



# CURRENT COMMUNICATOR

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Fall 2017

"Improving the quality of your life in a quietly impressive way."

Volume 26, Number 3

## A NOTE FROM THE CEO, GARY E. WOOD

**A** review of CVEC performance for the first half of 2017 shows two positive trends continuing: lower electricity costs and increased reliability.

After June, sales data shows that the average cost per kWh for our members has continued to drop this year. Our costs began to decrease in 2016, and have continued to decline through 2017. The decrease in power supply cost results in savings passed to members via the negative power cost adjustment (PCA). It also reflects our internal efforts to control other costs and keep members' bills low.

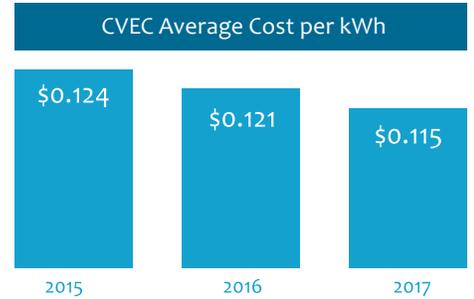
The big change in performance was an increase in reliability. We experienced fewer outages on our

distribution lines for the January to June period in 2017 than in the same six month period in the last decade!

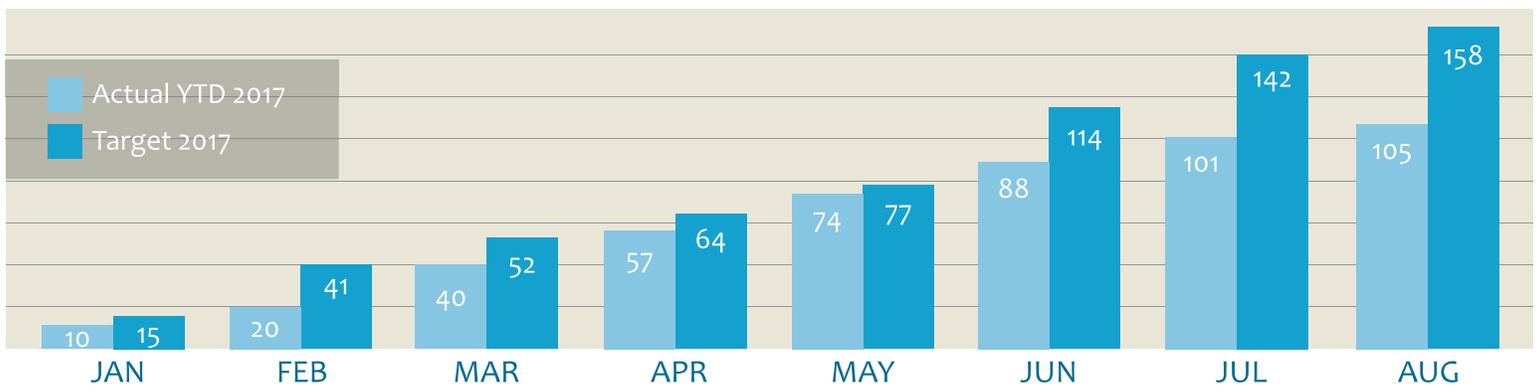
The improvement comes from the extra

investment CVEC has made in recent years with vegetation management and with distribution line improvements, along with less stormy weather for 2017.

So far, 2017 is shaping up to be a good year for CVEC and its members! 📍



## Reliability Report | Average Outage Minutes Per Member is Well Under Target



The new CVEC facility in the Palmyra division opened for business on Monday, September 11. The building was designed to serve the cooperative and its members for the next 40 years. The new facility is located on the same property as the former facility, but will be accessed from Salem Church Road. The office hours remain 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and the kiosk was relocated to the new building outside the member entrance so account payments can be made 24/7.

1224 Salem Church Rd, Palmyra, VA 22963

# AT THE 2017 CVEC ANNUAL MEETING

CVEC Members returned 1,566 proxy ballots by mail and 77 in person as part of the June 14 Annual Members' Meeting. Those members who voted chose three fellow members to lead the Cooperative for three-year terms:

**R. Kinckle Robinson** | Appomattox, VA

**Jace A. Goodling** | Afton, VA

**George N. Goin** | Fluvanna, VA



R. Kinckle Robinson  
South District



Jace A. Goodling  
West District



George N. Goin  
East District

## New Officers

Each year, following the CVEC Annual Member Meeting, the CVEC Board of Directors elect four officers who serve a two-year term in their elected office. At the July 2017 meeting, the following Directors were elected:

**Chair: H. T. Brown, Jr.**

**Vice Chair: R. Kinckle Robinson**

**Secretary: Gloria W. Vest**

**Treasurer: Roberta I. Harlowe**



H.T. Brown, Gloria Vest, Kinckle Robinson and Roberta Harlowe (Left to Right)

## Intern Lillian

Special thanks to Lillian Fassero, Communications Intern, for her contributions to concepts and articles in this Fall newsletter edition.

