

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SOMERSET REC

223 Industrial Park Road
Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-4106
800-443-4255
Email: e-mail@somersetrec.com
Website: www.somersetrec.com

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-445-4106
800-443-4255

Enduring Principles



RUSTON OGBURN

AS WE CELEBRATE 250 YEARS of America's remarkable impact on the world and individual lives of our citizens, it is worth reflecting on the fundamental principles that made this achievement possible. In some ways, the founding of Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) in 1939 parallels the independent spirit and commitment to self-determination that defined the spirit of '76.

Nearly every notable accomplishment in human history begins with the concept of independence. Whether it is the political freedom to choose our laws, the scientific freedom to challenge old ideas and pursue endless discovery, or the economic freedom to innovate, progress begins with independent thinking. The founding members of Somerset REC embodied that spirit. As self-reliant farmers and business owners, they embraced the challenge of building a new electric system and creating an organization to govern it.


Some members still remember when electric lines first reached their homes, so it is not difficult for them to remember a time before the cooperative existed. I find it fascinating that the cooperative's 87-year history spans more than one-third of our nation's existence, yet it is nearly impossible for me to imagine a time before our country was founded.

Like our nation's Founding Fathers, those who organized this and other electric cooperatives could only dream of the advances that would become commonplace in 2026. While our day-to-day work has changed dramatically over the years, I believe they would be proud that this organization has remained independent and true to its core mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

The Declaration of Independence famously concludes with the statement, "We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." That seemingly contradictory idea — of banding together to be independent — is also fundamental to a cooperative.

Every Somerset REC member plays a role in the operational and financial success of the cooperative, and each member has one vote in its governance. None of us could achieve these results alone. As each member fulfills their individual roles, the best interests of the whole membership are served.

This works at Somerset REC and nationally because we stay true to our guiding principles. For electric cooperatives, these are called the Seven Cooperative Principles, and they serve as our founding documents. Some principles were once declared to be "self-evident," but all of us benefit from remembering that we share responsibility for preserving them.

I hope your Independence Day celebrations include time to reflect on the ideas and foundations of this country. As always, please call or stop by if you have any suggestions about the operation of the cooperative or ideas for how we can continue honoring the spirit of '39. 

RUSTON OGBURN
GENERAL MANAGER

Is Your Name on This List? If So, You May be Entitled to Unclaimed Capital Credits

SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC) is publishing a list of members who are entitled to unclaimed capital credits. If you see your name or have information on how to locate someone on the list, please call 814-445-4106 or 800-443-4255 and speak with a member services representative. You can also email service@somersetrec.com.

Capital credits represent each consumer-member's investment in their cooperative. Instead of profits sent to stockholders in far-away places, the cooperative business model means those dollars stay in the communities served by Somerset REC. Some capital checks were recently

returned by the post office as undeliverable. These checks were part of the retirement mailing in December 2025 for capital credits earned in late 1999 and early 2000.

With your help, we can locate those listed and re-issue their checks. The names listed are not current cooperative members, and some may be deceased. If a member is deceased, the heir may contact the cooperative to provide the additional information needed to process the check. Since these members no longer receive a copy of *Penn Lines*, we hope you are still in contact with your past neighbor, family member or friend to let them know we owe them money. 📧

A
WARREN & PATSY ALLEN
 BELTSVILLE, MD
SUSAN M ALTOBELLI
 DOVER, PA
JOSEPH A ANGELO
 EDINBURG, PA
ELWOOD ANSELL
 SOMERSET, PA
KELLY ANTHONY & CHARLES HENRY
 ROCKWOOD, PA
B
GUY P BAER
 MEYERSDALE, PA
MOLLY BAKER
 BERLIN, PA
JOHN P BALINT
 STOYSTOWN, PA
KEYSTONE FINANCIAL BANK
 OAKLAND, MD
PEOPLES BANK
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 SOMERSET, PA
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JAMES BATOVE
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DEAN R BECK & MRS DEAN BECK
 ROCKWOOD, PA
DONNA BEIDEL
 FAIRHOPE, PA
CHARLES BELL
 INDIANOLA, PA
EDWARD BENTZ
 GRINDSTONE, PA
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 MELBOURNE, FL
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 AURORA, OH
LAWRENCE & JO-DEE BILLY
 MEYERSDALE, PA
CHARLENE BITTINGER
 FRIENDSVILLE, MD
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 SOMERSET, PA
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 KILL DEVIL HL, NC
LORIE BLAZER
 SOMERSET, PA
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 BOSWELL, PA
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CALLIMONT BORO
 MEYERSDALE, PA
STEPHEN & TAWNI BOUCH
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DOROTHY M BOYER
 STOYSTOWN, PA
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 WEXFORD, PA
ALTON W BRICK
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 TYRONE, PA
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CARBEX
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 STOYSTOWN, PA
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 JOHNSTOWN, PA
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 LEWISBURG, PA
J D CROWLEY
 PITTSBURGH, PA
SHERON CUSTER
 SOMERSET, PA
BARBARA CUSTER
 FRIEDENS, PA

