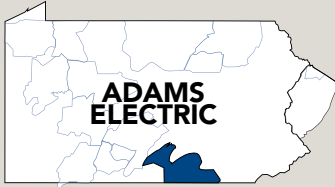




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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  
David A. Frey  
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



## Your questions answered

By Steve Rasmussen

MEMBERS were recently invited to join me for a TeleTown Hall meeting, which replaced the usual question-and-answer portion of the member meetings we were unable to hold due to COVID-19. Participants listened as I addressed pre-submitted questions. Some of those are answered below. You can listen to the recording in its entirety at [adamsec.coop/2021-virtual-member-meeting](https://adamsec.coop/2021-virtual-member-meeting).

**What is the co-op's position on offering broadband? Would we partner with an existing company to offer service?**

Discussions about broadband are ongoing, especially with more people working and schooling from home. One Pennsylvania electric co-op has launched a broadband service, one likely will and two are considering it, but those co-ops have about 50% of members without high-speed internet. According to Adams' studies, there are only 10-20% of our members without high-speed internet in scattered pockets of our service territory. It would be very costly to build out the infrastructure to support broadband with minimal revenue to help cover costs. At this point, Adams will happily work with a company to provide non-member data (with a signed non-disclosure agreement) to assist them in finding a cost-effective way to provide our members with high-speed internet.

**Regarding solar power, will Adams support solar power installations on homes? Is it possible for the co-op to begin relationships with installers? Are there incentives for homeowners? Might the co-op consider group**

**purchasing of solar battery-backup systems?**

The co-op has supported members' interconnected solar systems since 2007 and currently has 225 residential members and five commercial accounts interconnected. We offer net metering with monthly banking and an annual true-up to qualified members. Additionally, through statewide grants, we can help offset some of the costs of installation.

Adams shies away from partnering with solar vendors because the players are constantly changing (at least 40-50 different installers have worked with our members to date). They also have a different business model than the cooperative and sometimes make unrealistic promises. It's also important to note that net metering will likely be sunset soon, and new rules for interconnections will be forthcoming.

Finally, the co-op is monitoring back-up battery systems. This will affect more than just solar accounts and could be a great addition to our U-Shift, U-\$ave program. The costs remain high though and are impractical for most people.

**What is to be done about the "over-the-top" line maintenance?**

Although it sounds like this question was asked by someone not happy with our right-of-way program, we do get a lot of compliments. We understand the frustrations, because we also love trees, but not near power lines and equipment. The program that we enhanced in 2014 operates on a four-year cycle and is in line with other utilities in

*(continues on page 14d)*

# COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

## JROTC cadets prepare for a trip of service, education

By Thomas Hand, Penn Lines Correspondent

A YEAR from now, cadets from Gettysburg Area High School's Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program are planning to be in Normandy, France, commemorating the 78th anniversary of D-Day.

Joined by cadets from other programs across the United States, they intend to participate in a parade beginning in Sainte-Mère-Église, which was among the first towns liberated by Allied forces during the invasion. Cadets will also take part in public ceremo-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL ATHANASAKIS

**CADETS AT WORK:** Cadets perform a cleanup of the Adams Rescue Mission's Agape House, as well as decorating it for Christmas in 2020.



**CADET COLOR GUARD:** Cadets from the Gettysburg Area High School JROTC program serve as the color guard at the 66th annual Lincoln Dinner.

nies being held at the Brittany American Cemetery in Saint-James and the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer. These events are being orchestrated by Historic Programs, a nonprofit organization that works to honor veterans while educating younger generations.

It was last fall when Historic Programs presented Michael Athanasakis, program instructor, with an invitation for his JROTC cadets to participate in the parade in Normandy, but it was December when the idea really began to gain traction. Since then, both the district and the school board have given their approval for the students to travel to France, and the program has begun fundraising in earnest.

The trip is scheduled to last from June 2-9, 2022, and Athanasakis expects between 20 and 25 cadets to be participating. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help the cadets cover the cost of airfare, food and lodging. Community members who wish to show support are encouraged to visit [gofundme.com/f/gettysburg-high-ar-](https://www.gofundme.com/f/gettysburg-high-army-jrotc-wwiinormandy-trip)

[my-jrotc-wwiinormandy-trip](https://www.gofundme.com/f/gettysburg-high-army-jrotc-wwiinormandy-trip). Checks made payable to Gettysburg Area High School JROTC can also be mailed directly to the school.

The JROTC has over 1,700 programs across the country, though Gettysburg is home to the only one in Adams County.

"A misconception about our program is that it's a program for those seeking to join the military or that we are recruiters of some sort," Athanasakis says. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Instead, JROTC operates with the mission "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens," and seeks to educate students in the areas of leadership, fitness, first-aid, service, and government, to name a few.

"Our students come in as kids and leave as young men and women of character and commitment, ready to take on the challenges that are ahead of them upon graduation," Athanasakis says. "It's really amazing to see."

