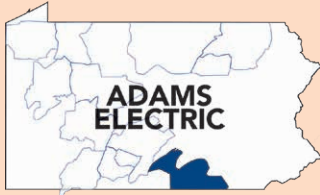




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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1338 Biglerville Road

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YORK DISTRICT

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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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LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:

Kami Noel, CCC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

We Tip Our Hat to You



IF YOU READ THE COLUMN in this space last month, you might remember me touting our systemwide outage-response times over the last year. If you live in southern York County, you might now be thinking, "Thanks for jinxing us!" (If you don't live in southern York County, you might be thinking, "What's this guy talking about?!")

In August, the cooperative experienced the fifth worst storm to ever pass through our service territory. We lost power to five substations and, subsequently, to more than 3,500 members in just 16 minutes. While I'm not going to dwell on the numbers here — you can read those in our "Stormnado" story on page 12C — I have to say our track record took a hit.

We had 46 broken poles and nearly 2 miles of line serving one full substation destroyed. Given that a tornado touched down, I feared the prognosis would be much worse. However, I'm immensely proud that we turned everyone's power back on within four and a half days of that destruction.

Thank you to the membership, most of whom were calm and understanding during the restoration process. Our lineworkers told stories of members who bought crews breakfast or dinner as they sat staring blankly at coffee during their one full break of the day; your kindness was appreciated.

Also, thank you to the cooperative CEOs across Pennsylvania and New Jersey who sent reinforcements for our field workers. You took employees away from your own members (and their families) to help restore power to ours, and we can't overstate how precious those resources became.

Thank you to E.G. Anderson, O'Connell Electric Company, Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC and Flagger Force for your roles in assisting us. We appreciate those relationships immensely.

Most of all, thank you to the employees of Adams Electric. We had a motto, if you will, during this event, and it went like this: "We don't quit when we're tired, we quit when we're done (except for safety breaks)!" The teamwork and dedication of the 75 personnel who spent each day in service to the membership was truly heroic.

Many gave up meals, sleep, and certainly time with their own families to make sure others could lay their heads down at night in the safety and security of their own homes, knowing the lights would soon come back on. They did it — willingly and **safely**. In fact, we didn't record any major accidents or incidents during the recovery, and I'm hugely thankful for that!

With more than 7,500 interactions on our social media sites, I think one resounding message was clear — appreciation! Comments like "We tip our hat to you!" and "Thanks for the extra push!" were the norm, not the exception. Sure, we got a few grumbles, but they were far outshined by the hearts, thumbs up and positive comments.

My thanks to everyone involved in this extreme weather event. When we meet a storm of this magnitude again (and unfortunately, at some point, we will), hopefully you'll feel good knowing we take pride in serving you and will be ready to step up again. 🧢

STEVE RASMUSSEN

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

'Scavenger' Turns Old Things New Again

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

ADAMS ELECTRIC MEMBER DAVE BELL of Newville sent an email to the co-op last winter asking for help identifying an old electric meter he had purchased more than 50 years ago at a yard sale in Maine. Luckily, thanks to the research of Senior Staff Engineer Brian Shearer, Bell got his answers.

Shearer identified the equipment as a General Electric Thomson meter, invented in 1888, patented in 1890 and used through the early 1900s as an electric watt-hour meter.

Loving a challenge, Bell started to craft a plan to display what he calls the “pristine copper and brass innards of the intricate device.”

A self-proclaimed “scavenger,” Bell looks for and collects unusual, discarded items. But he takes that skill set one

step further and makes it his hobby to repair and restore his finds — sometimes in a more unique fashion.

In fact, the electric meter is now under an old glass “bell jar” he scavenged from a water treatment plant.

Bell claims he couldn’t just let the meter sit around, so he made a round wooden base with a routed edge, drilled some holes for wiring and added a lightbulb. Now, he has a functioning electric meter for all to see. He paired it with a handmade macrame shade, courtesy of his sister-in-law.

