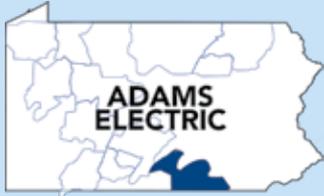




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

GETTYSBURG DISTRICT

1338 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

YORK DISTRICT

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

SHIPPENSBURG DISTRICT

10 Duncan Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
*By appointment only

Check out adamsec.coop

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LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:
Kami Noel, CCC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Resolved to Help Our Members



STEVE RASMUSSEN

IT HAD BEEN A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION of mine to create a program to help any member who was struggling with paying their electric bill — and not just those on restricted incomes. A little more than a year ago, Adams Electric Cooperative launched a program with New Hope Ministries to help with just that. This initiative expanded the traditional Project Helping Hand (PHH) program to include other situations, such as helping those with medical issues, job loss and more.

The new hardship initiative is supported through donations and contributions made by members, employees, directors and the co-op to our PHH fund, which is held as a pass-through account at the Adams County Community Foundation. Unclaimed Ownership Rewards also benefit the programs.

During 2025, the hardship fund helped more than 200 members, with each receiving a \$500 credit toward their electric bill. The process requires members to go through New Hope's in-take program, where they complete a brief application and a one-hour "Dollars and Sense" budgeting class.

The response from our members to the program has been overwhelmingly positive and has created a great partnership with a top-notch charity. It also fits with one of our seven co-op principles: concern for community.

The fact that we don't have an income-eligibility requirement for the hardship fund has been a welcome opportunity for members who just need some help during a unique circumstance or situation. But as previously mentioned, it's not our only program. For nearly 40 years, the co-op has also sustained the PHH assistance program, which helps about 200 members a year.

PHH is specifically for our members who carry past-due balances on their electric bills. Once a member pays 25% of their balance forward, under certain restrictions, \$350 can be applied to the remaining balance or credited toward future bills up to twice a year. These programs wouldn't be as successful as they are if it weren't for the generosity of our contributors.

Anyone can donate to the funds that support our member assistance programs. After unclaimed Ownership Rewards, Operation Round-Up is our steadiest source of income for these programs. Operation Round-Up allows consumer-members to round up their electric bill and contribute a few cents every month to support local charities, individuals and families throughout our communities. Every member who receives assistance must take part in Operation Round-Up to give back, but also, any member who chooses to round up their bill regularly is a contributor.

Currently, about 4,500 members contribute to Operation Round-Up each month, which adds up to about \$30,000 for the programs each year. Annually, our uncollectible write-offs are much higher, which is a cost to all members.

While we can't thank you, our members, enough for your support, it would be beneficial to everyone if we could get more members to participate. If every member opted to round up their bill monthly, we'd almost never have an uncollectible balance on the books, and that would save the entire membership money every year. That's a New Year's resolution I wish would happen. 🙏

STEVE RASMUSSEN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

A Survivor's Story: From the Tennis Court to the Heart Transplant List

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, Becky Sieg was a tennis player at East Stroudsburg University, wiping out her competition on the singles and doubles courts. She remembers how her heart raced as adrenaline poured through her veins with every swing of the racket.

Today, she still plays tennis — only it's someone else's heart that's racing in her chest.

"It was a surreal set of circumstances that got me to where I am today," she says. "I never knew what a regular heartbeat felt like until I got a new one six years ago."

'I knew I was not OK'

Sieg, 42, has been an Adams Electric Cooperative member since 2022, living in New Oxford and raising her two children, Annabel and Jackson. But in 2004, during her final year of college, her life changed during a tennis match when she fell to the ground, feeling like someone was suffocating her.

"My story really started when I was 12 years old and I would get dizzy," she says. "My heart would start racing, and



GO RED FOR WOMEN: Becky Sieg is a heart transplant survivor whose heart-related issues were misdiagnosed for years.

the doctors told me it was just sports-induced asthma, or growing pains, or worse yet, anxiety.

"Then, here I am: My first match of my final year in college ... my doubles partner and I come off a storybook win, and I move into a singles match and all but collapse," she continues. "I refused to even go to the hospital. I was convinced I'd just

used up all my energy in the first match."

