



NEWS CENTRAL

CENTRAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

THE POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS

| DECEMBER 2016

Co-op shows resiliency after Hurricane Matthew

Strong wind and substantial rain from Hurricane Matthew created a perfect recipe for power outages as the storm made its way through central North Carolina on Oct. 8.

Remaining unpredictable even through its arrival, Matthew dumped over 15 inches of rain and brought wind gusts of up to 60 mph in our area. The combination of wind and rain resulted in over 14,000 Central Electric members without power at the height of the storm.

Central Electric crews, along with crews from Piedmont EMC in Hillsborough, N.C., Halifax EMC



Broken poles were a common occurrence in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. The rain soaked ground caused trees to uproot and fall on power lines, resulting in numerous broken poles like these on HWY 24 in Carthage, where a pine tree fell on a main feeder line and snapped two poles.

in Enfield, N.C., Meade County RECC in Bradenburg, KY, and Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation in Paducah, KY, and local contract crews, Lee Electrical Construction and Lewis Tree Service, worked tirelessly and

diligently for four days to restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

The cooperative thanks each of its members for your patience and support during the aftermath of the storm, as working conditions were slow moving due to the amount of damage from the storm. At least 24 broken poles were replaced in the field and several main lines serving large numbers of consumers had to be built back after being brought to the ground by falling trees.

Even though the storm response is complete for Central Electric, our thoughts remain with areas across the state that continue to rebuild from damage from the storm.



- ▶ Member Appreciation day will be celebrated on Dec. 5. Make sure you stop by the office to receive a special gift from the co-op.
- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Your friends and neighbors at Central Electric wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

POINT OF VIEW:

Looking back on our 75th year

As we welcome the holiday season and 2016 comes to a close, we are celebrating the people and communities we have been honored to serve for 75 years. For over three-quarters of a century, Central Electric has provided more than just electric service to its members. It has provided a cooperative that its members and community can be proud of. Here's a look at some of the highlights of your cooperative from 2016:

Transmission work project

This fall, we started upgrading five miles of transmission line that run from our Manchester delivery point to the Spout Springs substation in Harnett County. This wooden pole line has been in place for nearly 35 years and it's time to replace this line. Taller steel poles and larger conductor wires are going up with an eye on the future capacity and reliability of your electric service.

Hurricane Matthew

In mid-October, Hurricane Matthew's rain, winds and flooding caused severe damage in our service territory and knocked out power to over 14,000 of our members, 65 percent of our system. Our crews, joined by reinforcement crews from across the state and region, worked tirelessly for four days to restore power to our members. In those challenging and unprecedented conditions, the strength and resiliency of our communities and members shined through. We thank you for your support and are honored to serve you.

Thank you for Rounding Up

Through the generosity of our members voluntarily participating in the Operation Round Up® program, more than \$100,000 was donated to community organizations in need during 2016. Thank you for investing in the communities in which we all live and work.



Morris McClellion
Chief Executive Officer &
General Manager

As we look forward to 2017, our mission will remain the same as it has for the past 75 years, providing great service to our members and enriching the lives of those around us. From all of us at Central Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Until next year,

Morris McClellion

Take control of your budget with FlexPay



Are you looking for ways to manage your energy costs? We may have the answer for you. The co-op's FlexPay program gives you the power to manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.

FlexPay allows you to pay on your account as necessary to maintain a credit balance based on your daily energy charges. If your account balance runs out, there are no reconnect charges.

You only need to establish a \$20 credit account balance to reconnect.

You can monitor your account on CEMCPower.com, as well as through email, text and voice alerts. FlexPay is available to both new and existing residential consumers.

To learn more about the FlexPay program or to see about transferring an existing account onto FlexPay, contact us today.

Bright Ideas grants boost local teachers

Central Electric is continually looking for ways to support the communities we serve. One way is by annually awarding Bright Ideas grants to local educators. The program helps support engaging and innovative classroom projects.

This year, we awarded \$15,000 to ten educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Over 2,700 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$9.6 million to educators across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached over 1.8 million N.C. students and sponsored



The 2016 Bright Ideas grant recipients were honored during the Annual Meeting of the Members in October. In addition to receiving their grant checks, each teacher was a special guest and honored during the business portion of the meeting.

more than 9,200 projects in all subjects, including math, reading, science, technology, history, music and the arts.

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2017. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit CEMCPower.com or NCBrightIdeas.com.

Congratulations to the Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Carla Butts, Johnsonville Elementary School
- ▶ Lauren deSerres, Chatham Central High School
- ▶ Denise Graner, Sandhills Theater Arts Renaissance School
- ▶ Geoffrey Hurdt, B.T. Bullock Elementary School
- ▶ Dr. Susan Jinks, New Century Middle School

- ▶ Samuel Lahr, Bragg Street Academy
- ▶ Lowell Simon, Union Pines High School
- ▶ DaLea Sneed, Southern Lee High School
- ▶ Patricia Steingraber, Sandhills-Farm Life Elementary School
- ▶ Jaci Watson, Southern Lee High School.

Safely decorate your holiday wonderland

Inspect your seasonal items.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect your holiday decorations. Look out for brittle insulation, chafed or frayed wires, worn switches and corroded metal parts.

Always look up.

When working outside with a ladder, always carry your ladder so it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines.

Beware of power lines in trees.

Over time, tree branches can grow around power lines running along the street and to your home. If those branches come in contact with power lines, they can become energized. If your holiday plans call for stringing lights through trees, this can create a safety hazard. If you notice tree limbs that are too close to power lines, contact Central Electric to have the limbs cut back safely.



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 ongoing 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

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James Taylor, *Editor*

 **Central Electric**
Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Water heater maintenance

As a Central Electric member, you have access to a selection of great programs to help you save money over time, including the water heater maintenance program.

The water heater maintenance program is like having a plumber standing by 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for just \$1 each month. This small fee included on your bill will cover the heating element, pop-off valve and thermostats on your water heater, regardless of where you



purchased it, or how old it is.

Furthermore, after you've been enrolled for at least 90 days, if the cooperative's licensed plumber determines the element, pop-off valve or thermostat is the problem, a \$50

credit will be added to your next bill. If they determine the water heater needs to be replaced, a \$100 credit will be added if you purchase a new water heater with an energy factor of 95 or higher. Contact the office today to take advantage of this program.