To learn more about the mission of JROTC, go to [usarmyjrotc.com](https://www.usarmyjrotc.com). 🌟

# Advocating for rural priorities

By Kami Noel, *Communications Coordinator/Member Relations Coordinator*

DURING a recent round of legislative briefings, co-op board members and employees took the opportunity to engage several congressional leaders in rural issues of importance to cooperative constituents. While co-ops as a general mission stay bipartisan, there are a few cross-party issues that could benefit both sides, as well as all cooperative members. Among these hot button discussions are rural broadband, loan refinancing and tax incentives for energy technology.

“We as an industry need a level playing field to our investor-owned neighbors,” CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen told U.S. Rep. John Joyce (R-13th), among others, during virtual meetings held in late April.

During the series of meetings, legislators were encouraged to cosponsor the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act, which supports about 500 electric cooperatives across the country that use or have used financing from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Unlike most loans, RUS loans cannot be refinanced to take advantage of lower interest rates available in the private sector, without penalty. As a result,



VIRTUAL VISIT: The current state of the nation leaves legislative advocacy to Zoom meetings and virtual discussions.

electric cooperatives are paying significantly higher interest rates, which in the long term can cost consumer-members of the cooperative money. In Pennsylvania alone, co-ops could save \$20 million if House Bill 2244 and Senate Bill 978 passed to allow RUS loan refinancing without penalty.

Addressing the topic of incentivizing clean energy innovation, Rasmussen told legislators that while there are no bills currently in waiting, the federal tax code only allows tax credits to for-profit businesses. Reliable and affordable electricity are the mission

of the cooperative, and a diverse energy portfolio allows us to maintain affordable rates. Because of our not-for-profit tax status, electric cooperatives are locked out of receiving those same tax incentives.

“If the legislation comes before you, we’d like Congress to consider allowing co-ops to take advantage of direct pay tax credits to promote advanced energy resources,” Rasmussen told legislators.

Finally, in discussing rural broadband expansion, co-op representatives asked Congress to help sustain investments in

broadband, prioritize grants to projects in areas with the lowest population densities, and request improved data collection with more accurate maps showing service gaps for unserved and underserved communities.

For more information on bills and legislation important to cooperatives and rural members, visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com) or become a member of the Co-op Owners for Political Action program. To learn more about “Co-op Owners” and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), go online to [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop). 🌞

## Osmose pole inspections take place around Ship

EACH YEAR, Adams Electric Cooperative inspects approximately 10% of its utility poles (about 5,350 this year) for damage, decay and reliability. This year’s inspections began in mid-May in the Shippensburg District — specifically the area surrounding our Shippensburg, McCrea and Orrstown substations/service locations.

Osmose Utility Services, Inc. is contracted by the cooperative to provide field technicians to evaluate the safety and resiliency of the utility poles on our power system. Each pole is inspected, tagged and treated with environmen-

tally friendly products to extend its service life.

With continued state mandates as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic, Adams Electric’s management has asked the inspecting contractors from Osmose to alter their normal protocol and refrain from knocking on each member’s door to announce their presence on your property the day of the inspection.

Instead, if your electric service extends from any of these distribution points to a utility pole on or near your property, you should receive a postcard within about two weeks of inspection taking place.

It is our hope that this change in protocol will lessen the likelihood of any unnecessary physical contact, in respect to social distancing, between our members and contractors during these difficult times.

Once an inspector is on-site, you may see digging taking place at the base of the utility pole, and possibly identification markings placed on the poles. You will also see white trucks, and contractors in uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the cooperative at 1-800-726-2324. 🌞



# NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUNDYOUR COOPERATIVE

## Adams awards undergraduate college scholars

CONGRATULATIONS to eight undergraduate students who were selected to receive an Adams Electric undergraduate college scholarship. Each student, either the son or daughter of a co-op member, receives \$1,000 toward their continued higher education studies. The winners were selected after being individually scored by each member of the co-op's volunteer Scholarship Committee and were recommended to the board of directors for final approval in April. This scholarship will reopen to new applicants in January.

Adams Electric's adult scholarship program opened in May and will continue to accept applications through July. The \$1,000 scholarships are offered to 10 member-owners continuing their studies through higher education programs. Members can apply online at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).

Scholarships come from unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates. ☀️

### And the winners are:



Elizabeth Beall,  
York College of  
Pennsylvania



Paige Clapsadle,  
Pennsylvania State  
University



Amanda Hebel,  
Seton Hall  
University



Matthew Heckman,  
Western Governor's  
University



Amanda Krug,  
Pennsylvania State  
University, Mont Alto



Isabel Kuhn,  
DePaul University



Dakota Pittinger,  
Kutztown University



Vivian Souliard,  
Gettysburg College

### From the CEO/General Manager (continued from page 14a)

what is considered a best practice for maintaining rights-of-way.

The main reason we perform more comprehensive clearing is for safety. Clearing rights-of-way keeps tree limbs away from lines, and allows lines to fall to the ground providing them a better opportunity to de-energize. In addition, the enhanced program has improved reliability. Thanks to it, Mother Nature, and our employees, the co-op experienced its best overall outage year since 2005.

