

NEWS Central

SEPT 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Drug Free Moore County helps those in need

An essential part of the cooperative difference is the power of community. As an electric cooperative founded and operated in Central North Carolina, serving our members and communities goes beyond providing electricity; it extends to doing our part in building a brighter future for all.

Powered by donations from our members, Operation Round Up is essential to that mission. Through these donations, the co-op is able to give back to non-profit organizations, including groups such as Drug Free Moore County.

The mission of Drug Free Moore County is simple: to be a positive influence in preventing and combatting substance abuse disorder by increasing awareness, providing information and garnering community support towards healthy choices and recovery.

Central Electric recently provided a grant of \$2,500 to the organization to help purchase, develop and distribute Harm Reduction Kits. The kits will be provided to individuals seeking recovery through the organization's Peer Support Recovery Groups.



Executive Director, Karen Wicker, accepts a grant for \$2,500. The grant will be used to support individuals battling addiction.

"We are very thankful for the grant provided by Operation Round Up," said Karen Wicker, Drug Free Moore County Executive Director. "Drug addiction is such a terrible and heartbreaking disease. These funds will be used to directly and positively impact the lives of many people who are in dire need of assistance."

To learn more about how Drug Free Moore County is making a positive difference in our community, to make a donation or to become a volunteer and get involved with their mission, visit their website drugfreemoore.org.



SEPT. 6 the Central Electric office will be closed for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.

SEPT. 15 is the deadline for Bright Ideas applications. Central is awarding \$15,000 to local educators to help bring creative and innovative projects into their classroom. Apply at NCBrightIdeas.com.



POINT OF VIEW

Powering through the storm

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ While we are disappointed to not be able to see our members at the Civic Center, we are excited about the opportunity to bring the co-op to you in your home once again this year. ”

The past year and a half has been a challenging time for all of us. Not just here in central North Carolina, but across the world. In March 2020, when the pandemic first began, it was almost unthinkable that we would still be sorting through the aftermath in September 2021. But here we are today, 2021 quickly coming to a close soon, and we are still dealing with the impacts of COVID.

Despite all of the challenges and uncertainties, as your local, trusted energy cooperative, we have been working hard to be there for you, our members. We understand the importance of community. It is vital to our business model and a core component of what we stand for.

Once again this year, we are using a different format for our Annual Meeting of the Members, coming up right around the corner next month. During the planning phase of the meeting, there were still restrictions and future concerns over hosting large events due to the lingering impact of COVID-19. Rather than risk the safety of our members and employees, the decision was made to host a “virtual-only” meeting again this year.

While we are disappointed to not be able to see our members at the Civic Center, we are excited about the opportunity to bring the co-op to you in your home once again this year.

Each of you are an important part of our co-op community, and the meeting serves as our way to keep you up-to-date on how we are working hard for you, each and every day. Be sure to read through the meeting information included with

the magazine this month, and also register your participation in the meeting by submitting either an online or mail-in voting ballot. We look forward to hopefully seeing you again in person next year, and be sure to tune in to the live stream on Oct. 1 at 10 a.m.

If the last two years have taught us anything, is that “being prepared for the unexpected storms” is critical. We at Central Electric are no strangers to difficult situations. Being on the frontlines during a crisis is something we are very used to, as we have responded to countless ice, snow, and major hurricane storms but recently we’ve all been facing an unexpected storm, one that caught us all completely off guard.

Even though at certain moments it may still be hard to see, hopefully we are getting ever closer to the full return of normalcy. We all know the old saying that the light at the end of the tunnel could in fact be a freight train coming our way, but I choose to remain hopeful and believe that there is in fact an end in sight, no matter how far away it may sometimes seem at times.

When we look back at this moment in time, I hope one thing shines through, how we all came together to get through it. Community is important and that is what the co-op is all about. Your co-op has been here for you from the start, and we’re still here for you today, just as we will be tomorrow.

Energy Advisor

In just a few clicks, our Energy Advisor analyzes energy use and areas for improvement.

First, a quick survey gathers information about your home's size, construction, and energy systems. Energy Advisor instantly produces an accurate, detailed breakdown of annual energy use. With recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades, you can immediately start taking low-cost or no-cost actions to save money on utility bills.

Visit the "Energy Advisor" page under the "Energy-efficiency" section at CEMCPower.com to get started.

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 Nov. 19 to enter the next random drawing.



Megan Leonard
Moncure School



Wilson Bradley
Tramway Elem.



Canessa Gray
South Harnett



Cora Stumpf
Tramway Elem.



Layla Scott
South Harnett

Making a positive difference in the community

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, \$34,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects.

Another Choice for Black Children, Inc.: \$3,000 to help build a fence for a safe play area for children.

Benhaven Elementary School: \$1,500 for Paw Squad shirt and incentives to provide to students after classroom tutoring.

Carolina Performing Arts Theater Group: \$3,000 to help fund a touring theatrical production for schools in Moore and surrounding counties.

Chatham Central High School & JS Waters BETA Clubs: \$3,000 to help cover costs to attend the National BETA Club competition in Orlando.

Communities in Schools Chatham County: \$3,000 to help support a Success Coach for at-risk students at Jordan Mathews High School.

Drug Free Moore County: \$2,500 to purchase, develop and distribute Harm Reduction



Students and staff from Benhaven Elementary school in Harnett County accept a grant for \$1,500. The funds will be used to help foster student development through a tutoring program.

Kits to assist individuals seeking recovery from drug addiction.

Outreach Mission, Inc.: \$3,000 to pay the annual cost of direct support and supplies for families, including food, hygiene items, hotel stays and bus tickets.

Salvation Army of Chatham County: \$3,000 for the Emergency Financial Assistance program to help individuals with past due housing expenses.

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project: \$3,000 to aid low to moderate income members of Central Electric to

have their septic system pumped and inspected.

Temple Theatre: \$3,000 to offer scholarships for the 2021 Summer Conservatory.

The Salvation Army of Lee County: \$3,000 to establish a health care and housing fund to assist homeless individuals and families with health care expenses and shelter.

Western Harnett Lion's Club: \$3,000 to send three to five visually impaired or blind campers to Camp Dogwood for one week.



128 Wilson Road
P.O. Box 1107
Sanford, NC 27331

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONTACT

Phone: (919) 774-4900
Bill Payment: (866) 488-5011

Eddie Oldham
CEO & General Manager

DIRECTORS

Rebecca G. Cogan, *President*
Tommy Dalrymple, *Vice President*
James B. Brooks, *Secretary-Treasurer*
W. Phillip Thompson, *Asst. Secretary*
Frank Comer III, Edith C. Cox,
Dr. Nancy G. Holmes, Henry Outz,
Tim Priest and Henry Randolph.

James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OUTAGE REPORTING



(877) 766-6769
24-hours a day



(800) 446-7752
Text 'PWR' to opt-in and
'OUT' to report an outage

FOLLOW US



CEMCPower.com



@cemcpower