

Spotlight on safety

Safety is not only a top priority for all employees at Brunswick Electric; it's a way of life.

Every employee from customer service to accounting, to dispatchers and line technicians take part in the cooperative's robust safety training program each year. The program includes classroom style lectures, online training courses, and onsite hands-on learning. Additionally, all employees are CPR/AED trained and certified annually.

BEMC's training program is led by Dana Mauldin, Manager of Safety. With his military background, 12 years in the field as a technician, and a Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP), Dana is well-versed in electrical safety and is responsible for the overall implementation and management of the co-op's program. His second in command, Anthony Raulerson, recently transitioned from his role as a First Class Line Technician to BEMC's Safety and Training Coordinator. Together, the two bring more than 50 years of electrical experience and knowledge to our safety program.

Brunswick Electric is accredited by the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), which strives to promote the highest standard of safety among America's electric cooperatives. This voluntary program, implemented by NC Statewide (NCAEC) and directed by NRECA, critiques our training, regulations, documentation, employee knowledge, equipment, vehicles, facilities and job safety performance. BEMC consistently receives the highest RESAP rating possible, primarily due to our employees' dedication and involvement in the safety program.

Working with electricity is inherently hazardous, but our team works to mitigate and address those hazards to ensure all our employees go home at the end of each day. Our safety record and training program ensure our insurance rates are competitive and as low as possible, which saves you, the member, money in the long run. It's a win-win for everyone.



Dana Mauldin (left) and Anthony Raulerson.

Electrical safety tips



Always think safety first when it comes to electricity. Here are a few tips to help:

- If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and don't touch it. Report it to BEMC immediately by calling 800-842-5871 during business hours, or 800-682-5309 after 5pm.
- Never use water to extinguish an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher or baking soda instead and/or call 911.
- Always call a certified electrician to do any wiring in your home.
- Keep cords away from water and never unplug a cord when your hands are wet or if you're touching a metal object.
- When removing an electronic device from an outlet pull the plug, not the cord.
- Check cords for damage regularly and replace any that show signs of wear or damage.
- Always unplug small appliances before cleaning them.
- Never place a cord under carpet, through doorways, or anywhere someone could walk on or trip over it.

Learn more about electrical safety at bemc.org.

Manager's Message

While ensuring the safety of our members and employees is a top priority year round, during the month of May Brunswick Electric joins other electric cooperatives across the state and nation in recognizing **National Electrical Safety Month**.

Now is the time to promote awareness of the hazards of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

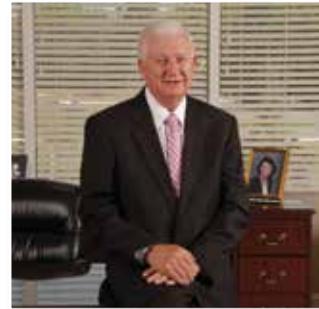
You and I flip on the kitchen light at home or plug in our chargers to charge our smart phones without thinking much about it. Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious—and sometimes deadly—consequences of using electricity unsafely, and then take steps to prevent the misuse of electricity.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided through

simple precautions and observing basic electrical safety practices. Read more about how to stay safe around electricity on page 21.

BEMC is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety, and we encourage you to make sure that you and your family are aware of the potential dangers of electricity and how to use it safely. It's good to know that the more people we have in our communities who are knowledgeable about electrical safety, the safer we all will be (including our pets). Get more safety information on our website and follow Brunswick Electric on social media to get timely tips this month. We also offer safety demonstrations within the communities we serve

for organizations and clubs or local classrooms. Just give us a call at the office during the week or stop by to learn more. Thank you.



Don Hughes

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

BEMC hosts electric utility safety seminar

In late March, approximately 50 safety professionals from North and South Carolina electric cooperatives gathered at Brunswick Electric's headquarters for a special, one-day



Robert Love, Safe Production Services, LLC

safety seminar. As a leader in safety, BEMC saw this as an opportunity to strengthen relationships and open lines of communication between co-ops across state lines to assist each other in preparing for current and future safety challenges facing the industry. Topics included educational opportunities, personal protection equipment, compliance issues, equipment certifications, and training and development.

Cooperation among cooperatives is one of seven guiding principles shared by electric co-ops across the nation. Members most commonly see this principle in action after a hurricane or ice storm when line technicians from unaffected areas travel to affected areas to aid in power restoration efforts. Events such as this safety seminar provide an opportunity for cooperation among co-ops when they are not in crisis mode.

Announcing 2018 Community Grants winners



Co-op awards \$48,424 to area non-profit organizations this year

Each year Brunswick Electric provides grants of up to \$2,500 each to area non-profit organizations who are working to improve the lives of our members. Since inception, the total amount granted through this program is \$495,411. **Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation's Community Grant recipients are:**

Associated Artists of Southport

Bigger, Faster, Fresher, Looser Abstract Painting Workshop

Brunswick Christian Recovery Center

Computer Assisted Addiction Recovery Program

Brunswick Community College Foundation

14th Annual Brunswick County Intercultural Festival

Brunswick Concert Band, Inc.

Students' Music Assistance Program

Brunswick Cty Composite Squadron NC-170 Civil Air Patrol

Mobile Command Trailer VHF Radio

Brunswick County Computers 4 Kids

Computers 4 Kids

Brunswick County Fishing Club

A Day of Reel Fun

Brunswick County Literacy Council, Inc.

