



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

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107 EAST MAIN STREET • CARTHAGE, MS 39051

PLAY IT SAFE **10 do's and don'ts**

WHEN USING PORTABLE GENERATORS

by Abby Berry

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, your electric co-op reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.



Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.
Photo Source: Honda

DO

Install backup CO alarms.

Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.

Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows, and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.

Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.

Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays, or other damage before use.

DON'T

Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.

Open windows or doors while the generator is running.

Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.

Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous – even deadly – if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Annual meeting set for March 21

Central Electric Power Association will hold its 86th Annual Meeting of the Membership on March 21 at the Carthage Coliseum on Highway 16 East in Carthage. Registration will open at 9 a.m. and will close at 10 a.m.

At the meeting, three directors will be elected for three-year terms. Members will elect two directors from Leake County and one director from Attala County. There also will be reports given on the operation of the association for the past year, and other matters of business will be conducted.

The Nominating Committee for 2023 consists of Doug Powers from Leake County, Billy Cook from Leake County, and Howard Holder from Attala County.

Candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to the board are Danny Thornton (4239 Ebenezer Road, Carthage, MS 39051) from Leake County; Mike Brooks (3377 Freney Road, Carthage, MS 39051) from Leake County; and Earl Browning (4873 Attala Road 3024, Kosciusko, MS 39090) from Attala County.

Candidates nominated by petition for election to the board are Allen Peoples (1029 Wright Road, Carthage, MS 39051) from Leake County and Brian Robinson (210 Alford Road, Carthage, MS 39051) from Leake County.

Central Electric, with the cooperation of Sta-Home Health Agency in Carthage, will provide a health fair at the annual meeting. Nurses will offer free blood pressure screenings. Services provided at the health fair will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 10:20 a.m., when the business meeting begins. Bros. 4 Quartet will provide musical entertainment before the meeting.

Each Central Electric member who registers at the annual meeting will receive a free light bulb and will be eligible to win one of the following prizes: a slow cooker, coffee maker, clock/radio, electric skillet, electric can opener, toaster, coffee percolator, iron, or electric clock. The grand prize for members who are present at the meeting will be an electric smoker.

Central Electric will give away a special prize this year for any member who registers in person at the meeting or who sends in his or her proxy or ballot. Four lucky winners will win one of four electricity bill credit prizes: three winners will receive a \$500.00 credit each and one lucky winner will receive a \$1,500.00 credit.

Remember, mail in your proxy or ballot for this year's meeting. You do not have to be present to win. If your name is drawn at the annual meeting, we will notify you.

Central Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative based in Carthage with branch offices in Philadelphia, Sebastopol, and Rankin County. The co-op maintains more than 4,000 miles of distribution line and serves more than 36,000 member-owners in central Mississippi. Central Electric's service area includes parts of Leake, Neshoba, Attala, Scott, Newton, Rankin, and Kemper counties.

The bylaws of the association provide that any person, firm, or corporation may become a member of Central Electric by making a written application, paying the membership fee, purchasing electricity from the co-op, and abiding by the rules and regulations as prescribed by the board of directors.

Central Electric's annual meeting is for you, the member-owner. So mark your calendar for March 21, and we'll see you at the annual meeting!

MAIL-IN YOUR BALLOT OR PROXY TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PRIZES:

* SPECIAL PRIZE: electricity bill credits

Four lucky winners will win one of four special electricity bill credit prizes:

- **THREE WINNERS** will receive **\$500 CREDIT** each and
- **ONE LUCKY WINNER** will receive a **\$1,500 CREDIT**.

GRAND PRIZE: electric smoker

OTHER PRIZES:
slow cooker, coffee maker, clock/radio, electric skillet, electric can opener, toaster, coffee percolator, iron, or electric clock.

You do not have to be present to win, so please remember to mail your ballot or proxy.

* The prize amount will automatically be credited to the winner's account. This prize is an electric bill credit only and cannot be exchanged for a monetary award in any way.



Balance Sheets

ASSETS	2022	2021
Electric Plant		
In service - at cost	\$ 199,184,724	\$ 191,600,795
Construction work in progress	2,776,803	5,709,402
Total electric plant	\$ 201,961,803	\$ 197,172,601
Less: accumulated provision for depreciation	106,848,002	100,137,596
Electric plant, net	\$ 95,113,525	\$ 97,172,601
Other Assets		
Investments in associated organizations	\$ 866,077	\$ 866,077
CSA stockholder loan receivable	29,381	30,425
Economic development loan receivable	949,141	1,123,233
CoBank membership	1,000	1,000
Total other assets	\$ 1,845,599	\$ 2,020,735
Current Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 30,758,781	\$ 18,170,794
Accounts receivable - members	7,332,620	5,495,773
Accounts receivable - others	122,322	82,145
Unbilled revenue	3,691,869	2,941,996
Materials and supplies	2,557,822	2,075,034
Prepaid expenses	170,580	185,236
Other current assets	574,471	546,240
Total current assets	\$ 45,208,465	\$ 29,497,218
Deferred Charges	\$ 248,781	\$ 310,749
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 142,416,370	\$ 129,001,303
EQUITIES & LIABILITIES		
Equities		
Memberships	\$ 798,565	\$ 796,295
Earnings reinvested in system assets	98,376,582	95,035,093
Total equities	\$ 99,175,147	\$ 95,831,388
Long-Term Liabilities		
Notes payable	\$ 28,481,389	\$ 20,378,748
Total long-term liabilities	\$ 28,481,389	\$ 20,378,748
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of notes payable	\$ 2,087,312	\$ 1,969,373
Accounts payable - trade	8,413,146	6,603,353
Customer deposits	3,143,161	3,065,003
Accrued taxes	141,290	119,951
Accrued unpaid vacation	667,056	635,587
Other current liabilities	80,859	77,456
Total current liabilities	\$ 14,523,824	\$ 12,470,723
Other Liabilities		
Advances from TVA	\$ 234,220	\$ 318,417
Post-retirement benefits	1,790	2,027
Total other liabilities	\$ 236,010	\$ 320,444
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	\$ 142,416,370	\$ 129,001,303

