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ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBER-OWNERS

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80
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AND COUNTING



HONORING OUR RURAL ROOTS THE HISTORY OF ENERGYUNITED

Like any great American origin story, EnergyUnited's starts with pioneers. Our pioneers reside in and around the heart of rural North Carolina. They worked hard, providing for their families and establishing close-knit communities, but there was one looming problem: rural access to reliable energy services.

On May 11, 1935, that problem turned into opportunity when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Electric Order No. 7037, which was part of Roosevelt's New Deal. The order changed the course of the country, turning into a law and paving the way for the Rural Electrification Act (REA) on May 20, 1936. This law allowed the federal government to make low-cost loans to nonprofit cooperatives (farmers who had banded together) for the purpose of bringing electricity to much of rural America for the first time. The rest is our history: a history we can all take pride in.

Since the spark of our first kilowatt 80 years ago, the merger of Davie and Cornelius EMCs to form Crescent EMC in 1972, and the merger of Davidson and Crescent EMC to form EnergyUnited in 1998, we've grown a lot, but our values have remained as strong as our rural North Carolina roots. We believe in the power of community. We believe in the power of giving back. And we believe that when it comes to powering the quality of life we've built for ourselves line by line, members should always come first. As tenured Crescent EMC and EnergyUnited past employee Marvin Norman put it, "We've always done our work honestly and with the good of the cooperative in mind."

So here's to a history that has seen us grow into the largest not-for-profit energy cooperative in our home state. And here's to a future filled with promise for the cooperative and, most importantly, the communities we happily serve.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



Imagine a life without electricity. Dark, right? It certainly was for the residents of rural North Carolina in the 1930s, who had to live and work without the benefits of inside and outside lighting each day, even after Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb many years prior. For them, it wasn't a matter of the existence of electricity, but rather the reliable and affordable access to it. Thankfully, we've come a long way since then due to the foresight of the American government and the entrepreneurial spirit of our founders.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Electric Order No. 7037. This order changed the course of the country, paving the way for the Rural Electrification Act in 1936. The REA was significant in that it provided funding for the installation of electric distribution systems in isolated areas—just what we needed. With proper financial backing, REA employees knocked on the doors of farmers and ranchers in rural North Carolina with a petition to form the region's first electric cooperative. This is how People Power got its start.

While EnergyUnited's roots date back 80 years, the company as you know it formed 20 years ago when two smaller, community-minded cooperatives merged in 1998. In fact, it was at one of these companies, Davidson EMC, that I discovered my love for cooperatives and their values. There was something so special about being able to work directly with the people we served that it sparked my career. The industry has evolved and changed with the development of technologies like mobile phones and smart outage systems, but our commitment to community remains present in everything we do.

On behalf of everyone who works at EnergyUnited, thank you for your hard work and dedication over the past 80 years in growing our cooperative into the largest in the state. And here's to 80 more.

H. Wayne Wilkins



NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH IS HERE JUST IN TIME FOR OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

A month to honor the nation's co-ops? Now that's something worth celebrating—especially when it's October 2018, the same month that marks 80 years of EnergyUnited. As we plan for a brighter future, it's important to reflect on the co-op ideals that have helped us survive and flourish into the largest not-for-profit energy co-op in the state.

CO-OPS ARE COMMUNITY-LED. At EnergyUnited, we don't have customers. We have member-owners (that's you) who have a say in all aspects of the business. Our heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving member expectations and respond in ways that are collectively beneficial. Because nobody knows what we need better than we do.

CO-OPS ARE CATALYSTS FOR GOOD. With great power comes great responsibility. That's why we're always looking for new ways to give back to the communities we call home. Examples include the Bright Ideas program, Operation Round-Up, the Empowering the Future scholarship program and the various efforts of the EnergyUnited Foundation.

Moving forward, we need your help to maximize the co-op's impact. One way to get engaged? Volunteer for one of EnergyUnited's three Member Advisory Committees, a.k.a. MACs.

As a MAC member, you'll act as a sounding board between co-op leadership and every member-owner. The ongoing communication helps us streamline service processes, spearhead the development of new community programs, products and services, and keep an active watch on the needs and concerns of the co-op.

*Intrigued? Contact our Communications Manager, **Maureen Moore**, at maureen.moore@energyunited.com or call **704-924-2159**. She'd love to tell you more about MAC membership and help you fill out an application.*

CO-OP FUN FACTS DID YOU KNOW?

Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration

SINCE 1964

Consumer co-ops have a membership base of

OVER 343 MILLION

There are more than

40,000 CO-OP

businesses in the United States

900 rural electric co-ops in

47 STATES

serve 42 million Americans

Electric co-op's power

56 PERCENT

of the nation's landmass

1 OUT OF 3

Americans is a member of a an electric co-op



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