

Current Communicator



MEMBER NEWSLETTER
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Fall 2022 VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3

Annual Meeting Recap and Election Results

Rural Broadband Construction Winding Down

Power Cost Adjustment Increase in Fuel Costs

A Letter from the CEO

CVEC marked 85 years of being a member-owned, not-for-profit, rural electric utility in September. There are many milestones to celebrate as we look at the progress made since 1937.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, **CVEC is owned by the members we serve and meeting their needs remains the key priority** for the CVEC Directors, management team, and employees. Our focus on keeping power costs affordable, increased reliability, security, and safety in conjunction with member and employee satisfaction benefits the entire co-op family.

Despite our best efforts, increased fuel costs have resulted in an increased Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on member bills, effective August 1, 2022. The PCA adjustment passes along only the actual power cost incurred by CVEC and can increase or decrease as needed.

Keeping the power on safely and cost-effectively is one of the best ways we can serve our members. CVEC has invested in vegetation management, substation maintenance and upgrades, and rigorous field inspections to slash outage times over the past few years. However, **the extreme storms that hit our area this year have caused unusual damage to our system and significantly impacted our outage times.**

This year, CVEC will purchase locally-sourced power from a new solar array in Fluvanna County that will be distributed to members via CVEC's power lines, avoiding wholesale transmission fees and stabilizing low energy costs. CVEC already purchases power from two local solar arrays, adding renewable resources to our power portfolio and helping to contain power costs for members.

Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM, CVEC's subsidiary, is bringing reliable and affordable high-speed internet to many of our members for the first time. **We are working toward a goal of completing the fiber buildout by year end**, a full year earlier than projected. Fiber offers many benefits for members by providing access to the internet, but it will also help to increase security, improve electric service reliability, lower power costs, and enable demand response programs.

It is our honor and privilege to serve you and we are continually looking for ways to improve. Please read the back panel of this newsletter for information about the CVEC Member Advisory Council, a group that offers feedback to management regarding new programs and projects as well as challenges that arise. We would welcome the chance to get to know you and hear your opinion.

Gary Wood
President & CEO



2022 Annual Meeting Recap

CVEC was excited to return to Nelson County High School to hold its 85th Annual Meeting in person.

After two years under the CVEC truck shed, employees, directors and members gathered at Nelson County High School on June 22 to hear updates on the Cooperative's performance during the last year. President and CEO Gary Wood, Treasurer Dr. Brian Bates, and Chairman Kinckle Robinson discussed the Cooperative's successes over the past 85 years, final stages of the fiber build, as well as milestones achieved in 2021.

Members voted to re-elect **Henry Chiles**, to the West District, **Frank Baber** to the South District, and **Roberta Harlowe** to the East District.

While the in-person attendance was impacted by strong storms that rolled through Nelson County just prior to the meeting, members returned 2,905 proxy ballots by mail. Members who mailed in ballots were entered into a drawing to win a \$100 bill credit or a grand prize check for \$500.



CEO Gary Wood addresses audience

\$100 Bill Credit Winners
Michele Blair | Concord, VA
Richard Marie Constantino | Palmyra, VA
Laure Corley | Arvonias, VA
Charles Durbin | Free Union, VA
Mattie Kenan | Kents Store, VA
Virginia W. Littlepage | Howardsville, VA
Griffin Nettles | Louisa, VA
Lindsay E. Tapscott | Scottsville, VA
Mary B. Tinsley | Gordonsville, VA
J. Nelson Tucker | Gordonsville, VA

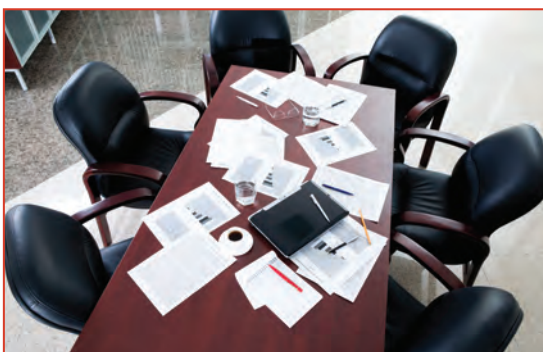
\$500 Check Winner
Mary M. Walker | Appomattox, VA



Member registering for the meeting

We thank all of our members for their participation, whether in-person or through mail-in proxy. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can view a recording on the **Annual Meeting** page at www.mycvec.com.

View a recording of the 2022 Annual meeting at mycvec.com.



CVEC is a member-owned electric cooperative. Each year, CVEC holds an election at the Annual Meeting to select members to serve as directors and represent the membership in setting policies and making decisions. For information on running for a director position, please view Section 4.4 of the Bylaws located at www.mycvec.com.

The 2023 CVEC Annual Meeting date will be posted in the next **Current Communicator** and at mycvec.com once it has been set.

