



## Powering through the storm



The past year and a half has been a challenging time for all of us. Not just here in central North Carolina, but across the world. In March 2020, when the pandemic

first began, it was almost unthinkable that we would still be sorting through the aftermath in September 2021. But here we are today, 2021 quickly coming to a close soon, and we are still dealing with the impacts of COVID.

Despite all of the challenges and uncertainties, as your local, trusted energy cooperative, we have been working hard to be there for you, our members. We understand the importance of community. It is vital to our business model and a core component of what we stand for.

Once again this year, we are using a different format for our Annual Meeting of the Members, coming up right around the corner next month. During the planning phase of the meeting, there were still restrictions and future concerns over hosting large events due to the lingering impact of COVID-19. Rather than risk the safety of our members and employees, the decision was made to host a “virtual-only” meeting again this year.

While we are disappointed to not be able to see our members at the Civic Center, we are excited about the opportunity to bring the co-op to you in your home once again this year.

Each of you are an important part of our co-op community, and the meeting serves as our way to keep you up-to-date on how we are working hard for you, each and every day. Be sure to read through the meeting information included with the magazine this month, and also register your participation in the meeting by submitting either an online or mail-in voting ballot. We look forward to hopefully seeing you again in person next year, and be sure to tune in to the live stream on Oct. 1 at 10 a.m.

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If the last two years have taught us anything, it's that “being prepared for the unexpected storms” is critical. We at Central Electric are no strangers to difficult situations. Being on the frontlines during a crisis is something we are very used to, as we have responded to countless ice, snow, and major hurricane storms but recently we've all been facing an unexpected storm, one that caught us all completely off guard.

Even though at certain moments it may still be hard to see, hopefully we are getting ever closer to the full return of normalcy. We all know the old saying that the light at the end of the tunnel could in fact be a freight train coming our way, but I choose to remain hopeful and believe that there is in fact an end in sight, no matter how far away it may sometimes seem at times.

When we look back at this moment in time, I hope one thing shines through, how we all came together to get through it. Community is important and that is what the co-op is all about. Your co-op has been here for you from the start, and we're still here for you today, just as we will be tomorrow.

*Edward B. Oldham*