



NEWS CENTRAL

CENTRAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

THE POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS

| AUGUST 2016

Utility scams targeting Central Electric members

Local headlines have been hard to miss in recent months, scam attempts are still on the rise.

Whether by phone, email or door-to-door, criminals continue to target individuals within our communities, including Central Electric members.

Recently, the cooperative has been contacted by several individuals who have received a threatening phone call stating their electric service is in immediate danger of being disconnected. The caller associates themselves with Central Electric, or another local utility, and warns the individual that a payment must be made immediately to avoid a disconnection of service. Various payment options, including prepaid credit cards and other

personal information, are requested within a short window, usually a few minutes, or the service will be shut-off.



The scams are effective when they create a sense of urgency and catch you off-guard in a quick moment of panic. In that brief moment of panic, individuals have been lured into providing credit card and other personal information.

Unfortunately, it is often tough for law enforcement to recover any lost money.

Remember this important information to prevent yourself from falling victim to a utility scam:

- ▶ Central Electric will **NEVER** call and demand an instant payment or ask for personal

information to prevent immediate disconnection.

- ▶ A mailed notice will be sent advising of an overdue account, followed by a second mailed notice around two weeks later. You may also receive a phone call from an automated system the night before a disconnection as a reminder of the overdue balance.

If you are ever unsure of the status of your account or the party you are speaking with, hang up and call the cooperative immediately. Representatives are ready to assist you 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-446-7752.

You can also quickly check the status of your account online at CEMCPower.com. Here you can check your account balance, make payments and set up alerts that will notify you when you have an overdue balance. If you have not already done so, contact the cooperative today to set up a login.

PLEASE NOTE

- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.



POINT OF VIEW:

Energy efficiency at the co-op

As a member of Central Electric, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by the co-op. We are a not-for-profit organization with a goal to provide safe, reliable power at the most affordable price for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

So, how can practicing efficiency save you money? It's common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower. But there's more to it than that. The cooperative purchases electricity that is then distributed to our members.

When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we purchase. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you are helping to reduce

the demand for electricity, thus lowering its overall cost. The best part is that as a co-op, we pass these savings directly on to you! Let's take a look at some of the ways you can save.

- ▶ Basic energy efficiency practices, like caulking around windows and doors, turning off

lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat, are great ways to start saving.

- ▶ Monitor your energy use through the online portal located at CEMCPower.com. By setting up a login and using this free service, you can keep tabs on your daily energy use and you can also set up alerts that will send you a notification when your usage reaches a specific amount. This information is available at your fingertips and will help you stay conscious of

your energy savings.

- ▶ The cooperative also offers free home energy audits. Our energy expert can assess air leaks, insulation gaps and other common problems that cause homes to

use more energy than required. We can tell you more about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LED lights and more.

- ▶ When you use electricity it also has a big impact on the cooperative's power cost

Take charge with FlexPay



- ▶ Manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.
- ▶ Daily account and balance alerts.
- ▶ FlexPay accounts tend to be up to 10 percent more energy-efficient.
- ▶ To learn more or to see about transferring an existing account onto FlexPay, contact us today at 1-800-446-7752.





Morris McClellion
Chief Executive Officer &
General Manager

expenses. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the mornings and evenings, when most people are either getting ready for their day or returning home. Remember that peak demand charge billed to the cooperative? You can help the co-op lower its peak demand cost by curbing your energy use during peak hours, when electricity is in high demand.

Central Electric is proud to offer energy efficiency programs for you, our member-owner. As you can see, there are many ways to save, and we want to be your trusted energy resource. To find out more about your cooperative's energy efficiency programs and to learn more about how you can conserve energy, visit the "Energy Efficiency" section at CEMCPower.com.

