Looking back, moving forward
By Board Presidents Jay Grove and Glenn Bange

Looking back
By Jay Grove, outgoing president
Time goes on and some people can remember everything like clockwork, some things seem to glide right by. I began serving on the co-op board of directors in 1992 and took over the president position from Gene Herritt on July 24, 2007.

Looking back, a couple of really big things happened during my tenure; one of the biggest being the change in board members. We had board members pass away in office, and had strong women like Judy Quietzsch, Nina Redding, and Nadine Hubner elected to serve. It was a changing of the guard, in a sense.

With those kinds of transitions, it could sometimes be difficult to keep the board at its full potential … running on all "nine" cylinders, I like to say.

In addition, technology has evolved and taken off. We went from 50-page paper board packets, to all-electronic documents, to using iPads. It’s been an evolution of the information flow that I’ve become accustomed to and live by now. The discussions have become more in-depth and the information more relevant. We even have a department with an IT manager attending board meetings.

From the co-op side, I’ve watched the transition of some major senior staff retirements and that transfer of knowledge that takes place. A different group of people and a different way of thinking and doing business. Quite simply, it’s change!

There’ve been some costly capital events, too, like the change to automated meters and readings, the building of a new Shippensburg District office, and the purchasing of EV vehicles. I don’t know where it’s all going yet, but we’ve been there for the members and we will continue to be. And I believe that incoming president Glenn Bange will carry on that message well.

It’s always been a goal of mine to remind the members that they are the cooperative. They own us. If anything in my years serving as president, that’s the message I tried to get across. The membership is the business. The members are the cooperative.

Moving forward, the president is the person who lets other board members express themselves. During a vote, I was the one allowing for the discussion, answering questions, allowing others to voice their pros and cons. I’ve been a tiebreaker. Now I can go back to the role of a voiced opinion. That’s the business, it’s what needs to happen, and I’m looking forward to my continued role serving this cooperative and its members. Under President Bange’s leadership, I think this board and this co-op will continue to do great things, and I look forward to being a part of it.

Moving forward
By Glenn Bange, president
I joined the Adams Electric board in 2005 because I wanted to serve my community (continues on page 12c)
Member shares love of biking with students

By Duane Kanagy, Penn Lines Correspondent

IN 2017, Michael Connelly, a co-op member in Carroll Valley, Adams County, began to share his lifelong enthusiasm for mountain biking with local students, many of whom are not involved in any organized sport.

At the time, Connelly attended a meeting of people exploring creating a mountain bike racing team in Adams County.

“Count me in,” he told the organizers.

Following that meeting, Connelly and fellow mountain biker Tony Gipe gathered six kids (including Connelly’s son) and formed the Adams County Composite Mountain Bike Team (ACCMTB). The group, supported by Adams Electric Cooperative and other local businesses, is open to Adams County boys and girls in grades 6-12.

This year, the group includes 20-plus kids riding and training on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the summer to compete on weekends in September and October against other Pennsylvania teams. Pennsylvania now has 40 teams like ACCMTB, according to Connelly.

Riders are trained to race on single track trails in state parks and national forests. Courses are designed by the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to challenge riders physically, yet not put them in harm’s way.

Connelly describes the group as an “adventure-based” team.

“Our goal is to ride safe and have fun,” he says. “Many of our first-year students have no mountain bike racing experience.”

The group can even loan bikes to students who do not yet own a mountain bike.

Connelly compared competitive mountain bike racing to cross country running. It is a private, independent sport, but participants are still part of a team. Unlike cross country racing though, mountain biking is not yet a recognized high school or collegiate sport.

The group shares five core values created by the NICA and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Mountain Bike Cycling League (PICL):

- Inclusivity (every finish counts);
- Equality (everyone rides);
- Strong body (lifelong fitness);
- Strong mind (NICA athletes are students first); and
- Strong character (work hard, play fair, respect others).

The team helps students develop a lifelong athletic interest that provides the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, stay healthy, and participate in riding with family and friends, according to the ACCMTB website.

By the time students are in middle or high school, the opportunity to join a team sport is limited, Connelly explains. Girls may have even fewer opportunities.

“It’s a competitive sport, but the goal is to create a healthy pattern and to enjoy riding for the rest of their lives,” Connelly says. “It’s great to ‘see the light come on’ as these kids start to ride. It’s rewarding … The feedback from parents is that their kids have more confidence. They can thrive.”

The group has several goals for 2019, its third year, including continuing to get the word out, adding more female coaches and moving practice sessions from the bunny slope at Liberty Mountain Resort in Carroll Valley to a private farm closer to Gettysburg. The new location will include a two-and-a-half-mile trail that includes all the features a rider will see during competition.

For additional information, visit ACCMTB on Facebook or on the web at accmtb.org.
Looking back, and moving forward (continued from page 12a) and I had experience in the electrical industry. I was elected to the executive committee a year later, serving one term as secretary, and since then as vice president. This year, I appreciate that my peers on the board have shown their confidence in my knowledge and abilities and elected me to the role of president.

