

# COOPERATIVE

## REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative

## Unplug and Enjoy Your Independence

Whether you barbecue at home or head out of town to celebrate, you can save money and energy this Independence Day.

**F**ireworks, barbecues, and patriotic expression are some of the first things that come to mind on Independence Day. But as we celebrate our nation's birthday and independence, let us not forget to be safe and energy friendly.

Below you'll find a list of tips to keep your family and friends safe and cool, and your energy bills to a minimum.

### A SAFE AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME BARBECUE

When prepping your home barbecue this Fourth of July, be sure to grill outdoors – sparing your home's oven and other appliances some electrical labor. Your home's air conditioning unit and the electricity bill will absolutely thank you. In addition, if your party is running late, consider using solar-powered decorative lighting to keep your guests in sight while saving on some watts well into the evening.

Safety is of utmost importance at Union Power. Here are seven simple steps for safe grilling:

- **Never leave your grill unattended:** Always supervise a gas or charcoal grill while in use.
- **Place grills away from objects:** Use your grill at a safe distance from your home, deck railings, low-hanging branches, and other objects. Also, avoid placing flammable materials near the grill.
- **Only grill outdoors:** Never grill in the house, garage, tents, or other indoor or enclosed areas.
- **Keep children and pets away from grills:** Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling space.
- **Properly clean your grill:** Clean your grill by removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and trays below.
- **Check food temperatures:** Use a meat thermometer to make sure meats are fully cooked. Improperly cooked meat could cause food poisoning.



### AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT VACATION

Going on vacation? Give your air conditioner and water heater a vacation, too! Set your thermostat and water heater to the lowest setting to prevent them from working hard while you're not there. Also, be sure to turn off all lights and unplug your devices before heading out of town. Consider using a "smart" power strip and timer if you want to leave a light on for nighttime security.

Don't forget you can monitor your home's energy use on our online portal at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) while you're away.

# Granting Opportunities for Academic Achievement

Union Power Awards  
College Scholarships to Local Students



At Union Power, we believe in making an impact in our communities, and we are committed to enriching the lives of our youth through learning – that’s why each year, we award graduating high school seniors with scholarships to North Carolina accredited universities and/or community colleges.

These scholarships help students with the cost of pursuing their dreams of furthering their education; and with an emphasis on financial need, academic achievement, and volunteer/extracurricular experience, we’re awarding those who have made a significant impact in their schools and local communities.

Scholarships will be awarded to the following students for the 2019-2020 school year:

## Logan McIntosh, Cabarrus County



Logan is a graduate of McIntosh Christian Academy, with a 4.0 GPA, who will attend Montreat College, majoring in Cybersecurity.

Logan has a diverse volunteer background, serving as a volunteer for the Special Olympics, GATE Pregnancy Center, Living Faith Baptist Church, and more. He is also a member of the Zeta Epsilon Honor Society.

## Daniel Smith, Cabarrus County



Daniel is a graduate of Hickory Ridge High School, with a 4.46 GPA. He will attend North Carolina State University and

plans to study Computer Engineering. Daniel has a passion for technology and computers and has received industry-standard certifications in both Autodesk Inventor and AutoCAD, as well as, Microsoft Excel and Access.

## Nicole Conti, Union County



Nicole is a graduate of Porter Ridge High School, with a 4.65 GPA – graduating first in her class of 440 students. She will attend the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and plans to study Sociology. She participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities while in school, ranging from the Varsity Women’s golf and swim teams, to the Girls in STEM club.

## Spencer Storm, Cabarrus County



Spencer is a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, with a 4.02 GPA, who will attend the University of

North Carolina at Charlotte. Spencer was involved in extracurricular activities such as scouting, track and field, and the Beta Club. He is also a member of the National Honor Society of High School Scholars, Mu Mu Alpha Theta Mathematical Honor Society, and Boy Scouts of America.

