

Member Matters

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Leadership in Reliability

An active hurricane season always turns our thoughts to what you count on us most for – reliable power, no matter the conditions. In addition to diligent routine maintenance and careful planning, there are important ways we work to make sure our reliability percentage is as high as possible. Currently, more than 72% of our distribution lines are underground – which greatly reduces the chance of outages during weather events. Nationally, less than 20% of all distribution lines are underground, according to the Edison Electric Institute. I'd like to take a few minutes to let you know more about how we came to be an industry leader in the conversion of overhead to underground power lines, and our ongoing commitment to underground lines.

Even though converting lines from overhead to underground is an extensive process, we decided decades ago that making that conversion would make sense long-term. Our board and management made the commitment to both converting lines and installing more of our new lines underground, and then enlisted the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

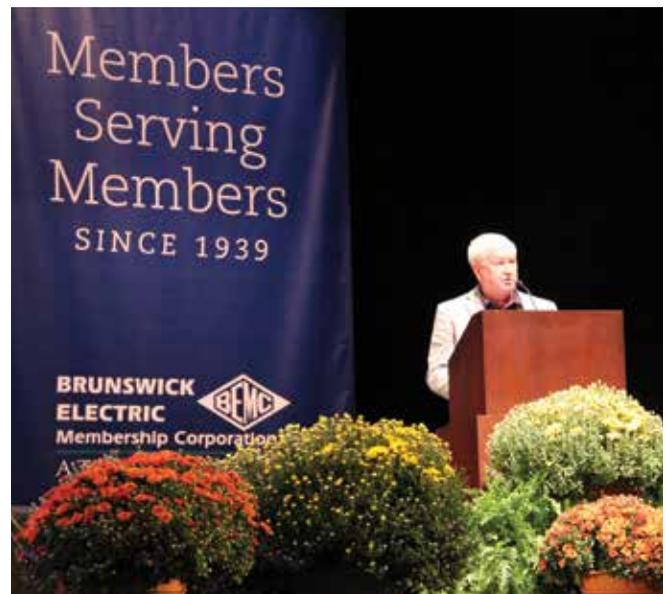
In the mid-1990s, BEMC began an underground pilot project on Caswell Beach that yielded positive results during several hurricanes that battered the coast. With this evidence we were able to get a preliminary \$1 million federal grant to begin additional underground work. The impact on reliability was so conclusive that we were able to enlist the help of U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre to orchestrate a rare meeting with the head of FEMA. Our request for additional project assistance was based on the logic that proactively burying power lines in our coastal communities would pay off in the future by avoiding potentially costly repairs after severe storms hit. This meeting almost immediately resulted in BEMC receiving a total of \$13 million in grants toward a \$23 million cooperative effort with local towns to convert more than 100 miles of overhead line to underground.

The planned conversion process was completed in 2008, and Brunswick Electric's reliability percentage – the amount of time your power is on - has steadily climbed to 99.92%. Our ongoing commitment to underground lines has been a

major part of that success. This is the result of good planning and strong collaboration to better serve our communities. Everything came together to benefit the membership. Our rates have remained stable since the conversion was completed in 2008. Because we are a co-op, we put our resources where they are needed to deliver safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. Our underground line initiative proves that having a vision, doing test trials, and collaborating can make great things happen. Thank you for being a member.



Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager



CEO/General Manager Don Hughes addresses the membership in attendance at our 78th Annual Meeting. The theme for the meeting was "Strong Foundation, Bright Future."

Highlights from BEMC's 78th Annual Membership Meeting

Thousands of members gathered at Odell Williamson Auditorium on Saturday, September 23, for a morning of food, fun, giveaways, entertainment and information sharing. During the business portion of the meeting, by unanimous vote of those in attendance, the following directors were re-elected to serve three-year terms:

District #4	Moses Herring	Shallotte, Supply, Holden Beach
District #5	Larry Fowler	Old Dock, Nakina
District #6	David Gore	Chadbourn
District #12	Phillip Cheers	Shallotte, Ocean Isle Beach



Tips to reduce the cost of heating your home

Don't be taken by surprise by your electric bill this winter. Use these tips to help reduce your heating costs:

- Use a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature while you are away or asleep
- Open your curtains during the day for the sun to heat your home and close them at night to keep the cold air out
- Ensure air ducts are properly insulated and sealed in unheated areas of your home such as attics and crawlspaces
- Replace filters on furnaces once a month
- Use a door threshold at the bottom to keep heat from escaping
- Seal outermost window frames to keep cold air out
- Set your ceiling fan to spin clockwise to blow rising warm air down

Find more tips like these at Energy.gov.



