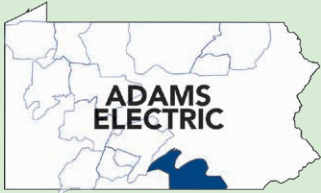




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Glenn E. Bange, President**

**Nadine M. Hubner, Vice President**

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**F.L. "Ray" Schwartz**

**Steve Rasmussen**

**CEO/General Manager**

## 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](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.*

## Your Change Can Change Lives



**IF YOUR NAME APPEARS** on the monthly billing statement from the cooperative, then you are a consumer-member of Adams Electric. Membership has its benefits, including the opportunity to serve on a volunteer committee and the ability to run for a seat on the board of directors.

The cooperative is a not-for-profit business, which means each member contributes equitably to its capital. Known as Cooperative Principle No. 3 — members' economic participation — this benefits each member in proportion to the business they conduct (electricity/kilowatt-hours used), rather than on the capital they invest.

When financial conditions permit, our membership receives returns on that capital investment through the retirement of patronage capital credits. (We call them ownership rewards.) Members share in the success of the co-op, but they also have responsibilities, such as helping other members in need. For example, if a member leaves the co-op with a debt, all consumer-members shoulder that financial burden.

For more than 40 years, Adams Electric has used Project Helping Hand (PHH) to help members who have fallen on hard times start paying off their debt with the co-op. PHH is a voluntary contribution program that provides limited funding to those who need help paying their electric bill.

That voluntary contribution comes most often from members who round up their bill payment to the next even dollar. As an example, if a member's electric bill total is \$185.36, they would pay \$186. The bill would then note a 64-cent round-up contribution to PHH. Most every supermarket offers you a round-up option at checkout. This is much the same, except the benefit goes to fellow co-op members and helps keep your bill lower by reducing the amount of bad debt expenses.

Since COVID-19, more and more members are struggling each month to pay their bills and those participating in the PHH round-up program have decreased. Meanwhile, recipients of funds have increased. In 2023, 182 members received PHH distributions to help keep the lights on at home. Around 4,450 members made contributions to help them. In 2022, 127 members requested assistance, and 4,600 members stepped forward to offer aid. In 2021, 103 members needed help, and 4,750 members were there to respond.

The more unpaid debts, the higher rates must climb to cover the losses. If every membership joined or made a direct contribution to PHH, we could help cut and possibly eliminate those losses.

Later this month, you'll be receiving your ownership rewards check for your previous year's investment in the cooperative. If you're feeling generous, you could sign that check over to PHH so we can continue to help each other stay warm in the winter. If that's more than you can offer, consider making March the month you ask the co-op to enroll your account(s) in PHH (or you can do it yourself through SmartHub).

Your change can change lives. Help us put a few more pennies in the jar and increase the co-op's ability to support our co-op members in need. Your friends and neighbors will thank you. 🙌

**STEVE RASMUSSEN**  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER



## Engaging Legislative Priorities

**KAMI NOEL**, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

A DOZEN MEMBERS of the General Assembly or their staff spent a January morning at Adams Electric Cooperative learning about the legislative priorities of rural electric cooperatives. Those in attendance heard presentations from Adams' CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen as well as Matt Leonard, manager, government & regulatory affairs, with the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Harrisburg.

Legislators and co-op staff discussed the cooperative difference, rate structure, equitable alternative energy rates and supply chain issues.

Power supply sources with a focus on nuclear energy and legislative priorities, such as broadband initiatives and the Farm Bill, were also discussed.

The co-op makes it a priority to keep the lines of communication open with our legislative partners, especially those who have constituents in our service territory.



**OFFERING PERSPECTIVE:** At left, Adams Electric's Chad Thoman, manager of engineering electrical, shows state Rep. Kate Klunk (R-York) an interactive map of the co-op's service territory, which has GPS tracking of vehicles and outage location markers. At right, Adams Electric CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen, left, meets with state Rep. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland) after discussions about important co-op energy topics, such as equitable solar, rates and reliability.

Guests also spent time touring co-op facilities, which included viewing technological advances to our dispatch center and checking out the cooperative's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and EV fleet



vehicles. The co-op's managers were on hand to offer personal one-on-one time with interested legislators or staff members and answer their questions about energy, electric use, and legislation. 📍

## National Rebranding for Co-op PAC

2024 marks the beginning of a new era for our cooperative's political action committee (PAC). Last year, our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, announced that the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, or ACRE, would now be called America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

Here in Pennsylvania, PREA instituted the new name on Jan. 1. Along with the name change, Co-op Owners for Political Action, a group especially for cooperative consumers, has been rolled into America's Electric Cooperatives PAC so all members are represented under a unified program.

While the group's name may have changed, the mission and goals of the PAC remain the same.

