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NEWS CENTRAL

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Board election set by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the election of the Central Electric Board of Directors met June 5 to provide a slate of candidates for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Nominated for consideration are the following members:



According to the cooperative bylaws, any one hundred (100) or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts.

Once the full slate of nominees has been determined following the conclusion of the

▶ **Rebecca Cogan**, District 1

Cooperatives are democratic organizations and the Board represents members like you in the decision making process. Director elections are a vital part of the cooperative business model.

▶ **Henry Outz**, District 2

▶ **Henry Randolph**, District 3

▶ **Tim Priest**, District 4.

additional nomination period, the list will be posted at the Cooperative's office at 128 Wilson Road, Sanford, N.C.

The election will be held Friday, Oct. 6, at the Annual Meeting of the Members at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center.

The deadline for additional nominations is Aug. 8.



- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day. Crews will be on-call.
- ▶ Bright Ideas "early-bird" applications are due by Aug. 15 for a chance to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. Visit NCBrightIdeas.com to apply.

POINT OF VIEW

The path to energy efficiency

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

When we think about the Fourth of July, we often associate it with fireworks, parades, homemade ice cream and spending time with our families. We relate the red, white and blue streamers to good feelings and pride in our country. However, when we think about energy efficiency, it doesn't always elicit the same warm and fuzzy feelings. But maybe it should.

For you, the member, working toward energy efficiency means a reduction in energy use, which translates to more money in your pocket. For the cooperative, more members using less energy means less wholesale power the cooperative must purchase. Not only is energy efficiency a win for you the member, but also collectively for the cooperative.

So the big question is how do you take charge of your energy use? The biggest energy

consumer in your home is your heating and air system. Replacing older HVAC units, appliances or windows with newer, more efficient units is a good place to start if they are in need of replacement. Less expensive actions include improving your home's "envelope" by caulking exterior windows and doors. Swapping out your light bulbs to newer LEDs can also make a difference.

The second way to move more towards energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Installing a programmable thermostat is a great place to start. This allows you to take more control of your HVAC unit and keep your home comfortable when you're at home, not while you're at work or on vacation. We recommend setting your thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit during the



summer months and 68 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months for optimal efficiency.

Small steps really do lead to a big difference for you and other members of your community through energy savings. Helping you save money on your monthly energy bill is what your cooperative is here for, and that is worth celebrating. Have a Happy Fourth of July!

Until next time,

Morris McClellion



Payment arrangements

Beginning Aug. 1, the cooperative's payment arrangement policy will be changing. Your Board of Directors and cooperative management understand that unforeseen circumstances sometimes occur, which may create the need for you to extend your due date.

Previously, members have been allowed up to two payment arrangements beyond the stated disconnect date for a past due balance, per calendar year. The new policy now allows for unlimited payment arrangements; however, a charge will be incurred. Once per billing period, a three-day extension can be requested for a \$10 fee or a six-day extension for a \$20 fee. Please contact the cooperative if you have any questions regarding the new policy.

Prepare in advance for hurricane season

June officially kicks off the summer season. It also marks the beginning of a potentially dangerous time: hurricane season. North Carolina sits on the Atlantic coast, and hurricanes often bring flooding, power loss and wind damage to this area.

Use the following tips to help you know what to do before, during and after a storm to keep you safe and minimize damage to your home.

Before a hurricane:

- ▶ Outline a communication and evacuation plan for your family before a hurricane warning is issued to minimize confusion and fear. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- ▶ Create an emergency kit that includes 72 hours' worth of food, water, medication, batteries and any other supplies you may need.
- ▶ Charge your mobile phone and other mobile devices ahead of time.
- ▶ Secure your home and evacuate immediately if you live in a mobile home or flood zone.

During a hurricane:

- ▶ Stay indoors and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- ▶ If flooding is imminent, turn off electricity at the main breaker.

- ▶ Listen to a battery-operated radio or TV for information about the storm and evacuation procedures.
- ▶ Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- ▶ Do not go outside until officials have issued an all clear, even if the winds have subsided. You may be in the eye of the hurricane and about to face another round of high winds and heavy rain.

After a hurricane:

- ▶ Stay alert for extended rainfall and flooding, even after the hurricane has passed.
- ▶ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to Central Electric.
- ▶ If power was out for an extended period of time, throw out any food that may have spoiled in the refrigerator.
- ▶ Take pictures of any damage that has occurred to your home for insurance purposes.
- ▶ If running a generator, place it in a dry, well-ventilated area away from air intakes into the home. The generator should be properly grounded and connected to appliances with proper power cords.
- ▶ Report power outages to Central Electric by calling 1-877-766-6769. You can also track outages on CEMCPower.com.



Summer storm safety tip:

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines. The wire could be live and be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to Central Electric, so our trained professionals can respond and safely repair the damage.



Project nearing completion

For the past several months, crews have been steadily working to replace the cooperative's transmission line that provides power to over 9,000 members in Harnett County. Spanning over five miles, 58 steel poles now stand in the place of the former wooden poles. A higher-capacity reinforced steel wire also replaces the existing aluminum wire.

The cooperative would like to thank members in Harnett County for their patience during this project. Several temporary blinks were necessary to move loads and allow work to be completed while de-energized. When finished, the new transmission line will provide room for extra capacity to keep up with continuing growth. These kinds of upgrades are sometimes necessary to ensure the reliability of our system for members well into the future.

(Left) Crews work to change out poles between Food Lion and the Spout Springs substation off HWY 24/87 in Spout Springs. Several poles, like the one shown, were changed out with the 115,000 volt line still "hot" to prevent unnecessary blinks for members.

It takes a 26 person crew approximately three hours to change out a pole while working the line energized. The old wooden poles are cut in half and then replaced with steel poles, some as tall as 120 feet.

Updates to the Service Rules and Regulations

At May's Board of Director meeting, the cooperative's Board approved the following changes and updates to the cooperative's Service Rules and Regulations:

- ▶ Section 107, regarding placement of transformers.
- ▶ Section 204, regarding scheduled/routine right-of-way maintenance of transmission and distribution lines as well as disposal of debris.
- ▶ Attachment 3, regarding notification and permitting of licensed electricians to handle CEMC meters.
- ▶ Appendix of charges, regarding addition of arrangement fees for billing extensions.

To obtain a full copy of the Service Rules and Regulations, or for further details on the changes, please visit CEMCPower.com or contact the Central Electric office.



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.

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James Taylor, *Editor*

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