



Thankful for our members



From the desk of
CEO & General Manager
Eddie Oldham

As we quickly approach the holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for you, the member-owners of our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Central Electric, together we are able to make our community a better and brighter place.

I generally use this column to provide updates on new projects and developments or update you on current events in the energy industry, so that all of our member-owners are “in the know” on cooperative initiatives. However, during this season of giving, I think it’s equally important to let you know that we are thankful for you and the impact that you have on our co-op and communities we serve, simply by being a member-owner of this cooperative.

As a part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is to maintain safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also view the co-op as a catalyst for good in our communities.

We continually partner with local nonprofit organizations through our “Operation Round Up” program that is fueled by voluntary donations from you, our members. Since its inception in November 2013, the program has awarded grants totaling more than \$1 million to deserving organizations, such as the Chatham County 4-H, Helping Hands Clinic of Lee County and the Buddy Back Pack Program, just to name a few.

We also work closely with our local schools to provide opportunities for our teachers and students. Each year we

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award \$15,000 in education grants to local teachers to help them foster a creative learning environment for students. We also provide scholarships to deserving students who are attending local community colleges, as well as scholarships for students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. and local university basketball camps.

We are also thankful for our co-op board members. Each of these individuals carve out significant time to attend meetings, training sessions and staying abreast of current industry trends. This investment of time results in better informed member-advisors that serve the best interests of the members they represent.

On a more personal note, we also appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. All of your words of encouragement, support and patience are greatly appreciated when we are working long hours during challenging situations to restore power.

Thank you for all you do to make our cooperative and community a better place to live. We can’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership. Together, let’s continue making our little corner of the world a better place to live.

Until next time,

Eddie B. Oldham