Our 2024 PAC membership campaign will build on our successes in 2023 by retaining current members and



adding new ones to our ranks. There are six membership categories for the PAC: Regular (\$25), Ambassador Club (\$50), Century Club (\$100), Vice President's Club (\$250), President's Club (\$500) and Leadership Circle (\$1,000).

To those who opt in for the automatic renewal of their PAC contributions, thank you for your continued membership in the cooperative's grassroots program. You do not need to take any additional steps to continue your membership in the PAC.

Those looking to join the program can request a membership form by calling 800-726-2324. 📍

# Take the Chill Out of Your Winter Energy Bill

**KAMI NOEL**, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

**COLDER WEATHER** and decorative holiday lights typically result in higher winter energy bills. With our recent rate increase and your heating system working in overdrive to keep up with the chilly temperatures, we want to remind our members about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy adviser, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help. That's why the co-op offers free installation of U-Shift, U-\$ave switches to every membership.

A \$215 value, these switches can be installed on your electric water heater and remotely interrupted by the cooperative during times when electric costs are most expensive. Typically activated before noon and/or after 5 p.m. through the winter, these devices interrupt the water-heating element while electric demand is high and then automatically restarts it when demand subsides. Members receive a monthly bill credit for program participation.

A similar switch can be installed for free on electric subpanels, but the member must first pay for the subpanel installation. These devices are also interruptible and shift electric use when energy demand peaks. Most program participants connect devices like their washers and dryers to this subpanel. While the connected electronic appliances are blocked from use during the interruption periods, all electricity that runs through the panel is 60% cheaper on energy supply, because the co-op provides a rate incentive to participants.

If you'd like to learn more or become a U-Shift, U-\$ave program participant, contact our member services representatives for information.

## A good kind of audit

An energy audit could provide you with a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues with electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer.

So how does it work? First, request a "Your Kilowatt Hours" brochure from the cooperative. The pamphlet has current rate data and can help you evaluate your own energy use by calculating how much energy the appliances you use daily are consuming. An energy use specialist from the cooperative can also assist you with this assessment, but we realize most of our members prefer to do the analysis themselves.

After you've examined your energy use and identified problem areas, look at specific elements of your home that impact energy use, such as doors, windows, and insulation levels. Also, review the age and condition of your heating and cooling systems and water heater. Ask yourself questions about your energy use habits and review your past energy bills.

## The power to \$ave

Finally, review your analysis and research recommendations about energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money. One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and, more important, how to use it more efficiently.

If you're looking for more ways



to save, check out our additional efficiency offerings and informational brochures, such as "101 Ways to Save." Call 800-726-2324 to request information or visit [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop). These programs and services are designed with our members in mind. 📄

## Co-op Promotes Crew Members

Congratulations to the following lineworkers who have earned advancement in the operations department.

Effective Dec. 19, 2023, Jason Stanley moved to journeyman second class. He started with Adams Electric Cooperative in September 2019 and works out of the York District.

Effective Jan. 10, Chris Gilbertson moved to second-year apprentice in the York District. He started with Adams in January 2023.

Effective Jan. 17, Andrew Koser moved to journeyman second class in the Shippensburg District. He also started with Adams in January 2023.



**Jason Stanley**



**Chris Gilbertson**



**Andrew Koser**

## Co-op to Inspect Poles from Above and Below

### Aerial patrol

Each year, Adams Electric Cooperative surveys its power system via helicopter, looking for damage that's hard to spot from the ground, especially in remote locations. The co-op will be initiating aerial inspections over its power system beginning in late March, weather permitting.

In the Gettysburg and York districts, only critical line feeds will be evaluated. In the Shippensburg District, a comprehensive review of all lines and feeds will be conducted.

Adams Electric service is intermingled with those of investor-owned utilities (mainly Met-Ed and Penelec) in Adams County, as well as parts of lower Cumberland, upper Franklin, and western and southern York counties. There are also a few accounts in Perry County.

Pine Bottom Aviation of Martinsburg will pilot the helicopter patrols. The flight crew will also include one of the co-op's experienced lineworkers. From the air, our lineworker will be on the lookout for broken cross arms, damaged or floating wires, and other electrical issues, such as burnt pole tops and tree interference.

Aerial inspections can take several weeks to complete, depending on weather and other schedule interruptions. Mike Feathers, the cooperative's manager of operations, says the crew will fly an average of six to eight hours a day when conditions are appropriate and will attempt to avoid flying over congested areas or hovering over agricultural operations.

If you see a problem with a power line, pole or electrical equipment,

never attempt to correct the issue. Report problems immediately by calling 800-726-2324.

### Pole inspection

Each year, Adams Electric also hires Osmose Utility Services Company to inspect approximately 10% of its utility poles for damage, decay and structural reliability. This year's inspections are scheduled around Cumberland and Franklin counties.