CVEC Students Received VMDAEC Scholarships

Six Central Virginia high school seniors earned \$1,000 Worth M. Hudson scholarships awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC). The students were eligible for consideration because their parents are members of CVEC and were chosen based on a competitive screening process that considers financial need, academic achievement, and community involvement. Additionally, Brenley Hackett of Appomattox received the inaugural \$2,000 Roberta I. Harlowe scholarship, founded by CVEC Director Roberta Harlowe. **Congratulations!**



Anna Birthisel

- Graduate of Liberty University Online Academy
- Attending Texas A&M on NROTC scholarship to study Russian and International Studies



Grace Buck

- Graduate of Louisa County High School
- Attending University of Mary Washington to study Environmental Science and Historic Preservation



Gabriel Corrice

- Graduate of Fluvanna County High School
- Attending Liberty University to study Nursing



Brenley Hackett

- Graduate of Cornerstone Christian Academy
- Attending Longwood University to study Pre-Engineering and Physics



Ella Lewis

- Graduate of Amherst County High School & Central VA Governor's School
- Attending University of Tennessee to study Engineering



Emily Stevens

- Graduate of Fluvanna County High School
- Attending University of Mary Washington to study Computer Science



Natalie Phelps

- Graduate of Temple Christian School
- Attending Liberty University to study Nursing



Fiber Construction is Winding Down

In 2018, CVEC embarked on a mission to make reliable and affordable high-speed internet available to all members. Construction on the 3,600-mile fiber network is winding down this year and access to fiber broadband will have lasting impacts on members' lives.

Members in central Virginia have been faced with many challenges because of the lack of technology and communication options available in rural areas. When COVID halted daily lives and sent workers and students home, those challenges became even more significant. The staff and directors at CVEC saw the need for high-speed internet and, in true co-op fashion, set out to find a solution to improve the lives of our members and bridge the communication gap. While there are still members eagerly waiting to be connected, the fiber construction portion will conclude this year – a full year earlier than originally planned. Connections will continue until the very last home or business is complete.

Seventeen CVEC substations are connected and over 15,000 members have subscribed to Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM.

Connections are underway at Cunningham, Ferncliff, Shannon Hill, Doubleday, and Centenary. Fiber construction is in full swing at Piney River, White Hall, Red Hill, and Schuyler and connections will begin as soon as this fall for these areas.

“My life has so greatly changed since having the opportunity of having Firefly. It is such a blessing to have this opportunity. I am a RN and was driving well over 100 miles a day doing home health. Since enrolling in Firefly services I was able to apply for and get a remote RN job.” - Debbie B.

“My kids, friends and relatives didn't like visiting because of lack of internet and cell phone coverage in our area. Now that we have Firefly everyone visits and we have memorable family moments while streaming movies and spending time together.” - Melanie B.



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Energy Efficiency Tip

Cool weather is on the way and now is the time to seal drafty windows.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials.

Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov

CVEC to Expand Solar Energy

Construction is underway for an additional 5 megawatt (MW) solar array in Fluvanna County.

The new solar array will feed directly into CVEC's distribution lines and increase the output of clean, renewable energy for consumption by CVEC members. The solar site is near the CVEC Cunningham substation and will be commercially operational by the end of 2022.

Construction on the second solar array, an 8 MW installation with the capability to add 4 MW of battery storage, has been slowed by material shortages and the completion date has been extended to 2024.

The two new solar arrays will generate 13 MW in total, more than doubling renewable energy for CVEC members.

Solar Additions to CVEC Distribution System

Martin Site	5 MW	Goochland County
Palmer Site	5 MW	Fluvanna County
New in 2022	5 MW	Fluvanna County
New in 2024	8 MW	Albemarle County

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the 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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Julie Ponton
Plant Accountant



Joyce Thomas
Member Services Representative



Jere Bibb
Member Services Representative

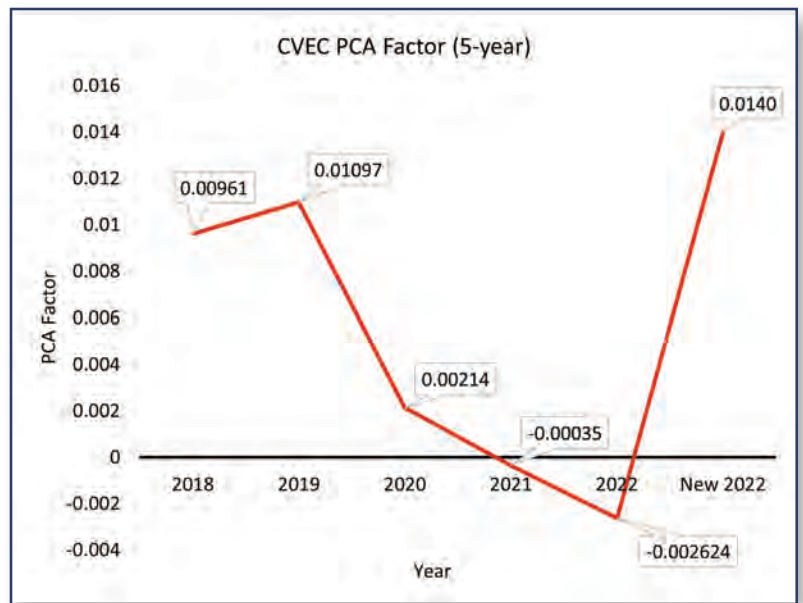
Thank You

FOR PROVIDING
30 YEARS
OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO CVEC AND
ITS MEMBERS!

