



Published for Member/Owners of **EnergyUnited**

# connect

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## Safety Matters at EnergyUnited!

At EnergyUnited, we believe that in a culture of safety, information sharing is a powerful tool, and electricity and safety should go hand-in-hand. We place safety as a priority in all that we say and do.

Our linemen and other employees are required to participate in safety training sessions throughout the year. They are encouraged to report “near misses” so that we can all learn from potential dangerous situations, both in the field and in our offices. In 2015, we participated in a voluntary safety inspection with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and received excellent feedback. We also exceeded expectations during our third party safety professional inspection visit last fall. There is no doubt that there is a commitment to safety at EnergyUnited.

We strive to inform our members of all ages about electric safety in their homes, at work, at school and at play. Electricity is a convenience in our modern lives, but many people take it for granted. As a part of our commitment to safety, we want to remind members of the importance of respecting electricity. Education, awareness and a basic knowledge of electrical safety practices can help keep your family and home safe from electrical hazards. It is the key to preventing unnecessary accidents and fires.

We also focus on safety awareness in our community. We offer safety demonstrations for schools, community groups, first responders and the general public. If you would like to schedule a safety demonstration or would like more information on our safety programs, please contact Scott Cook, safety manager, at 1-800-522-3793 or [scott.cook@energyunited.com](mailto:scott.cook@energyunited.com).

EnergyUnited knows that safety must be a priority in all that we do. The safety of our employees and members is paramount. As we continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy services to nearly 124,000 metering points across 19 counties in North Carolina, we will always consider our core value of safety

a priority. During the month of May, which is National Electrical Safety Month, and throughout the year, we encourage members to review the safety tips below as they will help you avoid injury:

1. Just because a power line is down does not mean it is dead. Whether caused by a storm or a car accident, a fallen power line is dangerous. Stay far away, instruct others to stay away and call 911 or your electric utility immediately.
2. Don't step into a flooded basement if there is a chance that flood waters may be in contact with outlets or electrical cords. The waters of a flooded basement may be energized with electricity.
3. Water and electrical equipment don't mix. Replace any appliance damaged by water because it is unsafe to use, and never use electrical equipment in wet conditions, like when it is raining or the ground is wet.
4. Extension cords should never be used permanently and are created for temporary use only. When using them for a permanent solution, they can overheat and cause fires.
5. Take care of electrical cords. Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled. Check cords occasionally for damage. Replace them when necessary.
6. Always call 811 before any digging project. You don't know the precise location of utilities that are buried beneath the ground, so always have your utilities marked, so you know where it is safe to dig.

Be a part of a safer, smarter world. We provide safety tips in member and employee newsletters, on Facebook and Twitter and in our bill inserts.

## Committee on Nominations to Name Board Candidates

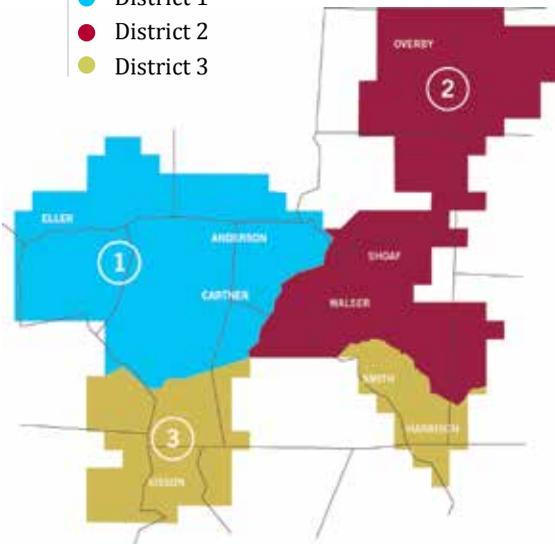
In preparation for the upcoming director elections, the EnergyUnited board of directors has chosen a committee on nominations. The committee will meet at 6:00PM on Monday, June 6, 2016, at the EnergyUnited Education Center in Mocksville, NC.

The committee on nominations will nominate candidates in all three directorate districts. Nominations may also be made by petition and must be received by Thursday, June 9, 2016. Detailed information may be found in the EnergyUnited bylaws, located on our website, EnergyUnited.com.

Names of candidates will be posted at the cooperative's principle office and will appear in the August issue of the Connect newsletter.

As we are a democratically-controlled electric cooperative, we offer each of our members the opportunity to vote in the board of directors election. Ballots will be distributed at the beginning of August and will be due by Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Look for more information about the election in the July issue of *Connect*.

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3



### DISTRICT 1

**Jerry Ratledge**  
143 Fred Lanier Road  
Mocksville, NC 27028  
336-492-5572

**Johnny Towell**  
408 Stroud Mill Road  
Harmony, NC 28634  
336-492-7707

**Carl Swanson**  
3646 Falls Road  
Moravian Falls, NC 28654  
336-921-2166

### DISTRICT 2

**Neal Motsinger**  
199 Disher Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
336-764-0350

**Vinnon Williams**  
101 Warrior Way  
Lexington, NC 27295  
336-956-3672

**Thomas Shore**  
2331 Rosebud Road  
Walnut Cove, NC 27052  
336-591-7189

### DISTRICT 3

**Charles Johnson**  
1805 Shiptontown Road  
Lexington, NC 27292  
336-746-5915

**Neal Wilfong**  
310 Cook Road  
Cleveland, NC 27013  
704-278-4922

**Reta Berman**  
10230 Vixen Lane  
Huntersville, NC 28078  
704-892-4867

## Congratulations to Our Winners!

Bonnie Cobb, of Woodleaf, NC, and Charles Craig, of Stanley, NC, are the winners of our "Dinner and a Movie for Two" giveaway! Members who added their email address to their account by February 15 were entered into a drawing to win. Additionally, members who had already submitted their contact information were entered into a separate drawing.