## Josie Hinson, Stanly County



Josie is a graduate of South Stanly High School, with a 4.1 GPA. She will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte,

majoring in English/Secondary Education. Josie has been a dedicated student-athlete throughout high school, earning her several awards including the “Team Before Self Award” in 2018. She also served as a recreational soccer coach for youth ages 6-13.

## Brynne McKillop, Union County



Brynne is a graduate of the Central Academy of Technology & Arts (CATA), with a 4.05 GPA. She will attend Western Carolina

University, majoring in Nursing. She was a part of the Color guard, Creative Writing Club, and Hands Helping Others in school, and also served as a volunteer at Atrium Health Union.

### Alexis Patterson, Union County



Alexis is a graduate of Weddington High School, with a 4.3 GPA. She will attend the University of North Carolina

at Wilmington, majoring in Special Education. She has worked with children with special needs at school, and through that work, has developed a passion for helping those in need. "I want to advocate for members of our society that may be overlooked and need someone in their corner," Alexis said.

### Maggie Thomas, Union County



Maggie is a graduate of Piedmont High School, with a 4.3 GPA. She will attend North Carolina State University and

plans to study Crop Biotechnology. Her goal is to make a difference in the agriculture field and the world by improving the environment and breaking the stigma and empowering other women to pursue careers in science.

### Sara Thomas, Union County



Sara is a graduate of Piedmont High School, with a 4.0 GPA. She will attend Appalachian State University and plans to study

Elementary Education. Sara played tennis and was a member of the Leo Club, International Club, the National Art Honor Society, and more.

### Madelyn Starr, Union County



Madelyn is a graduate of the Central Academy of Technology & Arts (CATA), with a 4.44 GPA. She will attend Elon

University, majoring in History. Madelyn is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. She also served as a Peer Tutor and volunteered with Relay for Life and the Union County Special Olympics.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!



## Educators: Apply Early for a Bright Ideas Grant and You Could Win \$100

It pays to apply early for a Bright Ideas education grant! Teachers who submit their grant application by the **Aug. 15** early bird deadline will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant from Union Power is **Sept. 15**.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is celebrating 25 years of making creative, innovative projects possible in North Carolina K-12 classrooms. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$12.2 million in Bright Ideas grant funding for nearly 11,700 projects benefiting 2.3 million North Carolina students.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



High school seniors can learn more or apply for the annually awarded scholarships online by visiting [union-power.com/collegescholarships](http://union-power.com/collegescholarships).



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Linemen Showcase Lifesaving Skills at Rodeo



**T**oday's lineman is a multi-talented professional working in a dangerous environment that requires consistent work practices and a constant focus on safety. With that in mind, linemen must learn to master a wide range of skills to not only perform their everyday duties, but also be readily prepared to act if a bystander or fellow lineman's life is on the line. A team of linemen from Union Power recently competed in the 17th Annual Gaff-N-Go Lineman's Rodeo – a competition that allows linemen to showcase many lifesaving skills essential in performing electrical line work.

The Gaff-N-Go Lineman's Rodeo is sponsored by member-owned electric cooperatives of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware and attracts some of the best linemen from cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, municipals, and contractors from all over the east coast to compete in traditional lineman tasks. But, this event isn't just about

showcasing skills and distinguishing the work of one electric utility from another. The rodeo also highlights the importance of teamwork in performing daily job duties.

Union Power's Chris Griffin, Justin Trull, Chris Short, Jason Helms, and Jacob Johnson were among 60 journeyman teams and individual apprentices who got a chance to showcase their skills. They participated in events such as The Hurt Man Rescue, where participants simulated an attempt to save the life of someone who has come into contact with an electrical line, the Climbing Skills Demonstration where each climber had to demonstrate the speed and skill needed to climb and maneuver around various obstacles while working safely, and other timed events that challenged their knowledge, agility, and ability to complete tasks as a team successfully.

Each lineman used their personal strength and expertise for the benefit

of the team and enjoyed the sense of pulling together to move forward through the competition.

"We all enjoyed participating in the rodeo as a team. It got to a point where you didn't just depend on yourself, but also your partner to get things done," Griffin said.

