

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL
**ELECTRICAL
SAFETY**
MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE

MOTHER-DAUGHTER
SPOTLIGHT

2023 NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY
SPOTLIGHT

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

THOMAS GOLDEN



At EnergyUnited, our goal is simple: to deliver safe and reliable power to our members.

And even though we observe National Electrical Safety Month in May, within our cooperative we recognize this every month.

Beyond our day-to-day practices of working the lines and adopting new technologies with safety and security in mind, we are also meeting the demands of our members as they bring home state-of-the-art technologies like smart thermostats, backup generators and solar panels. Often these new innovations push us to create and think about every safety potential and plan for every preventive step. One such protocol we have in place is our Distribution Automation System.

This system identifies and isolates outage locations while safely restoring power to affected members — all while keeping the rest of our members in service. Additional technologies, like our smart meters, reduce the risk of house fires caused by corrosion within electrical meters by alerting our technicians through hot socket detection. Ultimately, we're always looking for ways to elevate our energy management systems so that the safety of your home, the people you love and your community is always our top priority.

In addition to Electrical Safety Month, May also brings to mind the wonderful moms who deserve some recognition this Mother's Day. In this month's issue of *Connect*, you will read about the mother-daughter EnergyUnited

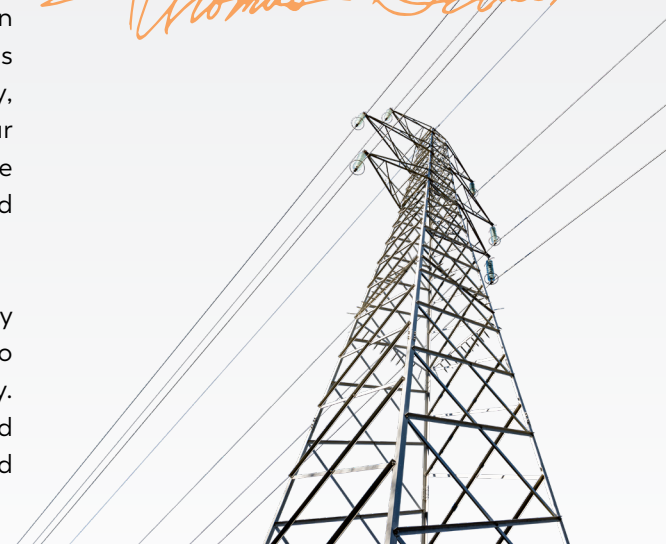
duo, Erin and Lori, who work together to keep your every day empowered.

It's important to recognize all that these amazing women do and how they truly are pillars of our families. I am grateful to my wonderful wife and am continually amazed at what a wonderful job she does raising our three sons. I'm not sure how she puts up with all of us boys, but I'm appreciative all the same.

As always, we at EnergyUnited are wishing you all a safe and happy May and of course, Happy Mother's Day!

Sincerely,

Thomas Golden, CEO



SAFETY IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

We don't just talk the talk when it comes to safety – we walk it too. In fact, we make a point to visit schools within our service areas and present a School Electrical Safety Demonstration. It's a fun and engaging way to teach kiddos about the hazards that come with the everyday convenience that electricity provides. Ready to brush up on your electrical safety knowledge? See if you can identify the hazard in the photos below! And for even more of a challenge, scan the QR code below to test your knowledge a bit more!



Scan for even more safety games!

IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2

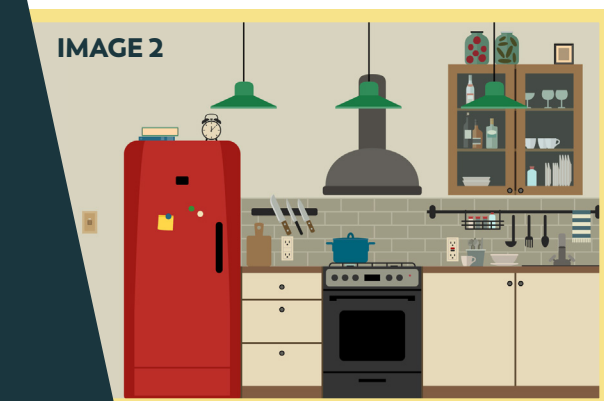


IMAGE 3

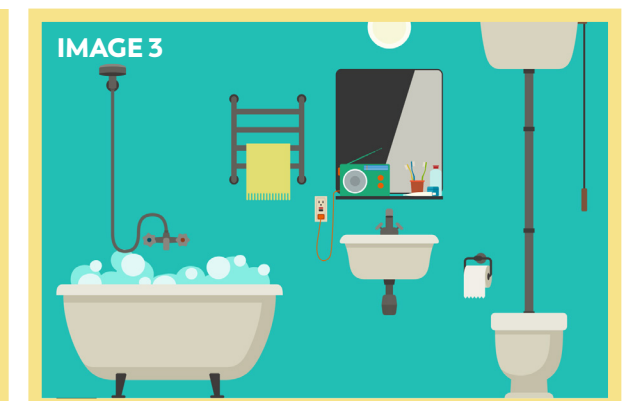


Image 1: Avoid plugging too many devices into one outlet. **Image 2:** All outlets in the kitchen, bathroom and other potentially wet areas should be ground fault interrupter (GFI) protected. **Image 3:** Never use electrical devices, such as radios or hair dryers, in or near the bathtub.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER SPOTLIGHT:

LORI DALTON & ERIN REAVIS

Lori and Erin are a mother-daughter duo who work within the Customer Care team at EnergyUnited. We sat down to chat about their roles, what it's like to work on the same team and how EnergyUnited has been a place for both of them to grow.



Q: WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT POSITION AT ENERGYUNITED? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH US?

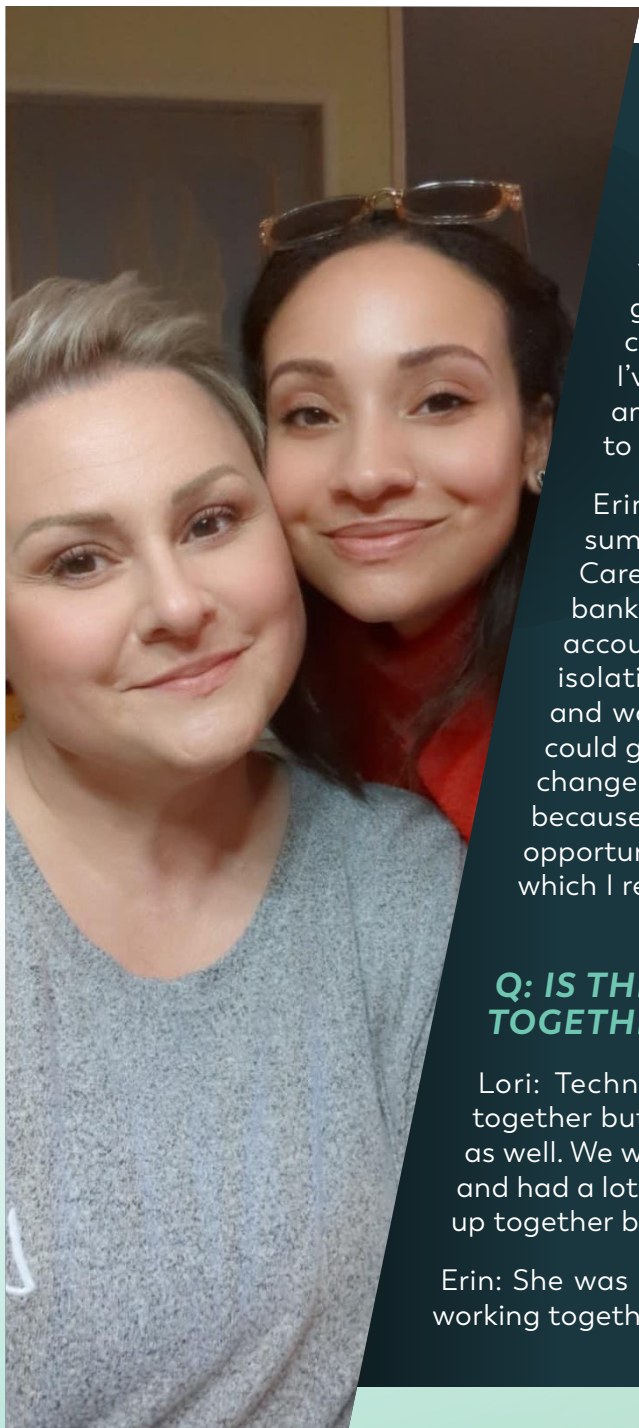
Lori: I'm a CCR2 but came to EnergyUnited after 13 years as a 911 dispatcher. I have a very "let's get it done" attitude but was looking for a calmer change of pace and I found that with EnergyUnited. I've been with the Customer Care team since 2021 and was enjoying it so much that I recommended it to my daughter!

