

NEWS Central

JUNE 2021

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 May 3 to provide a slate of candidates for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Nominated for consideration are the following members:

- ▶ **Tommy Dalrymple**,
District 1
- ▶ **W. Phillip Thompson**,
District 2
- ▶ **Dr. Nancy Holmes**,
District 3.

According to the Cooperative bylaws, any one hundred (100) or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than one hundred (100) 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 June 22. 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. 28 through Sept. 24 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.



JUNE 24 is the deadline to submit fourth-quarter report cards for the Give Us an "A" drawing. Four times each school year, Central Electric will 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." Enter at CEMCPower.com.

JULY 15 is the deadline for third-quarter Operation Round Up® grants. Recipients will be announced after the Trust board meeting in August.



POINT OF VIEW

Looking out for our members

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“As not-for-profit, community-owned organizations, electric cooperatives remain focused on supporting efforts that bring opportunity and prosperity to our communities.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world in countless ways, some temporary and some permanent. However, one place we are very hopeful to see some continued movement and positive change is in the area of rural broadband. Rural broadband has been a developing issue for many years. We at Central Electric, along with N.C.'s other electric cooperatives, have been highlighting the issue of broadband service, or lack thereof, for many years.

As an electric cooperative serving rural members across Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Moore counties, we are grateful that more than \$140 million in state and federal funding has recently been awarded to connect unserved and underserved rural residents in our state. This is certainly a great start, however a far cry from the amount needed to truly jumpstart this effort. Through talks with legislators, state and local officials, electric cooperatives have been pushing the immediate need for increased funding for rural broadband efforts.

In addition to talks for increased funding, we have also been active in voicing our concern that as grant funding creates a new market for broadband providers in our communities, we are rejecting efforts by for-profit special interests that would shift costs to N.C.'s rural consumers.

Rural communities have long awaited high-speed connections because for-profit cable providers have been unwilling to invest in broadband infrastructure in sparsely populated areas. Despite that challenge, electric cooperatives for years have supported efforts to close the digital divide by exploring local solutions and facilitating expansion of access to broadband providers to utility poles quickly and at a fair rate.

Unfortunately, with the backing of a Fortune 100, for-profit cable company, a legislative attempt was

recently made that would shift costs of “make ready” utility poles for new broadband infrastructure to electric co-ops and their members. What this means is that the costs associated with deploying broadband would be borne by you, the electric cooperative member, rather than the for-profit cable company. Should an attempt like this pass, special interests would receive more funding for their shareholders at the expense of rural consumers and further burden the very people who expanded rural broadband is intended to help.

Any type of proposed policy in that direction is wrong, and we will openly oppose it. Our members should not be expected to subsidize broadband deployment costs, especially after more than \$140 million in funding has been awarded for broadband expansion in N.C. It is in the best interest of rural people and communities to ensure that new federal and state funding is applied as intended to cover expanded access, and that rural co-op members are not burdened with unfair costs.

As not-for-profit, community-owned organizations, electric cooperatives remain focused on supporting efforts that bring opportunity and prosperity to our communities. However, we are also focused on keeping costs as low as possible for members and the costs of deploying broadband is no exception.

We will continue to advocate for the deployment of broadband access to underserved areas in N.C. and working with policy makers and those who are deploying broadband to ensure that access is expanded to our entire state, while advocating against policy changes that could burden rural consumers with unfair costs.

Eddie B. Oldham

CEMC to reopen office lobbies for walk-in traffic

When the decision was made to close the Central Electric lobby to walk-in traffic in March 2020, we were unsure how long it would need to be closed. During this time we have operated through our drive-thru window to help do our part in slowing the spread of the virus.

After reviewing updated CDC guidelines, combined with the increasing availability of the vaccine, we are now excited to announce that our lobby will re-open for walk-in traffic starting June 1!

We are requesting that our members continue to follow the CDC recommended guidelines within our office for mask wearing and social distancing indoors. The co-op is very excited to be able to open the lobby back up for members and we look forward to “safely” seeing you again!

WELCOME
WE ARE
OPEN
WELCOME IN

YOUR POWER OUTAGE SUPPLY KIT

The 2021 hurricane season officially kicks off June 1 and your co-op is prepared to handle whatever Mother Nature sends our way this summer. Stay ahead of the storm by preparing your outage supply kit ahead of time.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!



■ Tools

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ Food and water

Enough non-perishable food and water, one gallon per person per day, to last at least three days.

■ First aid kit and prescriptions

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Did you know that a water heater maintenance program is available to you for just \$1 month?

That's right, this small fee covers the heating element, pop-off valve and thermostats on your water heater, regardless of where you purchased it, or how old it is. Even more, after you've been enrolled for at least 90 days, if the cooperative's licensed plumber determines the element, pop-off valve or thermostat is the problem, a \$50 credit will be added to your next bill. If they determine the water heater needs to be replaced, a \$100 credit will be added if you purchase a new water heater with an energy factor of 95 or higher. Visit the "Other Services" section under the "Member Services" tab at CEMCPower.com to enroll.



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.



Charlotte Dickens
J Glenn Edwards



Lily Bay Phillips
Chatham Charter



Mason Blell
Broadway Elem.



Peyton Atkins
Western Harnett



Scarlett Harnett
New Century Middle



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Eddie Oldham
CEO & General Manager

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