Literacy For All

Brunswick County Schools

FIRST Robotics Brunswick County Schools

Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

Anchor Initiative Program

Brunswick Search & Rescue Team

K9 Disaster Fitness

Brunswick Town Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Tombstone Preservation of Sempronius Russ, Old Smithville Burying Ground

Columbus Baptist Association

Toy Store

Columbus County 4-H

4-H

Columbus County Sheriff's Office

Personal Protective Equipment

Every Woman's Purse of Old Zion Wesleyan Church

Every Woman's Purse

Fort Caswell Environmental Stewardship Program

Marine Debris and Recycling Initiative

Friends of the Library Southport and Oak Island

STEAM Makerspace

General Federation of Women's Clubs, Holden Beach

10th Annual Blooming for a Cause Charity Gala

General Federation of Women's Clubs, S. Brunswick Islands

Little Free Library

Going Beyond the Pink

What's Normal, What's Not? & Thrive!

Helping Hands Parkinson's Support Grp of Columbus Cty

Helping Hands Provide Parkinson's Support

Hope Harbor Home

Building and Grounds Improvements

Jack Helbig Memorial Foundation

Water Safety and Literacy Project

Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island

Giving Gardens at Horseplay Farms

L.C. Outreach Project, Inc.

Bigger, Faster, Fresher, Looser Abstract Painting

Lower Cape Fear Hospice

We Honor Veterans Prgm - Volunteer Teams & Resources

New Hope Clinic

Life Saving Equipment

Oak Island Lions Club

2018 Centennial Project

Our Heroes, Inc.

Equine Therapy Scholarship Program

Paws-Ability

Pet Education Program: Brunswick County Schools

Power Walking Ministries

Shoes Change Souls

Pretty in Pink Foundation

Southeast Lifesaver Program

Saving Sons

Student Boarding Renovations

Sea Trail Grandmas

Knit & Sew For Premature Babies and Children

South Brunswick Interchurch Council

SBIC Food Pantry

The Autism Society of North Carolina, Inc.

Improving Lives for Those with Autism

Town of St. James Emergency Management Team

Keeping You Safe, Things You Should Know

Veteran's Memorial Park of America, Inc.

Freedom Circle

Watts-for-Sale

Greenhouse 30'x28'; 642-5711

2-12' Pamlico kayaks, paddles, life jackets, \$300 per kayak; 599-2136

4 burial plots, Graceland Cemetery, Greenville, SC, \$375 per plot; 674-5553

1980 17' Kencraft, 50hp Evinrude, trailer, net, \$1,500; 369-2584

Tonneau Cover, access roll-up, 65"x75", \$285; 654-6452

Wigs, 12 Paula Young, size petite to medium, new in the box, all shades and styles, \$150; FREE treadmill; hammock, \$50; 434-846-0397

NordicTrack Exp 1000X, \$50; radial arm saw & table saw, make offer; 540-3251

Equipment, yard & garden, job ready, reasonable; 755-8031

Bed frame, ornate queen 4 poster, light colored wood, \$250; 443-3397

Framed prints of Holden Beach ferry & Holden Beach, 16"x24", signed & numbered, \$65 ea.; 465-8015

Hisense dehumidifier, auto or manual, used one month, \$100 OBO; 2 commercial blowers, \$25 ea. OBO; older model torpedo heater, best offer; 575-5481

1950-70 country music collection, #112 cassette tapes; #55-45 RPMs; #52-33 1/3 RPMs; #28 books; 1954 RCA Victrola, \$350; 371-2017

2 hanging tapestries w/poles, European country village, 50"x70.5", contemporary geometric, 64"x52", \$100 ea. OBO; 575-6756

Hot Point dryer, \$100; 653-2061

In accordance with BEMC Bylaws, the Nominating and Election Committees will meet on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at BEMC headquarters. Nominations for the Board of Directors may be made by the Nominating Committee or by the petition process. Completed petitions must be received at BEMC headquarters by 5 pm on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Questions regarding requirements for the board or the election process should be directed to Jean King at (910) 754-4391 x 4213.

Attention members:

As of May 1, 2018, the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment charge on your monthly bill will be \$0.00731 per kWh. Please go to bemc.org for more information.

Kayak, 2016 Ocean Prowler Big Game II, orange camo, like new, \$900; 770-2491

Craft supplies, salt & pepper shakers, Shark floor cleaner, Maynard Arnett Dolls, cookie jar, Santa & small doll heads; 579-7054

Glass cat door insert for sliding glass door, 74.5" x 11", FREE; 754-5597

Craftsman® lawn mower, 4.5 HP, 22", side discharge, very good condition, \$100; 575-3332

Holiday closing:

BEMC offices will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day.

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 May 1, it will appear in the June 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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

John Ward
President

Frederick Tedder
Vice President

Hubert Brittain
Phillip Cheers
Calvin Duncan
Monroe Enzor, Jr.
Larry Fowler

John Kopp
Jack Miller
JoAnn Simmons
Bryan Smith

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Secretary Treasurer

Moses Herring
Asst. Secretary Treasurer

Dennis Worley
Attorney