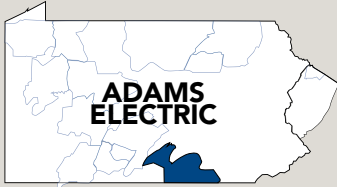




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
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1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

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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
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*By pre-scheduled appointment only

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Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

From the CEO/General Manager



Thankful for you

By Steve Rasmussen

IT'S THE season of giving, and to show our thanks to the organizations who are making a difference in our community we invited representatives from 170 community groups across our service territory to a "Thankful for You" breakfast.

For years, Adams Electric has supported community organizations through direct and in-kind donations. During this breakfast, we explained how we are streamlining our donations process through a review committee and what we look for in a donation request. We also met those affiliated with the organizations we support.

It's part of our mission to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve — and support those who make a difference in the lives of our members.

Civic contributions help the cooperative practice the seventh cooperative principle, concern for community. Established guidelines for handling donation requests provide greater consistency in giving and a larger impact on the co-op's service territory.

The cooperative considers not just the scope of the project or purpose of the appeal, but also how many members or employees are directly involved with or affected by the request.

Emergency responders are a priority for the cooperative as these public servants provide lifesaving support to our members. Next, we consider business-related organization requests

such as memberships to chambers of commerce or economic development groups because of their impact on the electric infrastructure. We also review social and civic group requests, health and wellness associations and arts and historical societies.

Admittedly, we do less for individual schools and faith organizations only because they number greatly in our service area, and we can't evenly support all the sports, clubs, and projects of each. However, there are unique events that arise that we still choose to sponsor, and we like to support the activities of our employees' families.

We are also a big supporter of our own member assistance program, Project Helping Hand. Our board, staff and employees make annual payroll contributions to the fund. We host events to raise additional monies to support our struggling members, such as golf outings, hot dog lunches, yard sales and equipment auctions.

Lastly, we offer many in-kind gifts. We have set light poles, installed sirens, donated poles and wire, and strung Christmas lights for numerous organizations. We help with basket bingos or holiday raffles by giving away logoed prizes. You may also see our employees volunteering at these local endeavors.

Investing in our community is part of the co-op difference. It's our way of saying thank you for allowing us to be a part of your community every day. ☀

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Learning the importance of ag education

Kami Noel, CCC, *Communications/Member Relations Coordinator*

THE UPPER Adams School District has a mission to provide challenging and inspiring educational opportunities while empowering students to be responsible and productive individuals.

Carl Wilkinson, one of the owners of Getty Acres Farm in Gettysburg, sees the value in that challenge. For the past few years, he has directed a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities — Bayer Fund Grant to the Upper Adams Intermediate School in Adams County to offer students an opportunity to see science — specifically, agriculture — come to life.

“He sees the importance and the value of children learning agriculture in education,” says Carl’s wife, Ashly Wilkinson, a fourth grade teacher in the school district. “He’s helped get other local community farmers to offer their support, too.”

Through the grant, the district can bring the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation’s Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab onsite for a week. Adams Electric has been supporting this educational program, geared toward elementary and middle school students, for many years,

“It’s a great experience for our students and well received and



“NO SOIL, NOW WHAT?”: Students create a hydroponic (water-based) growing space for peas and beans while applying steps from the scientific method to hands-on learning.



MOBILE SCIENCE: Mrs. Nicole King, far left, and her fifth grade class at Upper Adams Intermediate School, take part in the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab with lab teacher Mark Kline, third from left, and school district Superintendent Wesley Doll, second from right.

supported by the community,” says Wesley Doll, superintendent for Upper Adams School District. “It’s a win for everyone involved.”

According to ag lab teacher Mark Kline, the 40-foot mobile classroom travels across the state bringing students interactive STEM-based experiments and lessons along with all of the supplies needed for hands-on learning. (Note: STEM refers to four educational disciplines: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.)

Each experiment is designed to emphasize a different aspect of agriculture, including commodities, the environment, biotechnology, food and fiber. While in the lab, students work cooperatively to solve a problem using the scientific method. Each lesson focuses on increasing student knowledge about the importance of agriculture and its impact on their lives.

“Ag affects you only if you eat food every day,” Kline jokes. “It brings greater awareness to students in ways they don’t even think about.”

But the experience doesn’t come



LEARNING LAB: Students listen to instruction before starting an experiment in the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab visiting the Upper Adams Intermediate School in October.

without a price tag. Each class is \$500 on average, which covers the cost of the educator and supplies for about 25 students.

“It’s truly a gift to those who get to experience science by getting their hands dirty,” Kline says. “It’s bringing science to life.”

