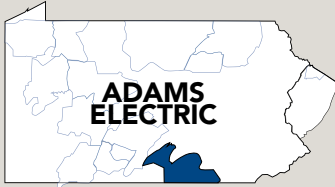




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

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P.O. Box 220
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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District Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
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*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

From the CEO/General Manager



Navigating 'unfamiliar waters'

By Steve Rasmussen

THE CORONAVIRUS, also known as COVID-19, has understandably raised fears and anxiety among our members, employees, and their families. The obviously two-sided response has been interesting. I've witnessed renewed respect for people and their personal space. But I've also, unfortunately, seen price gouging and hoarding of "necessary" products.

We need to remember we're all in this together. We need to help our neighbor, not hide the last roll of toilet paper in the grocery aisle. In essence, social distancing has fundamentally altered the way businesses and non-profits engage the communities they serve. Health center operations, food pantries' support of those in need, educating our children — they have all been affected.

However, I'm still encouraged that we live in a country that hasn't ignored the warning signs, but instead responded with a humility that's seemed to be lost in recent years.

As a cooperative family, we've had to really look at the way we do business. We had to close our offices to the public. That wasn't an easy decision. We had to cancel our district and annual meetings. That didn't come about without hesitation. We had to limit in-person interactions, stagger work shifts, offer options to those with high-risk indicators and engage flexibility for families suddenly facing the prospect of weeks with no daycare. These aren't easy conversations to have with people already on high alert.

But one thing is for certain — our service to the membership has not waivered. If there was a power issue, we fixed it. If there was a billing situation, we addressed it. If there was a question posed, we answered it.

Why? Because there's power in membership. You are a member of a cooperative and that means something, or at least it should! Co-ops work together — that's our mission and our goal. We rally around each other to make sure that your needs as a member are met.

Much like I'd hope each person reading this column helped to care for an elder, babysit a toddler, or run a grocery pick-up for a family in quarantine. (I still respect you if you dropped the goods on the doorstep and ran.) I recognize it's a different world we're living in.

Maybe this is the "new norm" or maybe we'll go back to the way things used to be. But I don't think we'll soon forget the government shutdown that sent every man, woman, or child who wasn't in "an essential personnel position" home for what started as two weeks, and is still lingering.

We're a nation in unfamiliar waters and in a rapidly changing environment. We will continue to adjust and adapt. As always, if you have questions, reach out. We can't address a concern we aren't aware of. And above all, stay safe, stay vigilant, follow CDC handwashing and social distancing recommendations, and join us at an event in the future, when we're all allowed to come back together again safely. 🌞

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Theater program brings rewards to actors, mentors

By Duane Kanagy, *Penn Lines Correspondent*

WHEN he attended a national community theater workshop seven years ago, Gettysburg Community Theatre (GCT) founding Executive/artistic Director Chad-Alan Carr had no idea he would discover a project that would have a positive impact on people with special needs in south central Pennsylvania. The workshop focused on The Penguin Project (TPP), which started in 2004 to help children with disabilities explore their creative talents onstage.

"I was in tears the first five minutes ... and I knew I had to bring this to Gettysburg," Carr says.

GCT was the first to replicate TPP outside of Illinois, where it was created. Now, Penguin is being replicated by 32 different organizations in 16 states.

An annual production of GCT, the project stars aspiring actors (with special needs) ages 8-21 and their peer mentors (without special needs) working side-by-side from the first day of rehearsal in the spring to the final performance in the fall. The program demonstrates that performing arts have therapeutic value by enhancing social interaction, communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Of course, there are challenges.

"We must find funding each year," Carr notes. "These productions are not cheap, and even though the program is free to participate, there are many costs that go into making each production very special for all involved."

But the rewards are many.

"Theater changes lives," Carr says. "We see it every day at GCT for people of all ages and abilities."

The actors with special needs gain confidence and musical theater skills, and some are even getting cast in shows at their own schools now, Carr reports.

"Parents tell me that even their teachers notice a difference in the students in their classrooms," Carr says. "They surprise me every year with what they accomplish. They always exceed expectations and are up for any challenge."

"The peer mentors are my heroes," Carr says. "They spend so much time working, making friends, and making sure everyone is safe and welcome. We need peer mentors to make this work."

"It was an eye-opening and heart-warming experience," says mentor Hailey Brownley, who worked with Sam, a boy with autism who played "Marty the Zebra" in the 2019 production of "Madagascar."

"They (the actors) are so fearless and talented," Brownley adds. "They all became my friends. It is an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life."

In addition to the mentors, Carr attributes the success of TPP to community support, including premiere sponsors like UniqueSource, *Gettysburg Times*, Danny Sebright and Leer Photography.