2023 Annual Meeting Program

- 9:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 9:30 a.m. Entertainment by Bros. 4 Quartet
- 10:00 a.m. Registration Closes
- 10:20 a.m. Call to Order, Brian Long, General Manager; Invocation; Welcome, Mayor Laurie Henderson; Report of Manager, Brian Long; Engineering and Operations Report; Awarding of Door Prizes; Transaction of Business; Election of Directors; Awarding of Door Prizes
- 12:15 p.m. Adjournment
- 2:00 p.m. Report of Election Committee

OFFICIAL NOTICE of the Annual Meeting of Members

Pursuant to Article III, Sections 3.01 and 3.03, of the association bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of Central Electric Power Association will be held in the Carthage Coliseum, Highway 16 East, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Registration will open at 9 a.m. and will close at 10 a.m.

In accordance with the laws of Mississippi and the bylaws of the association, members will elect three directors for three-year terms: two directors from Leake County and one director from Attala County. Reports will be given on the operation of the association for the past year, and other matters of business will be conducted.

If you cannot attend, please mail in your ballot or proxy.

Each member who attends will receive a free light bulb. Many other valuable door prizes will be given away by drawing names from those registered. Please try to attend.

This year, six names will be drawn from the mail-in votes and prizes will be awarded to them.

Danny Thornton, Secretary

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights Program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html](https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or by email at program.intake@usda.gov.

THE NEWTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

LOOSE CABOOSE Arts & Crafts Festival



ANNIVERSARY **20TH** CELEBRATION

All Aboard to Celebrate! **APRIL 1, 2023**

CRAFT VENDORS • CARNIVAL • FOOD VENDORS
LA DANCE SHOW • DIXON & CAPETILLO MAGIC SHOW • BANKFIRST CAR SHOW • BANKPLUS 5K
BIEWER SAWMILLS MOTORCYCLE SHOW • PONY RIDES
WEIR ESCO DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE • KIDS ZONE
SPECIAL LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY COUNTRY ARTIST EMILY WHITE



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Save energy, money with a HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

by Miranda Boutelle

Q

I'm looking for options to replace my old water heater. What should I choose to make my home's water heating more efficient and save money?

A

Consider upgrading to an energy efficient heat pump water heater. Heat pump water heaters — also called hybrid water heaters — use heat pump technology to heat water more efficiently than a standard electric storage water heater. Think of them as a standard water heater with a heat pump on top. The heat pump heats the water two to three times more efficiently than the electric elements, but the unit still has the electric elements as backup, if needed.

Here are some details about their efficiency, how the units operate, installation considerations, and when you should replace your old water heater.

EFFICIENCY AND OPERATION

By moving heat instead of creating it, a heat pump water heater uses 60% less energy than electric storage water heaters. That can add up to hundreds of dollars a year and thousands during the life of the water heater.

Improved controls make it easy to set the desired temperature and programming, including vacation mode, which saves energy when you are out of town.

Some models offer Wi-Fi connectivity to be controlled by a smartphone from anywhere. Other helpful features include leak detection and automatic shutoff.

INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

A heat pump water heater uses heat from a room to heat water. It tends to make the space about 2 degrees cooler, which is something to consider before installation. Ideal placement is an unconditioned space, such as a garage or unheated basement. A heat pump water heater requires enough space around the unit to supply the air needed for efficient operation — about 750 cubic feet.

Heat pump water heaters tend to be slightly taller than storage water heaters and require additional clearance above the unit to access the filter for cleaning. If your water heater is in a conditioned space or a room smaller than the unit requires, venting might be a solution for your installation.

Another consideration is noise. A heat pump water heater generates about as much noise as a modern dishwasher, so it may not be a good solution if the water heater is located where sound could be a nuisance.

Installing a heat pump water heater is much like installing a standard electric water heater, except for the location of the cold-water inlet, which is located at the bottom of the unit.

Because moisture in the air condenses when it is drawn through the heat pump, it also requires a condensate drain that must be routed to a drain or pumped outside of the home.

Heat pump water heaters can replace electric, gas, or propane water heaters. They typically require a 240-volt circuit, which might necessitate an electrical upgrade by a licensed electrician.



By moving heat instead of creating it, a heat pump water heater uses 60% less energy than electric storage water heaters. Photo Credit: Hot Water Solutions

WHEN TO REPLACE AN OLD WATER HEATER

The life expectancy of a standard water heater is about 10 years. If your water heater is older than that or showing signs of failing, you may want to consider replacing it with a heat pump water heater before it fails.

It's easier to find the product you want when it is not an emergency replacement. It also can be more expensive to replace it during an emergency. While heat pump water heaters are sold at a higher price than standard water heaters, the cost savings over time can offset the purchase and installation cost—and will result in a more energy efficient home.

You also are likely to save by taking advantage of sales, rebates, or tax credits. Check with your electric utility, state department of energy and federal tax information before purchasing a new water heater.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.