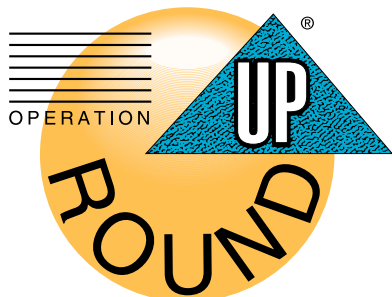
Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Operation Round Up® assists local organizations

Operation Round Up, completely powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, continues to make a positive difference. Over \$34,000 in grant funding was recently awarded to the following local nonprofit groups:

- ▶ **Chatham County Council on Aging** – \$3,000 to purchase a new treadmill.
- ▶ **Another Choice for Black Children, Inc., Lee County** – \$3,000 to support cultural enrichment program.
- ▶ **Project Graduation, Chatham County** – \$3,000 to help with costs to provide a safe post-graduation alternative.
- ▶ **Buddy Back Pack Program, Harnett County** – \$3,000 to help with food supplies.



- ▶ **Family Promise of Lee County** – \$3,000 to provide families with bedding materials.
- ▶ **Christian United Outreach, Lee County** – \$3,000 to help purchase food for the pantry.
- ▶ **Chatham Central High School FBLA** – \$3,000 to help with student costs associated with National FBLA Convention.
- ▶ **Boys & Girls Club of Eastern Piedmont, Chatham County** – \$2,000 to help with youth transportation costs.
- ▶ **Lee County YMCA** – \$2,000 for Energize!, a youth nutrition and fitness program.
- ▶ **Harnett County Partnership for Children** – \$2,000 to help support the Dolly Parton Imagination program.
- ▶ **Lee County High School FFA** – \$3,000 to help with student costs associated with the N.C. FFA summer camp.
- ▶ **Lee County High School FFA Alumni** – \$1,700 to help with costs associated with leadership training at state conference.
- ▶ **Communities in Schools of Chatham County** – \$1,500 for supplies for community programs.
- ▶ **Western Harnett Overhills-Area PTO Thrift Store** – \$1,000 to help purchase a marquee sign.
- ▶ **Moore County Schools Elementary Music Teachers** – \$600 to aid in expenses in bringing the Piedmont Opera to perform for Moore County 3rd graders.

For more information on how you can contribute to Operation Round Up or to apply for grant funding, visit CEMCPower.com. A few cents really does make a difference in the community.

Bright Ideas early bird deadline Aug. 15

Central Electric is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2016-2017 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. To apply, educators



Edward Walgate (right) from Horton Middle School in Pittsboro cashed in on the 2015 Bright Ideas early bird deadline, taking home a \$100 Visa gift card.

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. 23, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards.

For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade?

Additional insulation can make a difference!

The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: Energy.gov

Morris McClellion
CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*



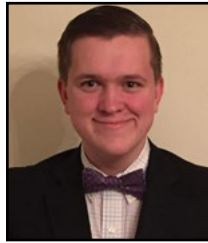
Central Electric
Membership Corporation

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Cooperative awards scholarships

Several local students attending Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) and Sandhills Community College (SCC) have been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to help with education expenses. Each year, Central Electric awards

scholarships to students at CCCC or SCC who are members of the cooperative or live in a home served by the cooperative. Scholarships are awarded based on scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, financial need and a written essay.



Michael Campbell
CCCC



Elissa Neal
CCCC



Della Wise
CCCC



Brooks Hinshaw
CCCC



Mabel Walden
SCC

Harnett County blinks Aug. 28

Duke Energy Progress is rebuilding some of their facilities, including the transmission line that brings electricity to our Manchester delivery point.

The upgrade has required temporary periods of down time for two of our Harnett County substations, but will ultimately save our members over \$6 million in upgrade costs that would otherwise be expensed.

The first two rounds of work were completed in June. The final round of work will take place on Aug. 28

from approximately 12 a.m. (midnight) to 8 a.m. Around this time, there may be several blinks temporarily affecting our Harnett County members as

power is rerouted to avoid extended outages that might otherwise occur.

We apologize for any inconvenience during this time.

reminder