

Annual Report 2022



Your Source of Power and Information

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This 2022 Annual Report was written, compiled and produced by the employees of Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

NORTHWESTERN REC 22534 Highway 86, P.O. Box 207 Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 Phone: 800-352-0014 www.NorthwesternREC.com Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CONNECT WITH US









RYAN MELLER

President & Chief Executive Officer First employed as an intern with Northwestern REC in 2011, Meller has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in power distribution and transmission. He also holds a doctorate in systems engineering. Meller and his wife currently live in Cambridge Springs but are building a home near Waterford.



KATHY LANE Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Employed with Northwestern REC since 2012, Lane has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Edinboro University and an MBA (finance) from Gannon University. She has more than 20 years of work experience in the accounting field. Lane and her husband live in Cambridge Springs with their son.



STEPHEN MILLER Chief Operating Officer (COO) Employed with Northwestern REC since 2011, Miller has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and an MBA from Penn State — Behrend. He began as an intern with the co-op before climbing the ladder

to the COO position. Miller and his

family live in Erie.

THOMAS DIMPERIO

Director of Information Technology Hired in 2002, Dimperio

Hired in 2002, Dimperio has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Edinboro University. He has 30 years of experience working in education, manufacturing and utility environments. He and his wife live in Erie with their two sons.



KERRI FLEET

Director of Human Resources (HR)

Hired in 1993, Fleet is a graduate of Bradford Business School and Leadership Meadville. She is a member of the Society for HR Management, the Manufacturers Association HR Roundtable and the local HR Consortium. She holds Associate Professional in Human Resources certification. She lives in Cambridge Springs and has two daughters.



CLARISSA SCHNEIDER Executive Administrator

Hired in 2014, Schneider has a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Gannon University and an MBA with a concentration in project management from the University of Phoenix. She serves on the Erie Hunt and Saddle Club Board. She lives in Meadville with her partner and their cats.



AMY WELLINGTON

Director of Communications

Hired in 2001, Wellington has a bachelor's degree in business from West Virginia University and a master's degree in communications from Edinboro University. She's earned two national certifications in co-op communications. Wellington lives in Townville with her spouse and has four grown children and a grandson. THE IMPACT OF **RISING COSTS** Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the per-foot cost of overhead and underground wires has increased 52% and 56%, respectively. Due to supply shortages, the cost of a 10 KVA transformer increased by 150%. This equipment is critical to delivering power. 62% The average cost of a 40-foot pole has increased 62% since 2019. 62% Between 2019 and 2023, the cost of PVC conduit increased by a whopping 462%.

> Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc.

2022 EXECUTIVE REPORT

"We're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) was created in 1936 to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to an area where there was none. In doing so, Northwestern REC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

We receive emails every day with questions about solar power, electric vehicles and even grid stability. Serving as your trusted adviser means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics.

If you're considering a solar installation, our energy advisers would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities, and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand homeowners must perform their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle (EV) options. Northwestern REC provides information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs. We can provide a candid assessment of residential and business charging requirements for all types of EVs. No matter what our members drive, we want to help them achieve energy savings.

As the prominence of EVs grows, so does the public's concern for grid stability. Our distribution system is solid. We invest millions of dollars each year into the maintenance of our 17 substations and 2,650 miles of line. Despite the tremendous boom in electrical gadgets, our average residential load hasn't changed in decades.

That said, we are at the mercy of FirstEnergy transmission lines and the regional PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) grid. FirstEnergy owns the transmission lines that feed each of our substations, and PJM is a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. If something fails on their end, it can affect all of us at the end of the line.

Over the past several years, we have installed tie lines between 15 of our substations, making it possible to switch feeds from one substation to another during a power supply (transmission) interruption. In 2022, we were able to avoid more than 9 million outage minutes with this switching technology. Improvements have also recently been made to the transmission line that feeds the two substations in Centerville and Oil Creek.

Through our generation and transmission cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), based in Harrisburg, we have a close working relationship with PJM Interconnection LLC. Allegheny helps us coordinate the load management program year-round and initiates the peak-alert notifications that occur each year between June and September. Both programs are designed to shift the use of electricity from peak times, when the price of electricity is high, to off-peak times, helping the entire membership save on future costs. They do not indicate there is a strain on the power grid.

So, the next time you hear Northwestern REC use the phrase "we're here to serve you," we hope you know we mean it. Even though your cooperative and board leadership are relatively new, service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through the SmartHub app or our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can better serve you.



