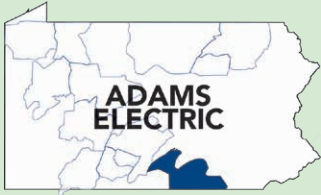




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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P.O. Box 1055
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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

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[Facebook.com/AdamsEC](https://www.facebook.com/AdamsEC)

LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:
Kami Noel, CCC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Guest Column

Don't Be Part of the Equation



JEFF TURNER

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IS PART OF our everyday routine, but it's not just important for workers in our industry. Everyone should know how to stay safe around electricity.

May is Electrical Safety Month, and it's a good time to remind members and the public how to respond if you are involved in, or come across, a utility pole accident.

We have seen a steady increase in these types of accidents in the last few years. As expected, the average cost per accident has increased as well. See the chart below with a few statistics from our own driver vs. pole situations.

Distracted driving, inclement weather, speeding and driving while impaired all play a part. Once you hit a pole, you're not only going to have car trouble, but you are also going to be responsible for any damage to the utility equipment.

Plus, there's the danger of potential electrical injury.


Knowing some basic safety precautions before an accident occurs can help. If you are involved in a utility pole accident, your first instinct may be to immediately exit the vehicle, but often the safest thing to do is to stay put. Due to damage, a pole may fall over or overhead lines may fall onto the vehicle.

You should always assume these lines are energized, even if they aren't sparking or buzzing. That's why we suggest staying in your vehicle. Warn others to stay away, call 911 and wait until a professional from the utility company tells you it is safe to exit.

If the situation inside the vehicle becomes unsafe — maybe from smoke or fire — and you must exit, do so with safety in mind. Push the door open with both hands, then cross your arms over your chest and jump clear without touching any parts of the vehicle. Try to land with your feet together so they hit the ground at the same time. Then hop (like a bunny) away to safety, keeping both feet together. This is to avoid any difference in voltage between your two feet. If there is any electrical charge on the ground or the car, you don't want to become part of the equation. Separating your feet or touching the car and ground at the same time can result in an electrical shock.

If you witness a vehicle hitting a utility pole, do not approach the scene. Stay at least 35 feet away — about the length of a school bus — and call 911. Never touch or try to remove a downed line. You may put your own life at risk by trying to help.

Adams Electric Cooperative offers high- and low-voltage safety demonstrations for groups, which cover such things as vehicle accidents. Through our live demonstrations, attendees learn about common electrical hazards and also witness simulations of what happens when a live wire gets loose.

If you don't want to spend \$6,000 this year, put your phone away, take your foot off the accelerator and (when you get home) consider learning more about electrical safety at adamsec.coop. 

JEFF TURNER
MANAGER, ENGINEERING-MECHANICAL

Year	Total Car vs Pole Accidents	Average Cost per Accident
2021	28	\$3,565
2022	38	\$4,385
2023	43	\$6,411
2024	46	\$6,381

Serving with Pride

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

STAFF SGT. CARLA VAN CUREN enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 18 and made a career out of her service to her country, retiring after 20 years. She spent the seven years following retirement working in a veterans center helping those returning from active duty “deal with the memories still living in their minds.”

“I remember being afraid many times while serving, but my faith kept me going,” recalls Van Curen, an Adams Electric Cooperative member and Lake Meade resident. “I remember one time in Bosnia when our vehicle broke down, a family invited us in for coffee. I figured if I was gonna die, I might as well have good coffee when I go.”

Memorial Day is a national holiday in the United States that honors those who have died while serving in the U.S. military. It is observed on the last Monday of May and is a time for reflection, gratitude, and acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by military personnel but also the challenges faced by living veterans who have made worthy contributions to their country.

Among other missions, Van Curen served during Operation Joint Endeavor, a NATO-led peace-keeping mission in Bosnia in the mid-90s. One of her best memories during her service was seeing BB King perform on the back of a flatbed trailer in 1996. The USO provided entertainment at night for troops on base to help improve the quality of life for service members and their families.

“The USO was all about trying to keep morale up,” Van Curen says. “We may have been on a peace-keeping mission, but I went through a lot of ammo and received hazardous duty pay for that one.”

Respect, honor, duty

Van Curen was also lucky enough to meet Sheryl Crow, Hilary and Chelsea Clinton, Sinbad, and Alex Trebek through USO-sponsored events. The nonprofit is the nation’s leading charitable organization, serving active-duty service members and military families in more than 250 locations worldwide, from airports to deployment centers.

“It was so fun to play ‘Jeopardy’ with Alex Trebek,” Van Curen recalls. “He signed autographs, and the games were all for show, but everything the entertainers put into it, we got even more out of it.”

She and her husband, Jay, who she met in the Army, raised three children while she was in active service. He was

the “stay-at-home parent in the wives club,” according to Van Curen, and was often tasked with helping to discipline other people’s kids.

