

Board of Trustees

Chase Riddle

Chairman, Prattville
(334) 365-3648

Jimmie Harrison, Jr.

Vice Chairman, Maplesville
(334) 366-4338

Ruby J. Neeley

Secretary/Treasurer, Jemison
(205) 646-3649

C. Milton Johnson

Statesville
(334) 412-2843

Mark Presnell, Sr.

Wetumpka
(334) 567-2689

Patsy M. Holmes

Wetumpka
(334) 567-8273

Terry Mitchell

Stewartville
(256) 249-3128

David A. Kelley, Sr.

Rockford
(256) 496-0160

Van Smith

Billingsley
(205) 755-6166

Charles Byrd

Deatsville
(334) 361-3324

Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-800-545-5735

Outage Hotline:

1-800-619-5460

www.caec.coop

Like us on Facebook 

Prattville Office:

1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North

Mailing: P.O. Box 681570

Prattville, AL 36068

Clanton Office:

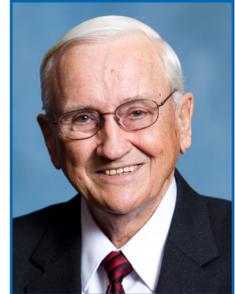
1601 7th St. North

Wetumpka Office:

637 Coosa River Pkwy.

Working with Elected Officials for Positive Results

When it comes to our homes, neighborhoods, even our communities, we want the best to be noticed and appreciated. Not long ago that awareness was also extended to our local roadways in Autauga County when my County Commissioner, Carl Johnson, initiated a “Don’t Litter” sign program. Following the protocol of the existing state highway program, Commissioner Johnson presented the idea of installing signage along the paved farm-to-market county roads which connect to the only two state highways traversing Autauga County. And now that the program has been underway for a while, it is my understanding that some areas of our county have seen improvements in litter control. It is amazing what can be accomplished when people work together.



CAEC Trustee for District 1, C. Milton Johnson

Working with elected officials—at all levels, local, state and national—is a privilege I have as one of your trustees here at Central Alabama Electric Cooperative (CAEC). For example, each spring there are more than 3,000 delegates from cooperatives all across the country who travel to Washington, D.C. to attend a legislative conference where we meet with our state delegations and voice opinions and concerns about providing reliable power at reasonable prices to our consumers. This unique grassroots movement delivers key messages on topics that directly affect you, our members.



One of the many “Don’t Litter” signs Commissioner Johnson (left) has helped install in Autauga County.

I urge you to engage with your elected officials. One simple way to do so is to join the cooperative grassroots network, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). As a cooperative member/consumer, you can participate in the ACRE Cooperative Owners for Political Action. If you want to join one of the largest political action committees in the nation and help us advocate for reliable, affordable power, call the co-op at 1-800-545-5735 or visit our website at www.caec.coop.

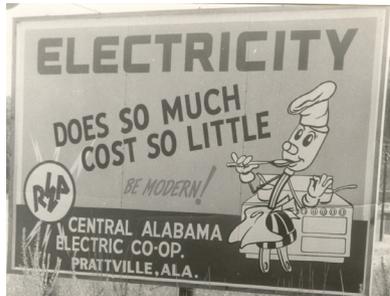
As a closing reminder, let me encourage you to get to know your state senator and representative. You’ll find their contact information on pages 6 and 7 of this magazine.

Communication with elected officials is vital. As my father used to tell me, “When it comes to political discussions, if you’re not at the table, you’ll be on the menu.” ■

Celebrating Those We Serve

Can you imagine coming home after a long day of work and having to read the day's news by candlelight as you wait for dinner to be prepared over a wood-burning stove—the same stove which will later serve as the way you heat your bath water that night? No television, no central heat or air, not even a radio to play in the background. This may seem like a long forgotten way of living, but in fact, it was how many residents in our area lived only 75 years ago.

In 1936, a group of rural residents primarily from Autauga, Elmore, Chilton and Coosa counties came together to get something they wanted: electricity for their farms, businesses and homes. By working together in a grassroots movement, they formed Central Alabama Electric Corporation on Nov. 28, 1938, and a new era of electricity began on Nov. 14, 1939 after the first line was energized.



As the power of electricity spread, members put away oil lamps and embraced light bulbs in their homes. Appliances that made everyday tasks of cooking and cleaning easier were introduced by the cooperative. In 1939, CAEC began with only 810 meters and one substation. Today, your co-op has more than 42,000 meters which serve over 100,000 consumers on 5,500 miles of line.