Outgoing board President Jay Grove has done a great job in leading us for many years and I’ve learned a lot from him. I appreciate all his efforts and achievements. The past presidents have each done good things for this cooperative, and I look forward to carrying on that tradition. For as long as I hold this title, we’ll continue to deal with the situations that come before us as a board. I’ll listen, gather facts, and help the board make the best decisions in the best interest of the membership and the cooperative.

First and foremost, the job of president is a call to serve the members and the other directors of the co-op, concentrating on our Mission Statement and promises to our members of providing reliable service, affordable power, and helping our rural communities. We must also practice good business ethics and remain transparent.

I think another important first step for me will be building trust with our members, directors, and staff to create an atmosphere where all points of view can continue to be shared, heard, and welcomed. That will only strengthen our board as we continue to grow and move forward.

We want members to know we’re here as a group for them. We haven’t always conveyed that message as well as I think we can. I’d like to see more members take an interest in their cooperative and our board positions. I’d like our qualified leaders to not be afraid to step up and earn more experience by taking on opportunities to grow their skills and responsibilities.

The co-op business model is so unique. We need to continue to teach and follow the seven co-op principles. We need to maintain the right balance of management operations and oversight, and carry on the values of a strong cooperative.

As we move forward, I plan to serve in this new role, putting myself out there for the membership and making myself available in any way the job requires. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your new board president.

Brats, Beverages & Bipartisan Banter

An appreciation event for those participating in the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) and Co-op Owners for Political Action (Co-op Owners) programs is scheduled for September. The last four appreciation events were successful, and we want to continue to thank you, our members who support ACRE and Co-op Owners.

ACRE Co-Op Owners is a nonpartisan political action committee designed to direct financial contributions from co-op members to those legislators who actively support issues of importance to electric cooperatives. ACRE Co-op Owners supports candidates for state and federal office who will speak for and protect the interests of electric co-ops and their members.

Brats, Beverages & Bipartisan Banter mixers will take place from 5-7 p.m. and participants are welcome to bring one guest. Program enrollment and event registration required. Activities will include facilities tours, door prize drawings, plus light refreshments.

Adams Electric directors and employees who participate in ACRE will also be in attendance. In addition, local legislators who preside over constituents in our service territory will be invited to attend.

If you’d like to sign up for the ACRE Co-op Owners program, call 1-800-726-2324 to request an enrollment form. The minimum cost to participate is just $2.08, added to your electric bill. If you’d like to register for our ACRE Co-op Owners appreciation event, please RSVP by Sept. 5.

Looking for some different ideas on how members might get more involved with Adams Electric. Here are some easy ideas…

- Join a Committee: Credentials & Election, Scholarship or Member Advisory: https://www.adamsec.coop/content/be-co-op-volunteer
- Join ACRE Co-op Owners: https://www.adamsec.coop/content/what-co-op-owners
- Donate to Project Helping Hand: https://www.adamsec.coop/content/project-helping-hand
- Sign up for SmartHub and request notifications: https://adamsec.smarthub.coop/Login.html#/registration; (or download from the app store)
- Join a U-Shift, U-$ave program initiative: https://myenergy.adamsec.coop/content/u-shift-u-save
- Set up a safety demonstration for a community group or organization: https://www.adamsec.coop/content/high-voltage-safety-demos
- Sign up for E-Alerts through Constant Contact: https://www.adamsec.coop/ (scroll to the bottom of the homepage)
- Interact on social media: Follow us on Twitter (@aec_coop) or Like us on Facebook (Facebook.com/AdamsEC)
Please, no posters on poles

SIGNS, balloons, and other materials on utility poles are more than just an unpleasant neighborhood eyesore; they can be dangerous — even life threatening — to the professionals who maintain our vital lines of electricity, communication, and other services. Safe Electricity urges everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

“Help protect those who work hard to give us essential electric service, instant communication and other modern amenities through the nation’s 120 million utility poles,” Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity (safeelectricity.org), says. “Remember that anything left on a pole can cause power line employees, telecommunications utility personnel and other workers harm.”

The clamped safety boots used by lineworkers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts. Foreign objects can also tear utility workers’ protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces.

Such practices also present a public safety hazard. The materials posted on the poles not only distract people as they drive, but they also degrade the quality, effectiveness and stability of the wood. This poses a safety hazard for pedestrians as they walk by and increases the failure risk if the pole is struck by a vehicle. Posting items to utility poles is usually a violation of local ordinances as well.

It is also just as important to avoid tampering with or disrupting the guy wires that surround utility poles. Please maintain your distance when performing yard work. If you see the poles or guy wires are disrupted in some way, please call your local utility company immediately.

Do your part to help utility workers stay safe and refrain from attaching objects to utility poles. THAT'S A NO-NO! Attaching items to utility poles is not only an ordinance violation in many communities, it’s an eyesore, and a threat to utility workers as lineworkers could tear their clothing or pierce a boot. The poles themselves often become less sturdy. Please consider lawn stakes and other options when hanging outdoor signs and posters.

Keep kids safe

School days bring hustle, bustle, hurried parents and feet-dragging students. They also bring safety bells ringing alongside school bells.

According to research by the National Safety Council, most children who lose their lives in school bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they’re walking to or from the bus stop. They are hit by the bus or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.

A few precautions go a long way toward student safety.

► Don’t block crosswalks, and always yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
► Watch for flashing lights in school zones and obey posted reduced speed restrictions.
► Share the road with school buses. Never pass a bus from behind. If the yellow or red lights are flashing, or the arm is extended, traffic must stop in all directions.
► Be alert to the unpredictability of children. Reduce your speed in school zones, near parks and playgrounds, and in highly residential areas during typical school start and end times.
► As a pedestrian, practice the head up, phone down approach. Don’t wear earphones or sound-deafening reducers. And don’t step off the curb until cars and buses in every direction are at a full stop.

All it takes is a little extra time and attention to help keep our kids safe as they return to the daily grind this season. For more tips on keep kids safe during the back to school season, and beyond, visit the National Safety Council, nsc.org.
High school senior scholarship winners recognized

In 2019, the co-op continued its mission of improving the quality of life in the communities we serve by distributing another $19,000 in $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors across its service territory. These awards also include two new scholarships to career/trade students who are going on to certified trade school programs. This brings the total donated to continuing education scholarships to nearly $300,000 since 2008. This amount includes scholarships to undergraduate college students and adult members of the cooperative. With this year's winners, the co-op has awarded 243 high school seniors, as well as six undergraduates and 104 adult members.

And the high school $1,000 scholarship winners for 2019 are:

Congratulations also to: Callista Papoutsis of Chambersburg, Alyna Smith of Dover, Sarah Baddick of Gettysburg, Abigail Mitzel of Red Lion, Alexia Rayman of Spring Grove and Elizabeth Johns of Susquehannock, whose photos were not received in time for publication.
FOR THE KIDS: Adams Electric’s safety personnel recently purchased this new low-voltage safety demo unit from HiTECH Safety Displays for use in schools and with younger community groups who want to learn about electric safety. The unit is portable, operates by remote control key fob and shows 12 realistic sound and motion dramatic arc effects. An arc-generating hot stick interacts with the display to add additional demonstration points. To schedule a demonstration for your organization or classroom, call 1-800-726-2324 and ask to speak with someone in safety. High-voltage onsite and traveling demonstrations are also available, especially for emergency responders, and larger group activities.

ON THE MARKET: After several years of preparation and skilled laboring, the first student-built, energy-efficient house on Adams Electric’s lines, along South Avenue in Gettysburg, is complete and available for sale. The 3,500-square-foot home (5,500 if you include the unfinished basement) has a two-car garage, numerous double-pane glass windows, geothermal heating and cooling, as well as lots of other features. The home was landscaped by students and includes a patio out back. The property is listed by David Monsour of Keller Williams Keystone Realty. The residential home has four bedrooms and two full baths, a fireplace, and modern kitchen (shown inset) with all new stainless-steel appliances. The asking price for the property in Gettysburg School District is $429,000. Once sold, the co-op is working with Gettysburg Area School District and the Adams County Tech Prep building trades group to prepare two more sites – one on Biglerville Road and another along Boyds School Road, for student-built housing projects.

ADAMS FAMILY: Welcome home to the co-op’s 2019 delegation of Youth Tour participants, who represented Adams Electric in Washington, D.C., on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour for high school juniors. Touring the monuments this year, in addition to their political meetings and co-op education, were: from left, Jason Lookenbill of New Oxford HS, Katie Anthony of Northern HS, Rebekah Becker, homeschooled, Seth Wienholt of Littlestown Senior HS, Madi Cook of Dover HS, Clayton Kennell of Dover HS, Marisol Rivera-Esquivias of Biglerville HS, Laney Keel of Carlisle HS, and Anne Lawrence of Spring Grove HS.

Honoring the American worker: Co-op offices will be closed Sept. 2 in recognition of the Labor Day holiday. We hope you to will take the day off to rest and relax!
ACRE Co-op Owners

ACRE Co-op Owners are invited to attend an event mixer in their district. Sign up before Sept. 5 by calling the co-op and requesting an enrollment form. ACRE Co-op Owners costs just $2.08 per month, added to the electric bill.

Registered participants of the ACRE Co-op Owners program may attend.

* Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. Contributions may be stopped at any time upon notification to the cooperative.
ELECTRIFYING WORD SEARCH!
Can you find the words associated with electricity in the puzzle below? Use the word bank if you need a hint!

Word Bank

- ELECTRICITY
- POWER
- CIRCUIT
- SWITCH
- WATTS
- VOLTAGE
- CURRENT
- BULB
- WIRES
- CHARGE