

# COOPERATIVE

## REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative

## Important Update: 2020 Board Election and Annual Membership Meeting

Last month we announced that due to safety concerns related to the pandemic, there would be a change to the format of this year's board election and annual meeting. There will be no in-person meeting this year, and the business portion of our annual meeting will be held virtually on **Saturday, Oct. 10**. Make plans to join us virtually! More details on the business meeting will be mailed to you and will be available in the October issue of our newsletter. More information about this year's board election and voting process can be found below.



### 2020 Board Election

The 2020 Union Power Cooperative Board Election will begin on **Sept. 7 and end at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7**. We have contracted a third party, Survey and Ballot Systems, to conduct this year's election in advance of our annual meeting. Instead of in-person voting, members will be mailed an election packet and instructed to vote by either mailing in a paper ballot or casting their vote on a secure site online.

#### Why should I vote?

Part of the value of being a member of Union Power Cooperative is the opportunity to participate in the annual election of our board of directors and choose our cooperative's leadership.

#### When do I vote?

Voting will open **Monday, Sept. 7, and close Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m. EDT**. Please follow the instructions for casting your vote included in the voting information packet.

#### How do I vote?

Members will receive a ballot by mail. Members who have shared an email address with the cooperative will also receive an electronic mail ballot.

##### ■ Vote by Mail

If you choose to vote by mail-in ballot, you should return the ballot in the provided postage-paid envelope and send it directly to Survey and Ballot Systems. To ensure your vote is counted, **please do not send in your ballot with your bill or bring the ballot to your local office.**

##### ■ Vote Electronically

Follow the instructions in your voting packet for accessing the secure online link and place your vote.

If you have not received an electronic mail ballot or a mail-in ballot by Sept. 21, please contact Survey and Ballot Systems by email at [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net) or call our office at 704-289-3145. To be eligible to vote, you must be an active member by 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2020.



## Considering Driving Electric?

National Drive Electric Week 2020 is Sept. 26-Oct. 4, and Union Power is joining a nationwide celebration to highlight the many benefits of driving electric.

Electric vehicles (EVs) have a lot to offer. They are fun to drive, with faster acceleration and a more responsive, zippy feel behind the wheel. Powering a car with electricity is cheaper than powering it with gas, so they cost less to run. Electric vehicles are also convenient. Most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station, and they also tend to have fewer parts, which means less maintenance and no oil changes. They also contribute to a brighter

environmental and economic future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and supporting local commerce and tourism.

Union Power is taking steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. We are partnering with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to easily travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities.



Our cooperative also offers special opportunities for loans, rebates, and rates to EV drivers, including ElecTel's low-interest EV loan, a Nissan Leaf Rebate, and more. If you're considering driving electric, please contact one of our energy specialists at 704-289-3145 for more information or visit [union-power.com/electricvehicles](https://union-power.com/electricvehicles).

This network includes the Level 2 charging stations we have installed at our corporate office in Monroe.



Attention, teachers! The deadline to apply for a grant is **September 18**.

Applications are accepted from teachers in many disciplines, including music, art, history, reading, science, technology and math.

To learn more and apply, visit [union-power.com/brightideas](https://union-power.com/brightideas).



## Check Out Union Power's Electric Vehicle (EV) Resources

As your electric power and energy services provider, we strive to be your source of power and information – that means we want to ensure that members have the knowledge and tools they need to make decisions that will benefit them. And, since electric vehicles are rapidly growing in popularity and more members are driving electric, Union Power offers several resources to help make owning an EV convenient and budget-friendly.

### We offer tools that will help members answer important questions, such as:

1. Is an EV right for me?
2. What is the difference between a Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid EV (PHEV), and Battery EV (BEV)?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of operating an EV?
4. What incentives are available when purchasing or operating an EV?
5. How can my electric cooperative help me?

An Electric Vehicle Calculator is one of many resources that allow members to compare their gas-powered vehicles with various plug-in and hybrid EVs to understand the difference in monthly costs and savings. Members can access this feature by visiting [union-power.com/energysavingcalculators](https://union-power.com/energysavingcalculators).

