

# NEWS Central

AUG 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## Central unveils state-of-the-art equipment

One of Central's core missions is to provide member-owners with safe, reliable and affordable electricity now, and well into the future.

A key component of that mission is continual investments in training and safety, making sure our line workers know how to properly handle high-voltage equipment and safely provide electricity to your home.

That's why the co-op recently invested in state-of-the-art training equipment that provides our line workers with hands-on, real-world training experience, right from the co-op's office.

Central Electric is the first co-op in the southeast to own and operate a simulated electric grid training facility from Three Phase Innovations. The training equipment replicates the conditions line workers face in the field, helping them learn how to diagnose potential problems and work safely around the dangerous equipment.



Central's Director of Technical Services Victor Burns [far right], demonstrates the new simulated electric grid training equipment to Safety and Training Coordinator Joe Pratt [far left], and Manager of Operations Terry Collins [center]. The equipment will allow the co-op to train line workers with simulated real-life scenarios they will encounter in the field.

"We are extremely excited to have this state-of-the-art training equipment available to our line workers, right here at the co-op," said CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham. "Training and safety have been and will continue to be top priorities for

us at the co-op. Electricity is very dangerous and our line workers are presented with challenging conditions on a continual basis. This equipment allows us to continue expanding our training efforts and keeping our line workers safe on the job."



**AUG. 15** is the early-bird deadline for Bright Ideas applications. All early-bird applications will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. The final deadline for all applications is Sept. 15.

**SEPT. 7** the Central Electric office will be closed for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.



# POINT OF VIEW

## Democracy is the co-op way

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham*

“We encourage all of our members to actively participate in this process, not just this year but every year, and exercise your opportunity to help establish the future direction of the cooperative.”

Each year, we at Central Electric hold an annual meeting of the members that provides an opportunity for members to actively engage and participate in the business of the cooperative. In addition to updates on how the cooperative has been working to serve our membership, members also have the opportunity to elect their Board of Directors.

As a member of a co-op, you have the opportunity to help set the direction for the co-op. This is a critical difference between co-ops and other electricity providers, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs). With IOUs, you are a customer and there is no required ownership. The IOU utility is controlled by its shareholders, who may have no direct attachment to the organization other than seeking a return on their investment.

Election of directors is one of the most important activities we conduct as a not-for-profit cooperative. These are the individuals entrusted to represent the membership and work alongside the cooperative staff to give strategic direction and ensure the co-op has good governance. A director's decisions impact issues such as rates, work plans and the overall direction of the cooperative. This position holds great responsibility and requires men and women who understand the needs of their community and aim to serve the best interest of the membership.

The beauty of the cooperative model is that any member in good standing can run for the Board. They are a democratically elected body nominated by members within the cooperative's service territory and voted into position by members at the annual

meeting. They are members, just like you, elected by you, who live near you. They want the same thing you want, affordable energy bills and the comfort of knowing the lights will turn on with the flip of a switch.

It is vitally important for the cooperative to elect strong directors to the Board. Central Electric has been very fortunate to have such a strong pool of directors. Each director has brought fresh ideas and new perspectives that have helped shape and guide the cooperative into what it is today.

This year due to the lasting impacts of COVID-19, in lieu of our typical meeting at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford, we will hold our first-ever “virtual” annual meeting. Part of this new “virtual” format is the process of electing your directors through an online and mail-in ballot process.

The following page provides information on the event as well as how you can participate in the election of your directors. We encourage all of our members to actively participate in this process, not just this year but every year, and exercise your opportunity to help establish the future direction of the cooperative. Look out for full event and voting details next month in our September issue of Carolina Country, and we hope you will tune in to the Annual Meeting live stream on Oct. 2. “See” you then!

*Eddie B. Oldham*



# ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING COMING TO YOU LIVE!

Members of Central Electric are encouraged to join our first-ever virtual (online) Annual Meeting. In addition to protecting the health of members and employees, this virtual event allows you to participate in the business of your cooperative from the comfort of your home.

**Friday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m.**  
**Live at [Facebook.com/CEMCPower](https://www.facebook.com/CEMCPower)**

**All those who submit a ballot by Sept. 30 will be entered to win one of 30 \$250 gift cards!**

## **Vote for your directors**

There are two EASY ways to vote this year. You can either mail in the prepaid ballot postcard or vote online. Look for your ballot and voting instructions in the September edition of Carolina Country.



## **2020 Graduates: YOU could WIN the Annual Meeting Scholarship!**

If you're a 2020 high school grad and the child of a Central Electric member (or a member yourself), submit YOUR entry to win a \$2,000 scholarship! The deadline is Friday, Sept. 18, and the winner's name will be drawn at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. For details on how to apply, visit [CEMCPower.com](https://www.cemcpower.com) today.

# Simple, no cost ways to stay cool this summer

It's August, and it's hot. Not just hot, but that thick, sweltering kind of hot. Autumn's crispness is just around the corner, but until then, hang in there – and save energy – with these seven simple tips for tackling summer's remaining heat.

**Shift your use.** Use major appliances like dishwashers, as well as clothes washers and dryers, during early morning or late evening and overnight hours. These big appliances not only generate heat but also introduce moisture to your home, and that's an introduction you don't want to make during the hottest part of the day.

**Keep kitchens cool.** An indoor stove or oven can raise the temperature in your kitchen by as much as 5 to 10 degrees, which is just way too much at this point in the summer. Take advantage of an outdoor grill or indoor microwave or crockpot instead.

**Turn it off.** Lights, particularly incandescent lights, as well as common household appliances generate heat when they are on and in use. Like mama said, turn off the lights! Better yet – consider switching to more efficient bulbs like LEDs (light emitting diodes), which generate much less heat. You can also go the extra mile by unplugging appliances when they're not in use. Think: computers, game consoles and televisions.

Did you know that as a member of Central Electric a Comfort Loan up to \$10,500 is available to help you make energy-efficient upgrades to your home?

That's right, with qualified credit you can finance heat pumps (15 SEER or higher), insulation and storm window upgrades to your home. You want to know the best part? Loan payments can be included with your monthly electric bill and stretched out over a period of 12 to 60 months.

For more information on the Comfort Loan, visit the "Energy-Efficiency Loans & Rebates" section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).

**Feel the breeze.** Use portable and/or ceiling fans to chill out. Make sure ceiling fans are running counter clockwise to push cool air down. Although fans don't technically change the temperature of the room, they can make you feel 3 to 4 degrees cooler.

**Keep the sunshine out.** Close blinds, shades and curtains, especially on windows that get direct sun to block light and heat.

**Replace and remove.** Replace dirty air filters to increase the efficiency of your HVAC system and the air flow within your home. Removing furniture, rugs or other obstructions from your return registers also helps.



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CEO & General Manager

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