



# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## SVEC's 76th Annual Meeting Highlights

The Cooperative's 76th Annual Meeting was held on June 14, at the James Madison University Convocation Center. More than 1,550 members and guests attended the meeting. The meeting is held every year for member/owners to elect their board of directors and learn about the year's Co-op business.

Members received a gift bag upon registration at the meeting, which contained an Annual Report; a pen; a coupon for a discounted compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL); an "Energy Savers" guide to energy efficiency; and a

magnet with energy-efficiency tips. Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) celebrated children at the meeting with a Kids Zone, where children ages 5-10 could learn about electric safety and have a good time while their family members attended the meeting. A high-voltage safety demo trailer, provided by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), was also set up outside of the Convocation Center, where members could learn about power lines and the possible dangers they present.

The primary purpose of the Annual Meeting is the election of directors. One director position was decided at this year's meeting. The Cooperative's bylaws require a minimum of two candidates for each position to be filled. Two individuals were nominated to run for the board, including one incumbent. Incumbent Larry E. Garber was re-elected to represent Rockingham County.

Following the election of directors, reports were made by SVEC Board Chairman Stephen W. Burkholder, and SVEC President and CEO Myron D.



- 1. SVEC members were greeted with a large American flag and, if needed, golf cart rides to the Convocation Center upon arrival at the meeting.
- 2. The Walnut Ridge Boys provided entertainment for member/owners and guests.
- 3. SVEC crew members assisted in the demonstration of the Hot Trailer outside the Convocation Center.
- 4. The special speaker for the evening was ODEC President & CEO Jackson Reasor.

Rummel. Jackson E. Reasor, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative's (ODEC) President and CEO also spoke.

In his speech, Board Chairman Burkholder said that 2011 was another successful year for SVEC, mentioning the maintenance and capital-improvement program across the Cooperative system; the addition of the four new board members; the review of the bylaws to better reflect the present business environment; the retirement of Capital Credits; no base-rate increase in more than 10 years; and the work through the year with no serious injury to any employees.

President & CEO Rummel touched on several topics in addressing the member/owners. He commented on the Cooperative's commitment to energy conservation and demand-side use through the Load Management program, stating that for 30 years, SVEC has worked with members to save more than \$38.7 million in wholesale power costs. He also spoke of the work SVEC is doing to improve facilities, and the efforts made for vegetation management,

which helps to keep lines clear of trees, brush, and other growth.

Rummel said that currently the Cooperative is seeing lower prices for the fuel costs associated with generating electricity, and lower wholesale energy prices, which he said are mainly due to abundant natural gas supplies. He noted that in looking at fuel factor numbers, which affect members' monthly bills, for the Cooperative between January 2012 and May 2012, the cost has dropped more than \$6.26 per 1,000 kWh that is used. Additionally, he said that in 2012, more than \$3.6 million was retired to members as a credit or cash return and that since 1960, the total amount retired by the Cooperative and returned to member/owners is more than \$48 million.

The meeting ended with the drawing of door prizes. This year featured two grand prizes: two \$500 gift certificates for electric service. Recipients of these two grand prizes were Iris E. Mawyer of Lyndhurst, Va., and Norris Dinges, Jr., of Stanley, Va.

Pearl Keister of Broadway, Va.;

Clinton E. Mullins of Crimora, Va.; Robert M. Eisenhard of Ashburn, Va.; and John C./Linda H. Kelley, Jr., of Grottoes, Va., were recipients of \$200 gift certificates for electric service.

Charles Dovel of Stanley, Va.; John P./Jo Ann Widener of Harrisonburg, Va.; Randy O./Teresa C. May of Harrisonburg, Va.; David G./Lynda L. Tarburton of Luray, Va.; Gary A./Adina S. McInturff of Fort Valley, Va.; Wayne F. Nesselrodt of Harrisonburg, Va.; and Marilyn P. Jarrells of Timberville, Va.; were recipients of \$100 gift certificates for electric service.

W. Nelson Shenk, Jr., of Dayton, Va.; Carl L. Callahan of Harrisonburg, Va.; Earl W. Dovel of Stanley, Va.; Russell E. Dulaney of Harrisonburg, Va.; Robert Shomo of Shenandoah, Va.; Anna M. Cline of Harrisonburg, Va.; Lelon E./M. Delores Moyer of Swoope, Va.; Oak Level Church—c/o Adina McInturff of Fort Valley, Va.; Richard L. Shoemaker of Penn Laird, Va.; and Carl G./Nancy M. Hoover of Broadway, Va., were recipients of \$50 gift certificates for electric service.



5. SVEC member/owners register and receive their goody bags. • 6. SVEC Chairman of the Board Stephen Burkholder greets the crowd. • 7. SVEC President & CEO Myron Rummel greets Annual Meeting guests. • 8. Members were served a delicious meal of pork barbecue, baked beans, coleslaw, and an ice cream sandwich. • 9. SVEC President & CEO Myron Rummel addresses the member/owners.



