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ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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A LETTER FROM OUR
CEO

THOMAS GOLDEN



As we move into the latter part of summer, many of us — myself and my family included — have one major thing on our minds: back to school. Even if you don't have kids, you see it all around you and feel it in the air. When I think of my kids going back to school, playing sports, taking part in extracurricular activities and spending time with friends, what I think about above all else is their safety.

Just as safety is a top priority for families, security is a top priority for your co-op. We are constantly working to up our game when it comes to the safety of our systems and data. With ongoing advanced cybersecurity training as part of the *Be Secure* component of the EnergyUnited Way, we continue to ensure that your information is kept to the highest level of security.

In addition to prioritizing the security of your personal and financial data, our *Be Secure* commitment extends to infrastructure as well. We all remember the news coverage of the Colonial Pipeline

hack in 2021, and we are all too aware of the cyber threats we face on a daily basis.

We are committed to taking proactive steps to prevent such attacks and effectively respond to any threats that arise.

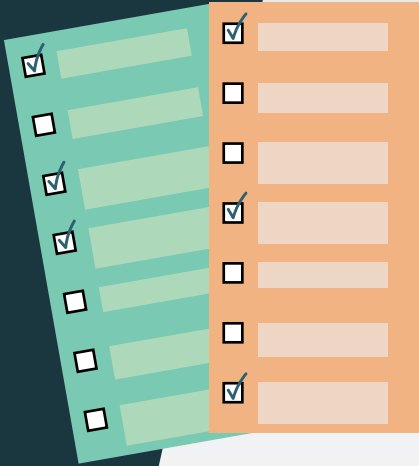
There are also steps you can take to protect yourself. Be careful to double-check that electronic communications you receive are from trusted senders before you respond or take action. Ensure that names, email addresses and URLs are correct, as scammers will often change only a letter or two. Don't click on suspicious links and never send sensitive financial or personal information over email.

Here's to a safe, secure August, a happy return to school and a smooth transition into the rhythms of fall!

Sincerely,

Thomas Golden, CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **ELECTION** 2023



We want to hear your voice! EnergyUnited's Board of Directors Election will **begin on August 11 and end on September 11, 2023.**

Voting will take place via email and U.S. Mail. Members with an email address on file with EnergyUnited will receive an e-ballot, while all other members will receive a paper ballot.

Visit **EnergyUnited.com/Board-of-Directors-Election** for more information.

**CAST YOUR
BALLOTS IN THIS
YEAR'S ELECTION!**

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING!

The 2023 Annual Meeting is next month. Join us to stay informed about the exciting things happening in your co-op and what's to come as we move forward!



WHEN: Thursday, September 21, 2023,
at 4 p.m.

WHERE: Statesville Office Conference Room
567 Mocksville Hwy, Statesville, NC

AGENDA: CEO's State of the Cooperative Address
Board President's Report
Board of Directors Election Results

**SEPT
21, 2023
4 PM**

A PEEK INSIDE OUR YOUTH TOUR



Every year, EnergyUnited and other electric cooperatives nationwide send students on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about our nation's history, visit national monuments and museums, and meet with members of our state's congressional delegation. This year we selected Sean Lane of Davie High School and Christopher Corona Plancarte of North Iredell High School. We asked them about their experiences.

Q. WHAT PART OF YOUTH TOUR WERE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST BEFORE THE TRIP? DID IT LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

SEAN: I was most excited to visit all the monuments and museums. I've always heard great things about the museums, and have seen many of the monuments online, but never in person. Having the chance to sightsee and experience Washington, D.C., for myself is something I'll always remember, and I can't wait to go back to explore the countless other gems there are to offer. The trip soared above my expectations!

CHRISTOPHER: I was most excited to traverse Washington with the selected youth tourists from all around North Carolina. I didn't expect to find so many like-minded students there from so many different backgrounds. I flourished in an environment where we were all curious, determined and open-minded.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON?

SEAN: While I was mostly looking forward to sightseeing, I had a great time conversing and interacting with young people from across the country. I had a blast trading pins with other students, and it encouraged me to talk to them. Through this, I've learned just how different, but also similar, we are to one another. Seeing the Constitution with my own eyes was pretty cool too!



SEAN LANE (LEFT) AND CHRISTOPHER CORONA PLANCARTE (RIGHT).

CHRISTOPHER: My favorite part of the trip was the excitement that came with everything. I've been new to a school, a friend group and even a city. But being there surrounded by a whole different world, I didn't feel anxious or worried about how others viewed me. I was filled with sparks of joy knowing that many others like me were just as open to learning new things, experiencing novel journeys and creating new friendships.

Q. WHICH ASPECT OF THE EXPERIENCE DID YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE?

SEAN: I think the most valuable experience on the trip was finding out just how impressive everyone is. I learned that I am not so special, and it was very humbling! But I also realized that I don't need to be the "best" or be the "winner" to have a good time or to make the most of things. While this might sound basic to some, it is a really good thing to remember for the perfectionist in me. The NC representatives for the House and Senate also had some wise words for us that I will be sure to remember and look back on.



