

NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

JULY 2019

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Board election set by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the election of the Central Electric Board of Directors met June 3 to provide a slate of candidates for the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Nominated for consideration are the following members:

- ▶ **Frank Comer III,**
District 1
- ▶ **James Brooks,**
District 2
- ▶ **Edith Cox,**
District 3.

According to the Cooperative bylaws, any one hundred (100) or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts. The deadline for additional nominations is Aug. 6.



Cooperatives are democratic organizations and the Board represents members like *you* in the decision making process. Director elections are a vital part of the cooperative business model.

Once the full slate of nominees has been determined following the conclusion of the additional nomination period, the list will be posted at the Cooperative's office at 128 Wilson Road, Sanford, N.C.

The election will be held Friday, Oct. 4, at the Annual Meeting

of the Members at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center. The cooperative has a strong history of supporting the democratic process and we look forward to continuing this tradition through the election of our Board of Directors. Make sure you come out and participate in the business of *your* cooperative.

- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day. Crews will be on-call.



POINT OF VIEW

An honor to serve the co-op

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

By the time most of you read this, Central Electric will have a new General Manager in place; so if you will allow me, I'll use this last Manager's Message to say my goodbyes and hope I don't get too sentimental. But after 16 years in the top spot here (20 altogether), and 30 total in electric cooperatives, the sun has finally set. Yes, the years have flown by.

As I reflect on my time here, I must begin with and give my heartfelt appreciation to the always-supportive Board of Directors that I have served with, the ones who gave me this opportunity to lead. And that really is the essence of what a GM does, he or she leads the team. Through all this time, the 10 directors you have elected never once acted in their own self-interest; instead, they've always been concerned and motivated for the well-being

and best interest of you, our members. That has been a beacon to me and it's the driving force of cooperatives, caring about and serving others. Each one has become dear to me and I will forever cherish our time working together.

I'll also put the Central employee team up against any in the utility business. From answering the phones to building and repairing the lines, and all the other varied tasks, they know their number one job is serving you, by keeping the lights on and doing all possible to make each member interaction a positive one. The management team here has been beyond special to me. Jody, Wes, Angela, Terrie, Dal, Eddie and Tabitha, and a few more such as Doug, Nancy and Diane who beat me to retirement. We couldn't have done it without you.



A few have asked, "what will you look back on as your most noteworthy accomplishment?" My answer would be twofold in that first of all, it has always been a team effort, versus me alone doing anything. And second, we have faithfully served you our members and improved the organization in many ways. From managing the rapid member growth, to building a more robust grid, improving storm response time, supporting our soldiers on Fort Bragg and supporting our communities, all of these will yield a sense of pride in reflection.

And last but certainly not least, a tremendous word of appreciation is due to so many of you members who have encouraged and supported our efforts and our team through the years. I hope you realize that each time you spoke or sent a note or email saying thank you for prompt service or for working during the night to get the lights back, it drove us to do even more.

I need to go now, I hear a granddaughter calling her Pops. Thank you and may God bless each one of you!

Morris McClellion



While I'll certainly miss everyone at the co-op, I'm sure looking forward to spending more time with my six beautiful granddaughters.

Tips for maintaining your HVAC system

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.



Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 ft. around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's lifespan.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

Bright Ideas



Early-bird deadline approaching

Central Electric, along with North Carolina's other electric cooperatives, is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2019-2020 school year. Educators in K-12 classrooms are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. Grants are available for all subjects and teachers can apply individually or as a team.

This year, Central Electric will award Bright Ideas grants totaling approximately \$15,000 to local educators. To apply, educators must include a budget, explain the creative elements, implementation, goals and evaluation of the project, and have approval from the school principal.

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.



Energy advisor ready to help

Are you ever unsure of how your home is using electricity on a daily basis? To help, the cooperative has a trained staff of energy experts available to help you become more energy-efficient and understand just where your energy dollars are being spent.



In addition to our trained staff, the co-op's website also features a wide range of energy efficiency tools at your disposal. Brochures, including the popular "101 Ways to Save Energy and Money" from Touchstone Energy, interactive home savings tours, videos and tax savings guides are available

under the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com.

Our experts can help you determine the right steps for maximizing the efficiency of your home, including whether an in-home energy audit will help find more savings and reduce your energy costs each month.

If you would like to learn about how you can become more energy-efficient, contact the office at 1-800-446-7752 to schedule your free consultation.



Morris McClellion
CEO & General Manager

DIRECTORS

Rebecca G. Cogan, *President*
Tommy Dalrymple, *Vice President*
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.

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