Another helpful resource is Union Power's NC Drive Electric Dashboard. This tool gives members a look into the bigger picture of how driving electric impacts their overall savings, the environment, and more! This site also provides information about special rates, tax credits, loans, and rebates available to electric co-op members who own and operate EVs. Members can access this tool by visiting [ncdriveelectric.com/unionpower](https://ncdriveelectric.com/unionpower).

For more information and other EV resources, visit [union-power.com/electricvehicles](https://union-power.com/electricvehicles) to help determine if driving electric is right for you!

# Places Members Can Go for Assistance

**U**nion Power understands the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on many households and businesses in our community may last for months to come, and we remain committed to helping those who need it. As your electric cooperative, we care about our members and want to do all we can to help make the transition back to normal operating procedures as easy as possible.

Union Power has always been dedicated to helping members manage their energy use and this effort is more important now than ever as many continue to feel the impacts of the pandemic. We continually encourage members to take advantage of our free and easy-to-use

energy resources to help manage their energy use and discover ways to lower their energy bills. Visit the *Energy Center* at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) to learn more!

As another resource, we have compiled a list of local assistance agencies that may be able to provide financial assistance.

All County Department of Social Services offers utility payment assistance through the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Crisis Intervention Program (CIP). Please contact your County's Department of Social Services for more information about these programs.

## Local Assistance Agencies

### **Cabarrus**

#### **Cabarrus County Department of Social Services**

1303 S. Cannon Blvd.  
Kannapolis, NC 28083  
704-920-1400

#### **Cooperative Christian Ministries**

246 Country Club Drive NE.  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-786-4709

#### **Harrisburg Crisis Assistance Ministry**

7940 Rocky River Road  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-957-8629

#### **The Salvation Army of Cabarrus & Stanly Counties**

216 Patterson Avenue SE.  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-782-7822

### **Mecklenburg Community Link**

601 E 5th St. Unit 220  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
704-943-9490

#### **Matthews Help Center**

119 N. Ames St.  
Matthews, NC 28105  
704-847-8383

#### **Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services**

301 Billingsley Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
704-336-3000

#### **Mecklenburg County Crisis Assistance Ministry**

500-A Spratt St.  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
704-371-3001

#### **The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte**

4015 Stuart Andrew Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28217  
704-716-2769

### **Rowan**

#### **Rowan County Department of Social Services**

1813 E. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28146  
704-216-8330

#### **Rowan Helping Ministries**

226 N. Long St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
704-637-6838

#### **Salvation Army**

620 Bringle Ferry Road  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
704-636-6491

### **Stanly**

#### **Esther House of Stanly County, Inc. (Concord)**

300 Copperfield Blvd., Suite 204  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-721-0018

#### **Esther House of Stanly County, Inc. (Albemarle)**

313 N. Second St.  
Albemarle, NC 28002  
704-961-7502

#### **Stanly County Department of Social Services**

1000 N. First St., Suite 2  
Albemarle, NC 28001  
704-982-6100

#### **Stanly County Christian Ministries**

506 S. First St.  
Albemarle, NC 28001  
704-982-7915

#### **The Salvation Army of Cabarrus & Stanly Counties**

216 Patterson Ave., SE.  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-782-7822

#### **West Stanly Christian Ministries**

100 S. Love Chapel Road  
Stanfield, NC 28163  
704-888-6406

### **Union**

#### **Common Heart**

116 Business Park Drive  
Indian Trail, NC 28079  
704-218-9060

#### **Community Shelter of Union County**

160 Meadow St.  
Monroe, NC 28110  
704-289-5300

#### **Operation Reach Out**

1308 Miller St.  
Monroe, NC 28110  
704-289-4237

#### **Servant's Heart Community of Mint Hill**

9229 N. Lawyers Road  
Mint Hill NC 28227  
704-680-6533 Ext. 4

#### **Union County Community Action CARES NC Program**

1401 Roosevelt Blvd., Suite H  
Monroe NC 28110  
704-283-7583

#### **Union County Crisis Assistance Ministry**

1333 W. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Monroe, NC 28110  
704-225-0400

#### **Union County Department of Social Services**

2330 Concord Ave.  
Monroe, NC 28110  
704-296-4300



# Protect Yourself Against Scams

Recently there has been an uptick in reports of incidents involving people posing as utility workers, by phone, and in person. Take steps to ensure you avoid all types of threats that could put your physical or financial well-being in jeopardy.

