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NEWS CENTRAL

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Central honors director Johnnie Chalmers

The cooperative recently unveiled a plaque honoring the 35-plus years of service made by one of its former directors, the late Johnnie Chalmers, during a ceremony at the Johnsonville substation.



Attended by several members of the Chalmers family as well as members from the Central Electric Board of Directors, the dedication and servitude of Johnnie Chalmers was recognized during a ceremony in his home district of Harnett County.

Johnnie was elected to the board in 1973, representing District 3 in Harnett County until he retired in April 2009. When he was elected, he was one of the first African-Americans in the state to serve on a cooperative board, and before he retired, he was elected vice president of the board, a position he held until his retirement.

Not only did he devotedly serve the cooperative, but he also served in the U.S. military for 33 years.

Before his retirement from Pope Air Force Base in 1981, he fought and was wounded in battle in France during World War II defending our country's freedom.

Perhaps one the biggest things to take away from his time on the cooperative's board is that he had a direct hand in electrifying central North Carolina. When Johnnie was young, 9 out of 10 rural homes

in the countryside were without electricity. He was able to experience and contribute firsthand to the electrification of rural Harnett County. By the time Johnnie retired from the co-op's board, electricity was no longer a privilege to those just living inside the city limits, but a given for any member of our community. He helped make electricity safe, reliable and available to central North Carolina.



- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.
- ▶ Applications for fourth quarter Operation Round Up® grant requests are due Nov. 1. For more information, visit the "Operation Round Up" section under the "Community" tab at CEMCPower.com.

POINT OF VIEW

Your satisfaction is important

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

Across our state and country, people like you and I receive electricity from one of three types of utilities: investor-owned, municipal-owned or electric cooperative. Central Electric is an electric cooperative, owned and governed by the members it serves. That means you, the member, have a direct stake in the governing of your electric utility.

Why is this important you may ask? Over time as the thrill and excitement of having service extended to your home by the rural electric cooperative has faded, the electric co-op can sometimes be thought of as just another utility. Rural electricity is now ingrained into our everyday lives. It is an expectation rather than a luxury.

However, electric cooperatives remain different from other utilities. That difference is you, the member-owner of this cooperative. As an owner, you play a critical role in our success. Each year, if our revenue exceeds our expenses, a certain percentage of the excess is

allocated back to you. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which set rates to account for a return to shareholders, electric cooperatives operate as close to at-cost as possible and over time return any excess back to the members based on your use. With that ownership also comes certain rights, like the opportunity to elect directors at our annual meeting each year.

Your participation in director election is vital to the cooperative.

Quite possibly the biggest difference between electric cooperatives and other electric utility providers is the drive to go beyond your expectations. We not only want to do what you expect us to do, continuing to provide safe, reliable and affordable service, but we

want to go above and beyond your expectations. We strive to be your trusted energy partner, being there for you for all of your energy needs.

This includes providing superior member service, offering programs that you can use to your advantage to help save time and money, and also supporting the communities we serve and

“ We not only want to do what you expect us to do, continuing to provide safe, reliable and affordable service, but we want to go above and beyond your expectations. We strive to be your trusted energy partner, being there for you for all of your energy needs. ”



live in. That is the cooperative difference and that is what makes us different.

Part of being your trusted energy partner involves hearing directly from you. Twice a year, we gauge our performance using member satisfaction surveys. We contract with TSE Services, a cooperatively-owned research organization, to contact our members and receive feedback on the co-op's performance. Whether its outage response time, programs or technology, we want your feedback.

Beginning in October, TSE Services will be conducting a round of call outs to help us hear from you. If you are contacted, we ask that you please take a few minutes to participate in the survey. That way we will know how to continue meeting your expectations into the future.

As always, thank you for taking the time to help your cooperative engage with its members and discover ways to best serve you.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Investing in the future leaders of tomorrow

Ever wonder what it is like to walk the halls of the Capitol with members of Congress?

Local students Amber Vaughn and DaNasia Sneed were recently sponsored by Central Electric to take the trip of a lifetime as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Amber, a student at Chatham Charter School and DaNasia, a student at Southern Lee High School, joined over 1,700 youth from across the country June 10-16 in D.C.

While there, they were able to sightsee at some of D.C.'s most famous attractions and historic memorials, enjoy a theatrical experience at the Kennedy Center, as well as engage in discussions with both of the state's U.S. senators and several members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Capitol Hill. In addition to meeting members of Congress, they learned more about American history and the electric cooperative business model.

Central Electric sponsors two local high school students each year for the Youth Tour. If you will be a high school junior or senior during the 2018-19 school year, the application period for next year's Youth Tour will begin in September and run through January 2018. For more information about this great program, visit the "Cooperative Youth Tour" page at CEMCPower.com.



(L-R) DaNasia Sneed and Amber Vaughn represented Central Electric during the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Get your applications in!

There is still time remaining to apply for a Bright Ideas education grant for the 2017-2018 school year. Educators in K-12 classrooms are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. Grants are available for all subjects and teachers can apply individually or as a team.

This year, Central Electric will award Bright Ideas grants totaling approximately \$15,000. Over 2,700 students in our community were positively impacted this past school year as a result of Bright Ideas grants.

To apply, educators must include a budget, explain the creative elements, implementation, goals and evaluation of the project, and have approval from the school principal. The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 18. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com, or contact Central Electric's Bright Ideas coordinator, Janet Jackson at 919-708-1638.

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 Nov. 28 for a chance to be selected in the next drawing.



Heather Scheffler
Haw River Christian



Katherine Leonard
Moncure School



Kendra Baldwin
Tramway Elem.



Jonathan Marroquin
Highland Elem.



Aiden Poole
JR Ingram Elem.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Scholarships boost youth

Three local students recently participated in basketball camps at two of the state’s largest college campuses, thanks to Central Electric’s Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program.

Eric Jernigan of Carthage, and Nathan McGehee of Sanford, both attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 17-21 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Gracie Olive of Cameron, attended the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp at N.C. State University June 11-14 in Raleigh.

At each camp, students stayed in dorms on campus, shot hoops, ran drills and worked alongside coaches to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates.



Eric Jernigan



Nathan McGehee



Gracie Olive