"Yes, it was interesting to see how we started and improved throughout the competition. We were all working towards a shared goal, and it took lots of coordination and cooperation to do that," Trull agreed.

The team competed in five events and placed seventh in the overall Journeyman competition. They look forward to returning next year and using what they learned this time around to take home the first place prize.

"Since this was our first time competing, we got a lot of ideas on how to strategize and work together better when we come back next year," Griffin said.

"We learned new ways of doing things," Short said. "We will take what we learned and apply it in the next competition."

The Gaff-N-Go Lineman's Rodeo is a great learning experience and reminder that working as a team to accomplish a common goal is what it takes to be successful in this line of work. The rodeo demonstrated that it takes hard work, focus, dedication, time, and most importantly, teamwork to get the job done.



Left to right: Josh Morrison, Justin Trull, Chris Griffin, Jacob Johnson, and Chris Short

# Supporting the Front Lines from Behind the Scenes

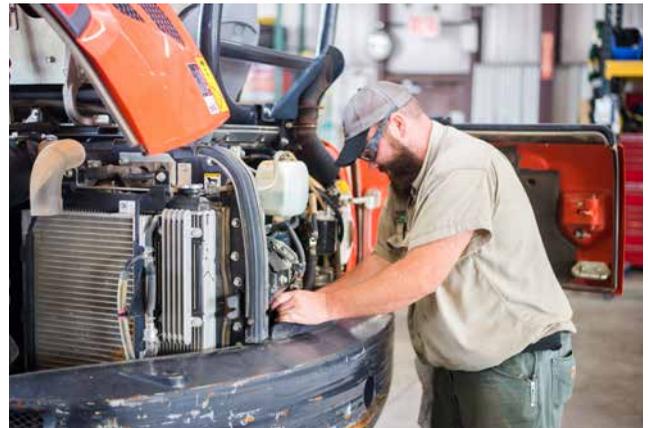
## Fleet Maintenance at Union Power Cooperative

**M**any people assume that when they flip a switch, the lights will turn on; and for most consumers, it is that simple—just a flip of a light switch. But a lot of behind-the-scenes work is necessary to produce the electricity we consume every day. We are familiar with the hard work and efforts of those who serve on the front lines to power our homes, but much of that service would be impossible without the on-going support and maintenance of tools, vehicles, and equipment used to provide members with safe, reliable electric power and energy services. One of the key components needed to ensure a reliable electric supply is reliable vehicles and equipment to service power lines and facilities – that’s where Union Power’s Fleet Maintenance department comes in.

Our Fleet Maintenance department is responsible for overseeing a fleet of 181 pieces of equipment which include vehicles, trenchers, excavators, forklifts, trailers, and generators. The team has the daunting day-to-day task of keeping this equipment in top operating condition throughout their entire life cycle. They handle everything from oil changes and regular preventative maintenance of equipment to breakdowns and repairs. They may have to repair fleet vehicles, troubleshoot power tools, or replace a broken part on a production machine. In addition, Fleet Maintenance oversees the acquisition of and replacement of fleet vehicles, equipment, and management of fuel operations.

Many are not aware of the vital role our Fleet Maintenance department plays in driving the day-to-day activities of the company. This is likely because Fleet Maintenance does not have direct interaction with the public, but rather serves our members and communities indirectly by providing all of the other service-providing departments with the vehicles they require to accomplish their respective tasks. Not only do our personnel work hard to keep the fleet in tip-top shape, they also go above and beyond the call of duty during emergencies.

Just last year, three severe storms – two hurricanes and an ice storm – hit and caused widespread outages for our members. Our fleet crew worked tirelessly to provide linemen with the transportation and equipment they needed to restore power across all areas of our service territory. And since we operate in a culture that is ever-ready for emergencies, once power was restored, crews and equipment were sent to support other co-ops in harder hit areas. Each crew worked on a seven-day, on-call rotation where they had to be readily prepared to be sent anywhere, at any time.



*Technician Trent Hinson*

Director of Fleet Maintenance Bobby Bryant emphasized the importance of ensuring that crews were always safe, had proper accommodations, and the support they needed to perform their duties efficiently.