Other teleconference topics included rate incentives, the U-Shift programs, especially electric water heaters, and effects of COVID-19 on co-op operations. I hope you'll give the recording a listen and continue to send in your questions. We are always glad to address member requests and concerns. ☀️

**NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE BEACH**

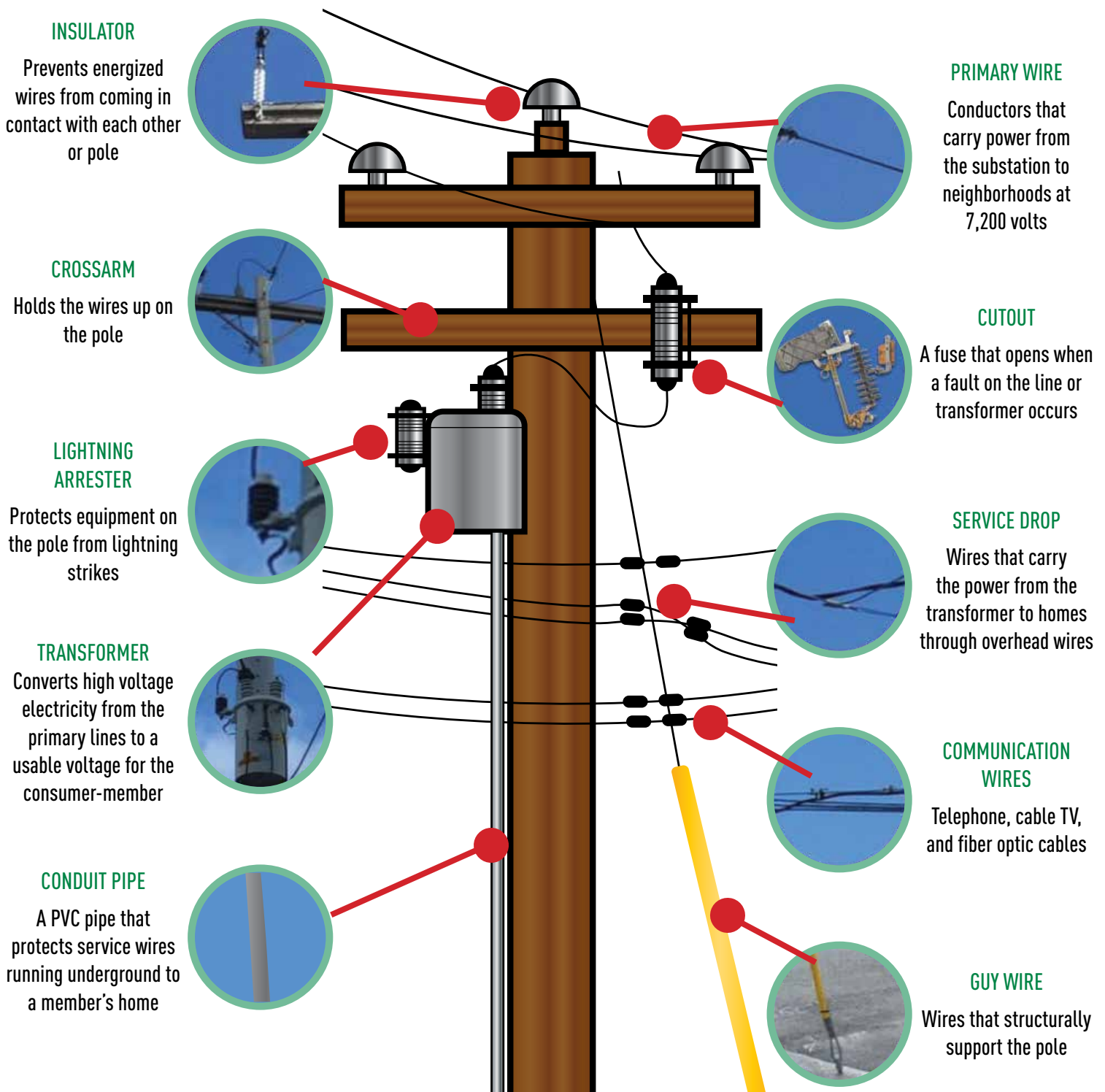
Think you'll stay on the beach and let the storm pass? Think again.

- Check the weather before you go. Have a plan in place for inclement weather.
- If you notice signs of weather rolling in, don't stay on the beach to wait it out. Find a substantial building or a car with a hard top for shelter.
- Two-thirds of lightning deaths have happened during outdoor activities.
- Of those who died, 35% were engaged in water-related activities.
- Of those water-related activities...
  - 28% of people who died were on the beach
  - and 20% of people were boating.

**ALWAYS PLAY IT SAFE.**  
That day at the beach or in the boat can wait.

Source: National Lightning Safety Council | [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# What's on an **ADAMS ELECTRIC** Utility Pole?



**Adams Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

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