

NEWS Central

JULY 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Board election set by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the election of the Central Electric Board of Directors met June 1 to provide a slate of candidates for the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Nominated for consideration are the following members:

- ▶ **Rebecca Cogan**,
District 1
- ▶ **Henry Outz**,
District 2
- ▶ **Henry Randolph**,
District 3
- ▶ **Tim Priest**,
District 4.

According to the Cooperative bylaws, any one hundred (100) or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts.



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.

The deadline for additional nominations is July 2. 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 conducted via online and mail-in ballots Aug. 30 through Sept. 30 as a part of the Annual Meeting of the Members. Look out for more information on the Annual Meeting and director voting process in your September issue of Carolina Country.

JULY 3: the Central Electric office will be closed for Independence Day. Crews will be on-call.

JULY 15: the deadline for third-quarter Operation Round Up® grants. Recipients will be announced after the Trust board meeting on Aug. 15.





POINT OF VIEW

“Virtual” Annual Meeting

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“While we are disappointed to not be hosting a typical Annual Meeting this year, we are very excited about the opportunity of being able to bring the business of the co-op directly to you in your home on Friday, Oct. 2.”

As your local and trusted electric cooperative, we have been working hard over the last few months to make sure we continue making decisions that are in the best interest of our members, employees and community. COVID-19 has created an environment that is unprecedented for each of us, which has forced us to change how we go about our everyday lives.

While far from normal, it has been encouraging to see our communities stick together and work towards a “new” normalcy, adapting to the situation we have been dealt. Change is never easy, and sometimes uncomfortable situations force us to look at things through a different lens, and in the end it makes us even stronger.

When the COVID-19 situation first began to affect our lives back in March, we quickly realized that the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Members, held each year on the first Friday in October, could be impacted. At that time, and really to this day, we were uncertain as to whether or not we would be able to hold an in-person meeting, especially given that we typically host over 1,500 people at the event. Each year we look forward to seeing and interacting with each of our members that come out to support and take part in the operation and governance of the co-op.

In response, largely due to the uncertainties that we have all been operating under, we began to organize a contingency “Plan B,” that very quickly turned into “Plan A.” We had to start making decisions that would allow us to host an Annual

Meeting, regardless of the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions on large public gatherings that may still be in place in October.

With that being said, in place of our typical Annual Meeting held at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center, this year we will be hosting the co-op’s first ever “Virtual Annual Meeting.” In order to protect the safety of our members and employees, and also to avoid the risk and uncertainty of hosting an in-person meeting, we will be live streaming the business portion of the meeting.

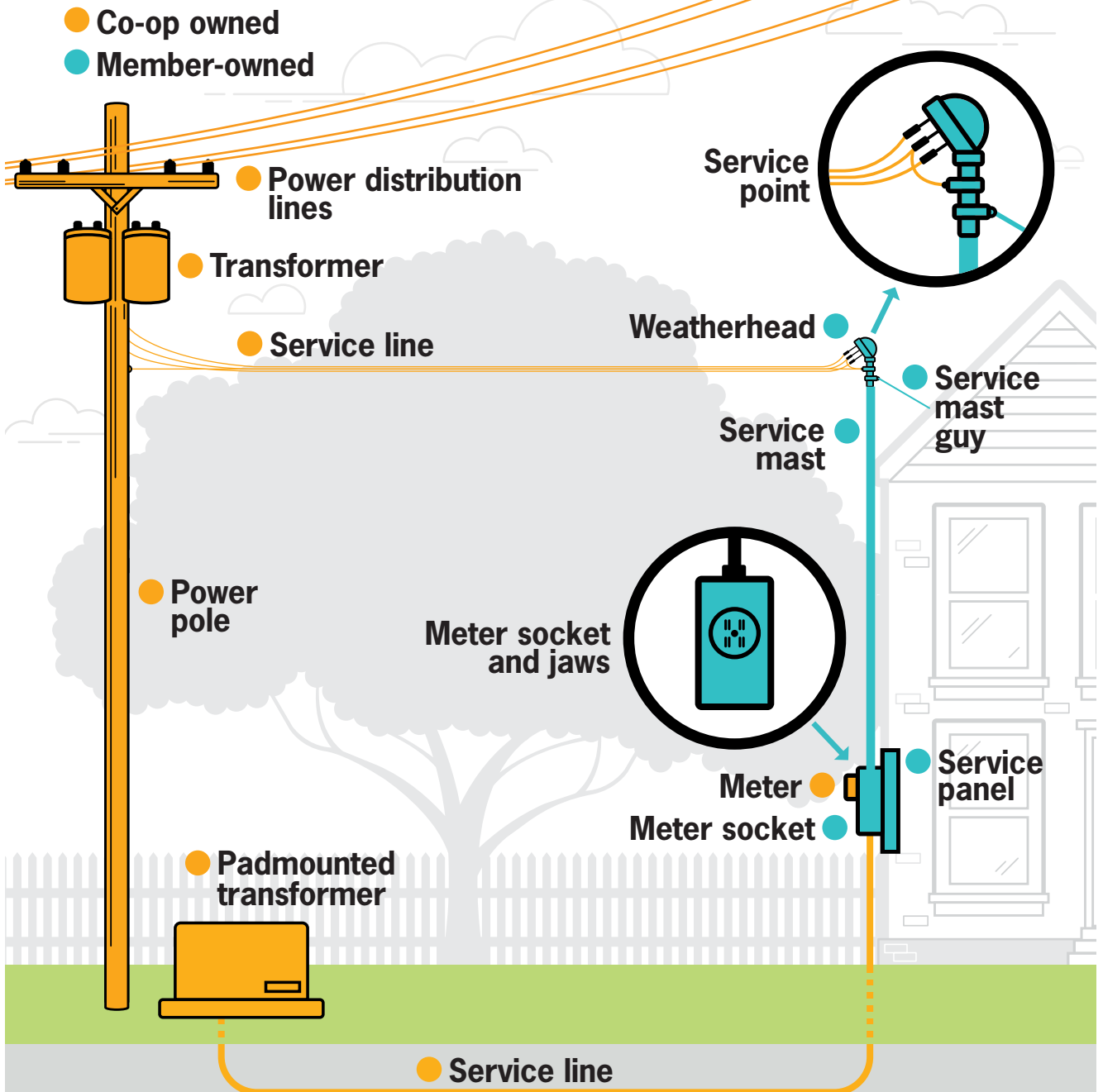
While we are disappointed to not be hosting a typical Annual Meeting this year, we are very excited about the opportunity of being able to bring the business of the co-op directly to you in your home on Friday, Oct. 2.

Over the next two months, we will be sending you more detailed information on how to participate in our first ever “Virtual Annual Meeting,” including an online voting format to register your participation and elect your Board of Directors. So make sure you tell your neighbors and mark your calendars to view the meeting live stream on Oct. 2.

We look forward to seeing each of your smiling faces again in the near future, and until then, we will continue working hard to take care of you, our members, and also the communities we serve.

Who owns what equipment?

Do you ever wonder what equipment is owned and maintained by the co-op and what equipment you own and are responsible for maintaining? The graphic below depicts what is owned and maintained by the co-op (in gold) and you, the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we will handle all of the repairs. However, if there is any damage to member-owned equipment, you will need to handle making the repairs. We recommend to always hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to your equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts both overhead and underground service. You will service will be either overhead or underground at your home or business, not both.

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.)

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.

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. Contact us at 919-774-4900 to schedule an appointment.

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.



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