Community Grants program enters 16th year

Deadline to apply is Feb. 15, 2018

Since 2002, BEMC has granted more than \$445,000 to community projects in Brunswick and Columbus counties. The Community Grants program provides up to \$2,500 per project to help local non-profit organizations and groups that provide services within the community.

In 2017, Brunswick Electric funded 40 organizations whose projects included new home construction with Habitat for Humanity, the 7th Annual Seniors Helping Seniors event, several programs offering services to veterans, and many safety programs. Projects geared toward children received multiple grants. All funding for this program comes from the equipment auction held at BEMC's Annual Meeting.



Applications for the 2018 Community Grants program will be accepted from Dec. 2017 to Feb. 15, 2018. Call (800) 842-5871 or visit bemc.org for more information and to apply.

Reduce heating costs with a programmable thermostat

A simple way to reduce your heating costs this winter is to reset your thermostat when you are asleep. This may help keep your costs down. If you're concerned you will come home to a cold house, consider installing a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat will allow you to adjust your home's temperature automatically according to a preset schedule. This way you will arrive home to a warm house but won't have wasted extra electricity while the house was empty.

As a BEMC member you may qualify to purchase an Ecobee programmable thermostat for \$50 + tax as part of a pilot program. Visit bemc.org for more information.



Watts For Sale

Oriental rug, blue & white, 8'x10', purchased Fortunoff's, NYC, exc. cond., orig. \$1,200, asking \$485; 755-5529

House, 5BR/4BA, OIB, canal, dock, direct beach access, \$659,900; 512-7643

Color TV, Samsung 22", DVD connectivity, not digital, remote control, must pick up, FREE; 575-4335

Recliners, (2), light green fabric, new condition, \$150 ea. or \$250 for both; 579-1479

2 twin beds, w/mattress & box spring, headboard, frame, bedding, exc. cond., like new, \$325; 609-575-1099

Pressure washer, Craftsman 3.75 hp, 2,000 PSI, 2.0 GPM, used once, \$100; 575-4799

Camera, Canon EOS 5000, micro lens, tripod, like new, \$185; men's 16-speed Mongoose bicycle, \$195; 575-4593

5th wheel trailer hitch, pulls 18,000 lbs., exc. cond., garage kept when not used, \$500; 264-4223

Cement mixer, Red Lion RLX-3, \$125; 846-1502

Band saw, big table saw, table leg molding machine; 575-3085

Quilt, full/queen, hand stitched, blue print, \$35; softball, new & used baseball glove, \$10; 4' oak display ladder, \$30; 755-7537

House for sale, 2BR/1BA, metal roof, vinyl siding, furnished, Supply, NC; 704-776-3241

Futon, ash wood, queen size, 2 upholstery covers, like new, \$80; 278-5090

China cabinet, wood, large storage drawers, 4 shelves, interior lights, 87"x76"x22", \$699 OBO; 880-1175

Ladies bicycle, All Terrain Roadmaster, 15 speed, cutting edge bicycle, exc. cond., \$60; 575-7696

Kitchen table, 4 captain's chairs, desk; 575-1382

Dining table, 40"x60", 6 chairs, 2-leaves; china cabinet w/hutch, glass, 72"x24"x60"; server, 42", \$3,500; 457-4816

Dog kennel, 10'x10'x6'; large Dogloo, \$125 OBO; 612-2127

Residential lot, Jeffery St. SW, Supply, NC, 150'x 125', \$33,000; 561-542-7242

Portable heater, LifePro 4-in-1 quartz infrared tower heater, 3 heat settings, 1500 watts, \$100; 575-2260



Support co-op
member businesses
Saturday, November 25

Happy Thanksgiving!



BEMC offices will be closed
Veterans Day
Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 23
& Friday, November 24

Bright Ideas Update

The 2017 Bright Ideas grant recipients' names were not available at press time. They will be notified in early November, when their names will be posted on the Community Programs link at bemc.org.



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 November 1, it will appear in the December 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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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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