In her experience, the military teaches respect, honor and duty to country. It teaches an acceptance of differences and a commitment to finding common ground.

“I wish more people could just experience the military,” she says. “My kids, my husband and my own determination are what kept me going. I served my country with honor and honesty, and I would do it all over again.”

Today, Van Curen is a voice for veterans, women in the military and military recruitment. According to USAFacts, military enlistment in the United States has significantly declined over the years, with reports stating a drop of around 50% from the 1980s, with recent years seeing record low numbers.

“After experiencing the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany, we need to be forever thankful for our freedom here in America,” she says, “and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we could live it.”

To learn more about Van Curen’s life and battles, read her autobiography, “Soar Like an Eagle with Lots of Pride,” coming out later this year. This will be Van Curen’s fourth book, following titles “Sunflowers are Always Smiling,” “Life at the Lake” and “Pickleball Peace.” 📖



DUTY TO COUNTRY: Carla Van Curen shows off some of the memorabilia she collected during her time on active duty in the U.S. Army, including a photo album she made during her service in Bosnia.

It's Time to Meet

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONSTITUTES THE OFFICIAL NOTICE of the Adams Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting to be held at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, May 8, on the Adams Electric Cooperative campus, 1338 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg.

Adams Electric invites members to attend one of its annual drive-thru meetings and/or the annual business meeting. Pre-registration is required for all events.

Drive-thru events will be held in Shippensburg and York at the district offices from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, and in Gettysburg from 2 to 6 p.m. May 8.

Participants will receive a membership gift, bill credit and a meal to take home for each registered member. Anyone who did not already vote online or by mail will have the chance to vote in person. There will also be a pull-off space for members who have specific questions for the cooperative staff. Up to eight expired CFL or LED lightbulbs may be exchanged for up to four new LED bulbs during the drive-thru.

Those who registered before April 14 will receive a reminder postcard. Please bring that postcard with you for faster check-in and for your bill credit to be processed to your account.

At 6:15 p.m. May 8, the annual business meeting of the cooperative will begin at the Gettysburg District pavilion. No meal will be served. At the meeting, the results of the directors' election will be announced and reports will be presented by the board president and the cooperative's CEO/general manager.

To register, call 800-726-2324 or visit adamsec.coop.

**85 YEARS
STRONG:**
BUILDING ON A LEGACY TO
**POWER
THE FUTURE**



Budget Billing is Changing

AS OF JUNE 1, Adams Electric Cooperative is changing its budget billing program.

If you had an account on budget billing previously, you're familiar with our quarterly budget recalculations as well as our catch-up month in June to pay for all usage consumed the previous 12 months. However, unpredictable factors such as weather and increased work from home, may affect the amount of household electricity you use.

Effective June 1, the cooperative is moving to a budget program that takes into account a 12-month rolling average. This pricing strategy provides more predictability by spreading energy costs evenly across the year. So, while your budget amount due will change every month, the fluctuations will be smaller and there will be no large catch-up amount in June or any quarterly recalculations.

If you no longer wish to have your account(s) on the budget billing program, please contact a member services representative to discuss your withdrawing from the program. By removing budget billing, you will be billed for the actual usage consumed each billing period.

Our member services representatives are available by phone Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at 800-726-2324.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

*Source: Utilities United
Against Scams*

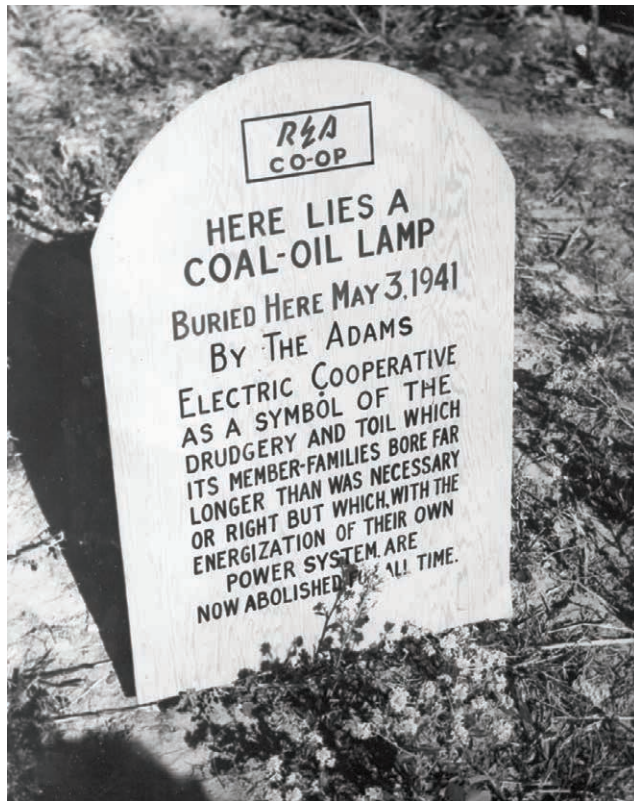


Then and Now: Remembering 'The Fight for Power'

THESE EXCERPTS WERE TAKEN FROM the book, "The Fight for Power: An Electric Cooperative Changes South Central Pennsylvania Forever," written by retired Adams Electric Cooperative employees James Krut and Duane Kanagy for the co-op's 75th anniversary. Copies of this book are still available upon request from the cooperative.

