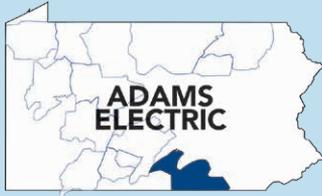




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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- Jay E. Grove**
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- F.L. "Ray" Schwartz**
- Steve Rasmussen**
- CEO/General Manager**

## ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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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)

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LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:  
**Kami Noel, CCC**

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## Room to Work



**MIKE FEATHERS**

**TO ACCOMPLISH ANY TASK**, there needs to be room to work. To improve reliability and reduce outage times, Adams Electric Cooperative set out to accomplish that task with a new determination a decade ago. In 2014, the cooperative's board of directors approved a more comprehensive right-of-way program with the goal of reducing outages and maintaining rights of way so line crews could better access outage locations and make repairs.

Over the past 10 years, then Right-of-Way Superintendent Rich Redding and current Right-of-Way Coordinator Michelle "Mickey" Brandt have guided the cooperative's right of way program to meet the cooperative's outage goals and improve access for restoration efforts while minimizing the impact on member properties.

These ambitious goals have met their share of challenges along the way. Ever-changing weather patterns, which bring a seemingly endless supply of excessively high-wind events, are normally coupled with either bone-dry conditions or monsoon-like precipitation, which take a heavy toll on trees native to our area, causing outages. While consumers of other electric utilities in our service areas are experiencing ever-increasing cumulative outage times per year — in some cases, nearly double what the average Adams Electric member experiences — the cooperative's average interruption minutes per year, per member, have remained relatively flat since the inception of the more comprehensive right-of-way program.

Other challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting workforce shortages experienced by some of the cooperative's contractors, have all been dealt with, and the cooperative's right-of-way goals have stayed on track. Although fewer in number, outages still occur. As a former lineworker, I can assure you the duration of extended outages caused by weather events is considerably shorter, often being wrapped up within 24 to 36 hours. These same outage events in years past would have taken several days to restore. The dedicated employees of Adams Electric and our focus on improving rights of way are the main reasons for this.

The cooperative and its contractors have removed nearly 5,000 trees in 2022 and 2023 combined. These trees were identified as either growing within the right of way or as a potential hazard (diseased, dying or having structural damage).

This year will mark the third time through several of the longest and most challenging to navigate rights of way in the cooperative's territory. However, members can rest assured that the cooperative's system will be much more resilient once this work is completed. The reliability of each member's electric service remains one of our top priorities. 📍

**MIKE FEATHERS**  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

## Co-op Principle 7: Concern for Community

'Twas the season for giving...



SARAH FRANK/ADAMS ELECTRIC

**TIME FOR CHEER:** Lineworkers from Adam Electric Cooperative's Gettysburg District string new LED holiday lights around a large pine tree at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary in December.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EBACC

**TIME FOR CHRISTMAS:** Lineworkers from the cooperative's York District help trim the tree at the East Berlin Community Center for the organization's annual Christmas Festival in December.

SARAH FRANK/ADAMS ELECTRIC



**TIME FOR PLAY:** Lineworkers from the cooperative's Gettysburg District dig holes for new playground equipment at the Gettysburg Church of the Brethren in late November. Pictured, from left, are: Gettysburg Church of the Brethren Representative Charles Bennett, Line Superintendent Guy Gorman, Journeyman Second Class Adam Waldron and Journeyman First Class Dan Leonard.

# Extreme Winter Weather Impacts Reliability

**WHEN OUTDOOR TEMPERATURES** drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same time — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Adams Electric, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), in resource and infrastructure planning. This ensures you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch. The electric grid, however, is much larger than our local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens,

the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and the co-op would do its best to inform you about the situation.

Allegheny takes proactive steps on our behalf to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning. However, it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- ▶ Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn your thermostat down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

**Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around win-

dows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

- ▶ Stagger your use of major appliances, such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.

**Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and air fryers, to save energy.

- ▶ Ensure your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

**Pro tip:** Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.

- ▶ When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.

**Pro tip:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

- ▶ Unplug devices when not in use. Even when turned off, electronics

in standby mode consume energy.

**Pro tip:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, you not only can save money on your electric bills, but also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our community warm and connected. 🏠

**BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings**

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

- UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE**  
Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.
- ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS**  
Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.
- USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER**  
Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.
- MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT**  
Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.
- LOWER THE THERMOSTAT**  
Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