Sieg's mom drove her back to Gettysburg before she agreed to be checked out by a doctor. "The first doctor was going to send me home," she says. "I didn't want to go. I knew I was not OK."

Luckily for Sieg, a change in shift happened, and a new doctor — along with an astute nurse — put her on a heart monitor. It revealed she was in ventricular tachycardia, a life-threatening arrhythmia.

"They had to shock me twice," Sieg explains. "If I would have left, I probably would have died."

'Every day is a gift'

Sieg was diagnosed with arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, a rare genetic condition affecting the heart. After

further testing, doctors realized her father carried the gene and her brother also had the disease. Now, her son is a carrier as well.

The disease put Sieg on a heart transplant list, and on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, she received her new heart.

"I don't know anything about my donor other than they said the heart I received was too big for a child, and too small for a larger adult," she says. "Luckily, I've been short all my life.

"When the doctors admitted me," she adds, "they said most people wait six months for a heart with my blood type. I waited five days and, honestly, I wouldn't have made it if the wait had been any longer."

While doctors continue to look for a cure for the disease, Sieg continues to speak out about being tested and advocating for your own health.

"My experience was rare and severe, but the gift is in the knowing," Sieg says. "Now I can better protect my son, and my brother will likely never need a transplant because he was able to be more proactive."

Continued on page 16E



FAMILY MATTERS: Becky Sieg is shown here with her children, Jackson and Annabel.

Systemwide Meter Exchange Continues

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

AS ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONTINUES to push forward on its five-year plan to replace every meter connected to our distribution system, we wanted to update our members on the progress made so far.

Currently, 20,965 meters have been upgraded to a new meter. We have approximately 12,893 standard meters remaining, plus an additional 1,350 U-Shift panel meters to convert.

The project started in mid-June 2022, and with a plan of changing out 6,000 meters a year, we hope to complete the job by the end of 2027. The last time the co-op updated all meters was in 2005, when automated meters were introduced. Today's meter is an Aclara Technologies power line carrier meter, which uses the existing power line infrastructure to communicate and function.

The equipment on the system depreciates with age, and our goal is to provide members with the most reliable service possible. The cooperative first started purchasing Aclara meters in 2017 and the continued upgrade of the product has been very smooth, according to Brian Shearer, the co-op's senior staff engineer in charge of the program.

"I'd like to see us moving along a little quicker, but with supply chain issues and weather-related events, I think we're making great progress," Shearer says.

"The fact that our own crews are doing these replacements also adds time to the process, but it's important," he adds. "It allows us to do a visual service inspection at every location when the meter is replaced."

The inspection includes checking the meter base, conduit, triplex and all connections. Any equipment issues are either repaired by the line crew, or a letter is sent to the property owner if a repair requires an electrician (and possibly an electrical inspection). Members then have anywhere from 10 to 30 days to make repairs, depending on the work required.

Remember: Only co-op personnel are authorized to perform work on your cooperative-owned meter. Adams Electric Cooperative employees are trained for this type of high-voltage work and can assist your electrician so work on or near your electric service can be completed safely.

In advance of the meter being replaced, members will receive a postcard a month to three months in advance of the work taking place. On the day the change-out is completed, a door hanger indicating the work was done will be



RECEIVING AN UPGRADE: Field Services Person B Adam Willman is one of the many Adams Electric Cooperative employees you may see updating your meter to the next generation of Aclara devices. The product is the same, but the technology and service are more reliable.

left at the property, unless a co-op employee makes direct contact with the homeowner during the process.

Please contact the cooperative at 800-726-2324 with any questions.

The Plan

Completed substations and metering points:

Gettysburg District

- Brush Run
- Germany
- Abbottstown
- Lake Heritage

Shippensburg District

- McCrea
- Bloserveville
- Orrstown

York District

- Rinely
- Stewartstown

On the 2026 Schedule:

Gettysburg District

- Valley
- Fairfield

Shippensburg District

- Pinola
- Fairgrounds

York District

- Winterstown
- Lake Redman
- Stoverstown

Co-op Hires Five Linemen

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

FIVE NEW UNION PERSONNEL were hired in December by the operations department as members of the line crew.

