

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.

Staying Involved in the Political Process

Americans showed passion at the polls during the last Presidential election. People came out in record numbers to vote for their choice for president and other ballot measures were the beneficiaries of the turnout.

And that's the issue – the presidential election is the primary election in which people vote; however, they forget the impact and importance of smaller elections. Your vote matters every election year, not just every four years.

It is equally as important to know who you are voting for and what they stand for. I find it amazing when I am told “I always vote for the person not the party.” That is a great policy, and if that is your tendency, I applaud you for being an informed voter. Now take a moment and jot down in the margin of this magazine who you voted for in the race for Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, and if you cannot do that, you may not be voting for the person.

Last month, CAEC representatives and hundreds of others from cooperatives nationwide attended the Annual Legislative Conference (details on the next page) in Washington D.C. and called on Congress to work with electric co-ops in a combined effort to keep electricity affordable for our members.

There are numerous political issues facing the future of electrical power production and its delivery to our homes. Energy, its generation, resources and costs, has taken center stage in our political debate. If special interest concerns become law, the result will be increased power bills for all of us. It's imperative that electric co-op members have a voice in this discussion.

An excellent way you can become involved is by joining the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). I urge you to contact CAEC and tell them you want to become an ACRE member to help keep your power bill affordable. Additionally, you can sign up for the Our Energy, Our Future (ourenergy.coop) program to alert you when the most critical energy issues are being voted on in D.C.

Political discussions begin at home. As Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the House, said years ago, all politics is local. If you are interested in changing the status quo, you have a range of options to make your voice heard, including writing, phoning or e-mailing your local and other elected officials in Congress. Talk to them about available common sense options – the more organized and vocal a group is with elected officials, the better the results.

It is our responsibility to be active outside the political arena for the benefit of our families and community. The more we all do in terms of voting, organizing and making our elected officials work for us and the office they hold, the more our communities benefit, not to mention the impact we can have as a group in helping keep our power bills affordable.

Make the effort to have your voice matter – with all of us working together, we are better able to carry our message to not only decision makers in D.C., but locally as well. Be the change you want to see. ■



CAEC Trustee
Terry Mitchell



Speaking On the Hill for 42 Million People

Each May, the nation's capital plays host to individuals from across the country who represent you—the cooperative member. They come from approximately 500 plus electric cooperatives from nearly every state and serve as the voice for more than 42 million members for two reasons: keeping electricity affordable and reliable.

This year, the 3,000 delegates who traveled to Capitol Hill for the Legislative Conference had the opportunity to meet with Congressional staffs and discuss pending legislation that could have an adverse effect on electricity prices for the end consumer.

For example, the Rural Utility Services (RUS) has a loan program, which cooperatives use to pay a portion of the substantial investment needed to build and maintain a system's infrastructure (poles, wire, transformers, etc.). By utilizing these low-interest, long-term loan dollars, the program has typically been a "win-win" for the federal government and cooperative members. The government gets paid back over time while cooperative members are able to have a portion of the full cost of service defrayed from the rates they pay.

This year cooperative delegates apprised Congressional staff members of the potential cost increase to consumers if the President's budget proposal, which calls for limiting access to the RUS loan dollars, is enacted. Restrictions would call for the federal monies to be used solely on renewable projects with system maintenance and upgrades becoming ineligible. The request was made to keep the loan program intact and reject the limitations.

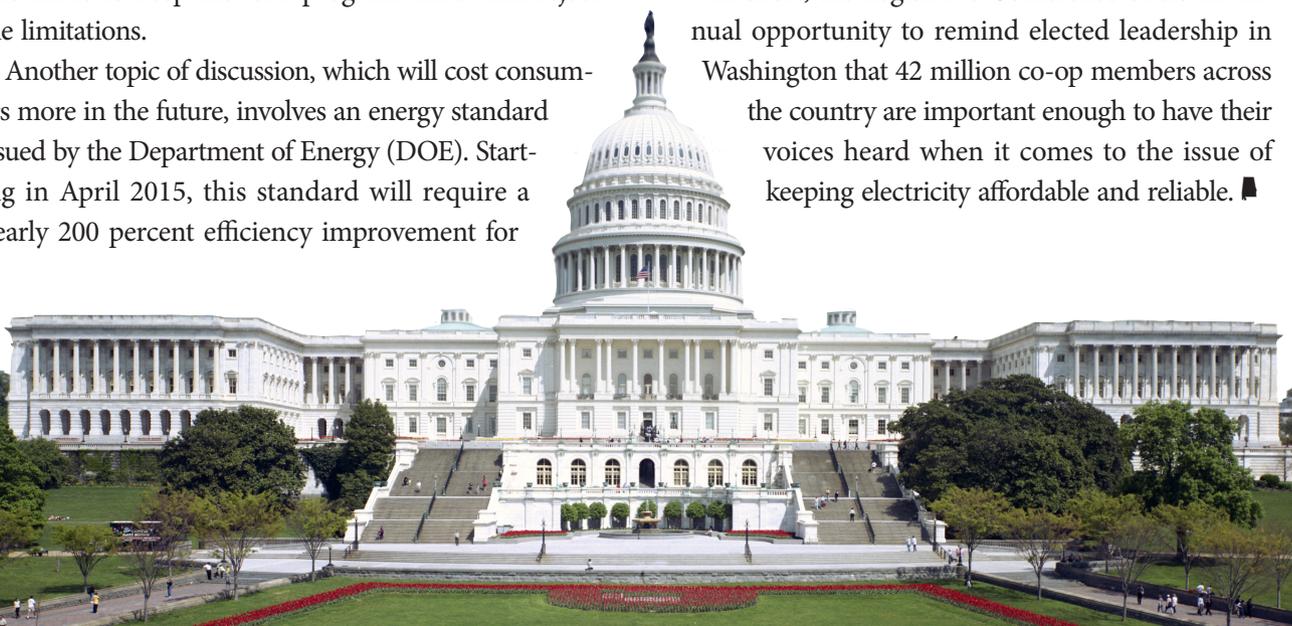
Another topic of discussion, which will cost consumers more in the future, involves an energy standard issued by the Department of Energy (DOE). Starting in April 2015, this standard will require a nearly 200 percent efficiency improvement for

