



# CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

*A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937*

CARTHAGE: 601-267-5671 | PHILADELPHIA: 601-656-2601 | RANKIN: 601-829-1201 | SEBASTOPOL: 601-625-7422

107 EAST MAIN STREET • CARTHAGE, MS 39051

## Clearing the path to **RELIABILITY**

Trees are majestic, beautiful, and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Central Electric strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

### **SAFETY**

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree. Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

### **AFFORDABILITY**

As a co-op, Central Electric always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 ft. or smaller) should be planted at least 25 ft. from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 ft.) should be planted at least 50 ft. from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted

transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. from the transformer door and 4 ft. from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by contacting us.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability.

### **RELIABILITY**

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see Central Electric crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact. Drone inspections of power lines and vegetation allow us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability. Through the use of small drones, we can accurately monitor the health and growth of trees and identify potential problems.

# Annual meeting set for March 19

Central Electric Power Association will hold its 87th Annual Meeting of the Membership on March 19 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 one director from Neshoba County, one director from Rankin County, and one director from Scott 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 2024 consists of John Hester from Neshoba County, Clark Stewart from Rankin County, and Mike Madden from Scott County.

Candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to the board are Hanna Watson (10631 Road 294, Union, MS 39365) from Neshoba County; David Boyd (953 N Sandhill Road, Lena, MS 39094) from Rankin County; and Pettey Leach (15468 Hwy 21, Sebastopol, MS 39359) from Scott County.

Central Electric, with the cooperation of AccentCare 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. One Way Quartet will provide the 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: 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. You do not have to be present at the meeting to win the special prize, electricity bill credits. 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 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 19, 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.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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## 2024 Annual Meeting Program

- 9:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 9:30 a.m. Entertainment by One Way 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

## 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 19, 2024. 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: one director from Neshoba County, one director from Rankin County, and one director from Scott 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, fill out the ballot or proxy and mail immediately in the postage-paid envelope.

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

## Balance Sheets

ASSETS	2023	2022	EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	2023	2022
<b>Electric Plant</b>			<b>Equities</b>		
In service - at cost	\$ 204,390,303	\$ 199,279,395	Memberships	\$ 774,930	\$ 798,565
Construction work in progress	1,385,016	2,776,803	Earnings reinvested in system assets	99,944,222	98,471,253
<b>Total electric plant</b>	<b>\$ 205,775,319</b>	<b>\$ 202,056,198</b>	<b>Total equities</b>	<b>\$ 100,719,152</b>	<b>\$ 99,269,818</b>
Less: accumulated provision for depreciation	112,512,243	106,848,002	<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
<b>Electric plant, net</b>	<b>\$ 93,263,076</b>	<b>\$ 95,208,196</b>	Notes payable	\$ 26,519,813	\$ 28,481,389
<b>Other Assets</b>			<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 26,519,813</b>	<b>\$ 28,481,389</b>
Investments in associated organizations	\$ 866,077	\$ 866,077	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
CSA stockholder loan receivable	28,324	29,381	Current maturities of notes payable	\$ 1,961,770	\$ 2,087,312
Economic development loan receivable	1,546,608	949,141	Accounts payable - trade	7,698,506	8,413,146
CoBank membership	1,000	1,000	Customer deposits	3,202,490	3,134,161
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,442,009</b>	<b>\$ 1,845,599</b>	Accrued taxes	133,291	141,290
<b>Current Assets</b>			Accrued unpaid vacation	687,152	667,056
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 27,169,563	\$ 30,758,781	Other current liabilities	102,841	80,859
Accounts receivable - members	6,586,377	7,332,620	<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 13,786,050</b>	<b>\$ 14,523,824</b>
Accounts receivable - others	204,189	122,322	<b>Other Liabilities</b>		
Unbilled revenue	3,361,143	3,691,869	Advances from TVA	\$ 164,272	\$ 234,220
Materials and supplies	2,774,864	2,557,822	Post-retirement benefits	1,575	1,790
Prepaid expenses	205,448	170,580	<b>Total other liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 165,847</b>	<b>\$ 236,010</b>
Other current assets	595,769	574,471	<b>TOTAL EQUITIES &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 141,190,862</b>	<b>\$ 142,511,041</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 45,313,844</b>	<b>\$ 45,208,465</b>			
<b>Deferred Charges</b>	<b>\$ 171,933</b>	<b>\$ 248,781</b>			
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 141,190,862</b>	<b>\$ 142,511,041</b>			

# Spring Cleaning

## TIPS TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY



# Q

What are some energy-saving tasks I can add to my spring cleaning list?