Erin: I have been with EnergyUnited since the summer of 2022 and also work within the Customer Care team as a CCR1. I came from a background in banking and finance and had a lot of experience with account maintenance but found that role to be fairly isolating. I picked up a few side jobs, like bartending and working for a wedding planning company, just so I could get some more social time in my week. Making the change to the EnergyUnited team has been great for me because it gets me out of my shell a bit and gives me the opportunity to establish relationships with our members, which I really enjoy.

Q: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU HAVE WORKED TOGETHER AT THE SAME COMPANY?

Lori: Technically, yes this is the first time we've worked together but we actually have experience modeling together as well. We worked runway shows when we were both younger and had a lot of fun doing that. I often say that Erin and I grew up together because I had her when I was so young.

Erin: She was also my cheerleading coach, which wasn't really working together, more me working for her!



Q: WHAT IS THE BEST OR MOST CHALLENGING THING ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER?

Erin: I'm more of an introvert, and my mom is definitely more extroverted. Because of that, sometimes people may not fully understand my communication style. So it's really nice to be able to come to my mom with any questions and she can explain it to me in a way that I know I'll really "get it" and feel confident with it.

Lori: It's second nature for us to have contact and understand each other and what makes one another tick, struggle or thrive. So we really "get" one another, which is nice. As for the most challenging thing, I can't be her boss or the person she reports to, even though I've been her "mom" or "boss" her whole life.



Q: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER AT ENERGYUNITED?

Erin: It's so nice to have someone who knows how you work and what you need to thrive. I know I can always go to her with any questions I have. It's also been really great to get to know myself better in this role as well, to be able to socialize with members and colleagues alike and feel like I'm part of a family with the larger cooperative, and not just because my mom works with me too.

Lori: I love knowing that she's being taken care of. I know that at the end of the day, we both have a supportive community that we can lean on. It's nice to feel the family vibe of EnergyUnited and feel protected in that way too.



Q: WHAT'S BEEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER?

Lori: The biggest surprise was that they hired her to work in the same division! Another surprising piece has been that we continue to bring out the best in each other. It's always fun to see how we balance each other out.

Erin: I've had to learn to speak up more and this has been a transition. But I've surprised myself that I've been able to transition into this role more seamlessly, and honestly having my mom there has been helpful!

2023 BOARD APPOINTED NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



EnergyUnited's Nominating Committee nominates director candidates. Director candidates may also be nominated by member petition. Members interested being a director candidate may contact the Nominating Committee by email at nominating.committee@energyunited.com or by phone at 704.878-5116. More information about director elections may be found at energyunited.com/director-elections.

DISTRICT 1

- **Denise Hendrix**
Mocksville
- **Marie Prather**
Harmony
- **Betty Moring**
Moravian Falls

DISTRICT 2

- **Neal Motsinger**
Winston-Salem
- **Vinnon Williams**
Lexington
- **Jamie Benton**
Denton

DISTRICT 3

- **Steve Somloi**
Huntersville
- **Neal Wilfong**
Cleveland
- **Gary Powers**
Davidson

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CHANCE TO WIN

A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD!