“Old things have an allure for me because most were handmade by someone who worked a long time to make it, using old tools and lots of patience,” says Bell, 73. “I think they deserve to be preserved in some way.”

He calls his business “Bell Craft,” where he specializes in architectural salvage materials, repurposed furniture and wood crafts. His father used the same business name when he did woodworking and repair work.

“Dad even had Bell Craft branding irons made up for me and my brothers to use on our projects,” Bell says. “Like him, I have always enjoyed working with wood, from my middle school days of wood shop up to the present. I love the texture and patterns of the grain.”

Bell says his penchant for scavenging started at a young age, when he collected scraps from the schools’ metal shop and turned them in for cash at the local junkyard. But as he grew older, he learned there was more value in repurposing things. Recently, Bell repaired an old dollhouse made from wooden crates.

His projects have run the gamut from building a blanket chest out of 175-year-old beams from a church in New York and handcrafting wooden bow ties to making lamps out of various items, including an old sausage stuffer, a wooden steering wheel, a milk funnel, a child’s sewing machine and parts from an old-fashioned ice cream maker.

“I turned a double outhouse seat from an old church in Pennsylvania into a coat rack with mirrors and gifted it to my fiancée at Christmas, the first time our parents met,” Bell recalls. “She’s now my wife of 53 years — Kris.”

And he’s constantly looking for unusual items. “I just love the challenge when faced with repairing something or creating something unusual,” he says.

After retiring in 2000, Bell worked as a site supervisor for the construction of his church’s new sanctuary in New York. He has also worked as a mason’s helper, published essays about childhood and life experiences in a local weekly newspaper and taken four working mission trips to Kenya. He moved onto co-op lines in 2004. 



SMART METER: Adams Electric Cooperative member Dave Bell of Newville, left, built this working electric meter lamp out of the parts from an early 1900s electric watt-hour meter. The dollhouse below was refurbished from old wooden crates.



Co-Op Outage Response Tested by 'Stormnado'

A STORM RACED THROUGH SOUTHERN York County on Aug. 7, knocking out power to 4,603 Adams Electric members at its peak. The storm, referenced around the co-op as the “Southern York County (SYC) Stormnado,” included a confirmed tornado touchdown. Five of the co-op’s 28 power delivery points were taken offline within 16 minutes. By 9 p.m. on Aug. 11, all storm outages were restored — 107 hours after impact.

The power supply loss affected 3,822 members as crews in the field faced labor-intensive and time-consuming repairs, including the replacement of 46 broken poles. Southern York County took the brunt of the storm, but minor outages were also reported in Gettysburg and Shippensburg.

“The crews in the field patrolled miles and miles of line, set numerous new poles, rebuilt over 2 miles of line, and reconstructed parts of our Rinely substation,” Manager of Operations Mike Feathers says. “On average, setting a new pole takes three hours; now, multiply that by 40-some. To say this storm was destructive is an understatement.”

Adams Electric crews began prepping for the storm that afternoon after reviewing the weather forecast. Trucks were refueled, materials and equipment staged, contracted utility and tree crews were put on standby, and both union and non-union employees were held in-house as the storm began its journey across the cooperative’s service territory.

The cooperative’s 75 employees worked on storm response. They were supported by two contractor crews and 13 tree crews in the field. Seven mutual-aid crews, requested from neighboring Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives, also responded. Co-op crews worked straight through the first night and then began taking much-needed safety breaks as reinforcements arrived.

Field workers were supported by employees working in the cooperative’s dispatch center. They not only answered members’ questions via phone calls and social media, but also coordinated meals and lodging for the crews. Support staff took more than 8,000 calls — 4,000 of which were received in the first eight hours of the storm — and engaged in 7,500 interactions with consumers on the cooperative’s Facebook and Twitter (X) sites.

