



Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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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

Like us on Facebook at
[Facebook.com/AdamsEC](https://www.facebook.com/AdamsEC)

LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:
Kami Noel, CCC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Who is MEG and what does she know?



IN LATE OCTOBER, THE CO-OP hosted a special invitation-only event. If you were there, then you know who MEG is and why she holds a new and important role at the cooperative. "MEG" is short for our newly formed Member Engagement Group.

Previously, the cooperative had a Member Advisory Committee; we called him MAC. The problem with MAC was he was limited in sharing his message because he had term

limits and restrictions on audience participation.

With MEG, we changed all that — but we had to start small to get the group off the ground and make sure our engagement ideas were going to work. So, we had dinner with 100 of our closest friends — our employees, our board of directors, our volunteer committee members and our Co-op Owners for Political Action.

And what did this group learn? Well, for starters, I gave them the full, unabridged version of our upcoming rate increase (see page 14C) in all of its nitty-gritty detail. They also got to meet Steve Brame, the new president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, our statewide member-service organization, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale power supplier, and ask him questions — something our previous MAC Committee never had the opportunity to do in over 40 years.

Steve talked about his team's role in cooperative member services, legislative support, and job training and safety, as well as in being an energy provider. He discussed emerging energy challenges, such as international supply chain disruptions and volatile energy markets. He also spoke about the cooperative difference and how it allows co-ops to meet these challenges while mitigating the impact on consumers.

In my discussion of rates, I shared a little about where we've been — we've only had a 2.9% increase in last five years — and where we're headed (an increase of 14.1% come January). I reinforced our commitment to keeping rates stable through the coming year and showed a visual comparison of our rates versus those of investor-owned utilities around us.

If you'd like to "be like MEG" and get "in the know," consider joining one of our cooperative programs, such as Co-op Owners or our volunteer group. The knowledge you gain for the minimal hours you give (and reimbursed mileage you get) has mutual benefits. Your cooperative gains more messengers for the cooperative difference, and you get some credits toward your bill and the chance to RSVP for an invitation-only event once a year.

If you ask me, MEG's got a good thing going! 

STEVE RASMUSSEN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Santa's on a mission

SARAH FRANK, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

THIRTEEN YEARS AGO IN DECEMBER, Adams Electric member Mike Kulkusky's wife called him from her job at the Fairfield Fire Hall.

"Mike!" she said. "We are supposed to have breakfast with Santa, and he canceled. We're going to have to cancel on all these kids."

Mike was more than sympathetic for all those families who would be having breakfast without Santa.

"That's terrible!" he replied.

To which his wife responded, "I know. That's why I volunteered you!"

Mike didn't know then that his wife was putting something in motion that would become such a big part of his life. Now known as "Santa Koz" to locals, Mike visited with around 40 kids and their families that first year. He estimates that last year he saw more than 200 at the very same "Breakfast with Santa" event.

Santa Koz makes appearances at around 15 events in the community over the holiday season. At his main location — Breakfast with Santa at the Fairfield Fire Hall in Adams County — he even routinely rides his motorcycle into the banquet hall, ready to spread holiday cheer.

On top of appearances, Santa Koz writes hundreds of letters to children who send Santa a letter through the post office.

Several years ago, he was at an event as Santa Koz when a little girl, around 7 years old, and her sister came to sit on his lap. Her mom whispered that she was a doubter. Even after giving reassurances, Mike couldn't get the girl out of his mind. He tracked the family down and asked if he could write the children a letter from Santa.

In his first year of writing letters, Santa Koz mailed out 26 — last year, he



ON A MISSION: Mike Kulkusky, aka "Santa Koz," has been bringing the joy and magic of Christmas to kids around Fairfield and Adams County for 13 years.

stamped more than 330 of them. Since the beginning, Santa Koz has mailed more than 1,100 letters to children. All he asks is that the kids send him a handwritten letter, and the rest is left to Santa Koz and his helpers.

After the first few years, Mike and his wife realized he needed help. He enlisted about half a dozen friends to come over for a few drinks, dinner and letter writing. And last year, that very first girl who set the letter-writing wheels in motion came to help correspond with other kids "thinking" about Santa.

