

## Manager's Message

When Hurricane Florence paid an unwelcome visit to southeastern North Carolina, she affected BEMC members and employees in numerous ways.

While the category of the storm could have been much worse, the devastating combination of wind and water brought outages and flooding to thousands of our members. We thank each one of you for your understanding and for your encouragement that fateful week in September. For their dedication and willingness to serve, we also thank our crews and support teams who worked around the clock in bad weather conditions. We thank all BEMC employees whose work behind the scenes is crucial in the restoration process. We thank their families, too, who sacrificed so much while their loved ones were away from home.

The co-op is storm-tested, and for nearly 80 years, has successfully fought the battle of rapid restoration. We focus 100% on safely accessing and restoring outages after a severe weather event. Some of our neighbors were heavily impacted, like the communities of Boardman and Crusoe, Town Creek and Stoney Creek, and many other areas within our 1,500-square-mile service territory throughout Columbus, Brunswick, and small parts of Robeson and Bladen counties.

It took many hands to address the layers of destruction, but we achieved full restoration after meeting challenges that were compounded by floodwaters. Our crews were joined by hundreds of additional crews; Right-of-Way and clearing crews, line techs, ground crews, and their supervisors, all working outside in the elements. Many others worked inside around the clock to support those crews; in the control center, the warehouse, the garage to keep all those trucks running. Crews needed food and lodging, so BEMC's operations management team coordinated logistics, our communication and customer service teams kept you informed, while still more employees were watching the meters, the substations, the maintenance, and the miles of line.

All these facets of your electric cooperative work as a team every day for the membership, but never more efficiently and with more purpose than during a crisis.



*Don Hughes*

Don Hughes,  
CEO/General Manager

## Look out for scams

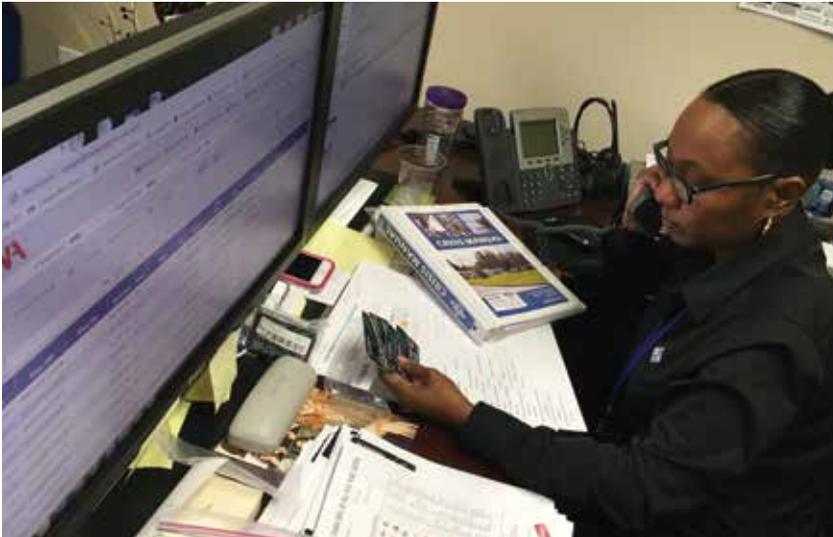


### Follow these tips to protect yourself after the storm:

- **Do** verify contractors with local consumer protection officials.
- **Do** ask to see a license and certificate of insurance. If a contractor tells you that work is covered by your insurance, call your insurance company to confirm.
- **Don't** pay someone up front to repair or assess storm damage. Instead, pay as the work is done.
- **Don't** pay with cash; always use a check or a credit card so you have a paper trail.
- **Do** protect your account information. BEMC will never call and request your account number or payment over the phone.
- **Do** research charities before you donate. Protect your personal information if you decide to give and make sure you know where your money will be used.

# Responding to Florence

Hurricane Florence tore across our service area Friday, September 14, and brought challenges and destruction unlike Southeastern NC has seen in decades. With extensive flooding and damaging winds, the storm knocked out power to nearly 83,000 Brunswick Electric members



by Friday evening. Saturday morning, our crews were ready to roll once the worst winds had subsided; and within days, we had restored power to 99% of our members. Brunswick Electric employees are well-trained, dedicated, and willing to go the extra mile to serve you.



## BY THE NUMBERS

*Restoring power quickly after a devastating storm takes many hands. BEMC is grateful to all who assisted both in the field and behind the scenes.*

Additional Crews

**80**

Total Manpower

**550**

Hot Meals Served

**7,000**

Loads of Laundry

**150**

## Watts-for-Sale

**2007 HD Sportster**, 7k miles, exc. cond.; 2018 Continental trailer extras, \$5,500 for both; 842-3670

**730 stamped concrete pavers**, 7.5" square, \$125; 755-6683

**2006 Harley Davidson Sportster 883**, red, low mileage, exc. cond., \$3,400; 518-605-9609

**Henderson 42" square coffee table**, matching end table, solid dark wood, \$200; 919-924-6663

**1986 International Tandem Dump Truck**, I10 Cummings engine, new flooring in bed, new hydraulic cylinder, \$10,000 OBO; 740-5543

**Jacuzzi jet bathtub**, 32" x 60", like new, \$225; 653-3900

**E-Z-Go Golf Cart**, royal blue w/blue & white seats, new tires and batteries, headlights, not street legal, rain enclosure, \$3,500; 579-4333

**Craftsman 6.5hp Yard Vacuum**, propelled, Model 247.770990, \$200 OBO; 575-6189

**Oil-fired furnace**, 10 years old, 8,500 btu output, FREE; 253-6588

**5 Arborvitae trees**, 9' tall, grows to approx. 12-15' tall and 4' wide, dig your own, \$40/tree; 209-3738

**2017 Cub Cadet Lawn Mower**, self-propelled front wheel drive, approx. 10 hrs run time, \$240; 274-2401

## Do you have one of these?



Effective November 1, BEMC will no longer update **In Home Displays**. Instead, please use SmartHub, the free digital tool, to track your PrePay usage and daily balance. Create a SmartHub account through [bemc.org](http://bemc.org), download the app, come by one of our offices, or call (800) 842-5871 and one of our CSRs will gladly help you.



## Holiday Closing

BEMC will be closed on Nov 22 & 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday



## Annual Report Correction

The 2017 Annual Report printed in your September 2018 issue of Carolina Country included a transposition error in the condensed balance sheet. A revised copy is available at [bemc.org](http://bemc.org).

## Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour Accepting Applications

**Attention parents of high school students:**

BEMC will send two high school students, one from Brunswick County and one from the Columbus County area, to Washington, D.C. in June through this nationwide program.

*Learn more and apply at [bemc.org](http://bemc.org) before January 15.*



**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](http://www.bemc.org) | email: [newsletter@bemc.org](mailto:newsletter@bemc.org) | Auto bill payment 24/7 (866)934-6830**



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