“This is the biggest storm the co-op has faced in about 10 years,” Manager of Engineering-Electrical Chad Thoman says. “We should be thankful that it didn’t impact a larger area of our service territory; it could have been the worst storm in Adams’ records. As it stands, SYC Stormnado ranks as the fifth worst storm in the cooperative’s history.”

Restoring power supply to five of the co-op’s distribution points required repairs by Adams’ power supplier, so staff began calling and emailing members without power the

evening of the second day. Regular updates were also posted on social media throughout the extended outage.

“We did our best to be truthful and transparent about our restoration process,” says CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen. “I know all of our employees worked as hard as they could to get the lights back on for the cooperative membership, and I am proud of all of them.”

ADAMS ELECTRIC'S TOP 5 WORST STORMS

1. Ice Storm 2014
2. Ice Storm 1996
3. Halloween 2011
4. Isabel 2003
5. Southern York County Stormnado 2023



ADAMS EC MEMBER MARCIANN KURMAN

TEAMWORK AGAINST THE STORM: Storm Team 9 assembles to continue making repairs in southern York County following the damaging August storm. Ten storm teams were created to ensure efficient repairs and restoration. Storm Team 9 included, from left: Adams Electric Cooperative Journeyman First Class Jake Strausbaugh; Journeyman Second Class Andrew Kuykendall; Journeyman First Class Shane Atherton; Lead Lineman Tony Spangler; Line Serviceman Brandon Beard; and Staking Technicians B Noah Staub and Greg Gamble.



DEVASTATING DAMAGE: Adams Electric Cooperative field employees work along Bobs Road in East Hopewell Township, which is fed out of the co-op’s Rinely substation. Workers replaced poles and downed wires, the result of an Aug. 7 storm that devastated the area in southern York County.

Celebrate Your Co-Op Membership in October



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP Month, and Adams Electric Co-operative is celebrating along with co-ops across the nation. We hope our members will join the celebration with us.

Adams was incorporated in 1940 with the main purpose of providing electricity to rural areas where other utilities would not run lines. Today, the cooperative's membership has grown to include more than 33,500 homes and businesses.

Co-ops exist for one main purpose — to serve their membership — and Adams is no different. Its mission is to provide safe, reliable power at competitive rates, deliver exceptional service to our

membership, and help to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Adams is celebrating Co-op Month by holding the second annual Member Engagement Group meeting, where co-op employees and directors meet with select members, including those who have signed on as volunteers or as members of Co-op Owners for Political Action. Over dinner, these members hear news and current updates about Adams Electric, as well as what's in store for the future. Want an invitation to this exclusive group? Sign up as a volunteer at adamsec.coop or request to join Co-op Owners by calling 800-726-2324. We would love to see you! 📍

**BY THE NUMBERS
(AS OF JUNE 2023):**

▶ Meters: 34,075	▶ Employees: 75
▶ Members: 30,359	▶ Directors: 9
▶ Miles of Line: 2,976	▶ Counties Served: 5

Personnel Promoted

THREE CO-OP EMPLOYEES accepted promotions in August.

Wesley Graham of Shippensburg moved to second-year apprentice in the Shippensburg District. He started with Adams Electric in 2023 as a first-year apprentice in the operations department.

Penny Hoover of New Oxford was promoted to service dispatcher I in the engineering-electrical department. She started as a service dispatcher II at the co-op in 2019.

Lineman **Gary Hodges** of Orrtanna moved to journeyman first class in the Operations Department at the Gettysburg District. He started with Adams in 2017.