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Increase

As a not-for-profit electric utility, CVEC purchases wholesale power and builds/maintains the electric system necessary to deliver that power to our members. Because CVEC is a not-for-profit, we operate on small margins - we pass along the costs associated with purchasing power to our members without marking up costs to obtain a profit.

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is a line item on your electric bill that allows CVEC to make necessary adjustments as actual power costs increase or decrease. Since January 2021, power purchase costs were lower than anticipated. Those cost savings were passed on to members via a PCA credit.



Increased fuel costs in the wholesale power markets, such as natural gas which increased during the Ukrainian War, have caused the price we pay for energy to escalate in 2022. As a result, CVEC must increase the PCA charge to cover those increased costs. The new PCA charge went into effect August 2022. Members can expect to see a PCA increase of 1.6¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Your cooperative works hard to acquire the most affordable energy available and provide the safest, most reliable distribution system while limiting the financial impact to members. We are aware that the past few years have been a hardship for our members. The PCA adjustment passes along only the actual power cost increases incurred.

We encourage members to monitor their usage using the member portal and to visit the "Save Money" page at mycvec.com for steps to reduce energy consumption and offset increased costs.



⚡ Monitor your energy usage using the Member Portal at mycvec.com.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A MOTION
BY CENTRAL VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
FOR APPROVAL OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR TARIFF
CASE NO. PUR-2017-00165**

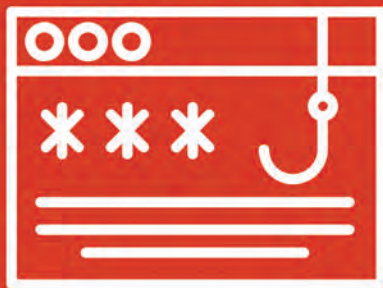
Central Virginia Electric Cooperative ("CVEC") has moved the State Corporation Commission to reopen the docket in Case No. PUR-2017-00165 and make permanent its voluntary companion rate schedule for a community solar program ("Community Solar Tariff").

The Community Solar Tariff would be available on a voluntary basis to the Cooperative's members receiving electric service under a residential rate schedule ("Subscribers").

Under the Community Solar Tariff, Subscribers may purchase energy in 50 kilowatt-hour unit blocks ("Solar Block") generating from solar generating resources, and would pay a flat and fixed rate of \$4.50 per Solar Block per month.

CVEC states it will make the Community Solar Tariff permanent at the same rates and terms as proposed in its pilot program. Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case%20Information).

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month



Recognize and report phishing attacks.

phishing: a tactic used by cyber criminals through emails that lure you into clicking on them and handing over personal information or installing malware on a device

Interested in seeing the development and expansion of renewable energy sources?

CVEC offers a 100% Renewable Energy Attributes Electric Service Rider (Schedule R). This Rider is available on a voluntary basis as a "companion rate" to any residential customer for the entire month's electricity usage. After a member signs up for the 100% Renewable Energy Attributes Electric Service Rider, an additional charge of \$0.015 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is added to the monthly bill. This is a sell-at-cost charge with no profit or added fee for CVEC.

Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) are produced every time a renewable source (windmill, solar array, hydro, etc.) generates 1,000 kWh. Renewable Energy Credits previously purchased are sourced from one or more of the following:

Midway Solar Center
(Kents Store, VA)
and/or
Palmer Solar Center
(Troy, VA).

The Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) generated at these plants are retired in an amount equal to the energy used by the customers participating in this rate rider.

You can sign up or find out more information by calling CVEC at 800-367-2832 or on the CVEC Rate Schedule page at mycvec.com.





Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

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

PAYMENTS: Dept. 1340 | P.O. Box 2153 | Birmingham, AL 35287-1341

(800) FOR-CVEC | www.mycvec.com

Presorted Standard
U. S. Postage
Paid
Harrisonburg, VA
Permit No. 312

CVEC is proud to support Virginia pollinators by promoting and protecting the growth of plant species that attract and sustain pollinators in its rights-of-way.



Join the Member Advisory Council

Did you know that Central Virginia Electric Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative?

That's right! CVEC is owned by the members that we serve. In addition, CVEC strives to keep our members' best interest at the forefront of our daily operation and decision-making processes.

How do we determine what's in the best interest of our members? We ask and we listen!

Would you like to participate with your cooperative and provide valuable feedback on new developments and processes that will affect the overall membership? If so, consider joining CVEC's Member Advisory Council.

CVEC's Member Advisory Council meets annually for dinner and discussion. Meetings will take place this year, so please email comm@mycvec.com with your name and account number if you would like to receive an invitation to attend a Member Advisory Council meeting.

Sign up now to be ADDED TO THE INVITATION LIST for fall 2022 meetings.



New Service or Upgrade?

Call CVEC ahead of time as some materials may be affected by supply chain issues. Press option 3 for faster service.