

# Cooperative Review

JULY 2023



## The 1950s: A Decade of Building

Through the years, Union Electric Membership Corporation continued to grow, and in January 1950, the cooperative moved into a new headquarters building and facility on Patton Avenue in Monroe. At that time, Union EMC served 5,500 members and employed 22 workers. The new facility afforded ample space for all equipment, the garage and warehouse area adequately stored all trucks and materials, and there was plenty of office space. It even included an electric kitchen for demonstration purposes.

One Friday night in September 1952, 75 Home Demonstration Club members were on hand to see the demonstration of pies and meringues given in the co-op's kitchen by Mrs. Jewel Fessenden, food specialist with the Extension Service. During Mrs. Fessenden's two-hour demonstration, she showed the ladies how to make three different pies.

Members in Stanly, Rowan, and Cabarrus counties saw system improvements being made in their area in the early 1950s. These improvements included the building of new line, the installation of a new substation in the New London area of Stanly County, and the addition of new circuits to enable better voltage, fewer outages, and reduced outage time.

Three additional substations were energized during November and December 1954, which provided co-op members with stronger voltage and better service. This was part of the co-op's system improvement plans which called



Union Electric Membership Corporation  
Patton Avenue Office in 1950

for the installation of heavier feeder lines, regulators, oil circuit reclosers, and in general, heaving up the whole co-op system. This was necessary as new members were added and there was a greater demand by the members already connected.

In 1958, two new substations were built, one in Cabarrus County

and the other in Union County. Plans included building more 44 kV line, and upgrading three existing substations.

Stay tuned as we continue to explore the history of Union Power.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

## The Power of a Cooperative Membership

At Union Power, it is important to give back to our local communities, especially through our educational programs such as Bright Ideas, Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships, college scholarships, and other community-focused efforts. This year, the cooperative awarded 10 \$1,000 college scholarships to students to help build a brighter future in attending a North Carolina-accredited university or community college. The following students have met the criteria and have made an extraordinary impact in their schools and local communities.



### Jackson Nash - Union County

Jackson is a graduate of Parkwood High School with a 4.2 GPA. He plans to study Exercise Science during his undergraduate years and pursue the psychical therapy program at Wingate University.

Jackson is involved in National Beta Club and National Honor Society. In addition to his achievements, he gives back to his community by volunteering through local organizations.



### Matthew Furr - Stanly County

Matthew is a graduate of West Stanly High School with a 4.1 GPA. He plans to study Mechanical Engineering at UNC Charlotte and get his PE (Professional Engineer). Matthew is involved in various clubs, including

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Debate, National Honors Society, Trash Cleanup, and Skills USA. After completing college, Matthew intends to stay local to find employment.



### Riley Hall - Union County

Riley is a Cuthbertson High School graduate with a 4.3 GPA. She plans to study Fashion & Textile Management at NC State. Her motivation to studying this field is to change the design of clothing so that it

does not negatively impact the environment.



### Abigail Burnette - Stanly County

Abigail graduated from Gray Stone Day School with a 4.5 GPA. She plans to attend NC State to study Mechanical Engineering. Her desire to pursue this field came from her experience on the family farm and her agriculture classes.



### **Addison Sepesi - Cabarrus County**

Addison is a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School with a 4.6 GPA. She plans to study Environmental Science at UNC Wilmington. Addison was on the volleyball and swim teams. She is also involved in various school

activities and community clubs.



### **Isabella McGee - Stanly County**

Isabella is a North Stanly High School graduate with a 4.6 GPA. She is also enrolled at Stanly Community College as a dual enrollment student earning her associate degree. She plans to study Nursing at Appalachian State University

or UNC Chapel Hill.



### **Mattie Poulos - Stanly County**

Mattie is a South Stanly High School graduate with a 3.7 GPA. She plans to study at Caldwell Community College and earn her Associate degree in Science to have a strong foundation as she dives deeper into Veterinary

Animal Science. Receiving this degree will help her better understand animals and assist their owners in proper care.



### **Madeline Young - Union County**

Madeline is a graduate of Porter Ridge High School with a 4.2 GPA. She plans to attend Western Carolina University to study Criminal Justice. After college, she plans to attend law school to serve her community

and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. Her desire to study this field came from two classes; Public Safety and Law and Justice.



### **Ava Torres - Cabarrus County**

Ava is a graduate of Northwest Cabarrus High School with a 4.2 GPA. She plans to study Nursing at Appalachian State University. After college, she plans to become a Nurse Practitioner as she is passionate about

helping those in need and putting others before herself. With a career in Nursing, she knows she can positively influence the lives of her patients.



