



## We Are Working

To improve reliability  
for our members

### TREE TRIMMING

CEC currently has a crew from Xylem, our tree trimming contractor, is currently operating in Southampton and will be soon be working in Suffolk.



### YARD TREES & CLEARING

Xylem is also in the Suffolk area working to clear yard trees and any other brush or shrubs that may be interfering with service. They will then be moving to the Windsor area.



### SPRAYING

Community Electric Cooperative is not conducting any spraying at this time. All necessary spraying will occur between June and October.



### LINE IMPROVEMENT

CEC crews and Charter are working on line improvements to enhance infrastructure for electric reliability.



Know what you're  
digging into ...



### CONTACT US

52 W. Windsor Boulevard, P.O. Box 267  
Windsor, VA 23487-0267

#### Phone

757-242-6181

#### Website

comelec.coop

### After-hours Outages

1-855-700-2667



### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### President/CEO

Steven A. Harmon

### Local Pages Editor

Jessica Parr

Community Electric Cooperative is an Equal  
Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## CEC Recognizes 2022 Accomplishments at Christmas Luncheon

Community Electric Cooperative celebrated the service of six longtime employees, as well as milestones achieved by several board members, during its 2022 Christmas luncheon. The cooperative also recognized six recent hires while thanking all team members for the work they performed during a year of difficult weather events and other operational challenges.

The Christmas luncheon was held at CEC's headquarters in Windsor with approximately 60 people attending, including the Board of Directors.

"I would like to thank each and every one of you for the services you provided to our member-owners and to external customers in 2022," Board Chairman Jeanette Everett said. "Despite lingering COVID challenges, supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, and plain old bad weather, you put in long and often difficult hours to fulfill Community Electric's mission to meet our members' power needs safely, reliably and cost-effectively. Thank you so very much."

Six employees were recognized for reaching notable milestones in their CEC careers. Fifteen-year service awards were presented to Erik Thiede, Lead Lineman, and Jonathan Thompson, Chief Operations Officer. Five-year service awards were presented to: Danielle Beale, Manager of Finance & Accounting; Ryan Hewitt, Journeyman Lineman; Daniel Hobson, Journeyman Lineman; and Jessica Parr, Manager of Communications.

Meanwhile, Director Brian Jones from Isle of Wight County was presented with the Board Leadership Certificate he earned in 2022 from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Three other directors were recognized for notable



Brian Jones  
Achieves  
Credential in  
Electric Utility  
Competencies

governance milestones they've achieved. Secretary-Treasurer Diana Beale from Isle of Wight County has served 20 years as a Director; Chad Fowler from the City of Suffolk has served 15 years as a Director; and Vice Chairman Michael Faulk from the City of Suffolk has served 10 years.

The luncheon's festivities also included the recognition of six recent hires:

- Rob Darden, Apprentice;
- Jennifer Freeman, Accounting;
- Brandon Gray, RECORE Generator Tech;
- Dylan Hite, Apprentice Lineman;
- Lucy Whitley, Administrative Services Coordinator, and
- Heather Wright, RECORE Operations Support

"We welcome each of you to the Community Electric family, and we look forward to working alongside you to do great things for our members in the coming year," CEC Board Chairman Jeanette Everett said.





## Local Utilities' Alliance Yields Charitable Donations of Nearly 10,000 Items to Support Families Fighting Pediatric Cancer

Thanks to overwhelming community and employee support, Community Electric Cooperative and Prince George Electric Cooperative recently delivered approximately 10,000 donated items to the Chesapeake-based Roc Solid Foundation in support of its charitable work to uplift families battling pediatric cancer.

The donations were made in mid-December as part of a month-long alliance the cooperatives made last year to uphold one of the core principles — Concern for Community — adopted decades ago by the International Co-operative Alliance. The Roc Solid Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009. The Foundation partners with children's hospitals across the United States to distribute Ready Bags containing essential items when children are diagnosed with cancer.

Items donated by the cooperatives' employees and by residents and businesses in the areas they serve included toiletry items, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion, body wash and digital thermometers. The items are placed in bags that help families meet tangible needs during unexpected hospital stays.