Since 2014, over 150 actors and 200 mentors have



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEER PHOTOGRAPHY

FOREVER YOUNG: Kayleigh McMaster, left, and Linden Carbaugh, perform in the Gettysburg Community Theatre's first Penguin Project production of "Peter Pan" as actor and mentor respectively in 2014.

displayed their talents for over 1,000 audience members in six Penguin Projects of Gettysburg Community Theatre productions. GCT has partnered with Gettysburg School, Hanover schools and Eichelberger Performing Arts Center on this effort, and has been awarded numerous grants for the project.

This year's production is "Honk!" a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story of "The Ugly Duckling," incorporating a message of tolerance. Auditions are generally held in May but will likely be delayed this year. Anyone interested in participating as an actor or mentor should call 717-334-2692 or visit gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org for more information. 🌟



SPECIAL MUSICALS: The cast from The Penguin Project of Gettysburg Community Theatre's 2016 production of "Seussical The Musical" gather onstage at the Gettysburg Area High School. GCT has hosted Penguin productions every year since 2014, filling all roles with young artists with developmental disabilities paired with "peer mentors" of the same age without disabilities.

Co-op responds, adjusts to COVID-19 pandemic

SAFETY is a culture at Adams Electric Cooperative. In joining the efforts of the federal government, the Commonwealth, and even the Public Utility Commission for protecting one another from contracting and spreading the coronavirus, the co-op implemented strategies to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

We started taking proactive steps on March 12 with the cancellation of district meetings. On March 16, we closed our offices to members, vendors and the public. In addition, we also canceled all internal meetings of more than 10 employees and moved a series of larger meetings to telephone and video conferencing. Finally, the board of directors voted to cancel our upcoming annual meeting. (The director election continued as scheduled, minus the in-person voting option.)

We know electricity is a necessity and our members rely on safe, reliable service. Equally important is the well-being of our employees. Through

staggered staffing and efficient material distribution and scheduling, that continues.

We are using best practices, good judgment and safety precautions to better serve you. We are also utilizing innovative ways to work together from safe distances, limiting the number of employees in fleet vehicles and restricting work-related travel.

To help our cooperative and community reduce the chance of spreading the Coronavirus and encourage social distancing, we recommend that our members:

- ▶ During the physical office closure, make use of our extended phone hours, Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ Report power problems through SmartHub (adamsec.smarthub.coop) or by phone calling 1-800-726-2324.
- ▶ View your bill, make account updates, or pay a bill electronically, by visiting SmartHub.
- ▶ To make a payment over the phone,

call payment processing at 1-877-487-1460.

- ▶ To pay by mail, send your bill along with a check to Adams Electric, 1338 Biglerville Road, P.O. Box 3605, Gettysburg, PA 17325-0605.
- ▶ Use our drop boxes available between the main doors at each district office for the return of payments or required documents.
- ▶ Keep up with our latest updates by following us at [Facebook.com/Adamsec](https://www.facebook.com/Adamsec) or [Twitter.com/aec_coop](https://twitter.com/aec_coop).

While we don't want to add more stress to your lives in this time of unknowns — the last thing you should worry about is the reliability of your electric service. If you're worried about being able to pay your bill, contact us. We have programs in place and want to help you. In addition, the co-op temporarily put in place a voluntary hold on disconnections for nonpayment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through May. All new late fees were temporarily waived also.

As a reminder, while you are working from home, cooking more, trying to keep your family entertained and researching an unknown situation, remember you're using more electricity. Keep this in mind when your next electric bill comes, and try to be conscious while you're home of turning off lights and unplugging devices not in use. Track your use through the SmartHub account management program or app.

We recognize the hardship that many of our members are facing. Please stay safe and know that Adams Electric will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for you, the members we serve. The spread of COVID-19 may necessitate changes in how we interact, but it will not change the way we do business. 🌞



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH: In March, Lead Lineman Tony Spangler, above right, explains to high school student Ethen Claybaugh the inner workings of a padmount transformer during his day with a Gettysburg line crew. Wade Barrick, right, (photo at left) spent a day shadowing co-op lineworkers from Shippensburg in order to learn more about real-life electrical work. He is shown with Lead Lineman Bill Collingsworth, left, backfilling a hole after a new pole is set. A third student, Hadyn Bigham, not pictured, spent time in both the operations and engineering departments, shadowing co-op employees in their respective job functions.

NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUND YOUR COOPERATIVE

Benefits of installing a whole-house dehumidifier

By Scott Siker

Aero Energy marketing coordinator

THIS TIME of year is often associated with fun times outside, the beginning of barbecue season and finally saving on that monthly heating bill. With warmer temperatures often comes increased humidity both outside and inside your home. While these high levels of humidity can lead to adverse outcomes over time, the installation of a whole-house dehumidifier can help mitigate the negative impact humidity has on your home. Let me suggest three reasons why you should consider installing a whole-house dehumidifier.

