



NEWS CENTRAL

CENTRAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

THE POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS | SEPTEMBER 2016

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 Cameron Kelly and Joshua Taylor 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.

Cameron, a rising senior at Lee County High School, and Joshua, a recent graduate of Southern Lee High School, joined over 1,500 youth from

across the country June 11-17 in D.C.



(L-R) Joshua Taylor and Cameron Kelly represented Central Electric during the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

While on Capitol Hill, they were able to speak with several U.S. representatives and senators, including N.C. Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. In addition to meeting members of Congress, they learned more about American history and the electric cooperative business model.

“The N.C. Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

provides a great opportunity for our youth to engage with the

political process and interact with our local representatives in Washington,” said Janet Jackson, Central Electric Youth Tour coordinator. “Each year, our Youth Tour representatives come back with an exciting and enthusiastic perspective on the democratic process and the cooperative business model.”

Think you may be interested in this great opportunity or know someone who would like to go next year? Central Electric sponsors two local high school students each year for the Youth Tour. The application period for next year’s trip will begin in September and run through January 2017. And you want to know the best part? It looks great on college applications!

In order to apply, the student must be a junior or senior at one of Central Electric’s area schools. For more information about the program, visit the “Cooperative Youth Tour” page at CEMCPower.com.

PLEASE NOTE

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



POINT OF VIEW:

Directors make a difference

As an electric cooperative, Central Electric is guided by an elected Board of Directors who represent the membership when making important decisions. Being a member of the co-op's Board is an important position in our community. A director's decisions impact issues such as rates, work plans and the overall direction of the cooperative. This position holds great responsibility and requires men and women who understand the needs of their community and aim to serve the best interest of the membership.

The beauty of the cooperative model is that any member in good standing can run for the Board and all directors are elected by the membership. They are a democratically elected body nominated by members within the cooperative's service territory and voted into position by members at the Annual Meeting of the Members each October.

They are members, just like you, elected by you, who live near you. They want the same thing you want, affordable energy bills

and the comfort of knowing the lights will turn on with the flip of a switch.

The Board works hard throughout the year to invest in the electric system, to keep power affordable and reliable. They constantly interact with members and listen to your concerns and ideas, to learn how they can help achieve these goals.

It is vitally important for the cooperative to elect strong directors to the Board. Central

Electric has been very fortunate to have such a strong pool of directors for the past 75 years. Each director has brought fresh ideas and new perspectives that have helped shape and guide the cooperative into what it is today.

With that being said, it is with a heavy heart that we at Central Electric are remembering one of our

longtime, faithful and dedicated board members, Johnnie J. Chalmers who passed away on July 23. Mr. Chalmers served on the Central Electric Board for more than 35 years. He was first elected in Nov. 1973,



Johnnie Chalmers served on Central Electric's Board of Directors for over 35 years in addition to serving in our country's military for 33 years.



Morris McClellion
Chief Executive Officer &
General Manager

representing District 3 in Harnett County until he retired in April 2009.

When he was first elected in 1973, 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 in 2009.

Not only did he devotedly serve the cooperative, but he also served our country 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.

Mr. Chalmers was a great man and while he will be missed, his cooperative legacy will continue to live on for many years to come.

Until next time,


Morris McClellion

Use caution around electrical equipment

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this fall, make sure you exercise caution near electrical equipment.


Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages. If contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous, even fatal.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal, real or virtual, in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove or "catch it," no matter how furry and cute!



Be ALERT when playing outside

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Remember these safety tips when playing outside:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, it could potentially create a very dangerous situation for you or someone nearby.

- ▶ Keep any remote-controlled toys in sight at all times.

- ▶ Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at Central Electric, your safety is important to us. Please continue to help us spread the message of electrical safety to our community.

Bright Ideas deadline quickly approaching

There is still time remaining to apply for a Bright Ideas education grant 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



Patricia Steingraber from Sandhills Farm Life Elementary school in Carthage won a Bright Ideas grant in 2015 to provide iPads for her classroom.

\$15,000. 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. 23. 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 random drawing.



Nathan McGehee
West Lee Middle



Kylie Kintz
Highland Middle



Jared Lambert
Carthage Elem.



Jared Alderson
Broadway Elem.



Andrew Everwine
Bonlee School

Morris McClellion
CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*



Scholarships boost local 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.

Aytaj Dolan of Sanford, and Anna Holton of Vass, both attended the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp at N.C. State University June 12-15 in Raleigh.

Jesse Mills of Sanford, attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 18-22 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

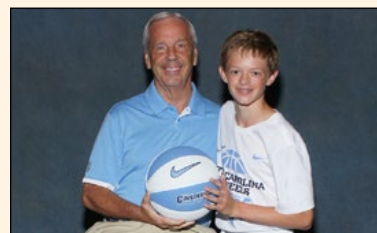
At each camp, students stayed in dorms on campus, shot hoops, ran drills and worked alongside coaches to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates.



Aytaj Dolan, West Lee Middle



Anna Holton, Crain’s Creek Middle



Jesse Mills, Crain’s Creek Middle