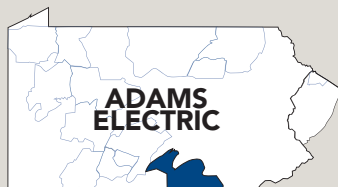




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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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
 P.O. Box 220
 Shippensburg, PA 17257

District Office Hours

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

*By appointment only

Check out 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



We exist to serve our members

By Steve Rasmussen

WE LOVE October, and it's not because pumpkin spice everything is back ... It's because it's National Co-op Month — a time to celebrate you, the members of the co-op. This month and every month, we're so happy to have you as a member of Adams Electric Cooperative (EC).

Did you know we're just one of about 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.? Or that we are one of 13 in the state? Every co-op is unique and adapts to its community's needs, but being a part of the larger electric co-op network allows us to learn from others and put that shared knowledge to use for you.

Co-ops exist for one reason: to serve their membership. We're proud to be your energy partner and trusted energy adviser. But are you taking advantage of the benefits of your membership? Are you familiar with the wide array of programs we offer to help you save energy and, most important, money?

Every year, we update the cooperative's products and services catalog (available by request), and it always makes me proud to see the number of current offerings highlighted in that publication. It explains in detail our specialty programs, like lightbulb recycling and the Co-op Connections card program. It also breaks down the different U-Shift, U-\$ave initiatives we offer. It explains recommended heating and cooling options for members, like heat pumps, and it features community-based programming, like Youth Tour, safety demonstrations, and civic improvement and development partnerships.

We also want to empower you to

manage your energy use at home. We have a great brochure for that called *Your Kilowatt Hours*, which is available online at adamsec.coop under "Publications," or by request from a member services representative. Also, if you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download the SmartHub app to your electronic devices. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and compare your energy use, pay your bill, report power problems and check outage updates. You can also set up notifications for account reminders, such as "pay my bill," receive co-op newsletters or be notified of U-Shift, U-\$ave peak alerts.

We're also just a phone call or appointment away if you have a concern about your energy use. So give us a call if you have questions at 1-800-726-2324. Our regular business days are Monday through Thursday, with appointment hours between 7 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

Want to follow us for updates? We post regularly on Facebook and Twitter. Most of our news releases can be found there first. While we don't monitor these sites 24/7, we can and do interact with our members there, especially during bad weather or severe outages. I would suggest you not report outages on social media, though — the SmartHub app is much better, easier and more direct for that.

We're continuously looking for ways to operate more efficiently while providing the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're here to serve you, and we want you to be proud to be a co-op member. ❁

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

4-H'ers prep for 'biggest fundraiser of the year'

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

WITH THE prominence of apple growing in Adams County, it would make sense that The National Apple Harvest Festival would be one of the leading moneymakers for the community, specifically Adams County 4-H Clubs. Hosted annually the first two weekends in October — and directly overlapping National 4-H Week — the 4-H chicken barbecue dinners at the festival are typically a sell-out sensation.

Truth be told, though, the fundraiser is second-best to the benefit auction that draws crowds in support of Adams County 4-H the first week of November each year.

“The benefit auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year,” says Auction Committee Co-Chair Donna Livelsberger. “That one day, everything we make goes back to the members of 4-H.”

Donna has been co-chair of the auction for the last few years, joining Adams Electric member Deb Flickinger, who has been on the committee almost since its inception in 2003. Donna is president of the Adams County 4-H Board and a club leader in New Oxford. Deb is a Sheep Club leader for all of

Adams County.

“We’re all so excited,” Deb says. “Each year, we get a little bigger and a little better.”

This year’s auction, open to the public, is planned for Nov. 4, at the Redding Auction Service, 1085 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. The auctioneers at the co-op member business donate their time to the event. Doors will open at 5 p.m., with live and silent auctions running simultaneously beginning at 6 p.m.

“You never know what we’re going to get donated to auction off,” Donna says. “One year, we had a pop-up camper to auction away. We’re still waiting to see what ‘big-ticket’ item might come in for this year.”

The 4-H collects new (and a few nearly new) donated items for the auction, including antiques, dishware, gift cards and decorations. Plus, members donate items that are homemade, handmade and homegrown.

“The club baskets are a huge hit, too,” Deb says. “Each 4-H Club puts its own basket together. Then, it can be fun to watch parents and grandparents from the same club start bidding. The proceeds go to that club specifically.”

Generally, the funds raised during the auction are used to support various clubs’ expenses, including paying membership fees, providing camp and workshop scholarships, sending members to state and national competitions, covering chaperone fees, building a 4-H endowment, and hosting a leader’s banquet.

No gift is too big or too little, the co-chairs agree.



FOR THE BIRDS: This turkey call, made by Wingbone and Jordan Yelpers, is one of the items donated to a recent Adams County 4-H Benefit Auction.

“One year, the father of a 4-H'er who raises hogs donated two halves and the butchering, which brought in a good response,” Deb says.

“We have another 4-H family that grows pumpkins, and they give us 10 or so each year, and people will come just to bid on them.”

Also, during the auction, the youth members from various clubs help the auctioneers show the items for sale, and sometimes it includes their own projects and products. The 4-H members also staff food stands, so the proceeds go to the clubs.

“It’s an absolute great evening for all ages,” Deb says.

To inquire about the Adams County 4-H Benefit Auction, make a monetary donation to 4-H or offer an item for auction, contact the Adams County Extension Office at 717-334-6271.

Not an Adams County resident? Wait a few months and York County 4-H has its own benefit auction, planned for March 17, 2023, at the 4-H Center, 771 Stoverstown Road, York. Call 717-840-7408 for more information or to donate. 🌻



GET COOKIN': “Club baskets,” like the grilling-themed one above donated in 2019, are a big draw at the Adams County 4-H Benefit Auction.