When we met with Bonnie to deliver her prize and take her picture for the newsletter, she shared that she and her husband now live in the home her parents lived in back in the 1960s, also as members of EnergyUnited. They live so close to the energy service boundary line that Duke Energy services the house next door. We enjoy hearing stories from our members about their families' history in our service area.



*Congrats*  
**Bonnie Cobb &  
Charles Craig**

Bonnie Cobb, one of our giveaway winners



## Safety is Our Top Priority

At EnergyUnited, the safety of our members and our employees is a driving force behind how we operate. In addition to providing you with reliable and affordable energy, we are always making efforts to ensure that we are looking out for your safety as well.

It is so important to us, in fact, that we have designated safety as one of our cooperative's four core values. It states, "We are committed to protecting the safety of our employees, members and the communities we serve. To achieve this, we provide ongoing training for our employees and create a safety culture that promotes awareness that safety is a top priority."

Last year, we participated in a voluntary safety inspection with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We received excellent feedback and were happy to confirm that we have the correct standards in place to keep our employees safe in the workplace.

In 2015, we also completed a Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) safety audit. Our results showed that our facilities and vehicles are well-maintained with safety at the forefront, and our employees correctly answered important compliance questions. Participating in this audit gives us insight into how to continue to build upon the successes of our safety culture and ensure that we continue to mitigate the risk for incidents throughout our work environment.

I recently gave a presentation to our employees about the state of the cooperative, outlining some of our successes of 2015 and our areas of focus for 2016. Included in that presentation was the announcement that we are implementing a new safety-focused program for our employees called "Speak Up/Listen Up!" This program will give employees simple tools for delivering and receiving safety-related feedback effectively.

At EnergyUnited, we believe that by putting an emphasis on safety in our offices, and ingraining it in the minds of our employees, it will allow us to better serve you, our members, by providing you with a cooperative that has a culture of safety from the ground up.

We are committed to continuing to provide you with electrical safety tips in our newsletter and social media. We look forward to continuing our efforts to make EnergyUnited as safe as possible for both our employees and members throughout the rest of the year, and beyond.

**Memorial Day**

EnergyUnited offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in recognition of Memorial Day.

**BRIGHT IDEAS**

Accepting applications from K-12 teachers now through September 16. For more information go to:

[EnergyUnited.com/bright-ideas](http://EnergyUnited.com/bright-ideas)

**Save the DATE**

**Our Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 5:30pm at Statesville Civic Center.

## Vegetation Management: Enhance Sustainability and Reliability

EnergyUnited is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to our members while protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats. A reliable source of electricity is essential to the safety, security, economy and welfare of our great nation and the communities where we live and work every day. In today's environment, utilities must be proactive and maintain an aggressive vegetation management program.

Our goal and objectives for the right-of-way (ROW) are the maintenance and stabilization of early-successional (low growing) ecological communities that compete with tall growing vegetation and maintaining diverse vegetation communities within the ROW corridor. In fact, a well-managed ROW corridor can act as a greenway and can actually recreate ecosystems necessary for the survival of many rare plants and plants that have been designated by the federal government as endangered. Wildlife experts often commend the cooperative on its integrated vegetation management program.

The selective use of herbicides has allowed our cooperative to control the undesirable undergrowth from growing into the power lines and causing a power interruption, while at the same time allowing grasses, forbs, legumes, vines, wildflowers and shrubs to flourish. With the return of the low-growing plant community comes increased food and cover for wildlife habitat such as deer, wild turkey, field mice, rabbits, songbirds, butterflies and bees. The bees, butterflies, beetles and small mammals pollinate the plants and flowers, which is essential for

our food supply and the beautiful landscapes that we enjoy every day.

EnergyUnited will continue to seek to achieve environmental excellence through the maintenance of all distribution and transmission facilities. Our cooperative will continue to be an environmental leader in our industry – protecting and enhancing the environment for today and future generations by promoting environmental stewardship through our employees.



North Carolina Pollinator Week: June 20, 2016 – June 26, 2016

We appreciate your cooperation in supporting our vegetation management program. By working together, we can help control the cost of your electric service, reduce the possibilities of power interruptions to your neighborhood and enjoy the positive qualities that our landscape contributes to our daily lives.

Crews will perform integrated vegetation management to selected rights-of-way in mid-May and will continue through September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve McCorkle, forester, at 1-800-522-3793 or [steve.mccorkle@energyunited.com](mailto:steve.mccorkle@energyunited.com).

## Spring Cleaning Delivers Safe, Reliable Power

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter and take advantage of longer daylight hours. However, the rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, EnergyUnited maintains our rights-of-way (ROW). Think of it as *spring cleaning* for power lines.

ROW maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment for doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response times. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, EnergyUnited strives to keep costs affordable for our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risk for employees and equipment too – another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability and cost: this is why we believe in ROW *spring cleaning*.

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Please send questions, comments and story ideas to **Maureen Moore**, Communications Manager at [maureen.moore@energyunited.com](mailto:maureen.moore@energyunited.com).



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**H. Wayne Wilkins** Chief Executive Officer

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