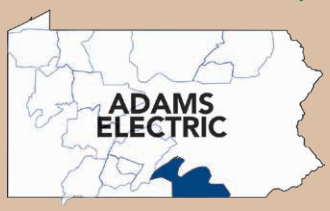
Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

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The Role of a Co-op Director



STEVE RASMUSSEN

MITIGATING RISK, SETTING RATES, UNDERSTANDING power supply, participating in strategic planning, approving budgets, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, and representing the membership. These might sound like bullet points pulled from varying co-op job descriptions, but at Adams Electric Cooperative, there are nine people who are collectively responsible for all of these tasks: the board of directors.

If you recall, our August column was written by board President Dale Myers, who said we wanted to start a more open dialogue with the membership about the role of your directors and their responsibilities. The director election process for Adams Electric begins Dec. 1, and there is a lot of information for a potential director to consider.

Cooperative boards around the country are challenged to discuss the issues they face now and in the future and to plan for those issues through education, training, and peer-to-peer networking.

Adams Electric seats a board of nine directors who meet monthly to review policy, assess finances, receive co-op updates and make governance decisions. Three zones have open director seats each year. In 2027, those are in Zones 1, 5 and 8. (Read more on page 16C)

A member interested in serving as a director must be a full-time resident of the zone they represent and meet all of the qualifications spelled out in the cooperative's bylaws, including maintaining an account in good standing.

Fulfilling the role of a director goes back to The Seven Cooperative Principles — one of which is service to the community. Their commitment also requires education and training, another co-op principle. There are so many questions a director needs to be able to answer, discuss and debate, including making decisions about a $270 million business and setting rates that are affordable but also result in keeping the cooperative financially stable.

There is also a time commitment to serving on an electric cooperative board. Beyond the monthly meetings, which can last up to four hours, there is time spent at home, re-evaluating policy, reviewing board packets and preparing for meetings. In addition, board members must set aside time to attend assigned committee meetings, required training courses, seminars, special events, and statewide and national update meetings.

While directors are not salaried, they do receive compensation for meeting attendance and reimbursement for approved travel. Many times, director spouses are also able to attend events, but at the expense of the director.

As for travel and training, the first three years are the most intensive as the cooperative's new board members are required to earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from our national organization. They must complete five courses. Each new director can choose to take the courses online or travel to various training classes, depending on what best suits their schedule. Some of these classes are offered in conjunction with other co-op events.

Additionally, most directors attend one or two statewide and/or national conferences each year. These can last several days depending on location.

While it may seem like a lot of work, every current or former Adams Electric director I know has stated how rewarding it is to represent the membership.

If you have an interest in learning more about the role of a co-op director, please feel free to reach out to me and we can have a more detailed discussion.

STEVE RASMUSSEN
CEO

Train Rides and Holiday Vibes

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS OFFICIALLY pulling into the station as Northern Central Railway prepares to welcome back the "Santa Express," among other highly anticipated holiday-themed excursions.

Starting this month, the William H. Simpson steam engine will transform into a rolling winter wonderland, offering families a chance to ride the rails alongside Santa Claus, sip hot cocoa and experience the magic of Christmas against a scenic backdrop.

"We are different with a steam engine you aren't going to see anywhere else," says Ashley Zimmerman, executive director of the historic station in New Freedom, York County. "Ours is the youngest steam engine in the world."

Zimmerman likes to joke that the 14-year-old locomotive, while named after a man, is a "very pretty lady."

"She's high maintenance and expensive," she says, "and there's only one other like her in the world."

So, who wouldn't want to venture out on her this winter?

Cowboys, pets, elves and ugly sweaters

The Northern Central Railway has a slate of winter activities, including two presentations of "A Cowboy Christmas," which is being held the weekend before Thanksgiving. Picture Santa in an old Western and you are envisioning the right scene.

"Think Santa," Zimmerman says, "but he's protecting the train from the bad guys trying to steal Christmas."

The same weekend, the railway is hosting its only holiday "Santa Paws Express" excursion. Bring your pets along for a photo with Santa.

After Thanksgiving, the "Christmas Elves Express" takes off for several outings, with a script written by a local production company and a script writer who looks like true Disney royalty.