Mike will stress to anyone he talks to that this is a team effort. He now keeps two Santa suits in his house, including one for his son, Cody, who is following in dad's footsteps and making Santa appearances, too. Traveling alongside Santa at many events are Mrs. Claus, Buddy the Elf, the Grinch, and a dozen other elves. The help for those characters comes from members of Mike's other passion — his charity, American Bikers on a Mission.



A LOCAL CELEBRITY: "Santa Koz" is a local celebrity, known for traveling to events in uniform and often arriving on his motorcycle.

When Mike is not Santa Koz, he is working with his 501(c)3 charity to find local

families who have had tragedies in life and raising funds to assist them. The not-for-profit started in November 2020 when Mike was thinking about the "nastiness in the world."

"People were arguing about all the things that weren't important in life," he said, "and I thought I don't know what I'm going to do, but it's going to involve motorcycles and helping people."

Mike's goal the first year of American Bikers on a Mission was to hold 10 events and give back \$10,000. He exceeded that goal, doing around 15 events and raising \$45,000. As this year closes, the group has raised almost \$55,000.

"We're just trying to make the world a better place," Mike says.

Santa Koz and his helpers have mailed letters nationwide, thanks to word of mouth from local families. If you are interested in receiving a letter from Santa or learning more about Santa Koz and his mission, visit the "Team Santa Koz Information Page" on Facebook for more details. [📄](#)

Adams' rates will increase in January

ADAMS ELECTRIC IS COMMITTED TO providing the most reliable power at the lowest reasonable cost for service. Your board of directors works diligently to minimize rate increases, having only raised rates 2.9% in the last five years.

Unsurprisingly, the cost of market-based power is going up — drastically. To ensure the financial stability of the cooperative, your board voted in November to raise rates Jan. 1, 2023. For the average residential member-owner who uses 1,250 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month, we are projecting a 14.1% increase, which equates to about \$21.75 more a month. This adjustment could be higher or lower individually, depending on your electric usage and rate classification with the cooperative.

The changes on your February bill include a larger increase in the energy-supply portion of your statement and a smaller increase in the distribution charges. In simple terms, energy sup-

ply is the section that accounts for the charges of energy being generated, or purchased, and delivered to the cooperative. This is directly passed through to the membership with no mark-up. The cost for energy is increasing from \$0.068 per kWh to \$0.082 per kWh per month. In addition, the the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA), which the co-op uses each year to re-balance the over or under collection of energy charges for the previous year's billed amount is returning to zero.

The distribution side correlates to the cost of delivering power from the co-op to each member home or business in addition to the cost of maintaining reliable poles, wires and equipment in an already strained supply chain. The monthly access charge will increase by \$1, plus the per-kWh charge will increase from \$0.028 to \$0.029. The storm reserve is being reduced from \$1 to 50 cents per month.

Electric rates across the country have gone up due to increased fuel

and environmental costs. However, even with this rate adjustment, the co-op's rates are comparable or below other neighboring utilities.

Members are encouraged to consider now how they may be able to help control their own energy expenses. We offer tips for saving energy on our website, adamsec.coop, and we can also provide printed resources on energy efficiency incentives and money-saving programs, like U-Shift, U-Save.

If you would like to learn more, please reach out to our member services representatives or energy use specialists. Additional information specifically on the rate change can be found at adamsec.coop/2023-rates. You can also download the SmartHub app to track your energy use or sign up for various account notifications.

As always, if you have any questions about the co-op, our rates or the rate you are currently paying for electricity, please give us a call at 800-726-2324. 📞

Rate Increase	Average Bill in 2022*			Average Proposed Bill in 2023*			Difference
Energy Charge	1250	\$0.068	\$85.00	1250	\$0.082	\$102.50	\$17.50
WPCA	1250	-\$0.002	-\$2.50	1250	\$0.000	\$0.00	\$2.50
Total Energy Supply			\$82.50			\$102.50	\$20.00
Access Charge			\$35.75			\$36.75	\$1.00
Storm Reserve			\$1.00			\$0.50	-\$0.50
Distribution Charge	1250	\$0.028	\$35.00	1250	\$0.029	\$36.25	\$1.25
Total Distribution			\$71.75			\$73.50	\$1.75
Total Basic Charges			\$154.25			\$176.00	\$21.75

*Average based on 1,250 kWh for standard residential rate.