## Phone Scams

Some electric co-op members and customers of other utilities have received telephone calls from scam artists demanding immediate credit card payment to avoid disconnection of service. Union Power urges members to use extra caution if they're contacted and asked for personal information over the phone. If you are not certain a call is coming from Union Power, do not provide any personal or banking information. Union Power recommends asking the caller to verify the member's account number, or simply hang up and call Union Power's customer service department at 704-289-3145.

## In-Person Scams

There are ways to verify if a utility worker showing up at your home is a Union Power employee. Union Power recommends you always ask for company identification. All Union Power employees, and employees working for companies contracted by Union Power, carry company-issued photo identification and can provide this information immediately.

On occasion, Union Power employees, may be dispatched to a member's home for unscheduled routine maintenance. At no time should a Union Power employee need to come into your home to make repairs.



## To help you identify legitimate Union Power employees, look for:

- Marked truck with Union Power logos on the doors and/or on the front tag.
- Uniforms consisting of khaki-colored shirts with a Union Power patch on the left-hand side and navy blue pants.
- Ask for photo identification

You can never be too careful when it comes to your personal and financial safety. Protect yourself – if you have questions about who you're talking to, call our office at 704-289-3145.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

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



# Get ready for the season of change!

*The leaves are falling, and  
your new system installation  
is calling.*

Stay cozy this fall—contact Union Services  
to get your new Trane heating and cooling  
system today.



**704-283-9047**  
**[savewithunion.com](http://savewithunion.com)**



## Make Your Voice Heard

September 22 is recognized as National Voter Registration Day, and we are encouraging all Union Power members to make their voices heard! Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

### Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and your quality of life. If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns; you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Union Power board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [nationalvoterregistrationday.org](https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org).

### Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Union Power board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure that we are in sync with the community that we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot, and get out and vote!



# Right-of-Way Clearing

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

**Union County:** Amanda Dr, Antioch Ch Rd, Baron Rd, Beulah Church Rd, Birchaven Dr, Blanchard Circle, Bounty Ct, Brandy Courts, Brookhollow Ct, Broxburn Ln, Cari Ln, Cedar Bend, Cedar Hill Dr, Chickadee Ct, Cottonfield Circle, Cox Rd, Crane Rd, Curling Creek Dr, Deal Rd, Deercross Ln, Eagle Rd, Elderberry Ct, Fincher Rd, Forest Lawn Dr, Forest Ridge Rd, Fox Run Rd, Foxbridge Dr, Foxtton Rd, Garden View Ln, Gatewood Ln, Glen Oaks Dr, Glynwater Ln, Goldmine Rd, Gramercy Dr, Greenbrook Pkwy, Greenhurst Ln, Hartis Grove Church Rd, Horn Tassel Ct, Horseshoe Bend, Houston Dr, Howey Bottoms Rd, Hudson Church Rd, Hunting Creek Dr, Huntington Dr, Indian Trail Fairview Rd, Ivy Pond Ln, Jim Parker Rd, Kirby Ln, Maple Grove Church Rd, Matthews Weddington Rd, Mellon Rd, Michelle Dr, New Town Rd, Old Barn Dr, Pecan Orchard Dr, Perry Pond Dr, Pilgrim Forest Dr, Pioneer Ln, Potter Rd, Quail Ridge Ln, Rea Rd, Red Fox Trail, Reid Dairy Rd, Ridge Rd, Rock Ridge Pass, Saddle Horn Trail, Sandbox Circle, Skytop Rd, Squash Harvest Ct, Stoneybrook Ct, Timber Ln, Twelve Mile Creek Rd, Twin Cedars Dr, Underwood Rd, Vintage Creek Dr, W Lawyers Rd, Walden Ln, Water Oak Ln, Waxhaw Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Hills Dr, Weddington Matthews Rd, Weddington Rd, Wesley Chapel Rd, Will Helms Rd, Winding Ln



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), Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291), or Ted Connell (ext. 3320). 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 &  
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