## Your Proxy Ballot Can Earn You Money

Every year, in conjunction with CVEC's Annual Meeting, we offer a chance for members to win prizes even if they cannot attend the meeting. Members who send in their proxy ballots are entered into a prize drawing. Ten proxies are drawn and those members win a \$100 credit on their electric bill!



The 2017 winners are:

- ◇ **Donald L. Seay** | Kents Store
- ◇ **George H. Kirby** | Scottsville
- ◇ **B.J. Summers** | Lexington
- ◇ **Wayne Koyanik** | Troy
- ◇ **Amyrose Blais** | Kents Store
- ◇ **Daniel A. Cash** | Appomattox
- ◇ **V.A. Porcello** | Charlottesville
- ◇ **J. Harlan Austin** | Gladstone
- ◇ **Dawn Dawson** | Palmyra
- ◇ **Harry J. Gilbert** | Kents Store

We also award one Grand Prize—a check for \$500! This year's lucky recipient is:

**Esther Kilianski**  
Palmyra

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you for participating in your Cooperative!





**C**VEC lost a good friend and great leader with the passing of Robert M. Duncan on Friday, August 11, 2017. Robert was a long-standing CVEC Director from Cumberland County in the South District. Robert was known and respected by many in his district and will be greatly missed.

*The CVEC Board of Directors passed the following resolution in honor of his service and impact on those he served.*

**WHEREAS** our fellow director, respected leader and good friend, Robert Milford Duncan first joined the Board in August 2000 and served faithfully and continuously since that time; and

**WHEREAS** he took his role seriously, earning his certificate as a Credentialed Cooperative Director from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and using his skill and knowledge to carefully consider each decision put before him; and,

**WHEREAS** during that tenure Robert served honorably and with wisdom in a number of roles including holding a seat on the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Safety Committee and holding the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the CVEC Board; and,

**WHEREAS** he was a true gentleman with charm and wit who always held an optimistic view for CVEC and who was a steadfast supporter of CVEC members and employees; and,

**WHEREAS** the members of CVEC have benefited immeasurably from his humble, willing spirit of cooperation and his quiet determination to serve, so that future generations of electric cooperative members will continue to benefit from the projects and programs developed with his participation, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** this Board expresses its profound gratitude for the time, energy and effort Robert Milford Duncan contributed toward the safe, reliable delivery of affordable electricity to the members of CVEC, and commends his tireless commitment to improving the quality of members' lives and to providing a safe and rewarding environment in which the employees could thrive. ♥

# LOCAL VETERAN PARTICIPATES IN NO BARRIERS WARRIORS EXPEDITION



CVEC member and local veteran Jason Polychrones joined a team of veterans from July 6-10 in a wilderness expedition with the CoBank No Barriers Warriors program. Polychrones was selected as one of 50 finalists in the nation to participate in the expedition, which encourages participants to set new goals and overcome personal difficulties in a natural wilderness environment. Through exercises which challenge participants both physically and mentally, these veterans are encouraged to overcome obstacles with the help and encouragement of peers.

Polychrones served our country as a United States Marine from 2000-2004 and was involved in

Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. After serving in Iraq, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business. He and his wife, Tiffany, live in Gordonsville with their five children.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving CVEC and many other electric cooperatives across the nation. Their No Barriers Warriors program is a five-day expedition for both physically and emotionally disabled veterans. The No Barriers Warriors expeditions are offered at no cost to the veterans and take place three times each year at the No Barriers facility in the Red Feather Lakes region of Colorado. 📍

## PAYMENTS ACCEPTED 24/7 AT KIOSKS



CVEC's payment kiosks were designed to fit your needs. Located at each of our division offices, these kiosks are open around the clock and post transactions to member accounts immediately, eliminating processing periods and shortening reconnection times. The kiosks also accept credit/debit cards, as well as cash and checks. They provide fast, flexible payment options that fit your schedule and preferences. Try our kiosks to experience just one more of the many ways we commit to convenience for our members. 📍

## Fuel Assistance Reminder

Fuel Assistance is awarded by the Virginia Department of Social Services. If you or someone you know are having trouble paying your monthly energy bills during very cold or hot weather, you may wish to contact one of these local services.

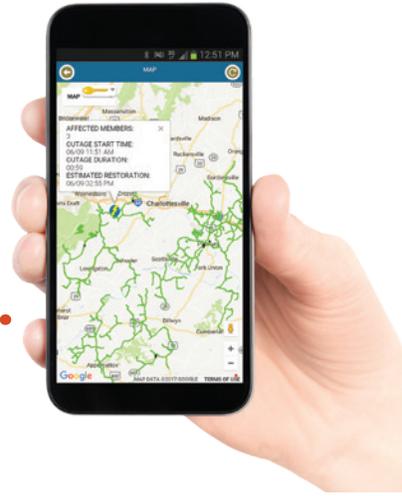
You can visit our website at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com) and search **fuel assistance** to find a list of local organizations that may be able to assist you.

Please keep track of the amount allocated by Social Services to ensure that your account is kept current. You can check your balance online or by calling our automated system:

**800-367-2832, Option 2**



CVEC members who use the **MyCVEC Mobile app** on a smartphone or subscribe to the texting service will receive an alert if your power goes out. You will also receive the estimated restoration time for your outage. Members can also find this information on the outage map at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com).



## Director Roberta Harlowe Recognized for Service to Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Electric Cooperatives

The Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) Board of Directors took action at their July 24 annual meeting to recognize Roberta Harlowe of Troy, Virginia for her committed service to the Association and its members. Mrs. Harlowe was honored

for her service from 2005 until early 2017 as chair of both the VMDAEC Education Committee and the Education Scholarship Foundation. CVEC is happy to see this well-earned recognition for Mrs. Harlowe's humble servant leadership and is grateful for the many years of service she has invested in her local Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.



### Stay a step ahead

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**2** Pay what you want, when you want.

**3** We'll notify you when your account balance gets low.

**with CVEC Prepaid**



### Energy Saving Tip | Ceiling Fans:

#### Adjust the thermostat

Adjust your thermostat by 3-5 degrees when using fans in conjunction with air conditioners or heaters. Fans use much less electricity than air conditioners.

#### Flip the switch

Most fans have a switch near the base that changes the fan's direction. In summer, be sure your fan blows down to create a breeze. Switch direction in the winter to move warm air off the ceiling and down the walls to your floors.

#### Turn it off

When you leave a room, turn the fan off. Fans cool people--not rooms.

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**CVEC is proud to recognize four VMDAEC scholarship recipients from our service territory. These high school seniors each earned a \$1,000 college scholarship awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. The students were eligible for consideration because their parents are members of CVEC.**



**Adam McGill**, from Keswick, VA, was president of the National Honors Society, and was a member of four other honor societies for Math, Spanish, Science, and Language at Monticello High School. He graduated from Monticello this year with a 4.6 GPA and earned an honorable mention for his PSAT scores. Adam played soccer during his four years of high

school, serving as varsity captain his senior year. He also participated in the Boy Scouts program since 6th grade, and earned his Eagle Scout award in 2016. While a student, Adam participated in Monticello's Scholar Program, which allowed him to take college courses through UVA and fulfill an internship with Ash Lawn-Highlands, where he was able to publish an academic paper. The Scholars Program also allowed him to participate in a tutoring exchange where he was given the opportunity to tutor students from another Charlottesville school. Adam chose to attend The University of Virginia School of Engineering in the fall. Before then, he had many summer goals, including practicing soccer, learning computer coding, and learning to play the piano. His long-term aspirations included coaching soccer, writing and publishing a collection of poetry, and dabbling in movie making. Ultimately, he "would like to make an impact and leave something lasting—maybe by helping people." Adam's hard work followed the example of his parents, Julia and Paul, and his teachers. He reflected on their inspiration, "Both my parents have worked hard for me...and in terms of my teachers, man, there are a lot of them." 📌



**Brandon Womack**, from Dillwyn, VA, is a graduate of A Beka Homeschool Academy. Brandon played soccer for four years in high school and is a member of the local 4-H shooting team, where he has competed at the state level. He also serves as an assistant leader for the boys' program,

Trail Life, where he teaches outdoor skills, safety, and character development. Brandon worked this summer with the Department of Forestry in Groundskeeping and Recreational Area Maintenance, and earned his firefighting certification this summer through their Interagency Wildland Fire Academy. After receiving this certification in June 2017, he spent two weeks travelling with the Department of Forestry to fight Montana's wildfires. He looks forward to using his firefighting skills in similar situations in the future. Brandon is studying environmental biology at Liberty University this fall. Eventually, he would like to follow in his father's footsteps as a forester, combining his firefighting skills, forestry experience, and education to preserve Virginia's natural environment. Brandon looks up to his parents, Christine and Michael, for their examples and hard work which empowered him to achieve his goals. 📌

**Eva McGehee**, from Palmyra, VA, graduated as valedictorian from Fluvanna County High School. Eva competed on her high school Scholastic Bowl Team and served as secretary for the Beta Club honors society. Eva also competed with Fluvanna's cross country running team and served



as cross country team captain her senior year. In her senior year, Eva completed an internship with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and served as president for her local Interact Club, where she served alongside organizations like Stop Hunger Now and Habitat for Humanity to help local and international communities. This summer, Eva spent a month backpacking through Europe with her sister and another friend, visiting six countries. Eva has enrolled in Georgetown University this fall, and is interested in studying art history, American history, or politics. Eva plans to keep running in college, and hopes to join the Georgetown Club Quidditch team. She also hopes to take advantage of Georgetown's study abroad program and seize more opportunities to travel. Thinking long term, Eva is interested in working with a museum to plan programs and exhibits. This will allow her to combine her interests in art, history, and culture and use them all in the same field. Eva is grateful for the many ways her teachers enabled her to achieve her goals. She also looks up to her sister and her parents, Theresa Carroll and William McGehee, for their encouragement and motivation as she pursues and achieves her dreams. 📌

**Colin Coviello**, from Appomattox, VA, is a homeschool graduate. He has been involved in the arts since age three, when he began taking violin lessons. Since then, Colin has developed a passion for art and music, and has spent many years in music and theatre. In addition to violin, he now plays piano and guitar, and sings. Colin has participated in nearly a dozen theatrical shows with Appomattox Courthouse Theatre, Wolfbane Productions, and other local theatre groups. His most recent show was Romeo and Juliet. Colin is attending the Virginia University of Lynchburg in the fall, where he will pursue a degree in music education. He hopes to continue participating in theatre throughout college, as well as exploring other forms of art and joining the school's club tennis team. Ultimately, Colin hopes to use his music degree to encourage students to develop a greater appreciation for classical music. "Music will make them into a better person," he hopes. Colin credits his parents, Meghan and Paul, for developing his passion for music and is grateful to his parents, pastor, and private violin teacher for the many ways they have sacrificed to help him reach his goals. 📌





**O**ctober is Cooperative Month, which is a great opportunity to celebrate the many advantages your cooperative offers and to review the seven cooperative principles.

As a cooperative, we are committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable service to every member while we light the way to a brighter future by participating in initiatives that educate our members and strengthen our local community. ♡



## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, **call (866) 632-9992**. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

**(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights**

**1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;**

**(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or**

**(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. ♡

## Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

CORRESPONDENCE: P. O. Box 247 | Lovingson, VA 22949

PAYMENTS: Dept. 1340 | P. O. Box 2153 | Birmingham, AL 35287-1340  
(800) 367-2832

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## CVEC LINEMEN TAKE 3RD PLACE AT 2017 GAFF-N-GO RODEO



David Noble, Steven Matney, Brute Gardner, Brandon Hudson and Dale Richardson  
(Left to right)

CVEC employees joined nearly 150 utility professionals from five states at the 15th Annual Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo, held May 19-20 at Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Va. The Gaff-n-Go Rodeo originated at CVEC in 2003 and is now being produced by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Five CVEC Linemen competed in this year's rodeo and earned several awards for their performance. Apprentice linemen Dale Richardson and Steven Matney competed in five different events as part of

the apprentice competition, with Matney placing third out of all competitors in the Hurt Man Rescue event. Also finishing third overall, CVEC's Journeyman team of David Noble, Brandon Hudson and Brute Gardner achieved consistently high scores in five different events, including the Crossarm Changeout, Failed Underground Line, and Climbing Skills.

CVEC's Lineman Matt Wilbun and Safety & Training Specialist Randy Golladay served as volunteer judges for this year's event, while retired CVEC employee C.T. Bryant continues to co-chair the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo Working Group.

The CVEC Rodeo Team's win landed them a place to compete in the International Rodeo in Kansas City, KS in mid-October. Best of luck to our CVEC participants! 💡

### Back to School Safety Tip

Fall is here! Now is a great time to review an important electrical safety rule with your kids. Remind children that writing utensils and other supplies like paperclips should never be inserted into electrical outlets, even if the outlet isn't working.