# A

Spring is a great time to refresh, clean, and enhance energy efficiency at home.

by **Miranda Boutelle**

By adopting simple yet effective energy-saving strategies during our spring-cleaning routines, we can create an efficient living environment that may also lower our utility bills and extend the life of our heavily used appliances.

Be sure to include these spring cleaning tips to add some energy savings to the job.

Even though it's out of sight, don't leave it out of mind. Check the filter in your HVAC system. Your furnace worked hard during the winter. Ensuring your system has a clean filter is a low-cost and easy way to protect your equipment and maximize efficiency. A dirty furnace filter can cause your system to work harder than necessary, decreasing efficiency and shortening the system's life.

While the filter is easy to replace yourself, you should have your air conditioning serviced and professionally cleaned. Both the indoor and outdoor units should be cleaned. Dirty refrigerant coils reduce efficiency. This also applies to heat pumps and ductless heat pumps, also known as mini-split systems. The technician can check refrigerant levels and refill or repair if necessary.

HVAC contractors get busy responding to calls for repairs during the summer heat. Scheduling cleaning services for your air conditioning in the spring — before the heat of the summer — can ensure the work gets done before the rush and even save you money. Some HVAC contractors offer special discounts for cleaning services in the milder months, which helps fill their schedules and keep their technicians working.

Window AC units can get dirty, too. They can be cleaned with the proper tools, cleaning agents and know-how. Always unplug before cleaning, and wait until completely dry to plug it back in again. Take the time to clean it properly in the spring before you need it in the summer.

Cleaning light fixtures and fixture covers can brighten your space by removing dust and grime collected during the winter. While you are at it, be sure to check your bulbs and replace any incandescent or compact fluorescent with energy-saving LEDs. Although they tend to cost a little more, LEDs last longer and use less energy.

Good-quality LED light bulbs are expected to last 30,000 to 50,000 hours, according to the Department of Energy. A typical incandescent

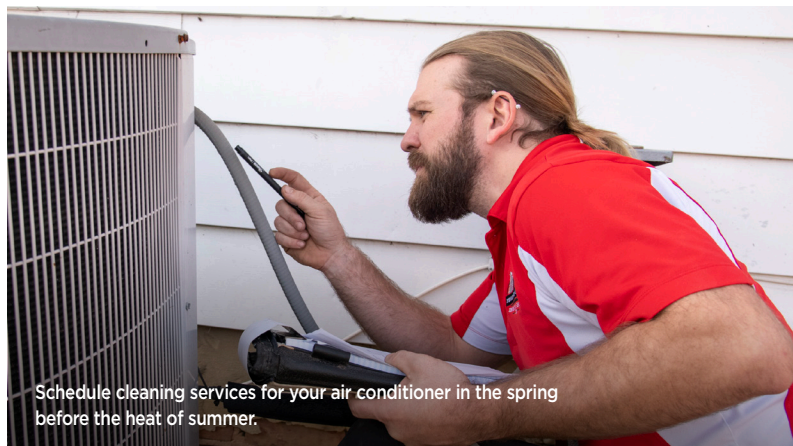
lamp lasts about 1,000 hours, and a comparable CFL lasts 8,000 to 10,000 hours. To put this into everyday use, if you have an LED light on for 10 hours per day, it can last 13 years compared to only about three months for incandescent bulbs and about two-and-a-half years for CFLs.

Don't forget the oven. A clean oven heats more evenly and quickly, providing better results and lower energy use. A clean oven window allows you to see the food and how it's cooking without opening the oven door, which wastes energy.

If cleaning windows is on the list, check the seals and sash locks to ensure they close tightly. Check for any areas that need caulking or sealing to reduce drafts. Sealing around windows contributes to year-round comfort in your home. Clean windows also allow more light into the home, reducing the need to turn on lamps and overhead fixtures.

Spring is the ideal time to declutter, deep clean, and implement practices that not only tidy our homes, but also reduce energy consumption, contributing positively to our homes' energy efficiency and saving money on energy use.

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



Schedule cleaning services for your air conditioner in the spring before the heat of summer.