

NEWS Central

APR 2019

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

POINT OF VIEW

Supporting our communities

MEMBER SERVICES

Check out the online portal

BRIGHT IDEAS

Apply now!

Are you due a capital credit refund?

The great thing about being a part of a cooperative is that customers are actually “member-owners.” One way ownership is reflected is through capital credits, the members’ annual share of what’s left over after the costs of delivering power and funds for emergency situations and regular growth projects have been covered.

Allocated capital credits represent each member’s equity in the cooperative. The co-op holds on to these funds for a period of time in order to finance improvements to the system and reduce interest paid for loans. This helps keep rates affordable while at the same time improving reliability for the membership.

When the co-op is financially able to do so, as determined by the Board of Directors, capital credits are distributed to members. That means member-owners share in the successful operation of the cooperative. This is one of the many tangible benefits of being served by the co-op.

We make every effort to locate the person entitled to a capital credit check. Often, members have moved and they are difficult to locate. A list of names is posted on our website, CEMCPower.com, under the “Member Services - Capital Credits” section. Please review the list and if you see your name or the names of family or friends, please have them fill out the form found on the website and a representative will be in contact with the individual to complete the process.

Did you know?

Central Electric has retired over \$14 million to members – \$11.4 million in the last 10 years and \$1.2 million in 2018 alone. Since the co-op operates as close to at cost as possible, any operating margins (excess revenue after all bills are paid) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits and returned to members over time.



- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Friday, April 19, for the Easter holiday. Crews will be on-call.
- ▶ Applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due May 1. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.



POINT OF VIEW

Supporting our communities

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

Commitment to community is one of the seven pillars cooperatives are founded upon, including Central Electric. Your co-op works hard to make sure it remains an integral part of our community, in more ways than one.

From Operation Round Up®, fueled by voluntary donations from our members that provides grants to local non-profit organizations, to programs like Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships and Bright Ideas education grants, your co-op is committed to enhancing the communities we all live and work in.

Another way the co-op gives back to the community is through Rural Economic Development Loans & Grants (REDLG). REDLG is a federally funded loan and grant program of the U.S. Department

of Agriculture (USDA) that provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. The funding is provided through zero-interest loans to a not-for-profit utility, which is then passed through to local organizations to support various types of community development projects.

The cooperative has a strong history of using these federal funds to support economic development projects in our local communities, including the Town of Pittsboro for expansion of the city's water system and the Raleigh Executive Jetport to help relocate the N.C. Forest Service's airplane maintenance operations to the airport.

Recently the co-op was also able to partner with the Carthage Fire & Rescue Department to help the



organization purchase a new fire engine for the station. Through the USDA REDLG program, Central Electric applied for and received \$360,000 in zero-interest federal loan funds to be issued to the fire department for the purchase. With the purchase of the new engine that is equipped with state-of-the-art features, the department will be able to continue serving residents of the Carthage area at a high level for many years to come.

We thank Carthage Fire & Rescue, as well as all emergency management organizations across our area and state, for their continued dedication and commitment to serving and protecting our local communities. It is an honor for our co-op to partner with these organizations in order to help enrich the lives of our members and many others within the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing these types of community-oriented programs in the future.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion



The co-op's Board of Directors presented Chief Brian Tyner and Darrell Sauls of Carthage Fire & Rescue with a REDLEG loan for \$360,000. The loan helped purchase a new fire engine for the department.

Think safety when landscaping this spring

Spring time generally stimulates the amount of outdoor work we do around our homes due to the warmer weather. As you begin to tackle some of those outdoor projects that you have been adding to your growing list, a focus on electrical safety awareness can help ensure your activities do not result in any injuries.

Follow these simple safety rules when working outside:

- ▶ Always dial 811 to find out where utility lines are buried on your property before starting any projects that require digging. Never assume the location or depth or underground lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free and helps you avoid injury.
- ▶ Ladders, even those made of wood, that come into contact with power lines can be fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines and keep them parallel to the ground when carrying them to a location.
- ▶ Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. Repair or replace damaged items.
- ▶ Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid using electrical items when conditions are wet, including in the morning when the ground is still damp. [Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)*]



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 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 to get set-up today!

Students rewarded for classroom efforts

Five outstanding students earned a Visa® gift card for receiving at least one “A” on their recent report cards. The reward is in connection with Central Electric’s “Give us an A” program.

Local students from kindergarten to college with a grade of at least one “A” are invited to submit a copy of their most recent report card. Four times each school year, Central Electric will draw from the entries and award a \$25 Visa gift card to four winners with at least one “A” and a \$50 Visa gift card to one winner with all “A’s.”

If you have at least one “A” on your next report card, visit the Education Programs section at CEMCPower.com by Apr. 12 to enter the next random drawing.



Adelyn Byrd
Broadway Elem.



Drew Stickney
Moncure School



Kendra Baldwin
Tramway Elem.



Kamaria Steadman
Johnsonville Elem.



Meghan Byrd
Broadway Elem.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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James Taylor, *Editor*

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Do you have a Bright Idea?

Everyone knows April showers bring May flowers, but did you also know April brings new opportunities for local educators to fund classroom projects? Here at Central Electric, April marks the official kickoff of the Bright Ideas education grant program. The Bright Ideas grant program supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects.

Applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2019-20 school year are now being accepted. Educators in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. This year, Central Electric will award \$15,000 in grants to support local teachers and students.

Grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 23. However, it pays to apply early. All teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

To apply, or for more information, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.



Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS