



More members are taking advantage of our PrePay Power payment option — should you?

Approximately 10% of our membership has signed up for PrePay Power, Brunswick Electric's pay-as-you-go payment system. More than 9,500 members are enjoying having no monthly bill, becoming more energy aware, and always knowing how much they're spending on electricity.

With PrePay Power you pay for power in advance of when you need it; you have control over your energy usage because you choose when and how much to purchase. And there are multiple, easy ways to add money to your account any time of day or

night — through the free SmartHub app, by calling the automated payment system, or at a Bill Payment Terminal.

The free SmartHub app is an easy-to-use tool that helps you manage your usage, and your account. You'll receive email alerts through SmartHub when your account balance reaches a certain level, which you preset, with a link to a payment portal for your convenience. You can check your current account status anytime and view, in a layout of your choosing, your energy consumption by hour, day, week, and month. You'll also receive helpful high energy use email notifications.



PrePay Power helps you become more aware of your energy consumption. It gives you freedom from a monthly bill, the means to become a smarter energy consumer, and the ability to know exactly how much you are spending on electricity in real time. To learn more and to sign up, call (800) 842-5871 or stop by one of our offices.

Easy steps to prepare now for warmer weather

- **Check for leaks around windows and doors.** Fix any caulking that is cracked, caulk any areas showing gaps, replace any weather stripping that is worn, and weather strip any new areas that need it. This will help keep the warm air outside, where you want it.
- **Check all registers and vents.** As furniture gets re-arranged over the course of time, registers can be inadvertently blocked. Go room by room and make sure that there is clear space around each register and air vent, and that dust or pet hair isn't interfering with air flow.
- **Switch ceiling fans to counterclockwise rotation.** Running a ceiling fan counterclockwise pushes air down and creates a cooling breeze. It won't actually lower the temperature in the room,

but it will make you feel cooler, allowing you to set the temperature higher while remaining comfortable.

- **Schedule an HVAC tune-up.** Air conditioner issues can develop over the winter, and won't be evident until you turn it on when it gets hot. Getting your unit serviced in the spring will ensure that it will be working at maximum efficiency when you need it.

Tips & Tools



National Lineman Appreciation Month

It was before Midnight on Monday, February 15, during the storm that spawned deadly tornadoes, when I got a call about an outage affecting 35,000 member locations. By 12:30 a.m., I had finished calling the linemen who work out of the Southport/Oak Island district office, and they were heading out, joined by the men from the Supply and Whiteville offices. By 2 a.m., the outages were down to 7,000. We continued to work through the night and the next day, solving the most difficult restoration problems and completing the work that evening. It was a horrific time for many of our members, and we were just doing our part to help.

Outages are personal to us. Linemen truly care about the membership, and feel the urgency that members feel when the power is out. Management and linemen want the same thing that members want—electricity you can count on—and that’s what drives our high reliability and efficient restoration efforts. Linemen find another gear when the power is out, whether it is one member or 10,000. We like to say we’re on the FIN Team—Fix It Now—for the membership. It’s rewarding, meaningful work, and not everyone can do it; they say you have to be cut from the cloth. Because it can mean working in miserable, hazardous conditions, and spending nights and weekends away

from your family, you have to want to serve others. We believe it’s a privilege to do so.

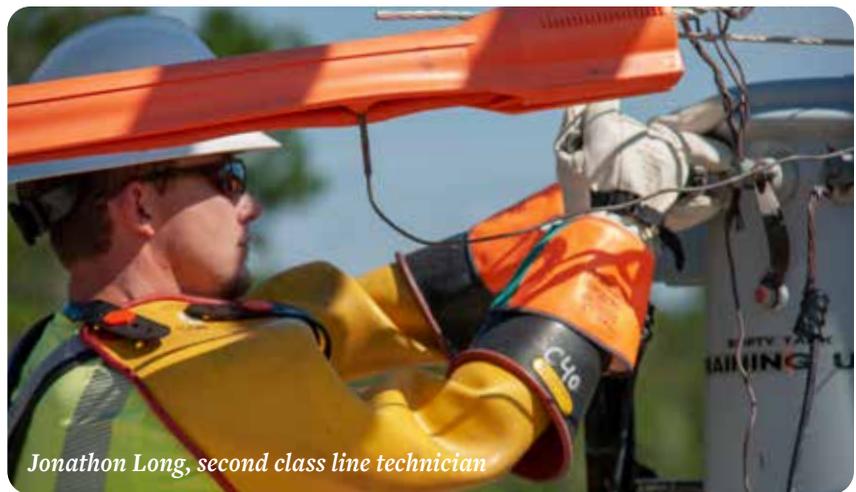
It takes about 7,000 hours of training to become a lineman, and requires continual ongoing education. Cooperative linemen make up about 16% of all linemen in the US, and we tend to punch above our weight because of our vast service territories, covering three-quarters of the US land mass. Cooperative linemen tend to be more motivated than most other linemen, who might be good at what they do, but don’t have the same connection to those on their lines that we do. No matter how big an electric cooperative is, the very nature of our relationship to the membership means we can’t ever be too big to care.

During National Lineman Appreciation Month, it’s important

to recognize the contract crews who work with us on the construction, operations and maintenance of our transmission and distribution system. The linemen are our brothers, working side by side with us during lengthy storm restorations. They work with us on larger installation projects using their specialized equipment, handle portions of other projects in tandem with our crews, and keep our Right-of-Ways clear. Thank you to the dedicated crews of Lee Electrical Construction, Sumpter Utilities, New South Maintenance, and the others we use for special projects. BEMC and contract crews are committed to serving the membership to the best of our ability, because you deserve nothing less.



Tim Tippett
District Operations Manager



Jonathon Long, second class line technician

Member matters

This section of the newsletter is written by a BEMC employee or member of the executive team about a timely topic that affects you as a member of BEMC.

The Linemen of Brunswick Electric



Southport/ Oak Island ▲

Back row, left to right. Jim Willis, Ervin Etheridge, Mike Sullivan, Adam Fulford, Chris Rhodes, Nick Wright, Bryan Gore, Bailey Hill, Jeff Green, Jonathan Long. Front row, left to right. Pee Wee Gore, Brad Conway, Ethan Watson, Jeremy Beresoff, Matt Wilkins, Isaac Stanley, Mike Waite, Trent Phelps. Not pictured. Mike Blue, Jamal Moody, Andrew Ennis, Elton Jackson, Richard Hill, Will Babson



Supply ▲

Back Row, left to right. Steve Varnum, Brandon Frink, Gaston Ward, Bill Gore, Kyle Rigby, Roy Stephens, Gerik Ivey, Kevin Hardin, Benji Etheridge, Adam Fau, Bruce Babson. Front row, left to right. Blaine Lawson, Eugene Cartrette, Hunter Marlow, Jason Hammonds, Fitz Hall, Dale Fulwood, David Fearnside, Larry Sanderson, Brad Hardison, Rusty Shepherd, Cameron Smith. Not pictured: John Johnson, Clayton Rivenbark, Brad Jenkins, Anthony Raulerson, Tony Sellers.



Whiteville ▲

Back row, left to right: Mark Raspberry, Dallie Canady, Jeremy McLelland, Elvis Cain, Andy Noble, James Price, Jason Zokal, Rodney Lee, Dean Long. Front row, left to right: Ricky Danford, Noah Horton, Reno Coleman, Chuck Nance, Jacob Gore, Cody Buck, Jimmie Conley, Gabe Davis, Justin Ward, Nicky Nance, Andrew Edmund. Not pictured: William Godwin, David Norris.



2021 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program suspended due to COVID-19

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, BEMC has made the difficult decision not to offer our Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships this year. This long-standing program typically provides full scholarships for middle school students to attend overnight summer basketball camp at North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“We are disappointed not to move forward with this program this year, but feel this decision is in the best interest of scholarship applicants and their families given the challenges of the current pandemic,” said Sherry Skumanick, Communications Specialist. “We remain optimistic that we can resume this opportunity in 2022 when campers can once again experience the full benefits of the program.”

To learn more about this program and its impact on local youth, visit bemc.org/sports-camp-scholarships.



Bright Ideas Education Grants fund teachers' in-person and online classroom projects – apply now

The past year has been particularly hard on teachers, students and parents. It has required extra determination, flexibility, creativity, and



in some cases, extra cash to make learning happen. If you're an educator with an idea for a project that will enhance your students' in-person or online classroom experience, consider applying for a Bright Ideas Education Grant.

Each year, Brunswick Electric provides grants for up to \$2,000 for innovative classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Last year, 29 teachers in Brunswick and Columbus counties received more than \$32,110 for projects across all disciplines, benefitting more than 7,000 students in Brunswick and Columbus counties.

Applications are being accepted now at NCBrightIdeas.com or at bemc.org/bright-ideas-grants, and the deadline to apply is September 15, 2021. But don't wait, applications received by August 15, 2021 will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card.

Nominations for Board of Directors

In accordance with BEMC bylaws, the Nominating and Election Committees will meet on August 10, 2021 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 July 27, 2021. Questions regarding requirements for the board or the election process should be directed to Jean King at (910) 754-4391 x 4213.



	CUSTOMER SERVICE (800)842-5871 OUTAGE REPORTING (800)682-5309			
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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.	
Frederick Tedder President	John Ward Vice President	Deborah Ahlers Calvin Duncan Moses Herring Perry Sellers	JoAnn Simmons Dan Strickland	Joshua L. Winslow CEO/General Manager
David Gore Secretary Treasurer	Larry Fowler Asst. Secretary Treasurer			Dennis Worley Attorney