

NEWS Central

NOV. 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Capital credit checks coming your way

When you signed up to receive electric service from Central Electric, you became a member-owner of an electric utility.

While investor-owned utilities return their profits back to shareholders, electric co-ops operate as close to at-cost as possible and return any margins back to the members. When the co-op's financial condition permits, capital credits are returned in the form of checks or bill credits.

During this year's Annual Meeting of the Members, CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham announced a retirement of capital credits approved by the Board of Directors. This year will mark 13 years in a row that capital credits have been retired. During this time frame, over \$14.8 million will have been returned to members.

This year, the co-op is giving back \$1.1 million and members who received service from the

ANOTHER BENEFIT!

- 1 Your not-for-profit cooperative tracks how much electricity you buy and pay for throughout the year.
- 2 At year-end, the co-op's financial statements determine any excess revenues, called margins. (This would be profit in a for-profit company.)
- 3 These margins, or capital credits, are allocated to members' accounts based on their electricity use during the year.
- 4 Central's board of directors periodically returns capital credits, depending on the co-op's financial health.

Look for your portion of \$1.1 million in capital credits coming to member-owners soon! Members receiving a return greater than \$25 will be issued a check, while lesser amounts will be applied as bill credits.



cooperative during 2001 or 2002 will be receiving a capital credit retirement check. Retirement amounts greater than \$25 will be issued a check, while all others will be applied as a bill credit. Look out for your retirement check to arrive by the first week of December!

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

NOV. 19 is the deadline to submit 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.

NOV. 25 & 26 the CEMC office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.



POINT OF VIEW

Protecting our members

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“But what are those commercials not saying? That cable companies want electric cooperatives and members to foot the bill for broadband deployment.”

Rural North Carolina needs better access to broadband internet; all of us who live here understand that deeply. Recently, we have seen commercials and media from cable companies blaming the lack of rural broadband on electric utilities, including us, a rural, not-for-profit electric cooperative. Their claim is that electric cooperatives are blocking cable companies from using utility poles for broadband.

But what are those commercials not saying? That cable companies want electric cooperatives and members to foot the bill for broadband deployment. To deploy broadband, cable companies add equipment and string fiber on cooperative utility poles. When a pole is incapable of safely accommodating their additions, the company can request that the pole be replaced. Under current law, cable companies pay the full cost of replacing necessary poles.

They want to change that and are pushing a proposal at the North Carolina General Assembly that would require co-ops and members to foot the bill for replacing and upfitting poles. This would reduce their costs and increase their profits at our members' expense, which is especially troubling considering there is more government funding available than ever before to support broadband infrastructure.

This profit-driven proposal would raise electric bills for our members and co-op members across our state's rural communities. As cooperative businesses, we are different from for-profit companies that drive profit to benefit shareholders;

our service is provided at cost, which means any additional expense to the co-op is really an additional expense for co-op members.

Central EMC and all of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives have fought for our members for more than 80 years on issues that impact rural people, pocketbooks and our ability to serve communities with affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity. When it comes to broadband, we have been working diligently with partners and the General Assembly to close broadband gaps in ways that are efficient and affordable.

We were proud to support two recent legislative advancements that removed hurdles to broadband deployment: The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (“GREAT”) and Electric Co-op Rural Broadband Services laws. This year, we also worked with lawmakers to propose an accelerated timeline for replacing utility poles because we know firsthand how important it is to make this service accessible to underserved areas.

There is no indication that the cable companies have similarly volunteered to accelerate their deployment of rural broadband to unserved areas. Cable companies have ignored rural North Carolina for years while we have been here for generations, always advocating for what is right and fair for our members. The issue of bringing broadband to rural communities in a way that is efficient and affordable is no exception.

Eddie B. Oldham

Round Up supporting the local community

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, \$12,500 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

Buddy Backpack for Harnett County – \$3,000 to purchase food from Sam’s Club and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy – \$3,000 for use toward the general operating budget. This will assist in maintaining prescription drugs at no charge to Chatham County residents who are unable to afford costly medications.

Friends of Watson Lake Park Committee – \$3,000 to pay for a Pedestal Water Bottle Filler



[L-R] Lynn Glasser and Patricia Dowdy of Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy accept a grant check for \$3,000 to purchase medicine.

Station for Watson Lake Park in Broadway.

Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County – \$3,000 for the Community Support and

COVID-19 Response programs for Chatham and Lee counties.

Lee County 4-H – \$500 to purchase items for the 4-H Electric Project Program.

Saunders and Robinson complete Trust Board terms

The co-op would like to extend a “thank you” to both Trust Board Chairman, Glenn Saunders, and Secretary/Treasurer, Joan Robinson. Mr. Saunders and Mrs. Robinson both recently completed their third and final terms on the Trust Board, each serving eight total years on the board.

The Trust Board was established in 2013 to oversee the co-op’s Operation Round Up program and both Mr. Saunders and Mrs. Robinson have both been heavily involved with the program since its inception. Thank you again to both for their dedicated service to the co-op, its members and the community!



[L-R] Trust Board Chairman, Glenn Saunders, and Secretary/Treasurer, Joan Robinson, were both honored for their dedicated service to the Board. Mr. Saunders and Mrs. Robinson both completed their third and final terms, each serving eight total years on the board.

Four ways to save energy in the kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.



When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, are more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances

run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Visit CEMCPower.com to learn about additional ways you can save energy and money.



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