



NEWS CENTRAL

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

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Cooperatives rally in Raleigh to voice issues

Central Electric continually works alongside other electric cooperatives to impact legislation that will affect **you** the member. Keeping electricity affordable and reliable is a top priority for Central Electric as we work to protect the best interests of the membership into the future.

That's why North Carolina's electric cooperative leaders from across the state rallied March 21–22 to discuss important issues affecting electric cooperatives. Cooperative representatives met with members from both sides of the aisle of the N.C. General Assembly to help legislators understand the impact of legislative decisions on electric cooperative members.

Key issues discussed with legislators included rural broadband deployment and energy reform



Leaders from Central Electric rallied with other cooperative representatives from across the state March 21–22 at the N.C. State Legislative Building to meet with members of the General Assembly.

across the state of North Carolina. The state's electric cooperatives have invested in a secure fiber ring connecting electric cooperatives across the state and believe this can be leveraged to provide communications companies assistance in deploying broadband service to rural areas.

Cooperative leaders also urged officials to recognize the complex nature of the electric

power industry and carefully consider how their decisions impact the costs of delivering affordable, reliable, and safe power to cooperative members.

Central Electric constantly engages with elected officials to represent the interests of *you*, our members. These on-going discussions and relationships are another way your cooperative is working to be your trusted energy partner.



- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.
- ▶ The deadline to apply for Central Electric's Community College scholarships is May 1. For more information visit the "Education Programs" section under the "Community" tab at CEMCPower.com.

POINT OF VIEW

May is electrical safety month

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

This month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and we at Central Electric take safety very seriously. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used. That's why a top priority of our cooperative is making sure our linemen are properly trained to keep themselves and our members safe. At the end of the day, we want our employees and members to go home to a safe environment.

Responsibility to you

Our concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation

International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electric shock in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we send out cooperative employees to run the high-voltage demonstration in our schools and at local community events. We frequently provide electrical safety content in our publications and through various other outlets. Part of being your trusted energy partner means not only providing affordable electricity, but also a safe and reliable way for you to power your home.

Responsibility to employees

It's no accident that our cooperative scores very high each year in safety standards.



We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, we are part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job, including special fire-resistant clothing that limits potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves rated for high voltage are also worn to protect from electrical shock. Regular safety meetings are also held to discuss important safety issues pertaining to work out in the field as well as inside the office.

We believe it is our duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Make sure you take a moment to plug into safety not only during the month of May, but each and every day throughout the year.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion



(L-R) Central Electric employees Jeff Galyean and Michael Dowdy run the high-voltage demonstration at Small Hands Big Future Childcare Center in Sanford. It's never too early to start educating children on the importance of taking the dangers of electricity seriously.

Local groups benefit from Operation Round Up®

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$24,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

- ▶ [Another Choice, Lee County](#) – \$1,800 to repair and equip the waiting room for children being put in foster care.
- ▶ [Buddy Back Pack Program, Harnett County](#) – \$1,800 to help with food supplies.
- ▶ [Central Carolina Community College, Lee County](#) – \$1,800 for the Dream Keepers Fund to help students in financial crises near graduation.



(R-L) Nancy Gust, Central Electric Member Care Trust Administrator, presents a grant check to Marilyn Green, Executive Director of the Helping Hand Clinic in Sanford.

- ▶ [Chatham County 4-H](#) – \$1,800 to provide scholarships for children unable to cover cost of the registration fee.
- ▶ [Chatham County Council on Aging](#) – \$1,800 for the purchase of the NuStep machine.
- ▶ [Chatham County Literacy Council](#) – \$1,800 to recruit tutors and new students.
- ▶ [Chatham County Partnership for Children](#) – \$1,800 to purchase learning materials.
- ▶ [Habitat for Humanity, Chatham County](#) – \$1,800 to purchase building materials.
- ▶ [Helping Hand Clinic](#) – \$1,800 for the diabetic program.
- ▶ [Lee County High School JROTC](#) – \$1,800 for Junior Reserve Officers training and the Annual Military Ball.
- ▶ [Lee County Partnership for Children](#) – \$1,800 to purchase books for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- ▶ [Project Graduation 2017, Chatham County](#) – \$1,800 to pay for entertainment for a safe graduation alternative.
- ▶ [Treasure Chest Ministries, Lee County](#) – \$1,800 to provide Christmas gifts and a meal for children of at-risk families.
- ▶ [Western Harnett Lions Club](#) – \$1,800 to help provide eye exams and glasses for children.

Energy-efficient loans and rebates available



Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home this summer? Central Electric can help.

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.

Visit the “Energy Efficiency” tab at CEMCPower.com to learn more about available energy-efficient loans and rebates, as well as energy-saving tools and services that can help you become more efficient.



Cooperative Leadership Camp

This summer, Central Electric is sending a rising sophomore, junior or senior to Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council.

The week-long, overnight camp will be held at White Lake, N.C., June 19-23. It will feature energetic and interactive workshops, presentations, outdoor recreation and leadership-building exercises.

The camp is designed to provide a learning experience that concentrates on the cooperative way of doing business, building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model. Each year, five campers are selected to receive leadership awards for their unique leadership abilities and receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Institute on Co-op Education at Virginia Tech University. All campers will also be eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership scholarship their senior year of high school.

The deadline to apply is quickly approaching. All applications must be received by May 12. For more information or to apply, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" section at CEMCPower.com.

Students: Apply for
Cooperative Leadership Camp
at CEMCPower.com



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Keep safety in mind this spring

May is a month to enjoy the flowers, soak up sunshine and cross those final tasks off your spring-cleaning checklist. If your to-do list takes you out in the yard, up a ladder or over to the power tools, keep these safety tips in mind:

- ▶ Call 811 before digging, this free call will help you avoid contact with underground utility lines.
- ▶ Regularly inspect cords for damage and don't use cords that are frayed or broken.
- ▶ Use only extension cords marked "for outdoor use" when needed for work outside. Once the job is done, store extension cords indoors.
- ▶ Keep ladders at least 10 feet from power lines. As an extra precaution, use a fiberglass or wooden ladder outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Before you start those spring cleaning tasks, make sure you take a second to brush up on your electrical safety knowledge.