"You may recognize her as she resembles Elsa from 'Frozen,'" Zimmerman says.

The "Christmas Elves Express" is a spinoff of the "Elf on the Shelf" tale, where some naughty elves wreak havoc on the train and Santa has to save the day.

For adults looking for some holiday entertainment, consider the two-hour "Ales on the Rails: Ugly Sweater Party," a beer-tasting excursion on Dec. 4. Sample eight to 10 central Pennsylvania brews, chosen by the beer guides of Brewery Tours, and compete for ugly sweater bragging rights.

Finally, the highlight of the season is the "Santa Express," which will run every Saturday and Sunday in December, plus a few extra days. Six, hour-long trips are planned each day, so everyone has the opportunity to spend quality time with the big man himself, St. Nick.

"The 'Santa Express' is really special," Zimmerman says. "It's New Freedom's 'Hallmark' moment, with a steam engine prettier than the Polar Express. Santa's straight out of Santa School, and visitors can pick up some fresh baked cookies with Mrs. Claus.

"I also make my daughter, Riley, dress up as a gingerbread and help Santa and Mrs. Claus," she adds. "It's all a labor of love and a lot of work, but we do everything in the spirit of the season. Every inch is covered with either lights or greens."

Most excursions are just over an hour long. Guests are encouraged to pre-purchase tickets as several events will sell out. While Christmas tends to be the big draw at the station, the railway offers events for all seasons. In addition, several New Freedom businesses host piggyback events on train-ride weekends to encourage visitors to explore the town.



SANTA TIME: The "Santa Express" is a festive, family-friendly holiday train ride offered by the Northern Central Railway in New Freedom, York County. The excursion features Santa, holiday music, cookies with Mrs. Claus and scenic views along a historic rail line.

"Our mission as a nonprofit is to support economic development for all of York County," Zimmerman says. "For us, ticket sales cover 60% of our operations, but the rest comes from donations."

To learn more or pre-purchase a ticket, visit *northerncentralrailway.com*.



ON TRACK: The William H. Simpson No. 17 is an 1860s-style replica steam locomotive built in 2013 for the Northern Central Railway of York. Only about 150 steam locomotives remain in the U.S., making No. 17 a rare and valuable piece of transportation history.

Could You Be the Next Co-op Director?

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO read policies and attend committee and board meetings? Do you enjoy traveling occasionally? Would you like to learn more about Adams Electric Cooperative and apply for a leadership position in your community? If your answer is "yes," then you have what it takes to be a director of your local rural electric cooperative.

Director candidates must meet all membership qualifications as set forth in the co-op's bylaws. And now is the time to get engaged in the director election process if you are a cooperative member in good standing and reside in:

Zone 1: ADAMS COUNTY — Townships of Cumberland, Freedom, Liberty, and Mount Joy; and the Borough of Carroll Valley.

Zone 5: YORK COUNTY — Townships of Heidelberg, Manheim, North Codorus, Penn and West Manheim; and the Borough of Jefferson.

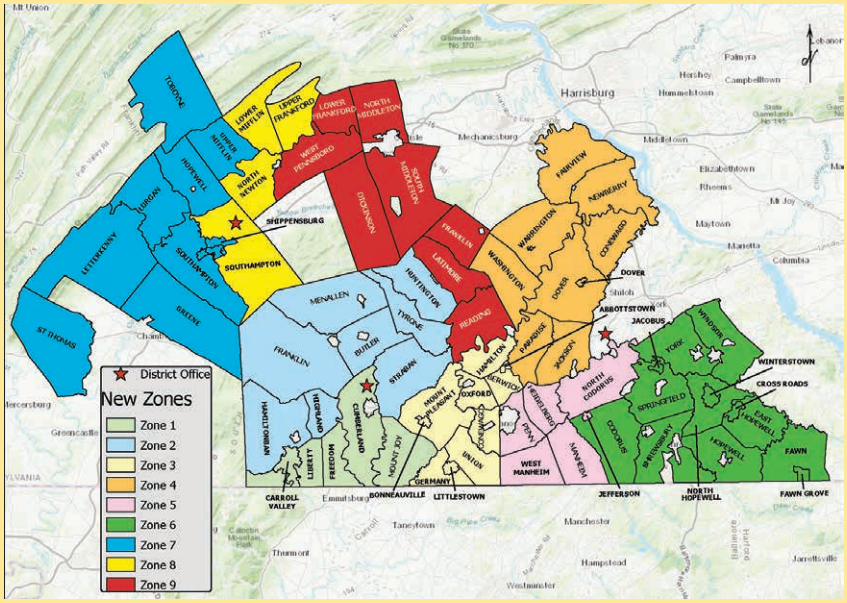
Zone 8: CUMBERLAND COUNTY — Townships of Lower Mifflin, North Newton, Southampton and Upper Frankford.