### **Andrea Furr - Stanly County**

Andrea is a graduate of Gray Stone Day School with a 4.2 GPA. She plans to attend Brevard College to study Biology and play collegiate softball. After graduation, she plans to work with marine animals and continue to

further her education. Andrea is a well-rounded student who served as softball team captain for four years and played basketball and volleyball.



To learn more about all of our educational programs, visit [union-power.com/educational-programs](https://union-power.com/educational-programs).



# Brighten Your Home Through Smart Lighting

**H**ow we light our homes has improved over decades, from flipping a switch to today's era—smart lighting is becoming very popular and convenient for illuminating our homes. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

- **Energy Efficient:** Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, resulting in less energy usage for lighting.
- **Convenience and Control:** Most smart bulbs can be controlled through an app on your smartphone or paired with a voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. As a result, you can conveniently manage your lighting settings anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether setting a lighting schedule or adjusting brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control.
- **Empower Your Home Lighting:** Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help soothe the room. For example, to make a perfect movie night setting, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for various vibrant, cooling colors.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, remember your wall light switch must stay “on” to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider purchasing a smart light switch. A smart lighting switch is useful, especially if you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch

(in addition to using your phone and voice commands). If you want to integrate multiple smart bulbs into your home lighting system, consider purchasing a kit like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools needed to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great

starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures plugged into a wall outlet. In addition, smart plugs are inexpensive and simple to install; plug into any existing outlet and connect to the app!

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options, or better ways to manage your energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits of bringing comfort to your home.



“The Bright Ideas application process was very straightforward.

We appreciate that Union Power has a wonderful focus on our local community.

We are so thankful for our new outdoor amphitheater, and would encourage any educator to apply.”

*Carina Brossy*  
ARBORBROOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



 **APPLY NOW**



# Notification and Assignment of Capital Credits for 2022

This is to certify that by virtue of its having received revenues in excess of expenses for the year ended December 31, 2022, each member of the cooperative during the year 2022 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)	3.326%
Generation & Transmission Allocation (G&T)	1.946%

The allocation percentages set forth above apply to amounts billed for electric service during the year, and represent the member's share of the allocable 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 2022, the co-op capital credit allocation will be \$33.26 ( $\$1,000 \times 0.03326$ ) and the G&T capital credit allocation will be \$19.46 ( $\$1,000 \times 0.01946$ ).

A capital credit allocation 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.



A large graphic with a green-tinted background image of a fair or festival. The text "Save the date" is written in a large, white, cursive font at the top. Below it, "ANNUAL MEETING" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the date "10.07.23" is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font. A white rectangular box contains the text "UNIONPOWERCOOPERATIVE/ANNUAL MEETING" in a small, black, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code with the Union Power Cooperative logo. In the bottom right corner, the "Union Power Cooperative" logo is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font.





Warehouse Clerks, Andy Burr and Kevin Kizer

## Managing the Supply Chain

**T**he warehouse team at Union Power Cooperative often plays an important, critical role in providing for our members and our cooperative. While most of their work is done behind the scenes, their work ensures the smooth flow of operations, from managing inventory, and facilitating the repair and maintenance of infrastructure, to enabling quick response during power outages. Our warehouse team is committed to helping our members and all departments, as they are a true representation of Union Power's mission.

The warehouse team performs several duties for our cooperative. They first ensure that the construction crews, linemen, and contractors have all the materials they need to complete a job. They are also responsible for organizing and accounting for all materials in the pole yard and keeping the warehouse stocked with supplies and equipment.

As they perform their everyday duties, our team goes above and beyond to provide reliable service to our members. They must load and unload the supplies and equipment carefully, as they are not easy to replace, and ensure the warehouse is well-equipped with material, especially during storms.

The team likes to stay ahead and be proactive, especially when facing supply-chain challenges. Our linemen can't build the jobs and make the repairs unless we have the supplies and equipment needed to get the job done. Inventory is important to our cooperative; you may wonder what happens when the supply is unavailable.

When we work together with other NC cooperatives to purchase supplies, we can reap the benefits of better pricing and a wider range of products. This is done through Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA), which supplies materials needed for NC cooperatives to operate. Andy Burr, warehouse clerk, states, "Having the right amount of materials and other resources, means our members' power can be repaired quickly and reduce downtime."