Members with poles on or near their property should receive a postcard announcing an approximate timeframe for pole inspection. Once an inspector is on-site, you may see them digging at the base of the utility pole and placing identification markings on the pole. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the cooperative at 800-726-2324. 📧

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR UNDERGRADS, ADULTS NOW AVAILABLE

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



**Undergraduates:** 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.

**Adults:** 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](http://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 Adams Electric Cooperative's Scholarship Committee.

Scholarships are awarded from unclaimed ownership reward monies and do not affect rates. For details, eligibility and to apply, visit [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).

## Don't Get Left in the Dark

The winter moratorium on utility disconnections ends April 1. Get your electric account in good order now.

If you're worried about paying your winter heating bills, help is available. Don't wait! Apply now through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Members in low-income households can apply for cash grants or crisis assistance.

The cash grant is a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 sent directly to Adams Electric Cooperative on behalf of a member to be credited toward your electric bill.

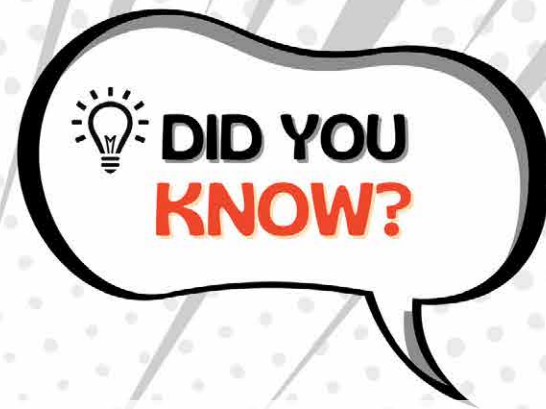
Households in immediate danger of being without heat may also qualify for crisis grants of up to \$1,000. Emergency situations include:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- ▶ Potential service termination for overdue or unpaid bills

Apply online at [compass.state.pa.us](http://compass.state.pa.us) or call 800-726-2324 to request a paper application.

# Co-op Spotlight

## Getting to know your employees and directors



### Kami Noel



**Who I am:** I'm a communications/member relations coordinator. I've been with the co-op for 16 years. I passed my Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) exam in 2010 and graduated from the cooperative's Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program in 2016. I'm the local pages editor for *Penn Lines* magazine. I help plan and coordinate member meetings, youth programs, and volunteer committees, and I help oversee the co-op's donation program and political action committee. I assist with the co-op's social media platforms and all internal and external literature, and I oversee the member services team.

**Family life:** My husband, Jeremy, and I have two kids, Jorja and Kasen, a dog, Roxy, and a cat, Sylvie. We enjoy

watching our kids in their sports and activities. We like camping and traveling, and we are a house divided when it comes to football. Go Steelers!

**Favorite part of the job:** I love working directly with the membership, learning our members' names and sharing their stories. I like promoting programs that benefit our membership and being a voice for the co-op business model.

**Co-op stands out because:** We try to have employees answer almost every phone call that comes through the switchboard. We try to not pass calls off, but offer first-response resolutions to each inquiry. Our line crews truly are dedicated to their careers and want our membership to have reliable power 24/7, regardless of the weather. The co-op is a family-like business, and we care about our consumer-members.

### Mike Chamberlin



**Who I am:** I am currently the line superintendent of the Shippensburg District. My primary job is to schedule the daily work for the line crews. I am also in charge of keeping up with the maintenance of the building and vehicles in this district and scheduling any needed repairs. Computer and administrative tasks typically round out the day for me. I have been with the co-op for 15 years. Prior to becoming the superintendent, I spent 13 years as a staking technician, meeting members for new connects and redesigning and replacing poles and lines.

**Family life:** I enjoy working on projects around the house with my wife, Lori, and playing with our dog, Remi. We like traveling, going to concerts and attending sporting events. I enjoy all outdoor sports, but my biggest passion is probably archery hunting.

**Favorite part of the job:** I enjoy working for a small company where everyone knows each other, and all the employees share the common goal of supplying our members with safe, reliable power.

**Co-op difference:** Being member-owned and not-for-profit means always doing what's best for the members.

### Karen Harner



**Who I am:** I was hired at Adams Electric Cooperative 15 years ago as a warehouse clerk "B" and transitioned into my current position as a warehouse clerk "A." I am responsible for ordering wire, poles, line materials, tools, and other supplies and conducting inventories.

**Family life:** I have one amazing son.

**Favorite part of the job:** My favorite part of working at

Adams is the variety of work that each day brings, learning about new/updated materials, the great coworkers and happy members.

**Co-op difference:** Attention to detail; the quality and reliability of service.

**Co-op stands out because:** I think our members truly appreciate all the hard work, good member service and the reliability of us providing them with power — not just every day, but especially during a storm.

