

NEWS Central

JAN 2019

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

POINT OF VIEW

Looking out for you

OPERATION ROUND UP

Supporting our communities

SPORTS CAMPS

Accepting applications

Make 2019 a year of energy improvements

“Dropping the ball” is a good thing when you’re ringing in the New Year, but not if you’re missing an opportunity to save energy and money. By making small improvements in 2019, you can realize significant savings that will pay back by reducing your energy expenses.

Use the following co-op programs and tips to become more efficient and save money all year.

- ▶ Switch over to the FlexPay program. FlexPay gives you the power to manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.
- ▶ Speak with the cooperative’s energy auditor to identify the areas in your home that could benefit most from energy efficiency improvements. The free audit is tailored to your energy consumption and needs and can help cut your energy expenses throughout the year.



Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows is a cost effective way to seal up your home this winter. It will help keep chilly air outside and heated air inside.

- ▶ Sign up for free account alerts, including a high usage alert, through the billing portal at CEMCPower.com. This will help you track and manage your energy use year-round.
- ▶ Have your HVAC system serviced by a professional at least once a year to maintain its performance. The spring and fall are great times to have this done.
- ▶ Invest in a programmable thermostat. These can help you save money by automatically adjusting the temperature during certain times, like when you are away during the day or asleep at night.
- ▶ Make the switch to LED light bulbs. LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

HAPPY
New Year

- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year’s holiday. Crews will be on-call. Have a Happy New Year and best wishes in 2019 from Central Electric.

POINT OF VIEW

Looking out for our members

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense, as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The thing about co-ops is that we're all in this together. Cooperatives like Central Electric operate by bringing together the collective interest of the entire membership. While the co-op is certainly looking out for your best interest, it is also looking out for the "we."

When Central Electric was founded, members of our rural communities shared at least one self-interest, they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic

development of the rural areas in which we now live.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also part of the cooperative, coming together to meet a particular need. Central Electric serves over 22,500 members of our communities and is part of a rural electric cooperative network that serves over 42 million people in 47 states. You are a vital part of a strong electric cooperative network.

So how does looking out for the "we" benefit you? Rather than operating to provide returns to shareholders, Central Electric works to provide value to our members and community. The cooperative has a strong history of sharing financial success with its members, evident by the retirement of capital credits this past November and also for the



last ten consecutive years. This is our commitment to you that the cooperative is looking out for your best interest.

The next time you turn on or off the lights, let it serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good hands. Along with other electric cooperatives across our state and nation, we are working to be your trusted energy partner and to provide the best value for you, our member.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

THE ELECTRIC CO-OP IMPACT

LOCALLY (CENTRAL EMC)

- Serve over 22,500 people
- Maintain more than 2,500 miles of power lines
- Span 5 counties in North Carolina
- Employ 68 North Carolinians



STATEWIDE (NC)

- Serve approximately 2.5 million people
- Maintain more than 98,000 miles of power lines
- Span 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties
- Employ more than 2,300 North Carolinians

NATIONALLY (US)

- Serve more than 42 million people
- Maintain more than 2.5 million miles of power lines
- Span 2,500 of the country's 3,141 counties
- Employ more than 70,000 Americans

Operation Round Up® making a difference

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$30,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were recently awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:



Program Director Josh Mellette accepts a grant check for \$2,587 on behalf of the St. Provision Community Development Corp. The grant funds will be used to help cover costs associated with the Positive Direction for Youth Conference.

- ▶ Floyd L. Knight Children's Center, Lee County \$1,800
- ▶ Gary Taylor Dance, Moore County \$2,587
- ▶ High Hopes Chorus, Lee County, \$500
- ▶ Ingram Family YMCA, Lee County, \$2,587
- ▶ Lee County High School Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, \$2,587

- ▶ BonLee School 8th grade class, Chatham County, \$3,000
- ▶ Broadway Lions Club, Lee County, \$2,587
- ▶ Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Moore County Social Services, \$5,000 total
- ▶ Chatham County Partnership for Children, \$2,587
- ▶ East Lee Middle School, Lee County \$2,587

- ▶ Moore County Special Olympics, \$2,587
- ▶ St. Provision Community Development Corp., Lee County, \$2,587

Outage texting service

Losing power can be frustrating. That's why the cooperative is continually looking for ways to keep you connected, even when the lights go out. And since today's consumers are more mobile than ever, the co-op has an outage texting service available for its members.

To opt-in to the texting service, text "PWR" to 800-446-7752. Once you are opted-in, simply text "OUT" if you experience a power outage and then follow the prompts. This will report your outage to the cooperative, and better yet, when you text "STATUS," you will receive restoration updates specific to your outage. You can find out if a crew has been dispatched and you can also see if your power has been restored.

Before you take advantage of this service, it is essential to log in to the Member Services Portal at CEMCPower.com and make sure the co-op has your most up-to-date mobile number. The service will not work if the mobile number is not attached to your account. You can also continue to report outages by calling 877-766-6769 and track progress through the co-op's website.





“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

DIRECTORS

Rebecca G. Cogan, *President*
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James B. Brooks, *Secretary-Treasurer*
W. Phillip Thompson, *Asst. Secretary*
Frank Comer III, Edith C. Cox,
Dr. Nancy G. Holmes, Henry Outz,
Tim Priest and Henry Randolph.

128 Wilson Road, P. O. Box 1107,
Sanford, NC 27331

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: (919) 774-4900
To report an outage
24 hours a day: (877) 766-6769

James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp

Central Electric annually awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh.



To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must be able to provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

The deadline for all applications is March 31.

Visit CEMCPower.com to download the applications, or contact Janet Jackson at (919) 708-1638 for more information.