http://gettysburgcc.org). Music teachers who wish to use "Begin" or any of Carlson's other arrangements can find his contact information on his personal website, [mattcarlson.co](http://mattcarlson.co). 🌟



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTYSBURG CHILDRENS CHOIR

**AND ... BEGIN:** Matt Carlson conducts the Gettysburg Children's Choir as assistant director. In 2017, Carlson was awarded the title of Outstanding Young Conductor by the Pennsylvania American Choral Directors Association.

# Adams Electric adjusts rates for 2021

By Kami Noel, CCC,  
Communications/Member  
Relations Coordinator

THE ADAMS Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted in November 2020 to adjust rates effective Jan. 1, 2021. The rate adjustment is shown on the electric bill members receive in February 2021 for your electric use during January.

The cooperative's rates have been performing well, but the change was necessary to correct an over-collection for energy supply (generation and transmission) costs and an under-collection for distribution (the co-op's local costs to deliver electricity to homes and businesses).

For members with a residential account, your bill should remain mostly unchanged. There will be a realignment of charges from the energy section, with some small decreases offset by some small increases in the distribution section. Commercial accounts will likely see an overall slight increase based on the cost to provide service to those members.

## Rate change highlights

The energy charge will drop from 0.0709 cents to 0.068 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) credit will also decrease from 0.0018 cents to 0.0011 cents per kWh.

To recover increasing expenses to deliver electricity, the distribution charge will rise from 0.0258 cents to 0.028 cents per kWh.

The monthly access fee will stay flat at \$35.75 per month, and the storm reserve remains \$1 per month.

Members on the co-op's time-of-day and business rates may be otherwise affected by the rate adjustment and will receive a letter by mail to that effect.

Anyone with questions about their electric bill should call 1-800-726-2324 and speak with a member services representative or energy use specialist. ☀️

Rate Adjustment	Average Bill in 2020*		Average Bill in 2021*		Difference		
	1250	\$0.0709	1250	\$0.068			
Energy Charge	1250	\$0.0709	\$88.63	1250	\$0.068	\$85.00	(\$3.63)
WCPA	1250	-\$0.0018	(\$2.25)	1250	-\$0.0011	(\$1.37)	\$0.88
<b>Total Energy Supply</b>			<b>\$86.38</b>			<b>\$83.63</b>	<b>(\$2.75)</b>
Access Charge			\$35.75			\$35.75	\$0.00
Storm Reserve			\$1.00			\$1.00	\$0.00
Distribution Charge	1250	\$0.0258	\$32.25	1250	\$0.028	\$35.00	\$2.75
<b>Total Distribution</b>			<b>\$69.00</b>			<b>\$71.75</b>	<b>\$2.75</b>
<b>Total Basic Charges</b>			<b>\$155.38</b>			<b>\$155.38</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

\*Average based on 1,250 kWh for standard residential rate.

This chart illustrates the actual changes to the bill for the average residential Adams Electric member, who typically uses 1,250 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month.

**New Year's Energy Savings Resolutions**

**Resolutions You Can Afford to Keep!**

**It costs nothing to...**

- Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
- Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.
- Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.

**Spend a few dollars to save a lot more ...**

- Get a water heater blanket.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.
- Replace regular bulbs with CFL or LED light bulbs.
- Use a smart power strip for electronics.

To generate more energy savings, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



# Director candidate packets available

INTERESTED in the director election process or serving on the co-op board of directors? Are you a cooperative member in good standing with your name on the account for more than a year?

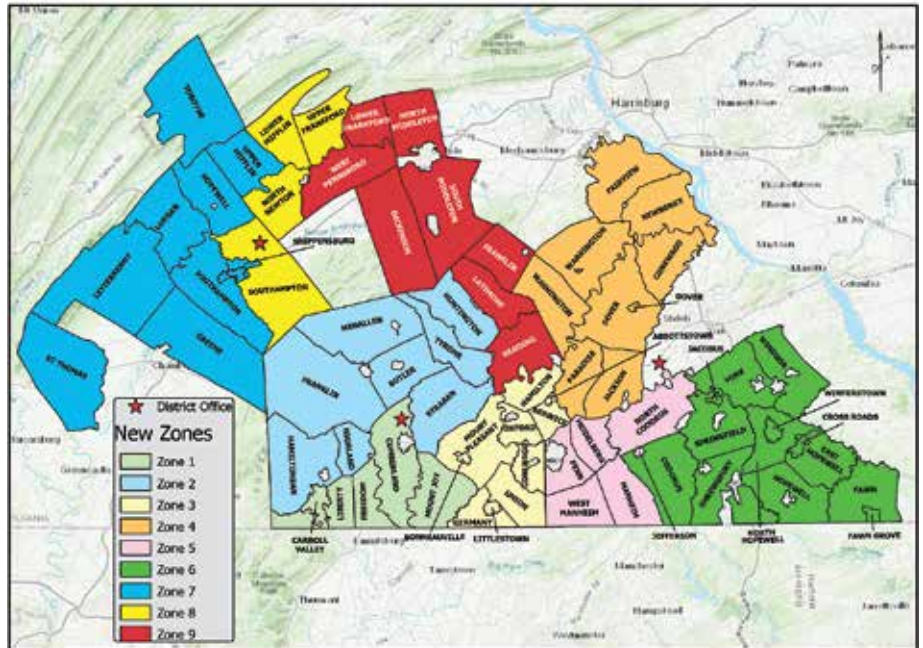
Director candidates must meet all membership qualifications as set forth in the co-op's bylaws. The membership will then elect one director from each currently open director zone — 1, 5 and 8 in 2021 — to help direct the business of the cooperative for the next three years. Those zones are currently represented by directors Ray Schwartz, Dale Myers and Gene Herritt, respectively.