The service our members have come to expect is largely thanks to these dedicated individuals whose work may be behind the scenes, but the impact resonates in every home Union Power serves.



Warehouse Clerk Joey Wittman



# Dive Into Efficiency With Union Power

**E**veryone wants to save money, especially sitting by the pool and soaking up the sun, but don't worry; your local cooperative has you covered in providing resources and tools for some much-needed relaxation in your backyard paradise. Owning a pool doesn't have to be expensive, time-consuming, or a huge waste of energy. Take a minute to soak up these tips to improve your pool's energy efficiency.

## Practice Regular Pool Maintenance

- **Keep filters, skimmers, and baskets clear of debris.** Clogged filters force pool pumps to work even harder to circulate water. The cleaner you keep your pool, the less filtration is required. Try to keep a goal to filter all the water once daily.
- **Invest in a pool cover when your pool is not in use.** Swimming pools lose energy in numerous ways, but evaporation is the largest source of energy loss. Covering a pool when it's not in use effectively reduces water loss through evaporation and saves up to 50%–70% on your pool heating costs.

## Consider using a pool pump with energy efficient variable speeds

Pool pumps are vital to performing many functions in your pool. Knowing and understanding what type of pool pump you have and how they function is essential in saving you money. There are three types of pumps: single-speed, two-speed, and variable-speed.

- **Single-speed** pool pumps operate at only one speed to power all pool functions—even those that do not require as much power. Single-speed pumps, by design, can't change their flow rate, so they must be sized correctly to perform.

- **Two-speed** pool pumps operate at only two-speed choices; full-speed (100%) or half-speed (50%). They are designed for only two-speed because it is difficult to fine-tune the flow rates required for maximum energy savings. However, when running at half-speed, the pump can provide significant energy savings while still having the ability to run at full speed when more water flow is needed.
- **Variable-speed** pool pumps operate over various speeds and can be “dialed in” to the specific speeds needed for different functions such as basic circulation, heating, spa use, etc. These pumps allow homeowners to achieve the ideal filtration flow rate with the least energy consumption. If you set your pump to the lowest speed at night to maintain healthy filtration, use the other speeds when cleaning or heating.

## Optimize Pump Time

Setting your pool pump on a timer can become very convenient and helpful, especially if you are busy or always away. We recommend putting pool pumps on timers for 8-10 hours daily run times, depending on the pool size, to help circulate the water. We also recommend setting your pump and system to run during the late evening/early morning hours to save energy.



Consult with your pool company to determine the recommended hours of pump runtime to keep your pool clean. The key to a successful pool is routine and consistent hours.





# Right-of-Way Clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood: Vendors: Lewis Tree Service, Lucas Tree Experts, and Xylem Inc.

**Union County:** Army Rd, Fish Rd, Hwy 205, Old Kennedy Ford Rd, Olivia Ct

**Stanly County:** Brenda Rd, Coley Store Rd, Mission Church Rd, Oscar Rd, Ridgecrest Rd, Austin Rd, Jacob Rd, Deerfield Ln, Five Point Rd, Herrin Grove Rd, Lewis Rd, Barrier Store Rd, Brownhill Rd, Griffin Hill Dr, Nance Rd, Pine Bluff Rd, Liberty Hill Church Rd, Lakewood Rd, Trailblazers Rd, Hwy 24-27, Friendly Dr, Sam Rd, Bethlehem Church Rd, Chapel Rd, Cross Rd, George Rd, Ingold School Rd, NC Hwy 138, Northern Rd, Tyson Rd, Union Grove Rd, Western Rd, Frog Pond Rd, Hazard Rd, Luther Rd, McLester Rd, St Martin Rd, Stony Run Village Rd

**Rowan County:** Duck Pond Rd, New London Rd, River Rd, Stokes Ferry Rd

For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree pruning practices, please call Wil Ortiz at 704-289-3145 (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291).



Visit [union-power.com/vegetation-management/crew-locations](https://union-power.com/vegetation-management/crew-locations) for monthly right-of-way clearing updates and information on our programs.



As a Union Power Cooperative member, you agree to: Comply with all aspects of the service agreement and agree to be bound by the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and Furnish, without cost to the cooperative, all necessary distribution easements, and rights-of-way.

*In observance of*  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
*our offices will be closed*  
**07.04.23**

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE 24/7 BY PHONE OR ONLINE AT [UNION-POWER.COM](https://union-power.com)

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE, CALL 1-800-794-4423



**UnionPower**  
**Cooperative**

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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