Applications for high school scholarships available

ARE YOU AN ADAMS ELECTRIC member and the parent of a high school senior? Adams Electric offers \$1,000 continuing education scholarships to high school seniors, who are sons and daughters of co-op members. The cooperative works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships.

High school scholarships for seniors

If you are you a high school senior and your parents receive service from Adams Electric, you are eligible to apply in one of the following categories:

- ▶ Category A (school districts) — Bermudian Springs, Biglerville, Big Spring, Chambersburg, Dallastown, Dover, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Kennard-Dale, Littlestown, New Oxford, Northern, Red Lion, Shippensburg, South Western, Spring Grove or Susquehannock.
- ▶ Category B — Cyber, private, home-schooling, or other

public schools in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, or York counties.

- ▶ Category C — Career/trade/technical, specifically pursuits of vocational-technical schools leading to certificates or degrees related to building/construction trades, cosmetology, culinary arts, or vehicle technology.

All applicants should apply online through the Adams County Dollars for Scholars (DFS) web portal at adamscountydfs.org. Applications must be submitted between Jan. 1 and April 1 to be eligible for review and possible selection. You must include the account number of the Adams Electric member with whom you reside.

For more information about eligibility and applications, visit adamsec.coop or call 800-726-2324. Scholarships are funded by unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates. 📄

Wanted: 2023 Youth Tour applicants

After a three-year hiatus, the “trip of a lifetime” has returned!

Do you know a high school junior interested in spending a free week in our nation’s capital? Now is their time to apply for consideration for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) 2023 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., scheduled June 18-23.

Selected delegates will visit federal legislators, tour historic landmarks and interact with more than 1,600 other high school juniors from across the nation.

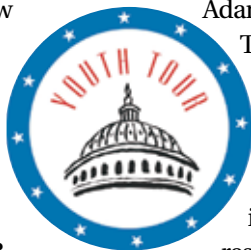
Candidates must complete an online application, take part in a

face-to-face interview and provide a resume for review. There are a limited number of delegate positions for this all-expense-paid trip by Adams Electric Cooperative.

The deadline to schedule an interview is Jan. 5, 2023. Interviews will be conducted Jan. 16 at the cooperative’s headquarters in Gettysburg. Students must reside in the cooperative’s

service territory, but DO NOT need to be related to a co-op member.

To be considered for Youth Tour selection, visit the Adams Electric Youth Tour webpage and complete the online form at adamsec.coop/rural-electric-youth-tour. 📄



Beard earns promotion



Brandon Beard

Journeyman First Class **Brandon Beard** of Orrtanna has been chosen to fill the open position of line serviceman at the Gettysburg District, effective Oct. 27. He reports to Line Superintendent Guy Gorman.

Beard joined Adams Electric as an apprentice in 2007 and was promoted to journeyman in 2011. 📄

Give the gift of electricity

If you would like to give the gift of electricity to a co-op member this season, we can help. The cooperative can either send a pre-purchased gift certificate to a buyer, or if the buyer would like to remain anonymous, the cooperative can send a certificate acknowledgement directly to a recipient.

Please allow 10 business days for processing. Call 800-726-2324 for more information or to purchase a “Gift of Electricity” gift certificate. 📄

SAVE THE DATES

Want to attend a district meeting in 2023? Add these dates to your calendar today:

- ▶ **Gettysburg District:** March 21 at the Wyndham Gettysburg
- ▶ **York District:** March 22 at the Wyndham Garden York
- ▶ **Shippensburg District:** March 29 at The Beistle Company, Shippensburg

Look for more information as an insert with your January bill.

LIGHTING YOUR



Holiday Season

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday.



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Adams Electric offices will be closed Dec. 22, 26 and Jan. 2.