

# NEWS Central

MAY 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## Basic facility adjustment effective May 1

Effective May 1, an adjustment of \$2.00 will be made to the monthly basic facility charge on all Central Electric accounts. The adjustment is necessary to meet increasing operating and maintenance related costs experienced by the cooperative.

For residential all-electric rate members, the basic facility charge will be changing from \$27.00 to \$29.00 each month. You will notice the adjustment beginning on bills received on or after May 1. As a not-for-profit cooperative owned by the members, Central Electric takes all necessary steps to ensure reliable and affordable power. Operating as close to at-cost as possible, rates and charges are set to generate enough revenue to purchase power and provide a reliable and continuous service to members.

Including state taxes, the net change in the total monthly bill amount for each member will be \$2.14. For the average all-electric member who uses 1,400 kWh each month, this comes out to change of approximately 1.1%.

While an adjustment is necessary at this time, your cooperative is continually seeking ways to provide affordable and reliable power to its members at the most competitive cost, now and into the future.

### What is the basic facility charge?

Reliable electricity depends on equipment, maintenance and great people to keep power flowing 24/7/365. The facilities charge includes costs that keep you connected to the grid.

#### These include:

POLES/LINES



EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE



RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE



24/7 RESPONSE



TRAINED PROFESSIONALS



**MAY 1** is when applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due. Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://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](http://CEMCPower.com).

**MAY 31** the CEMC office will be closed for Memorial Day. Crews will be on call.



# POINT OF VIEW

## Affordable & reliable service

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

“ We understand that every dollar you earn and spend is important. We are very prudent with our expenses to be sure we are providing you the best service at a low cost. ”

Bringing news of any change in the cost for service to our members is never fun. Quite frankly, it is the last thing we ever want to do. As a not-for-profit cooperative, our business model is not designed to provide returns to outside investors or shareholders. It is designed to provide a reliable and affordable electric service, at the most competitive cost possible, and return any excess to you, our members.

As a member of this cooperative and resident of rural Chatham County, I take this charge very seriously. Our mission to provide affordable, reliable power is ingrained in everything we do. We understand that every dollar you earn and spend is important. We are very prudent with our expenses to be sure we are providing you the best service at a low cost.

Over the last two months, we have been sending out information on a \$2.00 adjustment that is needed to our basic facility charge. The adjustment will go into effect May 1 and for our residential all-electric rates, the charge will change from \$27.00 to \$29.00 each month.

So why is this adjustment to the basic facility charge needed? To answer that question, it is important to understand the role of the basic facility charge. This “fixed” portion of the rate structure makes sure the co-op can cover the expenses associated with maintaining the electric system, which is separate from the cost of the electricity you use each month, or kilowatt-hours (kWh).

When you think about how electricity makes its way to your home, it travels over a system of poles, transformers, lines and various other equipment. The cooperative operates over 2,500 miles of line and equipment that must be maintained to ensure electricity keeps flowing and power is there when we need it. Part of this upkeep involves installing new

equipment, replacing aging equipment over time as needed, as well as clearing right-of-way areas to keep trees away from our lines and residents of our community safe. These maintenance related items have a major impact on the reliability of the service we provide to our members, and we take reliability very seriously. Our most recent service reliability rating was 99.96%, which means our members are rarely without power and that is what we want to achieve.

Over the last several years, we have experienced continual cost increases in maintenance related areas. The rise is two-fold: (1) the co-op is continuing to invest in maintaining the system to ensure reliability for our members (maintaining right-of-way, replacing aging infrastructure and general maintenance), and (2) the costs of goods associated with labor, equipment, materials, etc. continue to see gradual increases, which is unfortunately a natural by-product caused by growth and inflation in the economy. The need to adjust the basic facility beginning May 1 is a combination of our continued commitment to reliability and the general rise in costs in the economy.

In an ideal world, costs would never need to change. However, the reality is that rates must sometimes be adjusted to ensure the ongoing health of the cooperative and the service we provide to you. While an adjustment is needed at this time, rest assured, we will continue to be proactive in maintaining our system and at the same time controlling costs as much as possible. As a not-for-profit utility, we are constantly working to preserve the affordability and reliability of your service, regardless of the ongoing challenges we may face.

*Eddie B. Oldham*

## Nominating Committee to meet May 3

In accordance with Section 4.06 of the cooperative's bylaws, the Central Electric Board of Directors has appointed a group of members to prepare a slate of nominees for election during the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members on Oct. 1.

Those appointed to the Nominating Committee include:

- ▶ **Ronnie Lambert**, Siler City; **Lester Chalmers**, Cameron; **David Gladden**, Sanford; **Michael V. Perry**, Sanford; **Carolyn Cameron**, Sanford; **Scott Norton**, Bear Creek; **C. Richard Williams**, Siler City; **John S. Blue**, Carthage; **Bradley Wadsworth**, Carthage; **Cathy Cagle Callahan**, Cameron; **Janet Brower**, Cameron.

The committee will meet May 3 and during the meeting, they will consider three-year terms for the following incumbents: Tommy Dalrymple, District 1; W. Phillip Thompson, District 2; Dr. Nancy Holmes, District 3.

Once the slate of nominees has been determined, the list will be posted at the cooperative's office at 128 Wilson Road, Sanford, N.C. The deadline for additional nominations is June 22. Any 100 or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than 100 days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts.

## Now accepting Bright Ideas

Everyone knows April showers bring May flowers, but did you also know April brings new opportunities for local educators to fund classroom projects? Here at Central Electric, April marks the official kickoff of the Bright Ideas education grant program. The Bright Ideas grant program supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects.

Applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2021-22 school year are now being accepted. Educators in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. This year, Central Electric will award \$15,000 in grants to support local teachers and students.

Grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15. However, it pays to apply early. All teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Aug. 16 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

To apply, or for more information, visit [NCBrightIdeas.com](http://NCBrightIdeas.com).

# Round Up gives back to the local community

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$18,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

**Chatham County Literacy Council** – \$3,000 to support the loss of fundraising events due to COVID-19. The goal is to service 235 adults through a blended model of in-person and online service delivery.

**Central Carolina Community College** – \$3,000 for the Dreamkeeper Fund which provides financial assistance for students with unexpected needs.

**Five N Two Food Pantry** – \$3,000 to purchase canned and boxed food to supplement food drives.

**First Tee - Sandhills** – \$1,000 to provide 48 hours of STEM education in Moore County.

**Highland Elementary School** – \$2,100 to subscribe the entire



[L-R] Central Electric's Janet Jackson presents a grant check for \$3,000 to Joyce Clevenger and Heather Lussier of Moore Buddies Mentoring. The grant will be used to mentor students in Moore County over summer break.

staff of the school to the Quaver SEL Program for one year. The goal of Quaver SEL is to equip the school community with the language and tools for positive interactions to help reduce bullying and discipline incidents.

**Lee County High School Junior ROTC** – \$3,000 to help offset

costs associated with the annual Military Ball.

**Moore Builders Mentoring** – \$3,000 for the Summer Slump Prevention Program to reach kids in 15 different locations throughout Moore County, including stations in Carthage, Vass and Cameron.



**Central Electric**  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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