

NEWS Central

NOV. 2022

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 14 years in a row that capital credits have been retired. During this time frame, almost \$16 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

cooperative during 2002 or 2003 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!

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.



NOV. 18 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. 24 & 25 the CEMC office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.



POINT OF VIEW

Thankful for our members

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ Thank you for all you do to make our cooperative and community a better place to live. We can’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership. Together, let’s continue making our little corner of the world a better place to live.”

As we quickly approach the holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for you, the member-owners of our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Central Electric, together we are able to make our community a better and brighter place.

I generally use this column to provide updates on new projects and developments or update you on current events in the energy industry so that all of our member-owners are “in the know” on cooperative initiatives. However, during this season of giving, I think it’s equally important to let you know that we are thankful for you and the impact that you have on our co-op and communities we serve simply by being a member-owner of this cooperative.

As a part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is to maintain safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also view the co-op as a catalyst for good in our communities.

We continually partner with local non-profit organizations through our “Operation Round Up” program that is fueled by voluntary donations from you, our members. Since its inception in November 2013, the program has awarded grants totaling more than \$900,000 to deserving organizations such as the Chatham County 4-H, Helping Hands Clinic of Lee County and the Buddy Back Pack Program, just to name a few.

We also work closely with our local schools to provide opportunities for our teachers and students.

Each year we award \$15,000 in education grants to local teachers to help them foster a creative learning environment for students. We also provide scholarships to deserving students who attend local community colleges, as well scholarships for students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and local university basketball camps.

We are also thankful for our co-op board members. Each of these individuals carve out significant time to attend meetings, training sessions and staying abreast of current industry trends. This investment of time results in better informed member-advisors that serve the best interests of the members they represent.

On a more personal note, we also appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. All of your words of encouragement, support and patience is greatly appreciated when we are working long hours during challenging situations to restore power.

Thank you for all you do to make our cooperative and community a better place to live. We can’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership. Together, let’s continue making our little corner of the world a better place to live.

Until next time,

ORU grants helping local organizations

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, \$21,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

Bragg Street Academy STRIVE

– \$3,000 to pay for meals, snacks, incentives open house, parent's night and team building activities for students.

Chatham Drug Free – \$3,000 to help with costs for rental sound equipment and entertainment.

Hispanic Liason of Chatham County – \$3,000 to help with community education, printing, supplies and mileage.

Union Pines HS NJROTC – \$3,000 to help with student costs for a group trip to Parris Island.



[L-R] Hannia Benitez, Deputy Director, and Gabriela Sanchez, Program Coordinator, accept a \$3,000 grant on behalf of Hispanic Liason in Chatham County. The grant will be used to help purchase supplies as well as community education efforts by the organization.

Union Taylor's Community Action – \$3,000 to help pay for the cost of a replacement vehicle.

Veternation, Lee County – \$3,000 to help purchase supplies for hygiene stations.

Vass Lion's Club – \$3,000 to help purchase a Spot Vision Screener.

Apply now for the 2023 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 2023 Youth Tour. The all-expense-paid, weeklong 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 2023 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.



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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