MAY 3, 1941

In a patchy field two miles north of Gettysburg, a sturdy man in a buttoned-up suit stepped to the microphone on the corner of the specially built wooden stage. Behind him was the skeletal structure of a new electric substation. Before him, a crowd of more than 800 hopeful rural residents sat attentively on wooden benches.



HERE LIES: As near as we can determine, an oil lamp was buried at each ceremonial substation location on May 3, 1941. This would have been at the Gettysburg substation along Biglerville Road in Adams County and the then-Mongol Hill substation in Shippensburg, Cumberland County. A tombstone prop was made of wood and used at both celebratory ceremonies. While we're not sure what happened to the "tombstone" after the ceremony, we do know it was not among the artifacts moved from the co-op's early headquarters on Stratton Street in Gettysburg. The original Adams Electric base of operations was at the Adams County Farm Bureau office in Gettysburg, which later became an Agway.

Below and to his left, he saw the bright uniforms of the Biglerville High School band members, adding their music to the festivities. The weather was ideal for the dedication, with a light breeze and the temperature in the 70s.

"I am speaking to the winners of the Second Battle of Gettysburg," said Harry Slattery, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration. "You people here before me display the same admirable American quality of fighting for your rights as did my ancestors and yours."

"Your state government and your federal government gave you backing in your fight," he continued, "but you and you alone were on the front lines. I am proud of the part which our government agency, the Rural Electrification Administration, played in making this day possible. But this is your day. It is your own power system that goes into operation as I press this button."

Toggling a switch to energize the substation, a culmination of the people's struggle since August 1940, he powered up 35 miles of Adams Electric Cooperative lines as the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov

Co-op Spotlight

Getting to know your employees and directors



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Alexis Coscia-Kranias



Who I am: I am a member services representative and have been with the co-op for a year and a half. Lucky for me, my workday is never the same, and I love that. I assist members with their accounts, add/process tickets to and from the field, process paperwork, run payments, notarize our rights of way, and so on. I am constantly learning something new, especially since I ask a million questions a day.

Family life: I live with my boyfriend and our sweet princess, Cincy, a yellow lab. I love spending time with my family and friends, all outdoor activities, working on new

skills with the dog, going to the gym, traveling, and reading. If I am not doing these activities, you might be able to find me in Philadelphia, visiting my twin and cheering on any/every Philly sports team. (Go Birds!)

Co-op difference: Everything we do is for our members. It doesn't matter who you speak to from Adams Electric, our goals are all the same. My favorite phone calls are the ones where a member calls in to say how kind our linemen were to them, and prior to being on our lines, they never experienced service like that. Or when they take the time to thank us for being kind and helpful. Little stuff goes a long way!

Nikki Byrne



Who I am: I am a member services representative, and I have been with Adams Electric for just over a year. Every day seems to be a little different at the co-op. Some of my responsibilities are answering phone calls, helping members with bill/account questions, setting up payment arrangements, providing payment assistance information and adding/processing service orders.

Family life: Outside of work, I spend most of my time

with my husband, Connor, and our two kids, Lucas and Liberty. They are 5 and 2, so we stay busy all the time. I enjoy going camping, having family movie nights, baking, reading and watching our son play at his sporting events.

Favorite part of the job: My favorite part is the family aspect of the co-op. From day one, I have felt welcomed and part of the family. Everyone is respectful and willing to help with whatever you need. Another favorite part of my job is how involved we are with our members.

Bill French



Who I am: I'm currently serving as a director on Adams Electric Cooperative's Board for Zone 7, representing all our consumer-members. I was appointed to the board in July 2024 to fill a vacancy, and I'm currently running for a seat to continue serving on the cooperative board. My primary responsibility is to ensure the strategic direction and overall governance of the organization aligns with its mission and values. Duties include representing the interests of the members, providing financial oversight, setting policy and long-term planning, and ensuring the cooperative remains a reliable, affordable provider of electricity. I completed the PREA New Director Orientation Program in October 2024 and recently obtained my

Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Family life: In my spare time, I enjoy sports cars and the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and gardening. I also enjoy volunteering for Junior Achievement STEM and Real-Life programs, working with middle and high school students.

Co-op stands out because: First, our strong commitment to providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our consumer-members. Second, Adams Electric is known for its transparent pricing and helpful programs (i.e., Round Up, Hardship Fund, U-Shift/U-Save), which definitely stand out. Lastly, our community involvement resonates with our members, whether it's through our member-engagement events, committees, education or local scholarship programs.