YOUR CO-OP LEADERS: Board Chair Lisa Chausse sits with President & CEO Ryan Meller. Chausse was first elected to the District 9 seat in 2017. She was chosen by her fellow directors to serve as board chair at their December 2022 meeting. Meller was hired as president & CEO in 2022. Prior to that, Meller was the chief operating officer for the co-op. He has been with Northwestern REC since 2011.

Cooperatively yours,

Lisa Chausse Board Chair

Hym Milles

Ryan Meller President & CEO

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2022 and 2021

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES

Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

Property and equipment: Electric plant in service - at cost \$ 136,416,175	2021		2022	2021	
		Operating revenues:			
				\$ 32,107,977	
Construction work in progress 858,932			75,019	24,631 841,483	
Less accumulated provisions for depreciation 47,586,061			1,366,869 430,242	532,657	
Total electric plant 89,689,046	87,758,43	9 Total operating revenues	35,009,385	33,506,748	
•	01,100,40			00,000,140	
Other assets and investments:	004.00	Operating expenses:	44 574 040	11 200 001	
Non-utility property, at cost 261,998			14,571,013	14,306,904	
Cash surrender value of life insurance 439,612			1,848,388 4,996,520	1,617,369 4,052,517	
Investments in associated organizations 14,344,622 Certificates of deposit 280,138			4,996,520	4,052,517	
Board designated funds 1,432,364				743,465	
	1,424,17	Sales	145,695	163,835	
Total other assets and investments 16,758,734	15,301,48		3,897,526	3,386,291	
	,,	Depreciation and amortization	4,107,697	3,914,554	
Current assets:		Other	135,126	124,583	
Cash and cash equivalents 5,056,069	4,855,40				
Accounts receivable, less allowance for		Total operating expenses	31,850,091	29,697,996	
uncollectible accounts of \$118,880 and					
\$156,146 for 2022 and 2021, respectively 4,725,110	4,433,12	5 Operating margin before			
Pole attachments and other receivables, less allowance for		fixed charges	3,159,294	3,808,752	
for uncollectible accounts of \$0 and \$393,960 for					
2022 and 2021, respectively 580,457	581,00	5			
Materials and supplies 922,666	669,94	2			
Other current and prepaid assets 123,311	77,77	2 Fixed charges:			
		Interest on long-term debt	1,856,669	1,863,371	
Total current assets 11,407,613	10,617,24	5			
Deferred charges 1,078,836	1,313,33	Operating margin after 8 fixed charges	1,302,625	1,945,381	
\$ 118,934,229		1G & T and other capital credits	1,876,719	2,613,048	
• 110,004,220	\$ 114,330,31			2,013,040	
Equities and Liabilities 2022	2021	Net operating margins	3,179,344	4,558,429	
		Non-operating margins:			
Equities:		Interest income	79,663	51,698	
Memberships \$ 63,000			140,894	96,069	
Patronage capital 12,161,302			40,500	(73,629)	
Other equities 52,475,678					
Accumulated other comprehensive loss (244,261) (398,21	0) Total non-operating margin	261,057	74,138	
Total equities 64,455,719	61,543,04	2 Net margin	\$ 3,440,401	\$ 4,632,567	
.ong-term debt:					
CFC notes, less current maturities 40,174,108					
	4,956,70	0 Unfunded post-retirement benefit plans:			
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909					
	107,06	1 Net actuarial gain	135,295		
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909 Capital Lease obligation, less current maturities 74,808		1 Net actuarial gain Amortization of actuarial loss recognized	18,654	21,658	
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909		1 Net actuarial gain Amortization of actuarial loss recognized 5 Total other comprehensive income	18,654 153,949	21,658 76,577	
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909 Capital Lease obligation, less current maturities 74,808 Total long-term debt 44,710,825		1 Net actuarial gain Amortization of actuarial loss recognized	18,654	21,658 76,577	
Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909 Capital Lease obligation, less current maturities 74,808 Total long-term debt 44,710,825 Ion-current liabilities: 44,710,825		1 Net actuarial gain Amortization of actuarial loss recognized 5 Total other comprehensive income	18,654 153,949	21,658 76,577	
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Farmer Mac notes, less current maturities 4,461,909 Capital Lease obligation, less current maturities 74,808 Total long-term debt 44,710,825 Non-current liabilities: Accumulated post retirement benefit obligation,	44,335,28 638,35	Net actuarial gain Amortization of actuarial loss recognized Total other comprehensive income Total comprehensive income	18,654 153,949 3,594,350 ents of the	21,658 76,577	
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\$ 118,934,229 \$ 114,990,511