Brady Kuhn of Shippensburg was hired as a second-year apprentice in the Shippensburg district and he started Dec. 11. Before coming to Adams, Kuhn worked for the Borough of Chambersburg as an apprentice lineworker. He attended Shippensburg University and Blue Ridge Community & Technical College.

Aaron Fuhrman of Hanover was hired as a first-year apprentice in the York District and he started Dec. 15. Before coming to Adams, Fuhrman worked for JMF Underground Inc. as an underground lineman. He obtained an associate degree from Keiser University and is working toward his bachelor's degree in applied management.

Caleb Fowler of East Berlin was hired as a first-year apprentice in the Shippensburg district and he started

Dec. 16. Before coming to Adams, Fowler worked for Hock Communications of Chambersburg. He attended the North American Lineman Training Center and completed the pre-apprentice lineworker program in 2024.

Avery Mahon of Abbottstown was hired as a first-year apprentice in the York district and he started Dec. 18. Before coming to Adams, Mahon worked for Carr & Duff Electrical Construction as an apprentice. He received a certificate of completion from the Southeast Lineman Training Center in 2024.

Stephen Fogelsanger of Shippensburg was hired as a first-year apprentice in the Shippensburg district and he started Dec. 22. Before coming to Adams, Fogelsanger worked for the Communications Construction Group as an aerial construction laborer. He attended the North American Lineman Training Center and completed the pre-apprentice lineworker program in 2024. 📷



Brady Kuhn



Aaron Fuhrman



Caleb Fowler



Avery Mahon



Stephen Fogelsanger

ADAMS NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Adams Electric Cooperative offers college scholarships to students or adult members working toward advanced education or training.

Children of co-op members who are already enrolled and have completed one semester at a post-secondary school or accredited training program may apply for one of up to 10 scholarships, with amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

Cooperative members with their name on the account who have been accepted into (or are attending) a post-secondary or accredited training program may apply for one of up to five scholarships, with amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Scholarship criteria and guidelines can be found at adamsec.coop. Applications will be accepted online through May 31.

The co-op works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships. Applications are reviewed and recipients are nominated by the cooperative's scholarship committee.

Scholarships are awarded from unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates. For details, eligibility and to apply, visit adamsec.coop.

Let's Connect Over Dinner

"Get Connected" with the cooperative over dinner and learn how Adams Electric Cooperative is "Powering What Matters."

2026 DISTRICT MEETING DATES

- ▶ **York District:** Tuesday, March 17
- ▶ **Gettysburg District:** Wednesday, March 18
- ▶ **Shippensburg District:** Tuesday, March 31

Hear an update on Adams Electric's rates, how they compare with neighboring utilities and what the co-op is doing to continue to bring you safe, reliable energy. Candidates running for an open board seat will be introduced and given time to speak, if requested.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited. No extra meals will be available. All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. sharp. Directions are available online at adamsec.coop or by calling 1-800-726-2324.

Continued from page 16B

If there's a message to other heart patients out there, she says, it's that "every day is a gift and the little moments between the big ones are what matter most."

Sieg says she is blessed that she gets to be around to raise her kids. She says she has her life back after 14 years of barely being able to walk up the stairs without taking a break.

"Life slapped me in the face," Sieg says. "I could have been a headline, but I've been fortunate to get a second chance. I'm here and I plan to make the most of every minute."

February is Go Red for Women Month, an initiative of the American Heart Association. Visit goredforwomen.org to learn more about heart disease risks, symptoms and prevention. 📌

SHIFT YOUR USE & \$AVE

U - SHIFT, U - SAVE

Allow the co-op to install a switch on your electric water heater or heat pump that will allow the co-op to interrupt service during times of peak demand.



Install a U-Shift panel and meter base that the co-op can interrupt during times of peak demand.



New 2026 participants will receive a one-time installation bill credit and monthly savings for your participation.



 Learn more at adamsec.coop.