

NEWS Central

FEB 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Trust Board welcomes Brower and Lambert

Central recently welcomed two new members to the Member Care Trust Board, Priscilla Brower and Craig Lambert. The primary function of the Trust Board is to oversee the distribution of funds for the co-op's Operation Round Up program. They meet once each quarter to review applications from local nonprofit organizations and award grants based on need and project proposals. The board works diligently to make sure these funds are being put to use on projects that bring the most benefit to our communities and we are very appreciative of their service. Please help us welcome both Priscilla and Craig.



Priscilla has been a member of Central Electric for 49 years. She was a teacher for 37 years in the Lee County School system and retired in 2010. Priscilla was teacher of the year twice for Broadway School, Moderator of Presbyterian Woman

of Coastal Carolina and President of NCAE. She has been married to Joseph Brower for 50 years. They have 3 daughters, Jozetta, Felicia and LaToya, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Priscilla spends a lot of time working in the church where she served as past deacon and is currently an active elder of Spout Springs Presbyterian Church.



Craig has been a member of Central Electric for 40 years. He and his wife, Sara, live in Matthews Township, Chatham County. After graduating from NCSU, Craig accepted a Sales Rep position with Northrup King Seeds, now Syngenta Crop Protection. Now 42 years later, he continues

working a NC/SC territory with Syngenta. Craig and Sara are the proud parents of three children and have three grandchildren, all living in the Raleigh area. He teaches Sunday School and has been the Music Director at Fellowship Baptist Church for over 35 years. When he is not working, Craig loves to spend time with his family, work outdoors in his large garden, sit on a beach listening to the waves crash on the sand, or snorkel.



Energy efficiency tip:

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. *Source: energy.gov.*



POINT OF VIEW

Powering a Brighter Future

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ Many of the updates to our system, as well as the programs and services we offer, aim to make the electric grid more flexible and efficient by managing demand for power; this helps reduce carbon emissions and keeps costs down for everyone. ”

The word sustainability can take on different meanings depending upon context, but here at our co-op, sustainability means delivering reliable, affordable, low-carbon electricity over an electric grid that is increasingly efficient, resilient, secure and capable of supporting the needs of our members and communities.

For decades, your needs have centered on reliable power delivered at the lowest possible cost, and while those priorities still exist today, we also know our members' expectations related to clean energy are growing. Our goal is to achieve all three—reliability, affordability and sustainability—in a balanced approach that makes the most of the tremendous value electricity has to offer and ensures a brighter future for those we serve.

Through working with other electric co-ops across the state, our Brighter Future vision centers on two voluntary sustainability goals: a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We're pursuing these goals in several ways:

- ▶ **Continued use of multiple power sources.** The electricity we provide to you is generated from a variety of power sources that each offer important benefits. Nuclear energy, which is currently used to generate more than half our power, is not only an extremely reliable, safe and affordable source of electricity, but is also emissions free, making it environmentally friendly. We also use natural gas because it's affordable and can be dispatched quickly when needed,

making it a great complement to other power resources, like renewable energy. Concurrently, we are strategically expanding our use of renewable energy.

- ▶ **Investments in technology.** New technology, such as battery storage, will allow us to increasingly utilize renewable energy sources by making it possible to store energy when demand for it is low and use it later, when demand is high. Future technologies could include the more effective and efficient capture of carbon emissions from non-renewable sources, as well as new ways to match local power needs with local power resources.
- ▶ **Innovative energy solutions and programs.** Many of the updates to our system, as well as the programs and services we offer, aim to make the electric grid more flexible and efficient by managing demand for power; this helps reduce carbon emissions and keeps costs down for everyone. In addition, efforts to use electricity to power devices and processes formerly powered by fossil fuels, like automobiles, will further cut carbon emissions and support our long-term carbon reduction goals.

These are just a few of the many ways we are working hard each day to provide our members with sustainable power well into the future.

Eddie B. Oldham

Operation Round Up® boosting local groups

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

Bragg Street Academy (Lee)

– \$1,000 to provide an outdoor seating area to be used for staff meetings as well as a lunch incentive area for students.

Broadway Lions Club (Lee)

– \$3,000 to provide eye glasses for the vision clinic.

Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Moore County Social Services

– \$10,000 total to be distributed to less fortunate individuals to assist with power bills.

Family Promise of Lee County

– \$3,000 to help cover the cost of fuel expenses and maintenance for the program's van used to transport families.

Helping Hand Clinic (Lee)

– \$3,000 to purchase medicine for the pharmacy.



Franceine Ateibrah [left], executive director for Helping Hand Clinic, accepts a grant check for \$3,000 to help purchase and provide medicine at no cost to low-income, uninsured clients who are chronically ill.

Ingram Family YMCA (Lee)

– \$3,000 for the 2021 Summer Day Camp to operate at a subsidized rate and provide scholarship assistance.

Lee Christian School – \$3,000 to purchase three “bottle refilling stations” to be put in place of existing water fountains.

Partnership for Children & Families (Lee)

– \$3,000 for expenses to present an Early Childhood Education Conference focused on the impact of high quality preschool education in a child's life.

Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home? We can help!

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill. Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.

Visit the “Energy Efficiency” tab at CEMCPower.com to learn more about available energy-efficient loans and rebates, as well as energy-saving tools and services that can help you become more efficient.

Thermostats offer saving opportunities

Heating and cooling costs account for a large portion of the energy consumption in our homes, close to 50 percent for the average home. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made at the thermostat. The right thermostat settings can yield substantial savings, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems. If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

If you're not in the market for all the bells and whistles that come with the features in a smart



thermostat, a standard programmable thermostat will work just fine. They come at a much lower price point and also provide significant energy-saving opportunities. While you won't have access to features such as reporting or the ability of the thermostat to learn your habits, the most important function is still there; the ability to automatically program your temperature settings. As with a smart thermostat, a standard programmable thermostat gives you the same ability to preset your temperature settings. You can adjust the temperature of your home based on when you're typically home or away, as well as at night when you're asleep. That way you keep your home warm or cool when you need it the most and also save a little money!



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