First, a whole-house dehumidifier can help to lower your energy bill. The process of removing humidity from the air will serve to make your home feel cooler and will allow you to adjust your thermostat accordingly. As a result of this process, your air conditioning unit will not have to work as hard to cool your home. Not only should your energy bill go down, but the life span of your air conditioner should also increase as a result of running more efficiently. After months of paying heating bills, these savings should come as a pleasant change of pace.

Next, a whole-house dehumidifier can work wonders in the fight against house-

hold allergens such as dust mites, mold and mildew. These allergens are most prominent in humid conditions and areas of your home with poor air circulation. The implementation of a whole-house dehumidifier will eliminate these allergens by preventing the environment that they thrive in most. While there is no way to completely prevent seasonal allergies, the installation of one of these units will help offset certain allergy triggers.

Finally, a whole-house dehumidifier will help to prevent water damage. Though water damage is typically associated with roof leaks or pipe issues, high levels of indoor humidity can also be the culprit. This type of damage occurs when condensation gathers on a surface for a prolonged period. Areas at the highest risk often include wood, drywall and ceilings. By operating a dehumidifier, you will be able to effectively remove moisture from the air to prevent this type of damage before it happens.

For small humid spaces or specific problem areas in the home, you might be able to get by using a small portable dehumidifier. However, a whole-house unit will operate much more efficiently than that of a few (or more) portable units. Although these units are typically more expensive upfront, they offer long-term benefits that

will help you save money and keep your home more comfortable.

Have questions on how a whole-house dehumidifier could benefit your home? Call Aero Energy, a subsidiary of Adams Electric Cooperative, at 1-800-998-4311. You can also reach out to an energy specialist at the co-op and have a conversation with them at 1-800-726-2324. ☀

We want to help

Adams Electric recognizes the economic situation many members are facing due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. We understand it may bring about unexpected hardships, financially and otherwise. We want to help. **In March, the Adams' board of directors voted to authorize a return of \$1 million to our members through a one-time bill credit.** These funds are in addition to the \$1.9 million returned in February 2020 as Ownership Rewards.



On your billing statement this month is a "special member credit," which will be applied to your electric account. The amount you receive is based on a percentage of the kilowatt-hours used at your home or business over the last 12 months, an average of around \$30. We hope that it offers some level of assistance to you in these difficult times.

Still worried about paying your electric bill? Call the cooperative at 1-800-726-2324 to discuss payment options and other programs that may help.

Do you need help paying your bills? Consider these options:

- ▶ Dial 211. The 211 hotline is a vital service that connects people to the service agencies they need every day, across the state.
- ▶ Visit adamsec.coop and view our "Where to Turn for Help" brochure, under Publications.
- ▶ Call the co-op at 1-800-726-2324 to learn about Project Helping Hand (PHH), our member assistance fund administered by the Adams County Community Foundation.

Want to help members who are struggling to pay their bills?

- ▶ Donate your "Special Member Credit" to PHH, or
- ▶ Sign up for Round Up and allow the cooperative to round your electric bill up to the next even dollar amount every month. PHH provides financial assistance to co-op members who are having trouble paying their electric bills – paid through partnerships with local community agencies.



CHARGED UP: Key Accounts/Senior Safety Specialist Mike Johnson connects the co-op's plug-in hybrid electric Mitsubishi Outlander to a ChargePoint EV charger recently installed at Liberty Mountain Resort with the assistance of Adams Energy Resources LLC. The two chargers installed at the ski resort, on co-op lines, had a line of EVs waiting to charge the day he visited the resort. Co-op-owned chargers are also installed at each Adams Electric district office. Local businesses, including another ski resort and a bed-and-breakfast, also installed Level II charging stations through the LLC.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Always assume lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed line, call the co-op at 1-800-726-2324. Never attempt to move the line, or tree or branch that brought it down.

Summer storms with their thunder and lightning can be as dangerous and destructive as winter storms. Always be prepared to weather the storm and have a storm safety kit ready.

Items to include:

- ✓ **A cord-based telephone or cell phone**
- ✓ **A cooking source which can be used outdoors**
- ✓ **Battery-powered/portable clock**
- ✓ **Battery-powered/portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio**
- ✓ **Blankets**
- ✓ **Bottled Water (three-day supply)**
- ✓ **First-aid kit with current supplies, including needed medications**
- ✓ **Flashlight and fresh batteries**
- ✓ **Non-perishable foods, non-electric can opener**
- ✓ **Small cooler**
- ✓ **Specialty items, such as baby items or extra clothing, or battery back-up systems for medical equipment**
- ✓ **Surge suppressors to protect sensitive electronic equipment**
- ✓ **Tool kit**



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1-800-726-2324 | adamsec.coop

**Visit Storm Central at
adamsec.coop to learn more storm and electrical safety tips.**