

NEWS Central

APRIL 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

See who is on our unclaimed money list

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

Visit CEMCPower.com
to review the list of
names and contact us
if you see your name!



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.



APRIL 2 the CEMC office will be closed for Easter. Crews will be on call.

MAY 1 is when applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.

MAY 15 is the deadline for applications for Cooperative Leadership Camp. Find out more information or apply online at CEMCPower.com.



POINT OF VIEW

Keeping electricity affordable

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“Despite small changes that are sometimes needed along the way, we are working hard to keep your electricity bill affordable so we can all continue to receive the value that we have come to expect.”

Even though I've worked in the energy industry for over 20 years, like most people, it is easy to flip the light switch or turn on the coffeemaker each morning without having a second thought about how the electricity made it to my home. Electricity, a necessity in our modern world, is very much ingrained in our daily lives. We often forget how much we depend on its reliability. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we also expect our power to stay on during the best and worst conditions. At Central Electric, these are reasonable expectations we do not take lightly.

That's why we work hard to provide the most reliable service possible, restore it as quickly as possible if it goes out, and control the cost for our members. Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's also easy to forget how great of a value it is, especially when compared to other common services and expenses.

For comparison, consider that between 2014 and 2019 the average rent increase was nearly 4% annually according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care has increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? The cost to our members has only risen on average 1% annually.

To put in perspective today's cost for electricity, did you know that for less than one dollar, 64 cents to be exact, you could watch television on a 40 in. LED television for 6 hours a day, every day, for a month. You can also power your home for several months at the same cost of an iPhone. Take a moment to let that sink in.

The main thing that I want to convey to you is that we have worked hard for many decades to keep

your power costs as low as possible. While you may sometimes have sticker shock when your peak winter or summer bill arrives (depending on how much your heat and air runs and how hot or cold it has been), know that over the course of the entire year, and even during those peak times, the value you get from your electricity is unmatched when you compare it to the cost of other goods and what it provides to you and your family.

I say all of that to say this; in an ideal world, expenses would never go up, but the reality is that costs sometimes change, whether it is within our control or not. In the last year, we have experienced an increase in costs associated with maintenance related items of maintaining the electric system and the service lines that distribute electricity to our homes. Over time, due to general economic inflation, the cost of goods gradually rise and likewise the costs of maintaining the system also increase over time.

Beginning this month, you will start receiving information on a small adjustment to your basic facility charge. This is the fixed portion of the rates that serves to cover the maintenance related charges of maintaining the reliability of the system. Starting May 1, the basic facility charge for our residential members will change from \$27 to \$29, which comes out to a change of two dollars in your bill each month. As a not-for-profit utility, this adjustment will allow the co-op to continue covering the cost of maintaining the service to your home.

Despite small changes that are sometimes needed along the way, we are working hard to keep your electricity bill affordable so we can all continue to receive the value that we have come to expect.



Celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 12

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives." (NRECA)

Help us celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 12. Use the social media tag #ThankALineworker to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock on the lines as well as behind the scenes to keep the power flowing and lights on at our homes.

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 April 13 to enter the next random drawing.



Alexis Dalisky
Broadway Elem.



Wilson Bradley
Tramway Elem.



Kaitlin Cook
Chatham Central



Jameson Manning
New Century Middle



Delilah Whitford
South Harnett Elem.

The Member Service Portal is a one-stop shop to manage your account

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 has everything you need to stay in touch with your account.

The portal is available to you 24/7 at CEMCPower.com and through our FREE mobile app, available in both the App Store and Android Market by searching "Central EMC." Both offer the same great range of account services, including the ability to set-up a variety of different payment options and alerts and reminders, such as a reoccurring payment draft or high energy use alert.

If you haven't done so already, visit the "My Account" tab in the upper left-hand corner at CEMCPower.com to enroll and get started today!



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