CHRISTOPHER: What I found the most valuable about my trip to Washington was the ability and experience that I gained to apply myself. To reach out to others when in need. To vocalize my opinions. To ask every question that came to mind no matter how trivial it seemed. And learning that everyone has their own unique set of skills that they can bring to an operation, whether it be by serving as a board member, preparing snacks for the group or making sure your friends are accounted for.

Q. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR YOUTH TOUR NEXT YEAR?

SEAN: DO IT! Everyone on the trip had an absolutely amazing experience, and you'll never get another opportunity in your life to go on a paid-for trip to interact with youth from all over the country. It was a really eye-opening experience to visit the capital of the country I've lived in my entire life. You won't regret it!

CHRISTOPHER: Be yourself. Throughout the trip, you learn that you will succeed anywhere you go, as long as you stay true to yourself. So when you are writing your essay, speech or to-do list for the day, speak from the heart, vocalize your goals and aspirations, and be bold. By showing pride in who you are, you can make everyone around you swell with feelings of respect. People will see you for who you are, which can take you very far. Write and do what makes you happy, but also pursue things for the right reasons.

Students interested in applying for next year's Youth Tour can apply starting in October. Check our website then for more information.

SUPPORTING BUSINESS

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

THE DAVIE INDUSTRIAL CENTER

EnergyUnited supports local communities in many ways. Often our support comes in the form of scholarships for local students or grants for teachers, but sometimes we go big. Our support of the Davie Industrial Center is an example of the latter.

Through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, we are providing a 10-year, zero-interest \$1.5 million loan to Community Realty Advisors. This loan will go toward a 500,000-square-foot commercial building within Davie Industrial Center, a 70-acre industrial park located in Davie County.

This project is important because the land is already cleared and the building already exists. It's a matter of taking a structure that is already there and turning it into a



commercial space. This prevents the need to clear new land and build new structures, thus preventing needless waste and minimizing environmental impact. It also saves the developers millions of dollars that otherwise would have been needlessly spent.

This project will have a positive impact on Davie County and the surrounding area, and we couldn't be prouder that we get to help support it.



BE READY FOR **AUGUST** **STORMS** WITH A **GENERATOR**

Our 99.9% reliability rating means you can count on us to be as dependable as it gets, but we can't control the weather and that means occasional outages. August is the peak of summer storm season, and it's essential to be prepared. One of the best ways you can keep your home safe, protected and running smoothly is to install a generator. When storms come around, you'll be glad you did. **Ask about a free 10 Year Warranty with your purchase in August!**



For more
info,
scan the
QR code.



THE 2ND ANNUAL **DRIVING** CHANGE EVENT

WHAT: Learn about (and test drive) electric vehicles.
We'll also have vendors, food, and more!

WHEN: September 23, 2023 (September 30 in case of rain) 10am – 2pm

WHERE: Career Academy and Technical School, Troutman, NC

Find our event on Facebook or learn more at [EnergyUnited.com](https://www.energyunited.com)!

NOTICE OF **PURPA HEARINGS**

EnergyUnited is soliciting public input as part of new requirements contained in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which amended the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA).

Hearings will take place from September 1 through September 30, 2023. All public comments must be submitted within this time frame. Further information is available at [EnergyUnited.com/PURPA](https://www.energyunited.com/PURPA).



NEW HOPE SUBSTATION

In April, EnergyUnited completed a multiyear substation reconstruction project in Taylorsville that will strengthen service reliability for members. The New Hope Substation Reconstruction Project started in 2019 when EnergyUnited acquired land to rebuild the New Hope Substation.

The substation rebuild was necessary for cooperative members in the area, replacing the original facilities that were installed in the 1940s. The project also involved rebuilding two miles of 44KV transmission line to 100KV. The newly rebuilt substation and transmission line were put into service on April 25, 2023.

We are thankful for all the employees and contractors who played a role in successfully completing this project. The rebuilt New Hope Substation will offer an even more reliable electric service to members in this area of Taylorsville. EnergyUnited understands that members need reliable energy each day from a reliable and trusted provider. We are happy to deliver on this expectation with continual, strategic operational investments that align with our vision of a *brighter energy future*.



811 DAY IS HERE

August 11 is 811 Day, when we remember and spread awareness about the vital importance of always calling 811 before you dig, in order to make sure you're not putting yourself, your neighbors or your community's energy supply at risk. It only takes a minute, and it makes all the difference.



APPLY EARLY FOR A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT

Apply on or before 8/15 for a chance to win a

\$100 VISA GIFT CARD!

APPLY NOW AT [ENERGYUNITED.COM/BRIGHT-IDEAS!](https://www.energyunited.com/bright-ideas)



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