Over the years, our territory expanded to portions of six additional counties: Bibb, Dallas, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Lowndes and Perry. While many changes have occurred in those years, one thing remains constant—our service to you, the member. Whether it's providing reliable service to make your way of life easier, or working together to ensure that as the national energy debate continues, electricity remains affordable and obtainable for all, we still embrace that grassroots spirit of our founders by gaining strength in coming together for a common goal.



This year, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we will be featuring and highlighting you: the people and communities of our membership. As we take an in-depth look at our service area, we thank you for allowing us to serve you for three-quarters of a century, and look forward to the next 75 years and beyond. ■

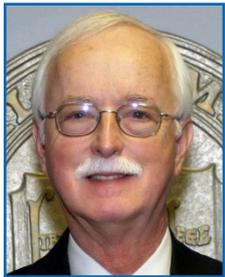
Calling for Nominations



Know someone who's making a difference in your community?

Tell us about individuals who are giving back, people whose unselfishness and personal stories inspire you; and if selected, we will feature their story in one of our issues of *Alabama Living* magazine. Nominees must be a resident of CAEC's 10-county service area. You can find a nomination form on our website www.caec.coop, or call (800) 545-5735 ext. 2115.

State Senators in your service area



Sen. Jerry Fielding (D)

District 11
Year Elected: 2010
1300 B. Talladega Hwy.
Sylacauga, AL 35130
(334) 242-7898



Sen. Dick Brewbaker (R)

District 25
Year Elected: 2010
11 S. Union St., Ste. 734
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7895
dick.brewbaker@alsenate.gov



Sen. Cam Ward (R)

District 14
Year Elected: 2010
124 Newgate Rd.
Alabaster, AL 35007
(334) 242-7800
camjulward@aol.com



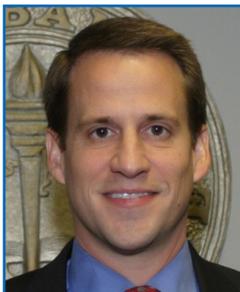
Sen. Tom Whatley (R)

District 27
Year Elected: 2010
378 Chewacla Dr
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 242-7865



Sen. Hank Sanders (D)

District 23
Year Elected: 1983
P.O. Box 1305
Selma, AL 36702
(334) 242-7860



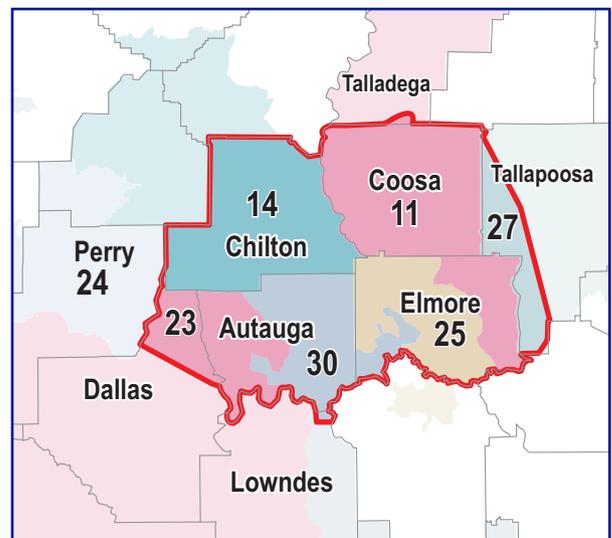
Sen. Bryan Taylor (R)

District 30
Year Elected: 2010
11 S. Union St., Ste. 733
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7883
bryan.taylor@alsenate.org



Sen. Bobby Singleton (D)

District 24
Year Elected: 2005
105 Cobb St.
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 242-7191
bsingle164@yahoo.com



State Representatives in your service area



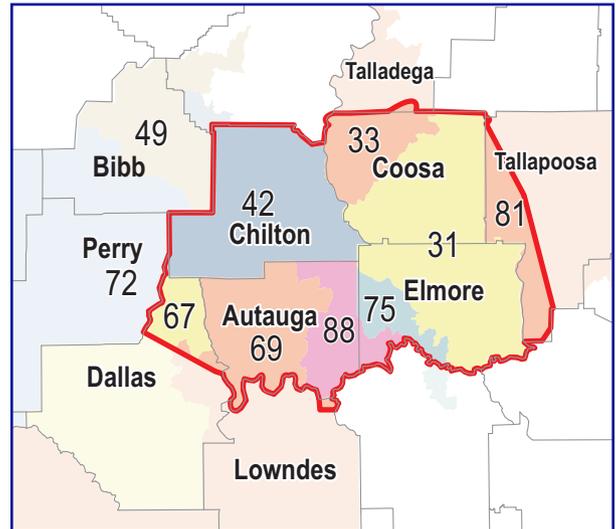
Rep. Barry Mask (R)