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EQUITIES

Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022

	Me	mberships	Patronage Capital	Other Equities	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss
Balance, at December 31, 2020	\$	66,945	\$ 13,616,222	\$ 44,214,348	\$ (474,787)
Membership fees cancelled		(2,055)	-	-	-
Net operating margins		-	4,558,429	-	-
G&T patronage capital credits received and allocated		-	231,993	(231,993)	-
Non-patronage source margins		-	(3,815,153)	3,815,153	-
Net non-operating margins		-	-	74,138	-
Retirement of capital credits		-	(1,546,627)	-	-
Equity payable upon liquidation		-	-	949,285	-
Gain on early retirement of estate capital credits		-	-	10,497	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-	76,577
Change in donated capital		-	-	70	 -
Balance, at December 31, 2021	\$	64,890	\$ 13,044,864	\$ 48,831,498	\$ (398,210)
Membership fees cancelled		(1,890)	-	-	-
Net operating margins		-	3,179,344	-	-
G&T patronage capital credits received and allocated		-	277,990	(277,990)	-
Non-patronage source margins		-	(2,679,344)	2,679,344	-
Net non-operating margins		-	-	261,057	-
Retirement of capital credits		-	(1,661,552)	-	-
Equity payable upon liquidation		-	-	976,675	-
Gain on early retirement of estate capital credits		-	-	5,094	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-	153,949
Change in donated capital		-	-	-	-
Balance, at December 31, 2022	\$	63,000	\$ 12,161,302	\$ 52,475,678	\$ (244,261)

Where your co-op dollar was spent in 2022:



Outage Causes in 2022



Outage Minutes Averted

When possible, Northwestern REC uses switching technology to avoid outages all together. You can see in 2022, the co-op was able to avoid more than 9 million outage minutes. This calculation is based on the number of accounts affected multiplied by the number of minutes. For example, if the co-op was able to avoid a onehour outage for 100 accounts, the total amount of outage minutes averted would equal 6,000 minutes (100 accounts multiplied by 60 minutes per account).







KIM DOCTER CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

DAVID M. SNYDER TROY TOWNSHIP



MARIAN DAVIS MEADVILLE

District 6: Rockdale, Richmond, Bloomfield and Athens townships in Crawford County

Kim Docter was first elected to Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) board in 2007 and has been an active co-op member for nearly 40 years. She has served in various positions on the board, including treasurer and secretary. Currently, she holds the position of chair of the Communications Committee and is a member of the IT Committee. Docter has completed several certifications related to cooperative governance. She holds the Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold certifications.

Docter is a graduate of Villa Maria College and has been honored by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for excellence in accounting. She is currently serving her sixth term as tax collector for Rockdale Township. Additionally, she serves as the treasurer for the Crawford County Tax Collectors Association. Docter works part-time as a bookkeeper and substitute teacher for the Penncrest School District. Previously, she was the owner/operator of a registered home daycare for 16 years.

She has been an active member of Millers Station United Methodist Church since 1984, where she serves as the treasurer. Docter is also a 35-plus-year member of the Erie Motorcycle Club, where she has held positions such as vice-president and secretary/treasurer and currently serves as president. Furthermore, she is the Western Pennsylvania representative and newsletter editor for Retreads, an international organization for motorcyclists over the age of 40, and sits on the International Retreads board.

Docter is a proud mother of three grown children, Kristopher, Emily, and Alandis, and has two grandchildren.

District 7: Sparta, Rome, Oil Creek, Steuben, and Troy townships, and Centerville Borough in Crawford County, and Southwest and Eldred townships in Warren County

David M. Snyder was born and raised near Shanksville in Somerset County. He graduated from Shanksville-Stonycreek High School in 1984. Snyder earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1988, which provided him with a solid foundation in the field. First elected to the co-op board in 2020, Snyder has since achieved the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification.

Snyder has been residing in Troy Township since 1992, along with his wife, Renee, and their four children. Since graduating from Penn State, Snyder has been serving the agricultural community. He has worked as a district sales representative for ADM (Archer Daniels Midland) for the past 22 years. His role involves interacting with and supporting farmers in various ways.

Snyder and his wife also own a farm, where they raise livestock and cultivate produce. They market their products at local farmer's markets, showcasing their commitment to sustainable farming practices.

Snyder is an active member of the Troy Center Community Church, where he participates in various activities and contributes to the community's well-being. Outside of his professional and community endeavors, Snyder enjoys farming, hunting and spending time with his family. He actively supports his children and granddaughters in their pursuits, including participation in 4-H, athletics, academics, and French Creek Community Theater.