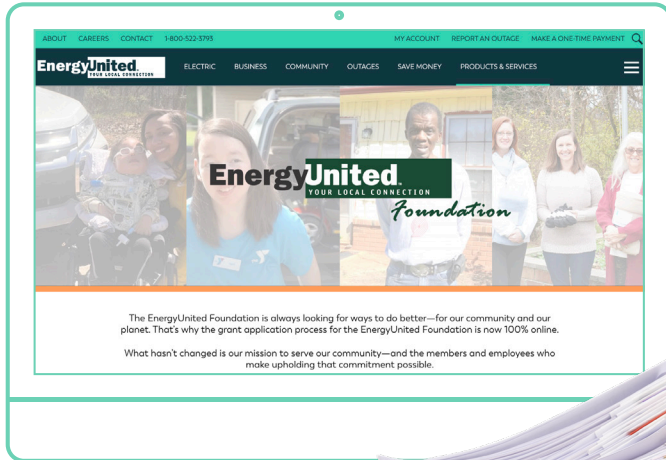
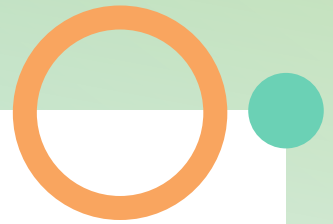


Local K-12 teachers who apply for grants of up to \$2,000 from EnergyUnited will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards in a statewide drawing when they apply by August 15. Teachers can find the application, along with grant-writing tips and program information, on the Bright Ideas website at NCBrightIdeas.com.



Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS

ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION HAS GONE **DIGITAL!**



We're keeping up with the digital world and the initiatives to go paperless. The EnergyUnited Foundation grant applications can now be completed online via our new digital forms, making it more convenient for applicants and good for the planet, too! Scan the QR code to apply:



SAVE THE DATE FOR DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

We held our first annual Drive Electric Event last year and had so much fun that we decided to do it again! Save the date for 9/23 (rain date: 9/30) at the CATS (Career Academy and Technical School) in Troutman to learn more about EVs, ask questions and even test drive an electric car!

DRIVING
BY  **CHANGE**
EVENT

SEPT
23



EVERY DAY EMPOWERED



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: **SOUTHERN DISTILLING COMPANY**

Southern Distilling Company, a family-owned distillery located in Statesville, was founded by Pete and Vienna Barger in 2013. A decade later, they're set to become one of the country's largest privately-owned distilleries. The husband-and-wife team produces high-quality craft spirits that utilize local ingredients but also have national reach, bringing attention to North Carolina's long history of whiskey-making and supporting their local community.

Known for their popular line of Southern Star products, Southern Distilling also provides contract distilling for other brands — a testament to their strong industry reputation. The Bargers empower the Statesville community in a variety of ways, including sourcing ingredients from local farmers — including about 350,000 pounds of corn, wheat and rye per month, a commitment that supports dozens of farmers.

Southern Distilling also gives back to the community through various charitable initiatives, including a partnership with Purple Heart Homes. The locally based nonprofit provides housing solutions for disabled and aging veterans, and Southern Distilling supports this important endeavor through hands-on experiences, meaningful connections, and through every sale of their Double Rye Whiskey.

Another community connection was forged by the pandemic, when the distillery shifted from whiskey to producing hand sanitizer. That sanitizer was donated to first responders and schools across North Carolina, with hundreds of thousands of gallons shipped across the country to help businesses stay open.



The Statesville distillery is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, located on 20 acres of agricultural farmland and old growth hardwood trees. Visitors can enjoy tours and tastings daily or pull up a seat at the on-site cocktail bar. Later this year, the distillery will also open a new event space ready to host corporate events, bourbon pairing dinners, concerts, weddings, and other occasions.

Southern Distilling isn't just a distillery — the Bargers have built a company that is committed to empowering its employees, supporting its local community, and promoting sustainable practices. They not only produce exceptional craft spirits but also have a positive impact on those around them. Southern Star products are available in more than 20 states, with rapidly expanding national and global distribution. For more information, visit SouthernDistillingCompany.com.



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