

NEWS Central

DEC 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Supporting local teachers and students

Central Electric is continually looking for ways to support the communities we serve. One way is by annually awarding Bright Ideas grants to local educators. The program helps support engaging and innovative classroom projects.

This year, the co-op awarded over \$15,000 to 11 educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Over 2,400 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$13.7 million to educators across the state.

Congratulations to the following 2021 Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Amy Bonds, Cameron Elementary
- ▶ Kimberly Hilliard, Sandhills-Farm Life Elementary
- ▶ Kendra Jones, Highland Middle
- ▶ Jo Ann Lawler, Deep River Elementary
- ▶ Dee O'Neal, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary
- ▶ Wendi Pillars, Jordan Matthews High
- ▶ Alicia Shoup, Moncure School
- ▶ Emma Smith, Broadway Elementary



Rachel Lambert (left) accepts a Bright Ideas check, which will be used to build a MakerSpace in the school's Media Center to serve students with engaging, hands-on STEAM instruction.

- ▶ Sarah Stephenson, Silk Hope School
- ▶ Riley Sullivan, Floyd L. Knight Child Center
- ▶ Cheryl Whitehead, Sage Academy.

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2022. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit CEMCPower.com or NCBrightIdeas.com.



DEC. 24 & 27 the CEMC office will be closed for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Merry Christmas from your friends at Central Electric!

DEC. 30 - JAN. 1 year-end closing will take place. Starting at 12 p.m. on Dec. 30 through midnight on Jan. 1, all payment systems will be down.



POINT OF VIEW

The Cooperative Difference

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ I know I speak for all of our employees when I say that we are thankful to be a part of this community. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger. ”

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all of our employees when I say that we are thankful to be a part of this community. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall that in October, my column touched on the first three Cooperative Principles that are essential to the co-op business model. So this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles.

Autonomy and Independence

Co-ops operate in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and Training

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteering or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too. I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Central Electric, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Holiday décor tips for an energy-wise home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

- ▶ If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!
- ▶ If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Walmart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.
- ▶ If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach.



Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit [CEMCPower.com](https://www.cemcpower.com) for additional energy-saving tips.

Apply now for the 2022 Youth Tour to D.C.

Central Electric is seeking applications from high school students wanting to participate in the leadership opportunity of a lifetime: The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Step out of your comfort zone, and join North Carolina's future leaders as they explore the nation's capital.

The cooperative will sponsor two local students to join the June 2022 Youth Tour. The all-expense-paid, week-long Tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in fall 2022 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Visit [CEMCPower.com](https://www.cemcpower.com) to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.

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.



Congratulations to Allison Podlogar, she was selected by random drawing for a \$2,000 scholarship during this year's Annual Meeting!

Allison is a 2021 graduate of Southern Lee High School and is currently attending Molloy College.

Thanks to all the students who submitted an entry and congrats to Allison for winning the drawing!



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](https://www.facebook.com/cemcpower)