

Member Matters

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

There are many things that make the cooperative model different from other business models, and they all involve a focus on membership. You are among the 73,465 members of this electric cooperative and membership is central to everything we do. BEMC was formed with the sole purpose of serving its membership – and that means that each employee, staff member and director works hard for your benefit.

One of the most important unseen benefits of membership is that we are not beholden to stockholders. This means that our focus is on maintaining a reliable infrastructure and planning for the future while keeping rates as affordable as possible. Even though we have fewer consumers per mile of line than Investor-Owned Utilities, we have comparable rates and superior reliability.

It's also our job to come up with programs and services that make your life easier. For example, PrePay Power allows members to pay for electricity as you need it, putting you in control of your power expenses. We also have 9 convenient Bill Payment Terminals located throughout the service area, with most available 24/7. By using our free SmartHub app you can monitor and track your energy use and manage your account from any of your devices, anytime. And to help you manage the cost of home energy improvements we offer low-interest Weatherization Loans that qualified members pay off over time with small payments added to their monthly bill.

Another category of benefits is our grant programs. The

co-op started Bright Ideas Education Grants in 1993 to fund classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Today that's a total of nearly \$600,000 to local educators for resources to engage students in the classroom. BEMC's Community Grants program helps local organizations expand or start important community programs to an increasingly diverse membership. To date, these community grants total approximately \$450,000 and this money is 100% funded by the sale of equipment at our Annual Meeting auction.

We know that providing reliable, safe and affordable power is your first expectation, but we hope you appreciate the other benefits of membership as well. And please know that we enjoy working hard on your behalf every day. It's our only reason for existing, and if you're happy, we're happy. Thank you for being a member.

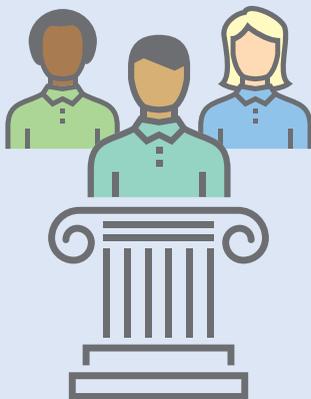


Don Hughes

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

The Cooperative Difference

Members
Come First



Concern
for Community



Programs
and Services



Two local students awarded \$5,000 each



BEMC is proud of all our high school graduates, and this year's college scholarship recipients were chosen from yet another exceptional pool of applicants. Please join us in congratulating our 2017 winners.

Our Scholarship Highway program is now in its 9th year, and recognizes academic and civic excellence. Awards are based on academic achievement, SAT scores, participation in community and school related activities, an essay, and letters of reference.

This year's topic was about the 7 Cooperative Principles and the Cooperative Difference.



Eliza Fish is a graduate of West Brunswick High School and will attend Brigham Young University. She is the daughter of James & Joline Fish of Ash.

Landon Bailey is a graduate of Whiteville High School and plans to attend Appalachian State University to study political science. He is the son of Amy Bailey of Whiteville.

Power strip power

Take control of your electronics by using power strips. These tips can help.

Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics and devices, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.

Pay attention to the orientation of the outlets. The typical design is along the length of the strip, facing the bottom or end of the strip. We recommend power strips with the outlets perpendicular to the length of the strip.

Get smart strips. These are becoming less expensive. One outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. They work to reduce your power usage by shutting down power to products that go into standby mode. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.



Surge protectors

A surge protector can protect expensive electronics from a power spike. Follow these tips:

Go for a joule rating of 700 or higher. This is a measure of how much energy it can withstand.

For cable and internet connections, be sure the protector is designed to handle a digital television.

Make sure it has an indicator light that shows if protection has burned out.



Be ready for hurricane season with BEMC's guide

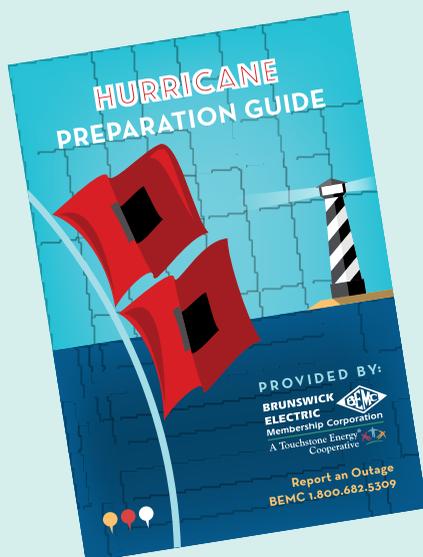
The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through Nov 30, the time when hurricanes are most likely to occur in our area. At BEMC we're always prepared for storm events, and ready to respond at any time. Our industry leading Right-of-Way program limits tree limb and debris line damage during storms, and our power restoration plan ensures that if the power goes out, it is restored to as many as possible as quickly as possible. We want you to be as prepared as possible too.

