

NEWS Central

DEC 2018

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

POINT OF VIEW

Looking back on 2018

BRIGHT IDEAS

Grants boost schools

YOUTH TOUR 2019

Now accepting applications

Helping you take control of your energy costs

As your trusted energy partner, Central Electric is dedicated to providing you with reliable information about your electricity use and helping you find easy ways to lower your energy costs. That's why your co-op is using data and the latest technology to bring you timely, relevant, and useful information about your energy use.

Beginning in December, we will be sending quarterly personalized video billing information straight to your inbox. These short, but powerful, videos will display your annual billing data and compare your energy use to the previous month and same period the year prior. We'll also be keeping you informed about other programs and services available to our members. The emails are designed to show you what factors affected your bill, help you make changes and show you ways to save.

The co-op is here to help you make energy choices that are right for you. Whether it's choosing an HVAC upgrade or a programmable thermostat, we



Cold weather is coming and it's important to know that heating accounts for most of your winter energy use. To save money, take advantage of cooling temperatures to caulk and weather strip before winter arrives.

Watch this personalized video to learn about ways to save on your winter bills.

[Watch Video](#)



want to provide you with timely information that will help you lower your energy use and save money.

To start taking more control of your energy use, make sure you are also taking advantage of the online billing portal at CEMCPower.com. Here you can view your daily energy use and set up alerts to keep a close eye on your usage. While you're there, make sure you have a good email address on your account so we can send you emails to keep you up-to-date on co-op news and your energy use.



- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Your friends and neighbors at Central Electric wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

POINT OF VIEW

Looking back on 2018

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

As we welcome the holiday season and close the books on another great year, we are looking back on 2018 and celebrating the impact the cooperative has on the people and communities we are honored to serve.

For over 75 years, Central Electric has been providing more than just electric service. It has provided a strong sense of community, aiming to enrich and improve the lives of its members and our surrounding communities.

Here's a look back on 2018 and a few ways your co-op was committed to you and our communities:

Commitment to our members

Our primary commitment is to you, our member-owner, which is why we are continually looking for ways to improve our service. Whether it's an upgrade to the lines that run to your home, or finding new ways for you to interact with the co-op, we strive to provide exceptional service.

That's why we added services such as the mobile app and outage texting to help keep you connected whenever and wherever you may be. The mobile app compliments our online member services portal, which continues to grow in use among our members.

If you haven't already done so, make sure you download the

free mobile app and create a login to stay connected with your account and energy use.

Commitment to reliability

Part of our commitment to you also includes providing reliable service that you can count on. We work hard to maintain our system and provide electricity to your home so it's there when you need it.

Without question, our biggest adversary in keeping your lights on is Mother Nature. In 2018, the co-op battled a significant amount of major storms. A January snow storm blanketed the area with reports of up to a foot of snow in parts of our service territory, Hurricane Florence dumped several inches of rain and Tropical Storm Michael brought substantial wind gusts to an already saturated region.

Despite the challenging and difficult conditions from Mother Nature this year, we were able to maintain superior reliability for our members. This is a strong testament to the strength and resiliency of our cooperative and we thank you for your support during each of these events.

Commitment to community

Supporting our local communities is also very important to the cooperative. Through the generosity of over 16,000 of our members who voluntarily participate in the Operation Round



Up® program, more than \$95,000 was donated through grants to community organizations in 2018.

In addition to Operation Round Up, the co-op also provided \$15,000 in grants to our local schools through the Bright Ideas program, as well as scholarships to students to attend local community colleges, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and local university basketball camps.

In 2018, the cooperative also partnered with the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership at N.C. State University to host Daria Fedrick, a local teacher, as a Kenan Fellow for the summer. Through these great programs, the co-op is continuing to invest in the communities in which we all live and work.

As we look forward to 2019, our mission remains the same, providing great service to our members and investing in the communities around us. From all of us at Central Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a happy new year!

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Education grants boost teachers and students

Central Electric is continually looking for ways to support the communities we serve. One way is by annually awarding Bright Ideas grants to local educators. The program helps support engaging and innovative classroom projects.

This year, the co-op awarded \$15,000 to 10 educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Over 3,300 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$11.5 million to educators across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached over 2.2 million N.C. students and sponsored more than 11,000 projects in all subjects, including math, reading, science, technology, history, music and the arts.

Congratulations to the following 2018 Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Erin Boecke, Pittsboro Elementary
- ▶ Daria Fedrick, Bragg Street Academy
- ▶ Lynne Harward, Crain's Creek Middle



Dot Ross-Vaughn accepts a Bright Ideas check with her students on behalf of Southern Lee High School. The grant will allow Ross-Vaughn to use innovative technology to provide students with real world experiences that will help them build connections between life in school and life as future adults.

- ▶ Kimberly Hilliard, Sandhills-Farm Life Elementary
- ▶ Lauren Manis, Southern Lee High
- ▶ Angela Mullennix, Cameron Elementary
- ▶ Dee O'Neal, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary
- ▶ Wendi Pillars, Jordan Matthews High
- ▶ Dot Ross-Vaughn, Southern Lee High
- ▶ Emma Smith, Broadway Elementary

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2019. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit CEMCPower.com or NCBrightIdeas.com.



Take control with FlexPay

Are you looking for ways to manage your energy costs? We may have the answer for you. The co-op's FlexPay program gives you the power to manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.

FlexPay allows you to pay on your account as necessary to maintain a credit balance based on your daily energy charges. If your account balance runs out, there are no reconnect charges. You only need to establish a \$20 credit account balance to reconnect.

You can monitor your account on CEMCPower.com, as well as through email, text and voice alerts. FlexPay is available to both new and existing residential consumers.

To learn more about the FlexPay program or to see about transferring an existing account onto FlexPay, contact us 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 to download the application or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Morris McClellion
CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Water heater maintenance

As a Central Electric member, you have access to a selection of great programs to help you save money over time, including the water heater maintenance program.

The water heater maintenance program is like having a plumber standing by 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for just \$1 each month. This small fee included on your bill will cover the heating element, pop-off valve and thermostats on your water heater, regardless of where you



purchased it, or how old it is.

Furthermore, after you’ve been enrolled for at least 90 days, if the cooperative’s licensed plumber determines the element, pop-off valve or thermostat is the problem, a \$50 credit will be

added to your next bill. If they determine the water heater needs to be replaced, a \$100 credit will be added if you purchase a new water heater with an energy factor of 95 or higher. Contact the office today to take advantage of this program.