Technician Trent Hinson, shared his experience of the team’s restoration efforts. “I was sent to Florida and Georgia. There was so much devastation. It was such a humbling experience and a sight to see. Even though I work on the fleet, I helped with anything that needed to be done – maintaining trucks, making repairs, clearing trees, directing traffic...anything,” Hinson said.

Many times, technicians will go into the field to make a repair. And, if a repair can be done safely and the parts can be transported there, the technician will fix it on-site. However, sometimes, that is not possible.

Technician Lane Helms shared a story about when he was called to Wilmington to fix a bucket truck that had broken down out in the field. What was normally an easy, three-hour trip, turned into nine hours due to the road conditions, road closures, and other destruction from the storm. When he arrived, it was 4 a.m., but he worked diligently to get the truck back up and running, and soon discovered it was unable to be fixed and had to be towed.

Although teams face increasingly complicated challenges, it’s the essentials that set the tone for the successful completion of their duties – teamwork, trust, collaboration, hard work, appreciation, and purpose.

We rely heavily on our Fleet Maintenance department to provide efficient and reliable service in the maintenance and repair of all co-op vehicles and transportation equipment. They supply us, especially those who work in the field, with the vehicles, equipment, and resources needed to do our jobs safely and in a timely manner.

Thank you to our Fleet Maintenance department for your dedication and the behind-the-scenes work you do!

# Notification and Assignment of Capital Credits for 2018

This is to certify that by virtue of its having received revenues in excess of expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018, each member of the Cooperative during the year 2018 has been credited on the books of the Cooperative, at its principal office in Monroe, with having furnished the Cooperative capital in an amount equal to the following percentage of each member's patronage during that year:

Source	Allocation %
General Allocation (Co-op)	7.008%
Generation & Transmission Allocation (G&T)	1.976%

The allocation percent set forth above applies to amounts billed for electric service during the year, and represents the member's share of the operating margin realized by the Cooperative during the year. The resulting amount has the same status as if it had been refunded to the member in cash and immediately returned by the member to the Cooperative as member-furnished capital.

**Example:**

Assume amounts billed to a member total \$1,000 for 2018, the Co-op capital credit allocation will be \$70.08 (\$1,000 x 0.07008) and the G&T capital credit allocation will be \$19.76 (\$1,000 x 0.01976).

A capital credit assignment is not cashable and it cannot be used as a credit on the member's electric bill. It is issued subject to all the terms and conditions as contained in the Cooperative's bylaws, both as presently worded and as may hereafter be duly adopted or amended.

## ALLERGIC TO POLLEN?

### UNION SERVICES CAN HELP.

Filter out potential allergy and asthma triggers (like pollen) throughout your entire home. The Trane CleanEffects™ system uses patented air cleaning technology to remove up to 99.98% of airborne allergens from the air that passes through the filter, such as:

- ✓ Pet hair and dander
- ✓ Most tobacco smoke
- ✓ Cooking grease
- ✓ Dust mites
- ✓ Dust and lint

- ✓ Bacteria
- ✓ Pollen
- ✓ Mildew
- ✓ Fungus



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# The Power of Power Strips



**P**hantom load, also known as standby power or vampire power, is the electricity consumed by an electronic device while it is turned off or in standby mode, yet is still plugged in. This type of “phantom” or standby power draw from plug loads accounts for 3 to 10% of all electric power consumption in the U.S. It is the power that maintains your TV settings and keeps the clock going on your microwave and other electronic devices – but this power can come at a price. A joint study between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and several other environmental agencies around the globe put that price at a full 10% of your monthly energy bill!

Many electronic products continue to draw power from the wall even when they are powered off. Advanced power strips, also referred to as smart strips, allow consumers to mitigate this increased electrical load by automatically interrupting power to controlled devices. Since it’s not always practical to unplug these items whenever they are not in use, “smart” power strips can effectively do so for you.

