

POINT OF VIEW
Lending a helping hand
Page 38

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Prepare for summer
Page 39

BRIGHT IDEAS
Now accepting applications
Page 40

NEWS CENTRAL

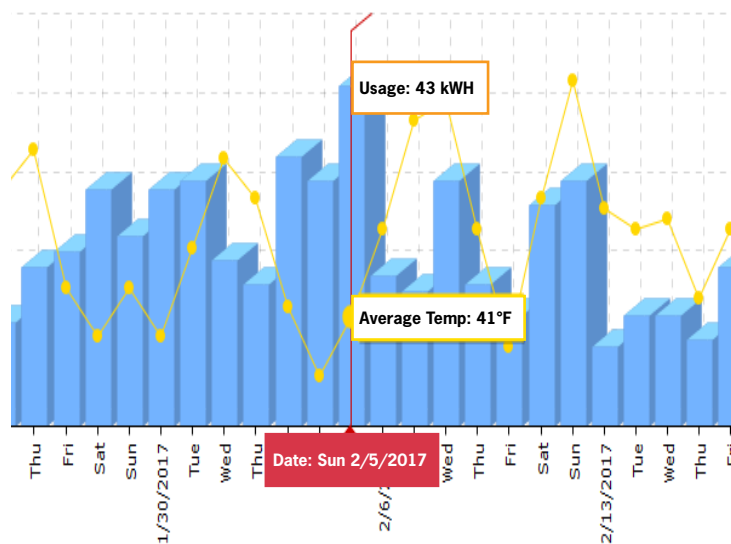
Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Take advantage of the online account portal

As a member of Central Electric, you have the ability to manage and track your account anytime, anywhere. Whether you need to pay your bill or monitor your energy use, the Member Service Portal at CEMCPower.com is your one-stop shop.

The free portal is available to you 24/7 and it offers an extensive range of account services for you to take advantage of. Not only can you track your energy use or make a one-time payment towards your account, you can also set up a variety of different payment options, including a recurring payment draft for the bill due date each month or auto-pay, which

Daily Electricity Usage



In addition to setting up various payment options and updating your contact information, the online account portal also allows you to keep close track of your electricity use. This is a great tool for monitoring how your consumption changes on a day-to-day basis.

will allow you to set a specific payment amount to occur on a specific date.

Another important feature of the portal is that you can keep your contact information up-to-date. Making sure the cooperative has your correct contact information is extremely important. That way, when we need to communicate with you and keep you current on cooperative news, we have all the information we need to reach you.

If you haven't already, click on the "Login" button on the home page at CEMCPower.com to get set-up today!



- ▶ The Central Electric Membership Corporation office will be closed Friday, April 14, for the Easter holiday. Crews will be on-call.
- ▶ The deadline for scholarship applications to Central Carolina or Sandhills Community Colleges is May 1. For more information, visit CEMCPower.com.

POINT OF VIEW

Neighbors helping neighbors

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellon

Operation Round Up® offers a way for us to work together. For those of you who have agreed to have your electric bill “rounded up” each month, your donations are used to provide assistance to projects for local nonprofit organizations, groups and charities.

The average yearly contribution is around \$6, or \$0.50 each month, but you can also make a one-time contribution. A Member Care Trust Board composed entirely of volunteer Central Electric members meets quarterly, reviews applications and decides which organizations will receive support.

Since inception in November 2013, Operation Round Up has awarded grants totaling more than \$330,000. Organizations

including the Boys & Girls Clubs, Christian United Outreach and the Salvation Army have received funding from the program.



Funds have also been used to help deserving families pay their heating bills. During 2016, \$5,000 was awarded to Social Service agencies

across Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Moore counties. They screen applicants to help ensure worthy recipients have the helping hand when needed.

The success of Operation Round Up would not be possible without your generosity. During 2016 alone, voluntary member contributions totaled \$96,000. These funds provide opportunities for individuals and projects throughout our



community that otherwise may have not been possible.

Thank you to each member who is actively participating in the success of Operation Round Up. If you have not yet joined in, please do so today. Simply contact the office at (800) 446-7752 or visit the Operation Round Up section under the Community tab at CEMCPower.com. Doing so will only have a small impact on your electric bill, but it could mean the world to someone else.

Until next time,

Morris McClellon



Are you due a refund?

The great thing about being a part of a cooperative is that customers are actually “member-owners.” One way ownership is reflected is through capital credits, the members’ share of what’s left over annually after the costs of delivering power and funds for emergency situations and regular growth projects have been covered.

We make every effort to locate the person entitled to their capital credit check. Often, members have moved and they are difficult to locate. A list of names is posted on the home page at CEMCPower.com. Please review the list and if you see your name or the names of family or friends, have them contact Tabitha Whitlow at 919-708-1616.

Prepare for summer heat with energy savings

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner

Spring and early summer are good times to make sure your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- ▶ Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- ▶ Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.



- ▶ Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof

See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak. Even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it.

Make your electric cooperative a resource

Central Electric's energy advisor, Janet Jackson, can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings. Make sure you take advantage of the Member Services Portal at CEMCPower.com, where you can track your energy use and set up alerts to keep you notified if your usage reaches a certain point. Also, take some time to visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the home can add up to big savings.

Students rewarded for classroom efforts

Five outstanding students earned a Visa® gift card for receiving at least one "A" on their recent report cards.

The reward is in connection with Central Electric's "Give us an A" program.

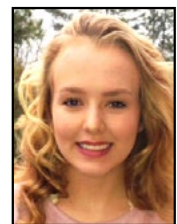
Local students from kindergarten to college with a grade of at least one "A" are invited to send in a copy of their most recent report card.

Four times each school year, Central Electric will draw from the entries and 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".

If you have at least one "A" on your next report card, send in a copy to Janet Jackson at Central Electric by April 7 for a chance to be selected in the next random drawing. Entries can be submitted by email at JacksonJ@cemcpower.com or by mail at Give us an "A", PO Box 1107, Sanford, N.C. 27332.



**Connor
Bush**



**Carlin
Rattz**



**Logan
Hartman**



**Justin
Rattz**



**Cadenze
Hurd**



Do you have a Bright Idea?

Everyone knows April showers bring May flowers, but did you also know April brings new opportunities for local educators to fund classroom projects? Here at Central Electric, April marks the official kickoff of the Bright Ideas education grant program. The Bright Ideas grant program supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects.

Since 1994, N.C. electric co-ops have awarded more than \$10.9 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. Over 10,400 classroom projects benefiting more than 2.1 million N.C. students have been made possible because of these grants.

Applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2017-18 school year are now being accepted. Educators in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. This year, Central Electric will award \$15,000 in grants to support local teachers and students.

Grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 18. However, it pays to apply early. All teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

To apply, or for more information about the program, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the

Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance effort is the General Manager. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Morris McClellon
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.