Your 'change' could help change lives

AS AN Adams Electric member, you are a part owner in our cooperative business. When business is profitable, you reap the benefits through Ownership Rewards. However, when one member doesn't pay their bill on time, all members could be affected through increased rates.

A few dollars could help avoid that. If every account holder rounded up their bill to the next even dollar each month, the co-op could cover its losses from uncollectible accounts.

For more than 35 years, through Project Helping Hand (PHH), the cooperative has helped to keep the lights on for members who need financial assistance. PHH is a voluntary contribution program that provides limited funding to those who need help paying their electric bills, including senior citizens, military veterans, the disabled or members struggling to make ends meet.

Community agencies in each of the co-op's districts serve the members in their county and make the determination of a member's need. Members may only receive Project Helping Hand funds from the agency in the county in which they live. Members may request assistance from the following organizations:

- ▶ South Central Community Action Program of Adams and Franklin counties
- ▶ Community Progress Council of York
- ▶ Neighbors in Christ of Cumberland County

If every membership contributed even in a small way to PHH, more members could receive assistance and rates would remain stable. Participants may join any time during the year by contacting the cooperative. Likewise, a member may cancel participation whenever they wish.

As an example, through Round Up, if a member's electric bill is \$140.36, they would be billed \$141. The bill would then note a 64-cent Round Up



contribution to PHH.

Feeling generous? There is also a Round Up Plus option, where contributing members can elect to add additional dollars to Round Up monthly. For instance, a \$1 Plus selection in the previous example would be \$142, leading to a donation of \$1.64 to PHH through Round Up.

Your 'change' can change lives

Every October, during National Co-op Month, Adams Electric makes an extra request of its members to consider a special donation to Project Helping Hand. Our annual campaign aims to raise additional cash donations beyond the typical monthly donations collected through Round Up contributions.

The drive increases the co-op's ability to help its consumer-members in need. Collection jars are set up in each district office. One-time donations are accepted on the bill statements, and donations are also accepted online through our third-party vendor, the Adams County Community Foundation (adamscounty.org). Click on the "Donate Now" button and then indicate Project Helping Hand in the fund name

when making your donation (it will show up on the confirmation page).

A few more details:

- ▶ Sign up to donate to Project Helping Hand through SmartHub (adamsec.smarthub.coop) or by calling the co-op at 1-800-726-2324.
- ▶ Monies from the fund may be distributed to members requesting assistance twice annually.
- ▶ Receiving members need to show the evaluating agency proof that 25% of their past-due bill is paid before Project Helping Hand funds will be released. In addition, a payment arrangement on the past-due balance needs to be established with the cooperative.
- ▶ If an account is already disconnected for non-payment, the balance of the disconnect amount needs to be paid before Project Helping Hand funds can be approved.
- ▶ PHH is a fund of the Adams County Community Foundation and donations are tax deductible. Donors receive acknowledgement of gifts over \$10 via a letter from the foundation, which helps to administer the co-op's PHH fund. 🌱

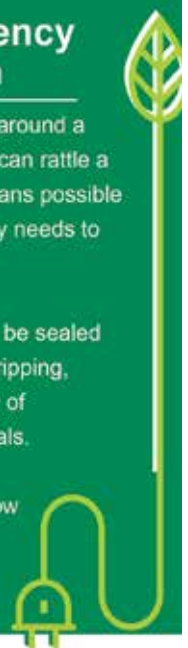
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials.

Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Adams awards scholarships to adults, undergrads

THE ADAMS Electric Cooperative Board of Directors recently agreed to award 20 scholarships* — in the amount of \$1,000 each — to undergraduate and adult students who are continuing their post-secondary education or leadership training.

The application process opened in May, and applicants were reviewed and recommended to the board by the cooperative's volunteer Scholarship Committee in August. While undergraduate and adult scholarships are two separate programs and applications, the winners are chosen in the same timeframe to allow scholarship funds to be shared between the programs.

This brings the total donated to continuing education scholarships to \$435,000 since 2008. This total also includes scholarships to high school students who are children of co-op members. For more information, visit adamsec.coop.

**Scholarships are funded through unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates. ❁*



Undergraduate recipients:



Breanna Barstow,
Liberty University



Yvette Celius,
Messiah University



Sarah Drabik,
Penn State University



John Dyson,
Penn State York



Maya Fetrow,
University of Pittsburgh



Taylor Heiner,
Penn State Harrisburg



Zachary Kemper,
Penn State University



Andrew Long,
Millersville University



Hannah Martin,
Shippensburg University



Krysten Moore,
Penn State Harrisburg



Mason Nas,
Penn State University



Tyler Reinert,
Penn State University



Charles Sebright,
Purdue University



Grant Walters,
Pennsylvania School of
Technology

Adult member recipients:



Brooke Basehore,
Shippensburg
University



Myrtle Dietrich,
York County School of
Technology - LPN Program



Taylor Egenrieder,
Chamberlain University



Jennifer Heller,
Wilkes University



Debi Orndorff,
Harrisburg Area
Community College



Melissa Shupe,
Chamberlain University

Boost your cyber sense

OCTOBER is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" — because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps that can be taken to safeguard personal devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber sense:

1. **Enable multi-factor authentication.** Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be used when available.

2. **Use strong passwords and a password manager.** Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your online identity. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords with at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts, and use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. **Update software.** It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to perform updates quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

4. **Recognize and report phishing attacks.** Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests, or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips. ❁

Atherton promoted to journeyman 1st class

The co-op congratulates **Shane Atherton** of Aspers, who was promoted to journeyman first class at the Gettysburg District on July 27. He started with the co-op in 2017 as a third-year apprentice in the operations department. ❁



Shane Atherton