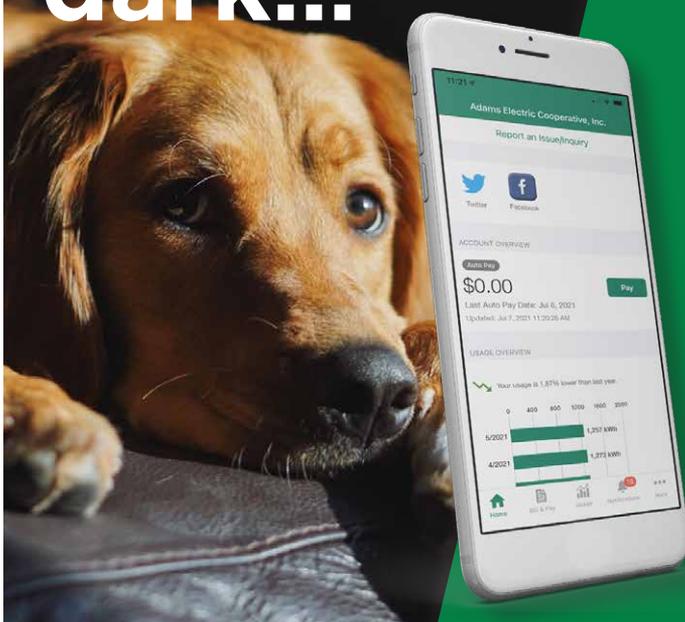


PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASPLUNDH



**2024 ROW SCHEDULE:** This year, the co-op's vegetation management program will include nearly 500 miles of line, including feeder sections in Rossville, York County; Orrtanna, Adams County; and Orrstown, Franklin County. The program will improve the resilience of the cooperative's distribution system and make each member's electric service more reliable. At left is a right of way along Plainview Road in Gettysburg, Adams County, after vegetation management was completed in 2023. Above, Adams Electric's Right-of-Way Coordinator Mickey Brandt, left, meets with Travis Kyne, Asplundh Tree Expert general foreman, to review the service map for scheduled maintenance.

Don't wait  
in the  
dark...



## Report your outage through SmartHub!

Power outages related to weather events can be unpredictable and can cause damage not only to power lines, but phone lines too. Your cordless landline may not work without electricity. A large storm might cause such high call volumes, you have trouble getting through to report your outage. There is an easy way to make sure we are informed of your power status!

Download the SmartHub app and register for an account. With one tap of the finger you can report outages to the co-op quickly. Don't wait until the power goes out – get prepared now with a SmartHub account!

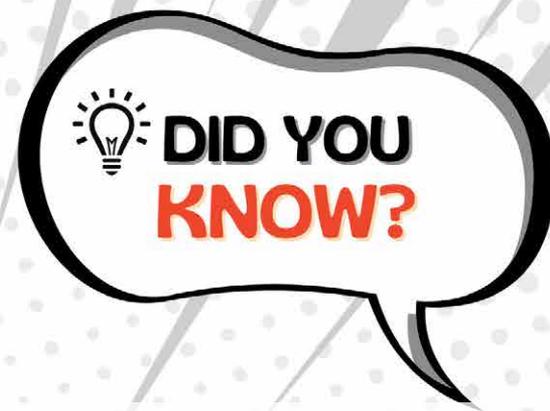


Adams Electric  
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# Co-op Spotlight

## Getting to know your employees and directors



### Kyle Smith



**Who am I:** I am the manager of information technology (IT) at the cooperative and have been with the cooperative for 15 years. I oversee three employees in the IT department. As a department, we manage all the computers, servers, phones, tablets, data stores, network equipment, software and security systems. We work with all departments to improve system reliability, system security and system integrations. Everything else is classified.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** My favorite part is the unique insight into the whole cooperative that IT gets. We get to work with every single department and see how they all connect. This helps keep the job ever changing and always interesting.

**Co-op Difference:** What is different is where the cooperatives put their extra effort. All businesses are doing the same general things day to day to make the business

run. Some put their extra efforts into increasing revenue, cutting labor costs or increasing shareholder returns. At cooperatives, however, that extra effort not only goes into reducing costs when possible, but also into spending the extra dollar if it truly benefits the membership.

**Co-op Stands Out Because:** I think our members appreciate that we are part of the community, both as a company and as employees. They see the cooperative supporting community organizations and events and employees volunteering in the community as well. They see the cooperative not as some big-city corporation, but as a very local business whose employees are right down the road and experiencing the same life challenges as the members.

**With a Magic Wand, I Would ...** Get rid of all illicit cyber activity.

**My Favorite Friday Night:** Kids' sports, friends and drinks around a fire.

### Lisa Willet



**Who am I:** I started with Adams in 2008 as the human resources coordinator, then was promoted to manager of human resources in 2014. Within the last few years, I took on the role as the manager of human resources/communications/member services. I graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2002, with a Bachelor of Science in human resource management. I currently have the Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) and Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certifications. My role is to manage all human resources-related functions (payroll, employee benefits, regulatory compliance, workers' compensation, employee training, etc.), as well as oversee the communications and member services personnel. I am thrilled to have been a part of the Adams team for the last 15 years, and I look forward to many more.

**Family Life:** I have been married to my husband, Eric, for 13 years. I have a beautiful 19-year-old daughter, Kiara,

who recently graduated high school; an 11-year-old son, Kolton, who loves to play soccer; and my fur baby, a 2-year-old Bernedoodle named Bojangles, or "Bo." I also have a 5-year-old cat named Poseidon. I enjoy spending a ton of time with my friends, who are like family to me.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** My favorite part of my job is working with a great group of employees! Everyone works very hard to provide the best service to our membership. I enjoy being a resource for employees whenever a human resources question arises.

**Co-op Difference:** I think our mission statement says it all — provide safe, reliable power at competitive rates, deliver exceptional service to our membership and help to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

**With a Magic Wand, I Would ...** Encourage everyone to live their life to the fullest!

**My Favorite Friday Night:** Well, most Friday nights I host happy hour, so I would say spending time with my friends!

