



POINT OF VIEW
Moving forward together
Page 22

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Saving you money
Page 23

SPORTS CAMPS
Applications due March 31
Page 24

NEWS CENTRAL

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Wind, rain, sleet or snow, we're on the go

When Mother Nature decides to flex her muscles, power outages are a given. Even though your cooperative is constantly looking for ways to make our system as reliable as possible, adverse weather conditions will ultimately cause outages, whether we like it or not. In the event of widespread power outages, here are some answers to a few commonly asked questions:



Sometimes, conditions cause extended outage restoration times depending on how much damage occurs to the system. Rest assured, when storms hit our area, your cooperative is working around the clock to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Where are the estimated restoration times?

We never know what we are going to find when we are responding to outages, so it's hard to predict when we'll have the power back on to your home. Depending on how bad the damage is from the storm, whether trees are brushing power lines

Why do my neighbors have power and I don't?

It can be frustrating to see lights across the street when you are sitting in the dark. The power grid is broken into sections, so it's possible your neighbors are on a different line or there may just be trouble on the part of the line that serves your home. Outages can be isolated to a single transformer or they can affect only the line serving your home or business.

or falling and breaking poles, it can create a wide range of restoration times. That's why we don't give any specific restoration times, simply because they are estimates and not exact time frames.

No matter what nature brings our way, whenever the lights are out, our crews are working to get them back on. During an outage, make sure you follow along at CEMCPower.com to track outage restoration progress and receive any important updates from the cooperative.



▶ Applications for 2017 first-quarter Operation Round Up® grant opportunities must be submitted by Feb. 1. Recipients will be announced following the Trust board meeting on Feb. 16.

POINT OF VIEW

Moving forward together

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

This month I am sharing a recent commentary by Jim Matheson, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents more than 900 member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives across the nation, including Central Electric. A former seven-term congressman from Utah, Jim recently began his tenure as CEO of NRECA in July 2016 and he offers a great perspective on moving forward after a very divisive national election in 2016.



The most expensive and unconventional election campaign of our lives came to an end on November 8.

This election evoked strong feelings in all of us, but as a unified association of members, it's not just our job to celebrate or sulk. Our job is to be a champion for the people and places we serve: 42 million Americans from all walks of life—men and women; all races and religions; native-born and immigrant; farmers, factory workers, and financiers; communities that are struggling and some of the fastest-growing places in the country; millions who enthusiastically voted for our commander in chief and millions who did not.

Our vast, diverse coalition is united by a love of the places we call home, a need for energy to power our lives, and a recognition

that cooperation is the best way to achieve our mission.

In pursuit of the mission, we have spent the past year proactively engaging with presidential and congressional candidates from both parties. We introduced them to the co-op way of doing business and talked about the issues that matter to our members.



Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Increasing partisanship and gridlock in Washington have thwarted progress on many major issues facing the nation. But our cause is not—and

never has been—partisan. We have a rich history of working with leaders of both political parties, because keeping energy safe, reliable, and affordable is not a partisan issue.

For at least the next two years, one party will control the White House and Capitol Hill. They have a great opportunity to move

forward on issues that matter to the co-op family.

Rural America came out to vote in large numbers in this election, and we will be working to ensure our new president and Congress deliver for the communities we serve. President Trump has expressed strong support for infrastructure investments. That's something every member of the co-op family can get behind, and we look forward to working with the administration to make that happen.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, we will execute our plan to promote co-op issues to the new Congress and the new administration. We will strenuously advocate for our members, reach out to our partners, be agile, and make well informed decisions that represent the people we serve.

Most important, we will continue to champion the cause of the electric cooperative movement, because now more than ever, we need to remember how much more we can achieve when we celebrate our shared values and work together to advance the common good.

Save money by becoming energy efficient

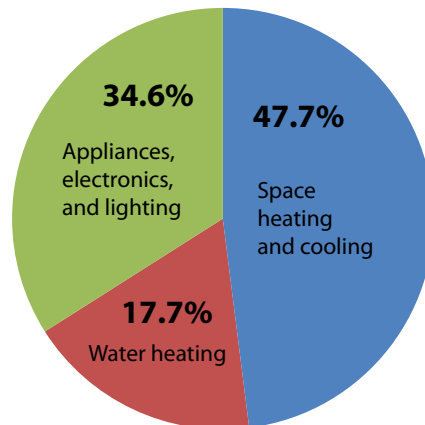
While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, many people don't know where to start. To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know where your energy is being consumed. The top energy users in U.S. homes are space heating and cooling, water heating, lighting and appliances.

Here are some ways you can save:

- ▶ During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit and during warm weather, the recommended temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ Proper use of a programmable thermostat can help save you money by automatically adjusting the temperature of your home

Top Energy Users

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating, cooling and water heating still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in homes.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

according to your specified preferences.

- ▶ Replace your home's most frequently used light bulbs to more energy-efficient LEDs.
- ▶ Make sure the temperature on your water heater is 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to maximize the efficiency of your water heater.
- ▶ If you are considering an appliance update, Energy Star rated appliances use less energy than non-qualified models, saving you money in the long-run.

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify your energy use and keep money in your wallet. To learn about additional ways to save energy and money, visit the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com.

WPCA billing credit extended in January



Due to favorable fuel and wholesale power costs in 2016, the cooperative was able to apply a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) to all billing accounts in December. If you were paying close attention, when you received your January billing statement, you should have noticed the WPCA billing credit was continued in January.

That's right, all Central Electric members received a **second** WPCA billing credit in January of \$0.01 per kWh, or \$10.00 for every 1,000 kWh used. Between the WPCA credits in December and January, the cooperative has issued over \$1 million in WPCA billing credits to its members.

This is just another great benefit of being a part of an electric cooperative. When actual costs are lower than budgeted costs, the money is returned to you, our member, rather than shareholders.



Apply for a TESC Scholarship

Central Electric annually awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties.

the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must be able to provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

A young man will be selected to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.



Coaches and athletes at both camps will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills like sportsmanship and leadership to help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during

The deadline to apply is March 31. Visit CEMCPower.com to download the applications, or contact Janet Jackson at (919) 708-1638 for more information.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Morris McClellion
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.

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

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: (919) 774-4900
To report an outage
24 hours a day: (877) 766-6769

James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Take advantage of ElecTel CFCU

Did you know that as a member of Central Electric you have access to the cooperative's federal credit union?

membership is unique. Just like your membership in our electric cooperative, credit unions are governed by the members and everyone has an equal voice. Profits are returned in the form of higher savings rates.

The ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union is



Your Co-op, Your Credit Union.

open to any member and their family of the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Central Electric. Once you join ElecTel, you are an ElecTel member for life, regardless of whether you move outside a cooperative territory in the future.

If you are interested in joining the ElecTel credit union, visit ElecTelCCU.org to start the application process. All you need to do is complete a brief application and submit a minimum deposit of \$1 to take advantage of their great services. You can also contact the branch office at 800-849-5600.

Anyone can offer financial services, but credit union