District 8: East Fallowfield, Vernon, Greenwood, Union, and Fairfield townships in Crawford County, and Kinsman, Williamsfield, Andover, and parts of Richmond townships in Ashtabula County, Ohio

Originally from the McKeesport area where she graduated from high school, Marian Davis has been a member of Northwestern REC for 54 years and a resident of Vernon Township for 61 years. She currently serves as the secretary of Northwestern REC Board of Directors, showcasing her active involvement and leadership within the cooperative.

Davis is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Meadville. She has been actively engaged in the church community, having served on the church council and currently acting as the chairwoman of the Worship and Music Committee. She has also contributed her time and efforts to the Soup Kitchen of Meadville and is part of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Davis has been involved with 4-H in the past, serving as a Horse and Pony Club leader. She also established the Interstate Exchange Club, which aimed to provide young people with opportunities for travel and hospitality, broadening their horizons. Davis has been a past president of the Inter-County Horsemen's Association, served on the 4-H Advisory Board, and was a member of the board of the Tri-State Saddle Horse Breeders Association, Inc.

Davis has owned several restaurants in the Franklin and Meadville areas, highlighting her entrepreneurial spirit. She also worked as a USPS sub-rural mail carrier, which provided her with a deeper understanding of rural communities and their needs.

Davis has actively participated in various community organizations and events. She served as the chair of the Crawford County Fair's Home Products Annual Luncheon and was a past president of the Meadville Football Boosters. Currently, she is a member of the Looking Ahead breast cancer support group and the Vernon Central Fire Department.

Davis and her late husband, Bob, have three children and four grandchildren. The pair prioritized establishing a strong family foundation and creating the best life possible for their children.



LISA CHAUSSE GUYS MILLS

District 9: West Mead, East Mead, East Fairfield, and Randolph townships and Blooming Valley Borough in Crawford County

Lisa Chausse resides in Guys Mills, with her husband, Michael, and their youngest daughter, Hope. They also have two grown children and one grandchild. Chausse is the current chair for the Northwestern REC Board of Directors.

Chausse serves as the practice manager for Mercy House of Meadville, Inc., a state-licensed substance abuse and mental health treatment facility. She is an active member of New Beginnings Church of God, where she enjoys serving and contributing to the church community.

A past Rural Electric Youth Tour participant, she graduated from Maplewood High School in 1990 and attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. After obtaining a degree in specialized business, she made the decision to return to her rural hometown to raise her family, emphasizing her connection to her rural roots. Chausse has served as the board secretary/treasurer for the Guys Mills Mutual Water Association, demonstrating her involvement in local community organizations. She also opened a small gift shop in the Grist Mill of Guys Mills with her mother, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit.

Spending quality time with her family and pets is an important aspect of Chausse's life. She has also taken on new endeavors that reflect her rural background, such as gardening, canning, raising chickens and cherishing the role of being a grandmother (or "Grammy," as she affectionately refers to herself).

Chausse's father, Larry Proper, served as a Northwestern REC director for 34 years. Watching him diligently work for his district and co-op members left a lasting impression on her. Her experience with her father's dedication and the co-op community has influenced her own commitment as a current director to interact and contribute to the co-op community.



87th CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING Your Source of Power & Information

AUG. 19, 2023

Drive-thru: 9 AM - 12 PM Business Meeting: 11 AM - 12 PM

New Beginnings Church of God Leslie Road, Meadville, PA

Call 800-352-0014 for reservations

CO-OP COMMUNITY

SAFETY DAY!

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative is excited to host this FREE Community Safety Day at its headquarters with the following activities and participants:

- FIVE different food trucks
- Tree Family Party Piggies
- Townville Ambulance Service
- STAT MedEvac Fly-in (tentative)
- PA One Call
- PA State Police

- Local Volunteer Fire Departments
- PennDOT
- Hazlett Tree Service
- Hotline (live-wire) demonstrations
- Co-op tours and bucket truck rides
- Basket auction and so much more!
- CO-OP COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY JULY 27, 2023 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 🔨

\$5 FOOD VOUCHER & OTHER FREE GIVE-AWAYS AT THIS EVENT Limit of one - \$5 food voucher per person to be used at any of the five food trucks during this event only. Total of 1,000 vouchers to be given away! Children must be accompanied by an adult and registration at event will be required to receive food voucher.

Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc., Inc.

22534 State Hwy. 86, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 info@NorthwesternREC.com | NorthwesternREC.com | 800-352-0014