

NEWS Central

JULY 2022

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Central provides care packages to military

Central recently had the opportunity to serve individuals in our community who deserve recognition for the ongoing sacrifices they continually make: members of our military.

Partnering with the Sandhills Area United Service Organizations (USO), Harnett County Partnership for Children and Life Springs Church, the co-op organized an effort to provide care packages for our local military families. Consisting of goodies for a “movie night,” along with care items from other organizations, the goal of the project was to provide an opportunity for our military families to relax and enjoy some time together.

“Being so close to Fort Bragg, the military is near and dear to our heart as we serve a large number of military families between Sanford and the Spout Springs area,” said CEO & General Manager, Eddie Oldham. “Members of our military sacrifice so much day in and day out to protect our freedoms and their families make enormous sacrifices as well while they are away. While we could never provide anything that would



[L-R] Central's Director of Marketing & Member Services, Janet Jackson, presents a check for \$1,000 to USO Sandhills Area Center Operations and Programs Manager, Brian Knight. The funds will be used to help the USO provide programs and services for military members stationed at Fort Bragg.

come close to matching what they do for us, this project was a way for us to show how thankful we are for each of them. Thank you to the members of the military and their families, we greatly appreciate each of you.”



Scan this QR Code with your phone's camera to watch a video and learn more about this project!



JULY 4 the Central Electric office will be closed for Independence Day. Crews will be on-call.

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



POINT OF VIEW

Understanding energy costs

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ We’re all in this together. When you save electricity, the co-op saves money, and when the co-op saves money, we all save money on electricity costs in the long-run. That’s the beauty of the cooperative business model; when you win, we all win. ”

Do you ever wonder what goes into the electricity rates for our members? Maybe you’ve wondered what the basic facility charge is for, or what a kilowatt-hour (kWh) is? These are all very common questions and if you have ever asked yourself those same questions, you are not alone. That’s why I want to take a second to help you understand what is behind the charges on your monthly bill.

To start, it is important to understand how the electricity eventually makes it to your home. Before it is ever used to power your everyday needs, it is first generated at a power plant and transmitted through a network of transmission lines, substations and distribution electric lines. We purchase the electricity wholesale from a third party, through wholesale power agreements, and provide the means for the electricity to travel from our substations directly to your home across a system of poles, lines, transformers and other various equipment.

The same as we bill our members each month, the co-op also purchases electricity on a monthly basis based on the peak demand of our system. Peak demand refers to the moment in time when our system is using the most amount of electricity. During the winter, this is typically in the morning when it is coldest outside and families are getting their day started, and during the summer, it is typically in the late afternoon at the hottest point of the day when everyone is starting to return home from school and work.

So how does this relate to the basic facility and kWh charges that you see on your monthly bill? The

basic facility charge is essentially each member’s share of the costs to maintain the system, i.e. poles, wires, substations, etc. This ensures that all equipment can be maintained and is operating efficiently to deliver reliable power to your home.

The kWh charge is for your individual electricity consumption. A kWh is your electricity demand over a period of time. This is dependent upon what types of devices you are running in your home and extremely dependent upon the setting of your thermostat versus how hot or cold it is outside. This relates back to the peak demand billing to the co-op. When the electricity consumption of our members is at its highest, that is where the billing to the co-op is at its highest.

As a not-for-profit provider, our goal is to serve our members as close to at-cost as possible, while keeping enough funds on hand to absorb any unforeseen circumstances that may occur, such as major storms or equipment malfunctions. Just like you, we are constantly working to make changes to our system to reduce our costs. We’re all in this together. When you save electricity, the co-op saves money, and when the co-op saves money, we all save money on electricity costs in the long-run. That’s the beauty of the cooperative business model; when you win, we all win. Rest assured, we are continually looking for ways to save you money on your electricity, now and well into the future.

Until next time,

Eddie B. Oldham

Board election set by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the election of the Central Electric Board of Directors met June 6 to provide a slate of candidates for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Nominated for consideration are the following members:

- ▶ Frank Comer III, District 1
- ▶ James Brooks, District 2
- ▶ Charles E. Cameron, Sr., 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.

The deadline for additional nominations is June 28. 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. 23 through Sept. 23 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.

The committee met June 6 and during the meeting, they nominated three-year terms for the following incumbents: Frank Comer III, District 1; James Brooks, District 2; Charles E. Cameron, Sr., District 3.

Annual Meeting scholarship

Central Electric is committed to supporting our communities, which is why the co-op has a variety of programs that aim to develop and support our local youth. As part of the Annual Meeting of the Members, Central Electric is awarding a \$2,000 scholarship to a student who is a Central Electric member or a child of a member. The scholarship will be awarded through a random drawing during the "virtual" Annual Meeting on Oct. 7. The deadline for entries is Friday, Sept. 16.



Scan this QR Code with your phone's camera to visit the "Annual Meeting of the Members" page at CEMCPower.com for more information on qualification requirements or to apply for the random drawing!



Tips for maintaining your HVAC system

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

Are you ever unsure of how your home is using electricity on a daily basis?

To help, the cooperative has a trained staff of energy experts available to help you become more energy efficient and understand just where your energy dollars are being spent.

Our experts can help you determine the right steps for maximizing the efficiency of your home, including whether an in-home energy audit will help find more savings and reduce your energy costs each month. Contact us at 919-774-4900 to schedule an appointment.

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's lifespan.



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