**Shenandoah Valley  
Electric Cooperative**

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# The Bright Lights of TRACKSIDE THEATER

by Cammie Tutwiler, SVEC Writer

Tucked along Luray's Main Street, the Trackside Theater hosts Blue Ridge Youth Theater, Inc., and Luray Opera Theater – local organizations working to cultivate new talent and offer performances for all ages. From an initial assessment outside, it appears to be a regular theater house, complete with signage and a box office. But once you step inside, the quaint building glows – with the enthusiasm of two passionate artistic directors, and energy-efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs), which serve as the primary source of stage lighting.

## The Companies

Kira Newman, artistic director for Blue Ridge Youth Theater, Inc. (BRYT), said BRYT started in late 2009.

“We had been doing musicals, and the youth wanted to do more than one performance a year, so we added a winter show,” she said.

Currently, BRYT presents classes and two productions each year, one in the spring and one in the fall, but is planning to expand its offerings this

summer and reintroduce the summer musical.

“If we can offer an opportunity for parents to expose their children to more genres and different types of performances, that's part of our mission,” Kira Newman said.

A primary goal of BRYT is to offer a place for young people to learn about theater – whether in performance, production, or backstage roles.

“For our recent production of *The Last Unicorn*, we tried to have youth do as much as possible, and we try to offer opportunities to get them involved in as many aspects as possible,” Kira Newman said.

They even have a new group, the BRYT Lights, which serves as a youth advisory committee that is encouraged to do community outreach as well. This year, the BRYT Lights formed their own Relay for Life team.

Luray Opera Theater was founded in 2010, with David Newman as the artistic director.



Kira Newman is the artistic director of Blue Ridge Youth Theater, which performs at the Trackside Theater, located on Main Street in Luray.

“I teach at JMU, and students needed performance opportunities,” he said. “In opera, it's difficult to get cast without experience, so I had created Luray Opera largely for my students and students like them to get those opportunities; and at the same time, to provide a new cultural experience for our community.”

Initially, both companies worked with another local performing arts organization, but found they needed more space and autonomy. In the fall of 2011, they began rehearsing at Luray Church of the Brethren and their first 2012 performances, BRYT's *Babes in Toyland*, were held at Luray Middle School.

## New Location & Bright Lights

The Trackside Theater facility opened in April 2012 and, David Newman said, sort of fell into their laps.

“When we walked in to see it the first time, it was full of sofas and various furniture pieces, but we still had the vision of the theater.”

Construction of the theater was a community effort, and the Newmans credit Bob Baker, who builds sets for their shows and others, with the design of the new facility.

“He is quite the master set builder and his wife, Barb, has produced all of the shows I've directed in Luray since 2008,” Kira Newman said.

Though David Newman said the Youth Theater is the main thrust of everything to a significant degree, the Trackside Theater does host other performances.

“I have sung all over the United

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Luray Opera Theater Artistic Director David Newman (above) checks out the LEDs at the Trackside Theater. Kira Newman (left) demonstrates control of the stage lights, which is done by computer, at the Trackside Theater.



CAMMIE TUTWILER PHOTOS

States and Europe, and have made friends with many great performers,” he said. “We’re very fortunate that some of them are willing to come play in our theater.”

When performing, they are under some bright (yet energy efficient) lights.

All of the stage lighting at the Trackside Theater utilizes LEDs, except for “Big Bertha,” which is the large spotlight at the back of the theater. There are a dozen color-changing RGB lamps, as well as 10-par cans with dimmable par-38 LED bulbs. The entire system draws less than 500 watts at full power. In contrast, standard theatrical lighting systems often use 300 watts per fixture.

But with new technology, there is always a learning curve.

“One of the things I was taught as an actor was to ‘find the light’ and part of that, I found, was the actual heat,” Kira Newman said. “With the LEDs, there is no heat. It’s taken a little getting used to.”

The system is computer-based. Lights can be dimmed and their colors changed with the click of a mouse. And you will usually find one of the BRYT students designing and operating the lights for the show.

Under the LEDs in Luray, the companies at the Trackside Theater are working to bring new cultural experiences to town, while teaching, performing, and conserving.

## Trackside Theater Upcoming Events

### Ted Ganger & Friends!

August 4 at 7 p.m.  
\$15 Adults, \$10 Students,  
\$5 Youth 12 & Under

Every song is different – different subject, different musical language. The texts are about very personal experiences and feelings that are at the same time familiar to all of us. Musically, they all take place in the borderlands between pop, musical and classical. Join Ted and local singers, including Kira and David Newman, for this very special program – *And Life Goes On.*

### Luray Opera Presents Summer Opera Scenes Program

August 17 at 7 p.m.  
August 18 at 7 p.m.

\$15 Adults  
\$5 Youth 5 to 17

The culmination of Luray Opera’s 10-day intensive workshop program. Join emerging opera stars and students from around the state for an exciting evening of scenes and arias.

### March SVEC Major Outages

MARCH 2 Highland County  
1,420 consumers for 1.7 hours due to power supplier

MARCH 19 Luray area  
1,040 consumers for 0.1 hour due to planned outage

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