Each candidate must complete a petition packet, including filling out a personal profile and statement of candidacy, among other requirements.

Candidates must also secure signatures and addresses of at least 15 Adams Electric members on an official petition.

Candidate packets may be requested from any district office. All required paperwork must be “actually and physically received” at a co-op office before 5 p.m. Jan. 28, 2021.

For more information, contact the communications department at the co-op at 1-800-726-2324. Learn more about director responsibilities at [adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities](http://adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities).



IN THE ZONE: The map above shows the cooperative's nine service territory zones as realigned by the board of directors during the summer of 2020.



**ZONE 1 DIRECTOR:** FL. “Ray” Schwartz of Fairfield has been a member of the co-op since 1994 and a cooperative director since 2006.



**ZONE 5 DIRECTOR:** Dale E. Myers of Glenville has been a member of Adams Electric since 1977 and has lived his entire life in a home served by the cooperative. He has been a cooperative director since 2018.



**ZONE 8 DIRECTOR:** S. Eugene (Gene) Herritt of Shippensburg has been a member of Adams Electric since 1976 and a member of the Adams board of directors since 1985. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) board of directors and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) board.



**HOLIDAY HAUL:** New toys were collected across the co-op's service territory in November and December and donated to local Toys for Tots organizations and other community Christmas programs for families in need. Pictured is Member Services Coordinator Rebecca Witherow with the first round of donations gathered at our Gettysburg District Office location. While our office schedules have varied due to changing government mandates and restrictions, members are encouraged to call 1-800-726-2324 during business hours Monday-Thursday for assistance. Account updates, payments and notifications can be handled online at [adamsec.smarthub.coop](http://adamsec.smarthub.coop).

## Adams launches new newsletter platforms

By Sarah Frank, CCC, Communications/Community Relations Coordinator

IN JANUARY, Adams Electric will launch new email newsletter services for residential members and commercial businesses. The newsletters will focus on trending energy topics including energy efficiency, beneficial electrification and keeping your monthly energy bill low.

Directed to the average residential member, the bi-monthly newsletter, “Member Power: Residential News & Trends,” will empower members to take their energy use into their own hands and make smart, energy-conscious decisions while continuing to power their lives and homes.

Aimed to help key accounts and small businesses keep their energy bills stable, the “Watt’s Trending: Small Business News & Trends” newsletter will bring co-op-specific trends from Key Accounts/Senior Safety Specialist Mike Johnson to business emails every other month starting in February, as well as energy-saving tips and recommendations.

To sign up to receive these new newsletters from the cooperative, members and businesses must visit [adamsec.smarthub.coop](http://adamsec.smarthub.coop) to register (opt-in) to receive a notification when new issues are released.

### Sign up for co-op news and updates

Members registered for Adams’ account management service can also manage additional notification settings and selections from a SmartHub account. Members who currently receive e-alerts from the co-op through Constant Contact will need to opt-in through SmartHub to continue to receive notifications and news alerts as we migrate to our upgraded email messaging service. Registration also

ensures your notification preferences are accurate and up to date.

To sign up to receive text or email notifications and alerts:

- ▶ Register for a SmartHub account, or log into your SmartHub account at [adamsec.smarthub.coop](http://adamsec.smarthub.coop) or at the top of the home screen at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).
- ▶ Hover over “Notifications” in the green menu bar and select “Manage Contacts” in the drop-down menu.
- ▶ Add your email address or cell-phone number as a new contact.
- ▶ Again, hover over “Notifications” in the green menu bar and select “Manage Notifications.”
- ▶ Set your preferences for each type of notification available, including account updates, outage alerts, U-Shift (water heater and ETS) notifications, or co-op announcements.

NEW notifications recently added include:

- ▶ “Watt’s Trending: Small Business News & Trends”
- ▶ “Member Power: Residential News & Trends”
- ▶ Weather Alerts: Peak alerts, cold weather snaps and storm alerts
- ▶ Meeting Invitations and Updates: District and annual meeting invitations, cancellations, and meeting updates
- ▶ Co-op Updates: Co-op news, events, volunteer requests and legislative updates

Visit [adamsec.smarthub.coop](http://adamsec.smarthub.coop) for more information or call 1-800-726-2324 for assistance. If you are a business owner and would like more information, please call 1-800-726-2324 and ask to speak to Mike Johnson, key accounts specialist. 🌞



COMMUNITY AID: Members of the co-op’s Gettysburg line crew assist Sheriff James Muller, right, with a project at the Adams County Emergency Training Center by stringing two wires, a top and bottom, high-strength guy wire, so that the sheriff’s department could hang large rubber mats on them to hold shooting targets for their officers to target practice on. They then guyed the end poles as they would one of our utility poles. The co-op donates time, materials and monetary contributions throughout our service territory annually to support our commitment to the communities we serve. In 2020, the co-op donated more than \$150,000 through advertising, direct support campaigns, employee matching programs and charitable project donations.