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*Many electronic products continue to draw power from the wall even when they are powered off.*

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## There are three types of “smart” power strips:

- **Timer-equipped** – These power strips have outlets that are controlled by programmable timers. Devices plugged into them can be scheduled to automatically turn off or on at designated times of day or night.
- **Occupancy sensing** – Occupancy sensing power strips have outlets that are controlled by a motion detector. Devices plugged into them can automatically turn off or on in response to your physical presence or after a user-defined period of time elapses (i.e., anywhere from 30 seconds to 60 minutes).
- **Current sensing** – These power strips can automatically turn several outlets off or on when they detect that a monitor (plugged into the “master outlet”) either enters a low-powered sleep mode, is turned off, or is turned on. When used in combination with monitor power management features, these power strips can turn just about any electric device off and on automatically.

Consider using “smart” power strips to reduce the power consumed by task lighting (lighting used for a specific activity), computer accessories, fans, space heaters, and other miscellaneous plug loads used throughout your home and workspaces. Over time, you’ll notice little changes make a lot of difference; save energy, save money!

Happy  
Independence  
Day

Our offices will  
be closed on  
Thursday, July 4,  
in observance of  
Independence Day.





## Right-of-way Clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood:  
ABC Professional Tree Service and Lewis Tree Service.

**Cabarrus County:** Asbury Rd, Backwoods Pond Ln, Biltmore Dr, Bullfrog Pl, Burlwood Rd, Cherrysford Ct, Edgar Ct, Edgefield Rd, Grady Harris Sr Rd, Heather Ln, Hickory Ridge Rd, Hwy 52, Julia Ct, Lower Rocky River Rd, Lucas Ct, Mattons Grove Church Rd, McMillian Dr, Mt Pleasant Rd S, Plantation Way, Quay Farm Ct, Robinson Church Rd, Rocky River Rd, Shoreview Dr, Short Cut Rd, Swan Dr

**Mecklenburg County:** Atrium Way, Aylesbury Ln, Ballards Pond Ln, Beaver Dam Ln, Bichhill Rd, Boxcar Ct, Brandonwood Ln, Burmester Ln, Camberwell Rd, Candalon Way, Canterway Dr, Chattanooga Ln, Chislehurst Rd, Club Car Ct, Clubhouse Ct, Cross Tie Ct, Danbrooke Park Dr, Ellesmere Ct, Errington Ln, Farm Oak Ln, Foxcrest Dr, Golden Spike Dr, Grand Junction Rd, Hitchgate Dr, Hounds Run Dr, Iron Horse Ct, Kale Ln, Keziah Rd, Kool Springs Dr, Kuck Rd, Lawyers Rd, Lawyers Station Dr, Lebanon Rd, Markus Dr, Minewood Ave, Morris Farm Ln, Oakwielde Ct, Old Oak Ln, Pine Lake Ln, Pitchfork Ln, Plashet Ln, Rice Rd, Roundhouse Circle, Saddlewood Ln, Sam Newell Rd, Santa Fe Ln, Surry

Ct, Thamesmead Ln, Topeka Dr, Truelight Church Rd, Williams Rd, Wooden Rail Ln

**Rowan County:** Hwy 52

**Stanly County:** Collie Rd, Hwy 49, Mattons Grove Church Rd, Wesley Chapel Rd

**Union County:** Haigler Gin Rd, Love Mill Rd, Morgan Mill Rd, Old Camden Rd, Piedmont School Rd, Tom Boyd Rd, Zebulon Williams Rd, Bonds Grove Church Rd, S Providence Rd, Alexis Dr, Beverly Dr, Brown Ln, Carol Ave, First Ave, Kennedy Dr, Lincoln Ct, Paula Ln, Plyler Rd, Reid Rd, Rose Dr, Second Ave, Third Ave, Tyson Rd, Unionville-Indian Trail Rd, Wampum Dr, Wikiup Dr, Woodhaven Ln, Younts Rd

For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call 704-289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The Cooperative Review newsletter is published monthly for the members and friends of Union Power Cooperative.

Greg Andress  
*Exec. Vice President & General Manager*

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