

# Currents

64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 . p: 973.875.5101 . f: 973.875.4114

April 2019

[www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com)



## Appreciation

As a father, I have found that the ability to stay neutral and not pick favorites is the the best course, but not always the easiest. The same concept applies to my employees. I appreciate

every one of our SREC employees, but unfortunately the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has yet to designate an Accounting, or Billing, or Member Services Appreciation Day. I say “shame on them” (classic ‘dad’ move, right?).

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO  
[contacttheceo@sussexrec.com](mailto:contacttheceo@sussexrec.com)



So, while all of us appreciate the SREC employees, it is the linemen that physically get the power back on. Our linemen are an incredible bunch of guys who I respect and admire. They leave their families in the middle of the night and on holidays in various forms of weather, none of which are usually

>> CONT. PAGE TWO



Lineman Appreciation Day is April 8th.  
Thank you to our SREC Linemen! (pictured above)

# Lineman Appreciation

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

pleasant, all to make sure power stays on. America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April, every year, as National Lineman Appreciation Day. When thinking about the best way to show our linemen appreciation, I remembered the speech given by our Youth Leadership Student, Nick Thomas at the PREA Summer meeting in State College, PA. I thought it best to share with you his thoughts on this subject. Nick will give his speech in its entirety at our Annual Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019 at High Point Regional High School. I hope to see you there! And remember, on April 8th, or on any day actually, please thank a lineman.

*Chin*



**At Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative we recognize that the children of today are the members of tomorrow. The Bright Ideas Classroom Grant Program was designed to reach our future members by helping their teachers better afford innovative and effective educational curriculum that is not covered by traditional school financing. Individual teachers can apply for grants up to \$500. Each year, SREC will award a total of \$1,000.00 through this program. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2019. More information and a list of eligible schools can be found on our website at [sussexrec.com](http://sussexrec.com) or contact Claudia Raffay, Manager of Marketing & Member Services at [craftay@sussexrec.com](mailto:craftay@sussexrec.com) or 973-875-5101 ext. 117**



Background: Each year a student is picked as the Youth Leadership Council member representing SREC and the State of New Jersey as part of the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour. Each student presents a speech to National and Regional representatives on how cooperatives touch their lives. Below is an excerpt from the speech of YLC student Nick Thomas of New Jersey representing Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

I am here today to attempt to convey the impact electrical cooperatives have had on my life. My father is a lineman. He has been for every year of my life. Some of my fondest memories from childhood include spending time around the linemen of my co-op. I idolize my father's coworkers. To others they might have been a ragtag bunch of burly linemen, but to me they were the hardest working group of guys I had ever seen, displaying the classic "hard work gets the job done" mentality upon which this great nation was built. They will always be a second family for me. They have watched and helped shape the man I am today. It is difficult to explain one's own personal experiences when they are that of deep emotional impact, however I can say that the root of my structure and discipline lay with those of my co-op.

Concern for the community and cooperation among cooperatives, 2 of the 7 principles cooperatives were built upon: I believe these principles to be the most overlooked with the coop community. At the end of the day, local coops have a lasting impact on their consumers, and the family bond all cooperatives share can be seen across the nation.

As children we tend to idolize those who do things we cannot yet understand. It was early September 2005, I was five years old, I watched confused and dismayed as my father packed a bag and left home for the next two weeks. At the time, what he was doing was incomprehensible. It was only years later when I finally understood where he had been and why he had left. On August 23, 2005, Hurricane Katrina tore apart the southern coast of the United States, and in the post-catastrophe my father, a lineman for the Sussex Rural Electric Co-op, volunteered to help those devastated by the natural disaster. This response of aid by all cooperatives is what allows dependability and trust between provider and consumer.

By maturing alongside those of cooperatives, I have been humbled in my nature and grow in knowledge. Cooperatives are a fundamental part of everyday American life, and yet they are overlooked by the masses. Co-ops have a great impact on each one of us, but to myself, the lifelong lessons and memories from my coop, have and will continue to develop my life. Moving forward I hope to uphold the qualities set before me: to be a strong leader, care for those in desperate times, and work collectively with those around me. NRECA may be an international organization, however their model of morals and ethics is one we can all use in daily life. It's not always about business, sometimes it's just about doing things the right way.

*Excerpt by: Nick Thomas, June 2018*

# Annual Meeting

By: Claudia Raffay  
Director of Marketing & Member Services  
craffay@sussexrec.com

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question “what’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative’s Annual Meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined. During the month of May you will receive your ballots to vote for board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, fun and prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019 at High Point Regional High School.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

**82nd Annual Meeting**

**High Point Regional High School**

**299 Pidgeon Hill Road, Sussex, NJ 07461**

Registration cards and the annual report will be mailed in mid-May

**Please Join Us!**

**Monday, June 3, 2019**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Refreshments at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Door Prizes will be drawn after meeting.  
Members who register will receive \$10 bill credit



It's not magic, it's ETS Heat!

The "magic" of the cost effectiveness of Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) is the ability to store heat during off-peak billing hours for use during higher priced on-peak billing hours.

An ETS furnace offers several distinct advantages:

- ⇒ No oil tanks or fuel deliveries to worry about.
- ⇒ No wide price fluctuations that make budgeting difficult.
- ⇒ No burners to maintain or fumes to vent.
- ⇒ Quieter operation—practically no sound.

A variety of furnace sizes are available to fit your home ranging from 19.2kW—45.6kW.

For more information go to [www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com) or call us at 973.875.5101



ETS Furnace (cutaway view)



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

CURRENTS is published monthly by Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative  
64 County Route 639 p: 973.875.5101  
Sussex, NJ 07461 f: 973.875.4114  
website: [www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com)  
email: [currents@sussexrec.com](mailto:currents@sussexrec.com)

### Board of Directors

Chairman.....	Jack S. Haggerty Jr.
Vice Chairman.....	William Kovach
Sec/Treasurer.....	Raymond Cordts
Barbara Miller	Thomas Madsen
Ronald Dupont	Brad Sparta
Michael Hopkins	
President & CEO:	Christopher P. Reese

## Is Your Family Prepared for Severe Weather?

In a recent survey, 75% of people who suffered through a power outage said they wished they were more prepared, and 67% said they wished their homes had backup power. Be prepared with a Cummins generator from SREC Resources.



- Carry all of a typical home's load.
- Automatic transfer for worry free operation day or night.
- Very quiet, neighbor-friendly.
- Commercial quality construction for years of dependable service.
- Propane or natural gas fuel options.
- Support you can count on: 24 hours a day – 7 days a week



[generators@sussexrec.com](mailto:generators@sussexrec.com)

973-875-1365



 **SREC RESOURCES, INC.**

64 COUNTY ROUTE 639 SUSSEX NJ 07461 NJ LICENSED ELEC CONTRACTOR # 15375A  
A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF SUSSEX RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Prefer the inbox over the mailbox?**

Choose your option and sign up today to go paperless!




[www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com)



#ThankALineworker



**Lineworker Appreciation Day**  
April 8, 2019