Wesley Graham



Penny Hoover

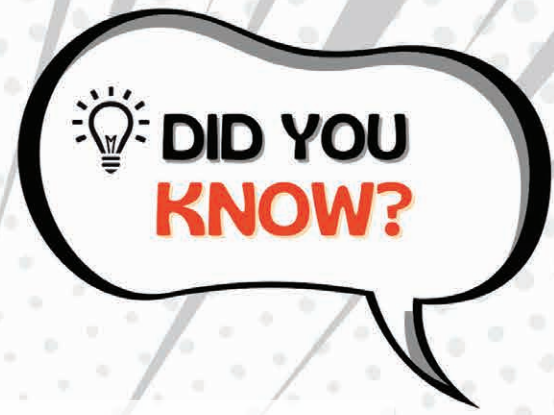


Gary Hodges

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY: Adams Electric Cooperative employees meet with Cumberland Township Police Department representatives to donate 12 trauma kits, which are used to control bleeding for gunshot victims. The police department is looking to expand its equipment for each individual officer, including providing external bullet-proof vests with Level III plates (hard armor), which are typically used in active-shooter incidents, and individual first aid kits to attach to each vest. Shown, from left, are: Cumberland Township Manager Dave Blocher, Patrolman Ryan Eiker, Police Chief Matt Trostel, Adams Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen, Communications/Member Relations Coordinator Kami Noel and Purchasing/Work Order Coordinator Tasha Sanders.

Co-op Spotlight

Getting to know your employees and directors



Jeff Turner



Who am I: I started at Adams Electric in October 1999 as an engineering intern. In January 2004, I was hired full time as an engineer-in-training. After obtaining my professional engineering license in 2009, my position changed to staff engineer. I held that position until 2018, when I began my role as manager of the mechanical engineering department. Our department's duties include designing distribution lines and substation/metering points, maintaining our substation communication and automated metering reading equipment, purchasing, processing work orders, developing

materials standards and construction specifications, and maintaining the cooperative's fleet of small vehicles.

Family life: I enjoy spending time with family and friends and watching my kids at their sporting events. Outside of that, you'll find me on a golf course.

Favorite part of the job: It's working at a small company, where everyone knows everyone. I also enjoy coming to work every day knowing that no two days are ever the same. It's challenging, but rewarding, at the same time.

Co-op difference: The cooperative has members, not customers. Practically every decision we make has our members' best interest in mind.

Tony Spangler



Who am I: Lead lineman. I started as a ground man in January 2005.

Family life: Married 30 years, three kids, and two granddaughters. Hunting! We have the community pool, and I enjoy carpentry projects for myself and helping others with theirs.

Favorite part of the job: Working outdoors, especially storm restoration.

Co-op difference: The ability to be a successful company and still be able to return profits to the members.

Why the co-op stands out: We strive with every effort to get the lights back on no matter the circumstances.

With a magic wand, I would: Restore house services for those who truly can't afford it.

Favorite Friday night: My family, around the pool, plenty of food and Miller Lite.

Glenn Bange



Who am I: A member of Adams Electric since 1977 and a director of the cooperative board since 2005; currently serving as board president.

Family life: Married to my wife, Doris, for more than 45 years. We have three children and five grandchildren. I enjoy outdoor activities, such as gardening, hiking, camping, hunting and ATV riding.

Favorite part of the job: Working with a co-op that has

great business ethics.

Co-op difference: All electric co-ops and investor-owned electric utilities are in the same business, but what makes us different is THE PEOPLE (consumer-members, management, directors and employees).

With a magic wand, I would: Eliminate traffic jams.

Favorite Friday night: Relax with my wife and family by a campfire or by a mountain stream.

Tasha Sanders



Who am I: I am the work order/purchasing coordinator at the cooperative, where I have 17 years of service. I started with the co-op in August 2006 as a member services representative. In 2009, I moved to the accounting/billing department. In 2018, I took over the role as a work order/purchasing coordinator. I am responsible for ordering and managing material, processing purchase and work orders, and billing for vehicle accidents.

Family life: I am married and have two children, who

are very active in sports. When we are not running to sporting events, we enjoy playing golf, camping and going to the beach.

Favorite part of the job: I love all my job responsibilities that I handle at the cooperative. The employees are great, and everyone is like family.

Co-op difference: A cooperative is different from other businesses because it works to serve its members. The end goal is to do what is best for the members. 