To help, we've prepared a booklet to help you know what to do before, during and after a storm. It's called the Hurricane Preparation Guide.

*Hurricane season runs from
June 1 - November 30.
Our free guide will help you
be as prepared as possible.*

The guide offers practical, important information for you and your family in an easy-to-read format. It's available for free at our three office locations, and can also be downloaded at bemc.org by clicking on Storm Center/Safety and then choosing What to do Before, During and After a Storm.

Let's be prepared, and stay safe together this Hurricane Season.



**Get your
free copy**
at one of our three
office locations,
or download at
bemc.org.
(click on
Storm Center).

Warm Weather Window Tips



- 1** Clean your doors and windows jams to make sure they close snugly. Also look for torn or missing weather stripping and replace it.
- 2** If you have older windows, check the glazing for any loose or broken sections. Though broken glazing should be reglazed, you can seal over it with silicon caulk as a temporary water-tight fix.
- 3** Start closing the curtains on windows facing southeast, south, southwest, and west to keep out the sun.

Use less AND be more efficient

Energy conservation, or simply using less, is not the same as energy efficiency. Efficiency is the act of doing more with the same amount of energy. Turning off lights is good; using energy efficient bulbs is better.

Watts For Sale

Vacuum, Kenmore model 11635922, upright, all accessories, extra bags, excellent condition, \$50 OBO; 454-8610

Solar pool cover, rolling stand, 12' x 20', \$76; dining room set, 6 chairs, with 1 leaf; lighted china closet w/wine rack; black tie china and flatware; \$1,795 OBO; 575-0344

Golf clubs, men's right hand clubs/bag, \$100; men's left hand clubs & bag, \$50; 278-3221

Tobacco sticks; antique wheel chair; glider rocker; Pottery Barn kids table w/4 chairs, \$250; 100 year old cabinet drawers from Whiteville mercantile store; 648-4257

Lot on Sunset Beach, 428 6th St., approx. 100 yards from beach access, \$149,000; 919-818-4633

Canoe, 16' We.no.nah, Kevlar, very stable, paddles included, 579-1057

Bicycle, men's 29" Genesis MaxAir Mountain, 21 speed, shock suspension, well equipped, like new, \$90; 457-6953

Joe Montana memorabilia, signed football, picture of Joe w/5 championship rings, certified, \$400 OBO; 278-3221

Bunk beds, This End's Up collection, ladder, trundle bed, exc. condition, must pick up, will negotiate mattresses, \$500; (336)-339-1946

Hi Rise bed, 2 twin mattresses, almost new, \$300; double dresser & nightstand, \$75; 579-4732

Rocker/recliner, swivel chairs, TV wall mount, Mazda Miata front mask, make offer; 579-6105

Car, 2008 Hyundai Elantra GLS, 65K miles, original owner, \$5,200; 908-512-6771

Wheel chair, great condition, \$80; 575-5481

High top dining table, hidden leaf, 6 chairs, used for 1 year, \$400; 987-9356

Upright freezer, medium size, \$200; Like new oak dining room suite, \$1,500; antique chest & side tables; fine china & crystal; 253-6802

Camper, 1996 Carri-Lite Cashay Series 5th Wheel, meticulously maintained, perfect condition, \$18,500; 264-4223

Antique radio, Philco console, beautiful cabinet, works, \$325; 386-1217

NC Commercial fishing license, w/shellfish endorsement, \$1,850; 540-4320

Lift chair for handicapped, brown tweed, \$500; 434-846-0397



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Stay in the loop with energy tips, outage updates, things from behind the scenes at your co-op **and more.**



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

HOW TO SUBMIT AN AD: Ads must be received via email or fax no later than the first of each month. Ads will then appear in the following month's publication due to the printing schedule. Example: If ad is received by June 1, it will appear in the July issue of Carolina Country magazine. This is a free service for BEMC members to advertise non-commercial items for sale. Ads run ONE TIME, are limited to three lines, and only one phone number. We reserve the right to edit or refuse ads due to content, length or AVAILABLE SPACE. Please no email addresses, names or repeat ads. All numbers are 910 area code unless otherwise listed. Some mobile providers require 10-digit dialing. BEMC does not endorse items advertised and is not responsible for reliability of items.

E-MAIL: watts4sale@bemc.org **MAIL:** BEMC, Attn: Watts For Sale, PO Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459. **FAX:** (910) 755-4299



CUSTOMER SERVICE (800)842-5871 | OUTAGE REPORTING (800)682-5309

Shallotte (910)754-4391 | Southport / Oak Island (910)457-9808 | Whiteville (910)642-5011

P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459

www.bemc.org | email: newsletter@bemc.org | Auto bill payment 24/7 (866)934-6830



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