District 31
Year Elected: 2006
41 Brookland Court
Wetumpka, AL 36093
(334) 242-7782
barry.mask@alhouse.gov



Rep. Ronald Johnson (R)

District 33
Year Elected: 1978
3770 Sylacauga-Fayette Hwy.
Sylacauga, AL 35151
(334) 242-7777



Rep. Kurt Wallace (R)

District 42
Year Elected: 2010
24 Maple Dr.
Maplesville, AL 36750
(334) 242-7772
representativewallace@gmail.com



Rep. Ralph Howard (D)

District 72
Year Elected: 2005
700 M.W. Rollins Lane
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 242-7759



Rep. April Weaver (R)

District 49
Year Elected: 2010
11 S. Union St., Ste. 522-B
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7731



Rep. Greg Wren (R)

District 75
Year Elected: 2005
7700 Wynlakes Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36117
(334) 242-7764
regregwren@yahoo.com



Rep. Darrio Melton (D)

District 67
Year Elected: 2010
P.O. Box 371
Selma, AL 36702
(334) 242-7540
darriomelton@gmail.com



Rep. Mark Tuggle (R)

District 81
Year Elected: 2010
424 Sleepy Hollow
Alexander City, AL 35010
(334) 242-7219
tughd81@gmail.com



Rep. David Colston (D)

District 69
Year Elected: 2010
P.O. Box 996
Hayneville, AL 36040
(334) 242-7535
asthp20@yahoo.com



Rep. Paul Beckman (R)

District 88
Year Elected: 2010
1803 Tara Dr.
Prattville, AL 36066
(334) 242-7499
paulbeckmanjr@yahoo.com

Copper Theft and How it Affects You

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in thefts of copper, a primary component of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, diminished service reliability and, in some cases, serious injury or death.

At an electric co-op in Oklahoma last year, copper thieves took off with about \$100 worth of wire in a substation, but left behind a \$1 million repair bill after a fire destroyed regulators, switches and a \$600,000 transformer. More than 3,500 consumers were temporarily left in the dark after the incident while the co-op moved to reroute power to affected areas.

Copper is used to ground equipment, which helps to protect it from lightning, by giving electricity a safe path to ground. Due to the rising cost of copper and the theft

associated with it, our industry has started utilizing a copper-clad metal for grounding purposes, the core of which is galvanized steel and has no market value.

Thieves are risking their lives by taking copper from utilities systems. High voltage lines surround the grounding grid and if anyone without proper protection comes in contact with these lines, it will result in serious injury or death. Our linemen are highly-trained professionals who understand the dangers of working with electricity and take proper safety precautions. To protect the public we surround our substations with secure fencing, post warning signs and security cameras.

You can help us prevent thefts by calling CAEC at 1-800-545-5735 if you notice anything unusual. If you see anyone other than co-op personnel or identified contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police. ■



Statement of Non-Discrimination

Central Alabama Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the President/Chief Executive Officer, Thomas M. Stackhouse. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected him or her to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. ■

CAEC Offices will be closed Feb. 18 for Presidents' Day



Derek: The Energy Sleuth

Choosing a Heat Pump: How Big is too **Big?**

In the September 2012 issue of *Alabama Living*, we discussed the different types of heat pumps and their efficiencies. This month we will talk about another important factor—a properly-sized unit. Because your heating and cooling system is one of the more costly purchases for your home, it is important to understand how to know your unit is the correct one.

When dealers talk about the size of a heating and cooling unit, the measurement is in tons, where 12,000 BTU/h equals one ton of heating and cooling. There are a few ways a dealer can determine the size unit needed for your home: replacing the old unit with the same size, using a “rule of thumb” or performing a load calculation, which is the best method.

In many cases, when it’s time to replace a unit, dealers will typically put in a system that is the same size as the previous system. But if you have made any kind of energy efficiency improvements to your home, the unit may not be the right size for the current household and could be oversized. When it comes to your home’s heating and cooling system, bigger isn’t always better. Not only would you pay more at the point of sale for the unit,

The most accurate way to determine the size needed is to do a load calculation.

but down the road, you may be paying higher power bills since your system will not be as efficient as it should be. Another method to sizing a unit is to use a “rule of thumb” where the unit is determined mostly by the square footage of a home. This is something that has been done for

many years and often leads to the installation of an oversized unit, since using this option does not take into account any aspects of the home, such as insulation levels or types of windows and doors, which should also be considered when determining the size of the unit needed.

