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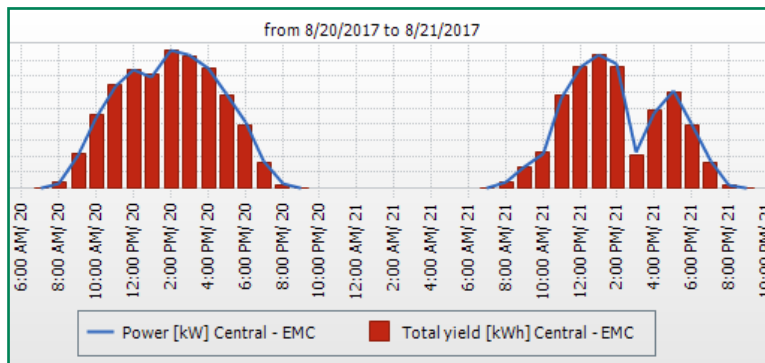
# NEWS CENTRAL

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## It was a solar eclipse of the...electric grid

While most people were possibly watching a once-in-a-lifetime event as the moon eclipsed the sun on Aug. 21, your cooperative was watching the effect of the event on the power grid.

With the portfolio of solar-generated power quickly building across our region, there arise new challenges to managing the electricity system. Take the solar eclipse for example. For a three-hour window during the middle of a long summer day, the peak generating period for solar power, day turned into night. For some, the moon totally eclipsed the sun, making it completely dark. For others, like us, the moon left a small sliver of sun and allowed us to continue capturing a little bit of sunlight.



Central Electric's Community Solar array produces electricity from the sun's energy and puts it back onto the grid. You can see the sharp drop off of generation from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 21 during the solar eclipse compared to the production at the same time the previous day.

Much like your 401k, where you diversify your retirement funds to counter wild swings in the stock market, your electric cooperative and other utilities use the same technique with energy generation portfolios. Through our statewide organization, we purchase a balanced generation of electricity. Nuclear,

natural gas, solar and for many years coal, have all worked together to provide a stable and reliable flow of electricity to your home. That way, when the sun decides to hide behind the clouds for a few days, or even the moon for a few hours, we can continue providing reliable electricity to your home.

Your cooperative works hard to provide reliable electricity, so it's there when you need it. We will continue to look for ways to efficiently balance our power supply and keep you connected.



The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Members of Central Electric Membership Corp.:

- ▶ Friday, Oct. 6, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford
- ▶ Food, registration and entertainment begin at 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ Business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ Prizes and a cash drawing for \$500 at the meeting's conclusion!

# POINT OF VIEW

## Engaging our future leaders

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

For many teens, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is full of “firsts.” It may be the first time they’ve left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation’s capital or spent time away from their family for an extended period of time. Some

are also seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through their parents’ perspective. That’s the most important first, as it’s truly a “leap” to their next phase and where their journey to adulthood begins.



(L-R) DaNasia Sneed and Amber Vaughn represented Central Electric during the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

In preparation for the Youth Tour, teens learn about cooperatives, our history and grassroots advocacy. The Youth Tour originated from a suggestion of then Senator Lyndon Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington to see first-hand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the

experience. From this idea, the program evolved. High schoolers selected by their electric co-ops participate in a week long trip to the nation’s capital. The program has grown rapidly since its inception and

this year, more than 1,800 high schoolers participated.

The week-long trip includes visits to many D.C. monuments and sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with delegations from other states enable networking with other youth from across the country.

A highlight of the week includes a meeting with congressional delegates. Students often have the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators and learn first-hand that our elected officials are working for our hometown communities.

I can say that nearly all teens who have participated in our Youth Tour program look back with fond memories of an educational,



interesting and eventful week. Many make lifelong friends. For a few, the Youth Tour is a transformational experience, gaining more confidence with bigger goals and aspirations, leaving with a sense of purpose.

The Youth Tour is one of the most important programs our cooperative sponsors. I am constantly impressed by the caliber of students we send each year. Our teens are our future, and it’s looking brighter every day. I hope you will consider urging your teen to apply for our 2018 Youth Tour delegation.

Next year’s trip will take place June 9-15. Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in Fall 2018 are eligible to attend and encouraged to apply. The application period is underway and is due by Jan. 26. Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to download the application or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.

Until next time,

*Morris McClellion*



# Think safety when landscaping this fall

Fall officially began on Sept. 22 and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home's exterior a fresh look, but there's one thing many people don't consider before they start their landscaping projects – power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, review this list of safety tips:

- ▶ Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. Central Electric has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren't too close to power lines. If you happen to see any that may look too close, call us, and we will send out the experts.
- ▶ Ladders are conductors of electricity. It's best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn't inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.
- ▶ Call 811 before you dig to identify where underground utility lines are buried even if you're just planting a tree or shrub. Digging around lines can cause serious injury as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit [NC811.org](http://NC811.org).

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet



kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you're around power lines. If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-446-7752.



## Take advantage of the portal

As a member of Central Electric, you have the ability to manage and track your account anytime, anywhere. Whether you need to pay your bill or monitor your energy use, the Member Service Portal at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) is your one-stop shop.

The free portal is available to you 24/7 and it offers an extensive range of account services for you to take advantage of. Not only can you track your energy use or make a one-time payment towards your account, you can also set up a variety of different payment options, including a recurring payment draft.

You can also keep your contact information up-to-date, that way, when we need to communicate with you and keep you current on cooperative news, we have all the information we need to reach you. If you haven't already, click on the "Login" button on the home page at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to get set-up today!

# Cooperative provides leadership opportunity

The cooperative recently sponsored Neida Figon, a junior at Southern Lee High School in Sanford, to attend Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council.

The week-long camp was held at White Lake, N.C., featuring energetic and interactive workshops, presentations, outdoor recreation and leadership building exercises. The camp is designed to provide a learning experience that concentrates on the cooperative way of doing business and building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model.

Neida was chosen to attend the camp on behalf of the cooperative due to her strong work ethic in the classroom and extracurricular involvement, including serving as the treasurer for the Southern Lee Skills USA club.

Central Electric sponsors a local high school student each year to attend Cooperative Leadership Camp. If you will be a rising sophomore, junior or senior during the 2018-19 school year, the application period for next year's camp will begin in March and run through May 2018. The camp will be held June 18-22 at the N.C. FFA Center at White Lake. For more information about this great program, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" page at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).



Neida Figon, a student from Southern Lee High School, represented Central Electric at the 2017 Cooperative Leadership Camp.



**Central Electric**  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*

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