This year, the membership will elect one director each from Zones 1, 5 and 8 to help guide the business of the cooperative for the next three years. Board responsibilities may include mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, participating in strategic planning, making financial decisions, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, and meeting member expectations.

Each director candidate must complete a petition packet, including 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 picked up, by appointment only, at any Adams Electric office, beginning Dec. 1. All required paperwork must be "actually and physically received" at the co-op's headquarters in Gettysburg before the close of business on Jan. 28, 2027.

Learn more about being a co-op director at *adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities* or contact the co-op's communications department at 800-726-2324.



IN THE ZONE: Director zones are re-evaluated based on the population of residential accounts in each service territory and the need to give each director zone an equitable share of member representation. The current map, at right, was drawn in 2020.

Co-op Promotes Three in Operations, One Engineer

JASON STANLEY OF EAST BERLIN was chosen as the next line superintendent in the York District as of Sept. 28. He started with Adams Electric in 2019 as an apprentice lineman, then moved to journeyman in 2022. Stanley will report to Mike Feathers, director of operations, and will be training under Shawn Dehoff, operations coordinator. He is currently pursuing a business administration degree through Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC).

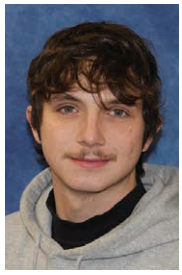
In addition, Avery Mahon of Abbottstown was promoted to second-year apprentice at the York District on Sept. 2. He started with Adams Electric as an apprentice in the operations department in December 2025.

Also promoted to second-year apprentice, as of Sept. 3, was Stephen Fogelsanger of Shippensburg. He started with Adams as an apprentice in the Shippensburg District's operations department in December 2025.

Mike McKinney of Gettysburg was chosen as the next field design coordinator as of Oct. 1. He started with Adams Electric in 2013 as an apprentice lineman in the Gettysburg District's operations department and then moved to staking technician in the engineering department in 2015. McKinney will report to Jeff Turner, director of mechanical engineering, and will be training under the current Field Design Coordinator Tom McMaster until his retirement at the end of the year. He is currently pursuing a business administration degree through HACC.



JASON STANLEY



AVERY MAHON



STEPHEN FOGELSANGER



MIKE MCKINNEY



ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. A lower temperature setting can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Bake up this *Holiday Bread Recipe*—and kitchen safety

Warm up the kitchen with a festive favorite, perfect for gifting or a holiday dessert tray. And before you bake, take a few simple steps to keep your kitchen and your loved ones safe.

CRANBERRY-ORANGE QUICK BREAD

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup vegetable oil or melted butter
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 1½ cups fresh or frozen cranberries, roughly chopped
- Optional: ½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan.
- In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
- In a separate bowl, whisk orange juice, oil or butter, egg and orange zest.
- Stir wet ingredients into dry ingredients until combined. Fold in cranberries and nuts, if using.
- Pour into a loaf pan and bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
- Cool before slicing.
- Optional glaze: Mix ¾ cup powdered sugar with 1 tablespoon orange juice. Drizzle over cooled bread.

KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS:

- Stay in the kitchen while baking; check food often and use a timer.
- Keep flammable items (towels, mitts, packaging) away from the stovetop.
- Use GFCI outlets for countertop appliances near water.
- Check appliances for damaged cords or plugs.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Plug high-wattage appliances directly into wall outlets.
- Keep kids at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- For oven fires, turn off heat and keep the door closed.

Learn more: SafeElectricity.org®