Teachers interested in learning more about the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab and other available programs, such as Ag Literacy Week and the Educator’s Ag Institute, can visit psbfriends.com. ❁

Longtime cooperative employee stamps last co-op time card

Kami Noel, CCC, *Communications/Member Relations Coordinator*

THE NUMBER 44 has significance. It's the route that runs from Texas to Massachusetts and through Pennsylvania. It's the hitters' number (Reggie Jackson and Hank Aaron). It's the medicinal fix for winter in the Northeast (Vick's 44). And it's the "happiest number," according to HooplaHa.com. (You'll have to look it up!)

But this month, we celebrate it as the number of years the well-known champion of our cooperative members, George Taughinbaugh, has served the co-op. George is getting ready to stamp his final time card.



George Taughinbaugh, 2018.

"It's a good round number," George says. "I thought I'd stick it out until 45, but every dog has his day and this one's mine!"

George was hired away from a contractor crew in August 1977 as a lineman probationary. He progressed through the ranks, from line crew member to journeyman third class, before taking other positions within the cooperative.

"My best day was my first day here," George says. "I was a groundman — lower than dirt ... low man in seniority for a lot of years. Bill Weaver was the first crew leader I was to work with. I remember the day like it was yesterday.



George Taughinbaugh, 1970s.

Along with Bill, I also worked that day with Dale Koontz.

"They took me to the Lewisberry area to set a pole on Stone Jug Road. They laughed at me while I jackhammered through rock for a guy anchor, for hours because they thought I had never run a jackhammer before. It was fun, and I've never forgotten that day."

In 1985, George applied for an open position as a safety/energy specialist. He says it was the first time the word "safety" was in the title of any cooperative job.

"I was involved with at least 10 safety accreditations at the co-op," he says, "and we were ranked high in the state for safety for many years."

During that time, George was working under Wayne Kump in the member services department. Turns out, Wayne was one of George's favorite managers. George was tasked with the initial promotions of load management, geothermal heating and electric thermal storage to the membership.

In 1991, George added district member services manager to his duties. He was responsible for overseeing the district offices and the member services representatives working in them.

"I remember Katie Craybill, who was the office supervisor, came to me one day and said, 'So do I work for you now?'" George says. "I remember I just laughed and said, 'I guess so.' Turns out, Katie and I worked well together for many years, and she taught me a lot."

George served in that capacity for several years before being named manager of marketing and energy use in 2004, and then manager of safety/energy use in 2009. He continued to go into members' homes and businesses, where he would coach members on all things energy-related, from high-usage concerns to home energy audits.

George says the key to success is



George Taughinbaugh

he always remembered to treat other employees who worked for him how he wanted to be treated.

"From the day I came to work for the cooperative, the members always came first," George says. "They were like my family, and we always looked forward to seeing each other at district meetings and the annual meeting.

"The co-op doesn't owe me anything when I retire," he adds. "All I ask is that the membership continue to take precedence ... that the members get treated the same way moving forward as they did when I was here."

George prides himself on being a champion of the members. He says it was "how he was trained" — that the members always come first.

"We've lost a little of the warm and fuzzy through the years as member interaction has gotten harder," George says, "but it's still there, it just takes work."

George rounds out his time with the co-op as the manager of facilities and special projects, a title he earned in 2018. This assignment has included the oversight of two home construction projects in conjunction with the Adams County Technical Institute's building-trade classes.

"The second house will keep me busy until I'm fully gone," he says, "but it's been a good ride!" ❁

NEWSworthy NOTES FROM AROUNDYOUR COOPERATIVE



Holiday office schedule

Co-op offices are open to members by appointment only. Offices will be closed Dec. 23-27, 2021, in recognition of the Christmas holiday. Offices will also be closed Dec. 30 for New Year's Day observed. Crews will be available on-call in case of system emergencies and outages. Phone coverage will be available through the Cooperative Response Center for member assistance and dispatch services.

Linemen earn promotions

Congratulations to York District lineman Jason Stanley and Shippensburg District lineman Ryan Gelnett, who were each promoted to fourth-year apprentice in the fall.

Jason Stanley started with Adams in September 2019 as a first-year apprentice. He was promoted after passing a written exam and a series of skills tests on Oct. 13.



Jason Stanley

Ryan Gelnett also joined the co-op in September 2019 as a first-year apprentice. He was promoted after passing a written exam and a series of skills tests on Oct. 21. ❁



Ryan Gelnett



PHOTOS BY MIKE FEATHERS/OPERATIONS MANAGER

POLE REPLACEMENT: Adams Electric contractor, Quality Lines, transferred wires from an existing wooden transmission pole to a newly set ductile iron transmission pole in Adams County on a 115-kilovolt transmission line in the fall. Overall, 17 transmission poles and one overhead guy pole were replaced.

May your
days and nights be



Merry & Bright

Wishing you all the best this holiday season!



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