The most accurate way to determine the size needed for a home is to do a load calculation.

Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), the governing body for air conditioning contractors, developed a manual for contractors to follow in order to determine the size of a unit—the Manual J. The Manual J load calculation takes several items into account to determine the size of the unit, including the dwelling’s square footage, volume of the home, size and type of windows, doors, walls and floor, the direction the house faces, type and amount of insulation, number of people living within the home, air infiltration, appliances and more to accurately determine the amount of BTU/h needed to properly and efficiently heat and cool the home. Once the BTU/h is determined, ACCA developed additional guidelines for selecting equipment and designing the duct work. There are several programs contractors can use that follow these ACCA-approved principles.

When you receive quotes from contractors, remember to ask how they determine the proper size of the unit. They should do a load calculation, verify the duct is designed correctly and pick the appropriate equipment.

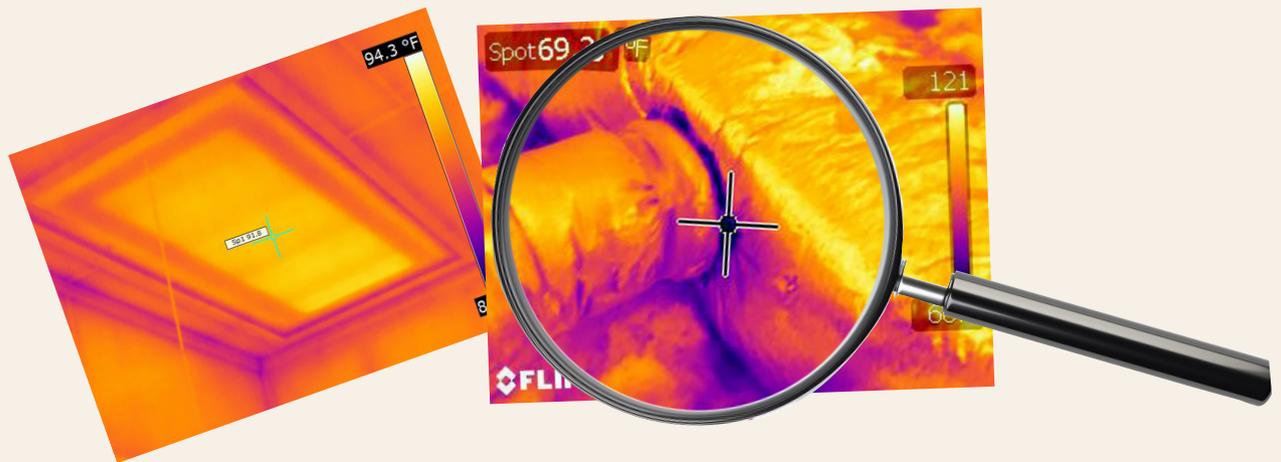
Remember, a properly-sized unit will mean that you are getting the most value from the power you and your family consume. ■



Derek Blankenship is CAEC's Energy Service Representative and Residential Energy Auditor



Can you find the wasted energy dollars?



WE CAN! We can show you how...

Is your home losing climate controlled air? Is it letting in outside air--making your heating or cooling unit work harder? A home energy audit from CAEC can help.

Conducted by CAEC's Energy Services Representative (ESR) and Certified Residential Energy Auditor, there is an audit that can fit your needs. The up-front cost of either audit is reimbursed when improvements based on the ESR's recommendation are made to the home.

Basic Audit for \$75:

- General Return on Investment (ROI) Information
- Infrared Camera Evaluation
- Internal/External Visual Inspection
- Air Infiltration
- Solar Effect
- Heating/Cooling System
- Building Structure
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Appliances

Advanced Audit for \$100

Everything in the basic audit plus:

- Blower Door Test- air changes per hour
- Specific ROI information on energy efficient upgrades

Members can be reimbursed for items including, but not limited to: maintenance on HVAC unit, air filters, caulking, weather-stripping, appliances, CFLs, windows and more. Call 1-800-545-5735 ext. 2178 and let us locate your energy-stealing suspects today!

Call 1-800-545-5735 ext. 2178
or visit www.caec.coop



Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 