"I am blown away by the volume of support shown by the cooperatives' member-owners and by our employees," says Jessica Parr, CEC Manager of Communications. "I know from prior events such as food drives and fundraisers for fallen linemen that our employees and neighbors have great

compassion for others, and the outpouring of support for the families served by Roc Solid epitomizes their community spirit through and through."

PGEC Vice President for Human Resources Crystal Johnson-Smith says employees were "really engaged" in the opportunity to support children and families confronting cancer.

"Our employees wanted to provide relief to families during their difficult time and let them know people care. We are pleased that we are able to give and to partner with Community Electric in support of families served by Roc Solid," she says.

Approximately 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer in the United States annually. The Roc Solid Foundation's website





has details on ways that one can support the organization's work. The Foundation also builds playsets for families fighting pediatric cancer.

Members of the general public can trace the progress of the cooperatives' Roc Solid assistance at a webpage created specifically for this project. The CEC/PGEC alliance has been conducted as a friendly competition between teams from the respective cooperatives. In an additional show of community support, QDaddy's Pitmaster BBQ of Smithfield agreed to provide the "winning" teams with free entrees, but QDaddy's actually went beyond its initial pledge and provided free entrees — 150 total — to all employees of both cooperatives.



"The donation of items from the Community and Prince George Electric Cooperatives was one of the largest of its kind in Roc Solid Ready Bag history," says Eric Newman, founder and chief play officer of Roc Solid Foundation. "We are so

thankful for this support, which will help us get many steps closer to serving all kids and families diagnosed with pediatric cancer."

Joy Witten Andrus, who heads catering and marketing for QDaddy's, says she and her colleagues were happy to show appreciation to the cooperatives' employees as part of their decade-long relationship with Roc Solid. "We were just getting our start in the barbecue world when Roc Solid hired us to serve their volunteers and supporters. Our mom always said to 'look around and see where God is working and join Him there.' In the spirit of that good advice, it was our great pleasure to treat our friends at the co-op to a barbecue dinner as a sincere 'thank you' for their job well done in support of the Roc Solid Foundation," Andrus said.

Scan this QR code to see more partnership details and videos.



## Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night. Be sure to change batteries in smoke alarms, too.



## CEC Adds Three Team Members

Community Electric Cooperative added three new team members in the final weeks of 2022. In early December, Jennifer Freeman and Dylan Hite joined CEC as an accountant and an apprentice lineman respectively, while Heather Wright started in a RECORE Operations Support role in late November.

Freeman may be familiar to a number of CEC members, having served as a gymnastics coach in the region for many years. She is a Southampton County native and, prior to joining Community Electric, worked the past five years in an accounting role at a children's center in Franklin.

Freeman feels that her attention to detail, her comfort working with numbers, and her extensive experience with accounting functions will prove beneficial to CEC.

"It's going great since I've started," Freeman says. "The people are wonderful; they're helpful and friendly, and this seems like a wonderful place to work."

While Freeman did not previously know anyone working at the cooperative, Hite had been drawn to the co-op world since an early age. His father is a lineman at Prince George Electric Cooperative in Waverly.

"I always knew I wanted to do this," Hite says. "Fresh out of high school, I got the opportunity to work for an electrical contractor. It was on the commercial side, but I realized this is definitely what I want to do."

Having completed the Power Line Worker Training Program at Southside Virginia Community College, Hite looks forward to combining his love for the outdoors with the opportunity to do "hands on" work on a daily basis.



Jennifer Freeman



Dylan Hite



Heather Wright

"I've been doing a lot of underground work hooking up services; it's been going great," Hite says. "The overhead work is the more challenging to learn, but it should be fairly easy to pick up if you're willing to listen."

Wright similarly says she "absolutely loves" her initial weeks with CEC. The Windsor High School graduate is happy to be closer to home after working the past two years at a prominent HVAC product and service provider in Norfolk.

"I have always enjoyed helping people, and I wanted to use the things I learned at my previous employer to do that. Some of what I've been doing is scheduling appointments for my team members and following up with their customers. I anticipate helping in any way possible, even if it's picking up parts that need to be gotten."

Wright feels that her organizational and communication skills will be particularly helpful to the RECORE operation.

"I feel like this is where I fit in and where I should be, and I feel valued," Wright says.