

# NEWS Central

NOV 2018

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## POINT OF VIEW

We are thankful for you

## HURRICANE FLORENCE

Co-op shows resiliency

## YOUTH TOUR 2019

Now accepting applications

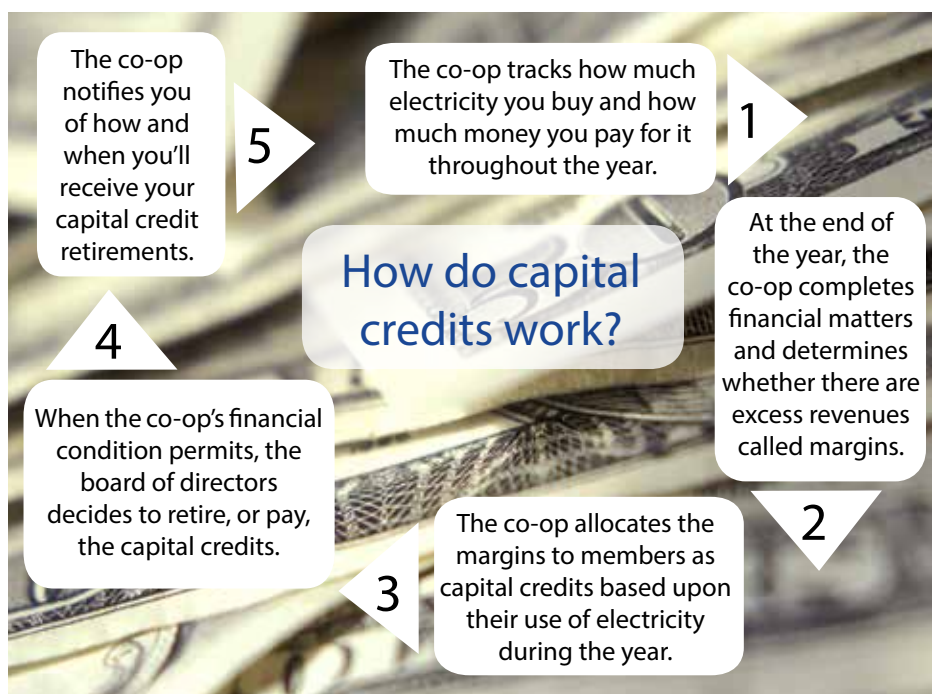
## Capital credit checks coming your way

When you signed up to receive electric service from Central Electric, you became a member-owner of an electric utility.

While investor-owned utilities return their profits back to shareholders, electric co-ops operate as close to at-cost as possible and return any margins back to the members. When the co-op's financial condition permits, capital credits are returned in the form of checks or bill credits.

At this year's Annual Meeting of the Members, Assistant General Manager Eddie Oldham announced a retirement of capital credits approved by the Board of Directors. This year will mark the tenth year in a row that capital credits have been retired. During this time frame, over \$11 million will have been returned to members.

This year, the co-op is giving back \$1.2 million and members who received service from the



Since your co-op operates at-cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits. These credits are returned over time based on the co-op's financial condition.

cooperative during 1998 or 1999 will be receiving a capital credit retirement check. Retirement amounts greater than \$25 will be issued a check, while all others will be applied as a bill credit. Look out for your retirement check to arrive by the first week of December.

HAPPY  
Thanksgiving

- ▶ Applications for Operation Round Up® grant requests are due Nov. 1. For more information, visit the "Community" tab at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).
- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Crews will be on-call.

# POINT OF VIEW

## Thankful for our members

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion*

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 \$510,000

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 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

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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 is greatly appreciated when we are working long hours during challenging situations like Hurricane Florence to restore power.

So 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 corner of the world a better place to live.

Until next time,

*Morris McClellion*

# Co-op shows resiliency after Hurricane Florence

Strong wind and substantial rain from Hurricane Florence created a perfect recipe for power outages as the storm made its way through central North Carolina the weekend of Sept. 15.

Coined “the storm of a lifetime,” Florence dumped 15 inches of rain and brought wind gusts of up to 60 mph in some of our local areas. The combination of wind and rain resulted in over 12,000 Central Electric members without power at the height of the storm.

Central Electric crews, along with crews from co-ops across the country, Albemarle EMC in Herford, N.C., Central Georgia EMC in Jackson, GA, Dixie Electric in Montgomery, AL, Southside Electric in Crewe, VA, Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative in LaFayette, AL, Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative in Savannah, TN, local contract crews, Lee Electrical Construction, Lewis Tree Service



Flooding and wet conditions in areas like Kelly Plantation Dr. made it difficult for line crews to restore service in the days after Hurricane Florence.

and Xylem Tree Experts, as well as a Lewis Tree Service crew from Bridgeport, CT, worked tirelessly and diligently for four days to restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

The cooperative appreciates the patience and support of its members during the aftermath of the storm. Crews faced slow working conditions due to the unrelenting conditions from the storm. A steady wall of heavy rain brought with it flooding as well as

extremely wet ground conditions, creating several days of difficult restoration efforts.

Through it all, the resiliency of the cooperative network was on display during the storm, evident by the quick response from cooperatives and contractors from across the country. Even though the storm response is complete for Central Electric, our thoughts remain with areas across the state that continue to rebuild from damage from the storm.



## We'll keep the light on

As winter draws ever closer, the days continue to get shorter, and we have less time to spend outside.

Maybe you want to play an extra game of basketball. Perhaps you have guests coming over who need to see how to get to your door. Outdoor lighting can add security to your home and also extend the time you have to spend outside.

Central Electric offers several lighting options to meet your needs, including the standard LED model, floodlights, street lighting and the more decorative town and country fixture.

For more information, or to find out how you can add security lighting on your property, visit the “Member Services” tab at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) or call 800-446-7752 today.





## “Say Yes” to the Youth Tour

Central Electric is seeking applications from high school students willing to participate in the leadership opportunity of a lifetime: The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Step out of your comfort zone, and join North Carolina’s future leaders as they explore the nation’s capital.

The Youth Tour allows students to experience Washington, D.C., and learn more about how they can make a difference as young adults. Tourists will visit the Washington Monument, pay their respects at Arlington National Cemetery, meet elected officials and tour Smithsonian museums, all while building connections with peers and future leaders from across the nation.

The cooperative will sponsor two local students to join the June 15-21, 2019 Youth Tour. The all-expense-paid, weeklong Tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. About 1,800 students from more than 40 states are expected to participate in 2019, and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives will send a delegation of nearly 45 students.

Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in fall 2019 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by Jan. 25. Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to download the application or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.

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## Loans and rebates available

Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home this winter? Central Electric can help.

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.

Visit the “Energy Efficiency” tab at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to learn more about available energy-efficient loans and rebates, as well as energy-saving tools and services that can help you become more efficient.



Central Electric  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Morris McClellion  
CEO & General Manager

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