

Being a member of an electric cooperative gives you access to several benefits that investor-owned utility customers don't usually receive. Read on to learn more about the benefits of your Brunswick Electric membership.

Capital credits – *putting money back in your wallet*

Capital credits represent your ownership in Brunswick Electric and are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you enjoy as a member of an electric cooperative because it puts your money back where it belongs – with you.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives provide electric service to our members at the lowest possible cost without a profit motive. This business model allows for the return of margins (money left over after all operating expenses have been paid) to our members in the form of capital credits.

In order to be financially stable, a cooperative must show a margin between what it costs to operate the business and what it takes in as income. A cooperative builds equity through the accumulation of margins, which helps finance improvements to the system, such as underground power lines that are protected from hurricane damage, or our proactive maintenance program that keeps tree branches off overhead lines, which reduces the number of outages our members may experience. Each year, our Board of Directors evaluates BEMC's financial stability to determine if it is viable to return margins for a specific period of time to the membership. When approved, margins are returned in the form of capital credit checks. Credit amounts are determined by the members' kilowatt usage during the selected timeframe.

In 2017, BEMC had \$8.2 million in capital credits available for refund to those who were members of the co-op in 1997 and 1998.

To ensure you receive notice of capital credits owed to you, please update your contact information by calling customer service at 800-842-5871, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*“margins:
money
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Summertime Energy Savers

Don't let the summer heat drive up your electric bill. Save energy and money with these tips:

- Change and/or clean air filters regularly.
- Install ceiling fans in all the rooms that need to be cooled during the summer months. Using a ceiling fan allows you to raise the thermostat setting about 4° without sacrificing comfort in your home.
- On hot days avoid using the oven; cook on the stove or grill outside when possible.
- Close window shades during the day to block out direct sunlight and to reduce the conduction of heat into your home through your windows.
- Use caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around drafty doors and windows to keep warm air out.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes and consider air drying both.
- Take short showers instead of baths and use the fan in your bathroom to remove the heat and humidity from your home.



Manager's Message

There are many benefits to belonging to an electric cooperative, and rightly so. Your co-op has been a part of the fabric of this community for nearly 80 years and was built by the folks who live here solely to serve the needs of their neighbors, plain and simple.

We deliver safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost, and that last part is a benefit unique to the cooperative business model. The previous page details how we return any margins we make back to our membership in the form of Capital Credits.

Brunswick Electric gives you much more than kilowatts to power your busy day. We respond to the needs of the communities we serve by creating programs like Community Grants, Bright Ideas Education Grants and Warm Homes, Warm Hearts to meet the needs of the local organizations, teachers, and the folks who may need a little assistance with their power bill. On the next page you'll see information about our Weatherization Loan and Co-op Connections programs, both

designed to save you money.

We know, care about and understand the communities that BEMC serves because we live here too. We are members serving members every day of the year. Our highly trained employees go to work for you every day, using their dedication and years of experience to deliver safe and reliable energy, personalized service, and programs that make our lives and communities better.

I invite you to attend your co-op's Annual Membership Meeting this fall. We're planning an enjoyable and enlightening morning where you can learn more about your cooperative and the benefits of membership, and celebrate the cooperative business model. Mark your calendars for

September 22 and I'll see you there, at the Brunswick Community College Odell Williamson Auditorium early Saturday morning.



Don Hughes

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

Annual Meeting Notice

Don't miss your 79th Annual BEMC Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 22, 2018

Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College, 50 College Rd, Bolivia

8:00 a.m.

Registration, sale of arts & crafts, baked goods, free sausage dogs, snacks and beverages, equipment auction, health fair, kids' activities, entertainment, Warm Homes, Warm Hearts raffle

10:30 a.m.

Business meeting & prize drawings

Look for your registration form in the mail. See you there!

Arts & Crafts vendors welcome. Please use the table registration form on page 19

Co-op Connections – saving you money with the touch of a button

When you became a member of BEMC, you received a Co-op Connections discount card to use with both local and national merchants. To date, more than \$105 million has been saved just in prescription coverage through this nationwide program.

With the number of people using smart phones and the increasing number of apps available, Co-op Connections recently completed a major upgrade, designed to provide you greater savings from your smart phone. New national discounts on travel, food and beverage, prescriptions and more are available through your free account on connections.coop. **Visit the website or download the new app and start saving today!**



Weatherization Loans – helping you improve energy efficiency



If your HVAC is struggling to keep up this summer it may be time for a replacement. Let BEMC help with a Weatherization Loan. Qualified members may borrow up to \$6,000 for energy efficiency projects around the home, or \$10,000 for commercial members. Visit bemc.org for more information to see if you qualify for this program and join your friends and neighbors who have already taken advantage of this special member benefit. In 2017, BEMC provided more than \$1.1 million in low-interest energy efficiency loans to members.

Arts & Crafts Table Registration Form

Show off your creations at the Annual Meeting

BEMC members may reserve a free outdoor booth (table and 2 chairs) by submitting this form by **September 1, 2018**

to: BEMC, ATTN P. Brown, PO Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459 or fax it to: 910-755-4299

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Account #: _____

_____arts and crafts (describe here) _____

_____baked goods (only 3 available)

Watts-for-Sale

Antique steamer trunk, made in Boston, 20"x22"x32", \$250; 575-7696

Fiberglass grooming cage, 24"x23", good cond., \$100; Hoyer patient lift, \$300; 843-249-4004

Couch, gray, \$75 OBO; wood mirror, \$25 OBO; 2001 Kenmore refrigerator, white, \$200; 625-5775

Lift chair, cloth, \$400; ladies 3 wheel tricycle, \$225; 6 matching, wood, high-back chairs, \$125; 434-846-0397

Compound miter saw, Delta 12" with Stable/Mate universal stand, sold together, good cond., \$150; 252-678-4244

Record collections 33 LPs, Chet Atkins, 15 albums, \$25; The Lettermen, 5 albums, \$10; 575-3574

2012 Harley Davidson Ultra Limited, 30,710 miles, garage kept, lots of extras, \$10,500; 691-1183

2007 Toyota Corolla, 5 speed, \$1,500; 579-8218

Antique farm bell, 14.5"x17.5"x19.5", \$200; 465-8015
3 lots for sale in Brunswick Co., Seawatch, Devaun Park, Crow Creek; 575-4977

Bathroom safety rail, portable, free-standing, multi-use, adjustable height, assembled, never used, \$35; 575-0527

House, built 2007, brick, 3 BR 2.5 BA, Holden Beach community with full amenities, \$324,500; 448-2286

BEMC announces Scholarship Highway recipients

Each year, Brunswick Electric awards two \$5,000 scholarships to graduating seniors; one from Brunswick County and one from the Columbus County area. Recipients for 2018 are Russ H. Gore from West Brunswick High School, son of Jon and Mary Anne Gore of Ocean Isle Beach, and Charlotte M. Gore from South Columbus High School, daughter of William and Jodi Gore of Whiteville. Since 2009, BEMC has awarded \$100,000 in college scholarships to area students.



Holiday closing

In honor of Independence Day, BEMC offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4.



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 July 1, it will appear in the August 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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