



NEWS CENTRAL

CENTRAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

THE POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS | NOVEMBER 2016

Meeting highlights co-op's 75th anniversary

Over 1,200 people came out for a night of fun at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Members on Oct. 7 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford. Those on hand helped the cooperative celebrate its milestone 75th anniversary.

Members enjoyed food, entertainment from David Browning, "The Mayberry Deputy," a musical performance by local musical group About Time, as well as a night full of great prizes. Several members walked away with cash prizes, including Deborah Paige, who took home the night's grand prize of \$750, Myra McIntyre won \$150 and Sandra Stephens cashed in on \$100.

During the business meeting, three directors were re-elected to serve three-year terms. Frank Comer III will represent District 1; James Brooks, District 2; and Edith Cox, District 3.

CEO and General Manager Morris McClellion also announced a retirement of capital credits approved by the Board of Directors. When the co-op's financial condition permits, capital credits are returned in the form of checks or bill credits. This year will mark the eighth year in a row that capital credits have been retired. During this time frame, over \$9 million dollars will have been returned to members.

Members who received service during 1996 or 1997 will be receiving a capital credit retirement check this year. Retirement amounts greater than \$50 will be issued a check, all others will be applied as a bill credit. Look out for your retirement check to arrive by the first week of December.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the meeting and for supporting *your* cooperative.



The night's big winner, Deborah Paige (middle), walked away with the grand prize of \$750 at the meeting's conclusion.



Each member in attendance went home with a sweet treat to celebrate the cooperative's 75th anniversary.



- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Crews will be on-call.
- ▶ Applications for fourth quarter Operation Round Up® grant requests are due Nov. 4. For more information, visit the "Operation Round Up" section under the "Community" tab at CEMCPower.com.

POINT OF VIEW:

Pledge to be a co-op voter

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline, with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout. In North Carolina, we saw a voter turnout of 36 percent in the March primary but followed up with a disappointing eight percent in the June primary.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. And who can

blame us really? Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we have the power to change this.

Here at Central Electric, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Coops Vote, a non-partisan campaign to increase voter turnout at the polls this November. The goal is to encourage co-op members like you to get out and vote and inform other members of our community and candidates about the issues that matter to co-ops and rural communities, including the continued need for affordable and reliable electricity.



Morris McClellion
Chief Executive Officer &
General Manager



We encourage you to visit Vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Much like your participation in our cooperative's democracy, your participation in our country's democratic process is extremely important. Each of us has the responsibility to vote for our elected leaders, to make sure the issues facing our rural communities are heard and addressed by policymakers.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or somewhere in-between, make sure you make it a point to go to the polls not only this November, but for each and every primary and general election in the future. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Know what's below, dial 811 before you dig

Fall is a great time to tackle outdoor projects. Plants get a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil, or perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging, remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel scoop away from turning a fall project into a disaster. Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to the local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate



location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging

projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit Call811.com.

After-hours customer service hours changing

Central Electric strives to provide our member-owners superior service. The cooperative continually looks to adapt, providing services that adequately address the changing needs of members.

One benefit of your membership is easy and convenient access to cooperative representatives,



who are readily available to assist you, including after regular business hours.

Due to low call volume during the early morning hours, the cooperative is adjusting its after-hours service. Payment options including the cooperative's website and automated telephone payment system have reduced the need for extended after-hours service.

Cooperative representatives will still be available to assist you between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to midnight on weekends. Payments will continue to be accepted free-of-charge 24-hours a day online at CEMCPower.com through the Member Service portal and also by telephone at 866-488-5011. Outages can also be reported 24-hours a day at 877-766-6769. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Apply now for the 2017 Youth Tour to D.C.

Each year, Central Electric sponsors two rising high school juniors or seniors on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. in connection with the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

While in D.C., they'll join 1,500 other students from across the country to meet members of Congress and learn more about American history and the electric cooperative business model.



Ever wonder what it's like to walk the halls of the Capitol with members of Congress? Apply now for a spot on the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. to find out.

You know what else? The trip looks great on college applications, and participants

will make new friends from all over the country.

Think you may be interested in this great opportunity or know someone who would like to go next year? The 2017 Youth Tour trip will be June 10-16. The application period for next year's trip is underway and will run through Jan. 13.

Visit CEMCPower.com to download the application or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.

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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To report an outage
24 hours a day: (877) 766-6769

James Taylor, *Editor*



We'll keep the light on for you

As winter draws ever closer, the days continue to get shorter, and we have less time to spend outside.

Maybe you want to play an extra game of basketball. Perhaps you have guests coming over who need to see how to get to your door. Outdoor lighting can add security to your home and also extend the time you have to spend outside.



Outdoor security lighting helps by providing extra light during those long nighttime hours

Central Electric offers several lighting options to meet your needs, including the standard

LED model, floodlights, street lighting and the more decorative town and country fixture.

For more information, or to find out how you can add security lighting on your property, visit the "Member

Services" tab at CEMCPower.com or call 800-446-7752 today.