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 MEYERSDALE, PA
DWIGHT DEETER
 FAIRHOPE, PA
CAROLE DEFRANCISCO
 FAIRCHANCE, PA
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 MEYERSDALE, PA
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STONYCREEK VALLEY DEVP
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DAVID & CYNTHIA SUNSERI
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PAUL E VINOSKI
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ANGELA WILEY
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 PITTSBURGH, PA
GARTH K WILSON
 LINESVILLE, PA
WANDA WILSON
 SIPESVILLE, PA
ERIK WILT
 KINGSPORT, TN
SUSAN WOODS
 CONFLUENCE, PA
A-1 AUTO WRECKERS
 STOYSTOWN, PA
 Y
**DOUGLAS G YENCHO &
 VERONICA LAMB**
 FRIENDSVILLE, MD
JOSEPH & JODY YUNETZ
 LATROBE, PA
 Z
LARRY ZUCKETT
 CANTON, MI

Jacob Knopsnyder Joins Somerset REC Right-of-Way Crew

SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC) is pleased to welcome Jacob Knopsnyder, who joined the crew on March 30.

Jacob is no stranger to Somerset REC, having previously worked as a summer right-of-way intern. After his internship, he gained valuable hands-on experience working full-time in the diesel fabrication and wind energy industries with Blue Diesel Co. In this role, he diagnosed, repaired and maintained a wide range of heavy equipment.

He expanded his skillset at B&T Fabrication, where he performed welding, cutting and assembly work with various types of metals. Additionally, while working with B&T Wind, Jacob was responsible for inspecting and repairing windmill blades, nose cones and hub systems.

Jacob is a 2025 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and an active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors.

"I am excited to see where my future with Somerset REC leads, and glad to be back," Jacob says.

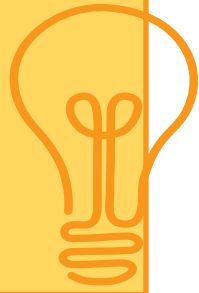
Please join us in welcoming Jacob to the cooperative.



JACOB KNOPSNYDER

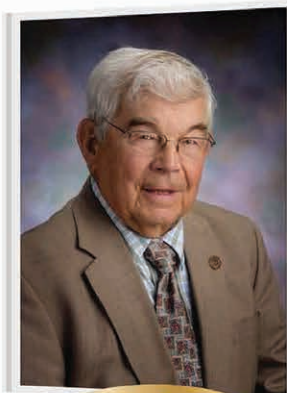
ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time – like your dishwasher, laundry machine and oven – can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but it can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



LOWELL L. FRIEDLINE

FORMER SECRETARY/TREASURER OF SOMERSET REC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Lowell L. Friedline was elected to the cooperative board in 1975 to represent District 3 and replaced the board's lone charter member, E.K. Ankney, who had served continuously since 1939. Since the formation of Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), only those two directors have represented District 3, which covers Donegal, Jefferson, Jenner and Lincoln townships.

Lowell's leadership, guidance and advocacy have shaped decades of growth and change at Somerset REC. Through storms, system upgrades, industry shifts, and new technologies, he has remained a steady voice for members and a champion for the cooperative principles on which we stand.

We are truly grateful for his insight, collaboration, and leadership throughout an extraordinary 51 years of service as a Somerset REC director. As he steps away with a heartfelt farewell, the cooperative extends a deep appreciation to Lowell for his five decades of unwavering dedication.

thank you!