large capacity (greater than 55 gallon) electric water heaters. This higher-than-expected criteria will eventually result in the discontinuation of large electric resistance water heaters, leaving only large heat pump water heaters, or tankless models, on the market, which aren't always practical. While the regulation's goal is to enhance energy efficiency, the unintended consequence for consumers will be more expensive models as the only option after 2015.

For co-ops, like CAEC and more than 250 other cooperatives across the country, this standard could effectively terminate the current demand response programs, which were designed to meet another DOE standard calling for reductions during peak times of generation. Peak periods occur when electricity is produced by the most expensive and least efficient generators, so water heater demand response programs delay the reheating cycle to off-peak times. These programs shave peak usage, and that ultimately helps defer the building of new peaking generation plants and transmission lines.

This year cooperatives found themselves, yet again, trying to work with those in Washington to avoid potential side effects that could increase power costs and, in turn, increase consumer costs. Because the DOE cannot rescind their 2010 water heater efficiency standard, co-ops are requesting a new classification or waiver that will allow the continued manufacture of large-capacity electric resistance water heaters that are capable of being used in demand response programs.

In short, the Legislative Conference offers an annual opportunity to remind elected leadership in Washington that 42 million co-op members across the country are important enough to have their voices heard when it comes to the issue of keeping electricity affordable and reliable. ■





Dallas County

In the heart of Alabama, you could easily become lost in the history of our state as you explore the 975 square miles making up Dallas County. Located in the region known as the Black Belt because of its rich, black topsoil, Dallas County was home to the state's first capital, a vital munitions industry during the Civil War and later, an epicenter of the Civil Rights movement.

The county's varied past can be explored throughout the rooms of the Old Depot Museum in Selma. Built in 1891, it is one of only 12 railway depots of its kind still standing in the Southeast, and houses rare artifacts representing more than 200 years of life in Dallas county, including a bow and quiver from Indian hero Geronimo, a cannonball from the Greater Confederate Naval Ordinance Works, which was once located on the site of the depot, and many more unique items.

Also displayed is photography from Selma native Mary Morgan Keipp, whose images depict a rare day-to-day glimpse into sharecropper life. Her images can also be found in the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In addition are several items from the Civil Rights movement, including the admittance records of Selma's Good Samaritan Hospital from March 7, 1965—Bloody Sunday.

Each March, the city commemorates Bloody Sunday with a bridge crossing re-enactment to honor the

hundreds of voting rights advocates who set off on foot to travel to Montgomery and the Capitol building to take their grievances to Governor Wallace. The group was attacked while attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, creating one of the most galvanizing events of the voting rights movement. The city is also home to other key places of the Civil Rights Movement, including

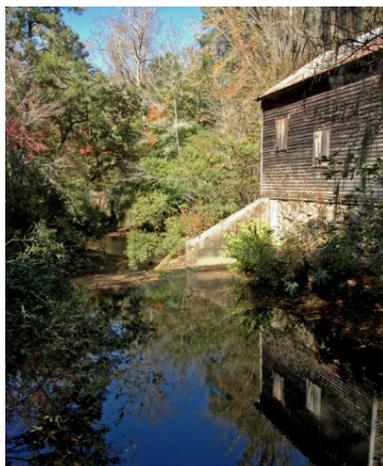
ing point of many marches, including the Selma to Montgomery March. It also served as a location for key speeches from civil rights icons such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Abernathy and Hosea Williams.

With such a significant past, it is not surprising that Selma is home to the state's largest historic district with more than 1,250 structures on state and national historic registers. Some of the more notable structures are the St. James Hotel—built in 1937, it is the only existing example of early river hotels in the state and where gunslinger and outlaw Jesse James once stayed; the Dawson-Vaughan House which was home to Elodie Todd, sister-in-law of Abraham Lincoln; and countless homes built since the 1800s. Each spring, Selma and the Dallas County Historic Preservation Society host a pilgrimage where homeowners open their doors, allowing visitors to see sites rarely offered to the public. If you're not able to make it to the pilgrimage, a perfect example of these homes can be toured year round at Sturdivant Hall. Built in 1852 as a townhome for Colonel Edwards Watts, a plantation owner, the 6,000 square foot, 10-room home has been deemed the "Finest Greek Revival Neo-classic antebellum mansion in the Southeast."

The home changed hands several times until it was purchased in 1957 for \$75,000 by the City of Selma with a contribution of \$50,000 from the estate of Robert Daniel Sturdivant and the remainder divided by Selma and Dallas County. Throughout the home are works of art by famous painters, such as portrait artist Nicola Marschall who designed the Confederate flag and uniform, as well as many paintings by Dallas County native Clara Weaver Parrish. Parrish studied and taught art in Europe and spent the last 25 years of her life designing stained glass windows at Tiffany's in New York until she died in 1925. On the outdoor grounds of Sturdivant Hall is a me-



The Edmund Pettus Bridge spans the Alabama River and is an iconic part of the Civil Rights Movement



Kenan Mill, built in the mid 1800s, hosts a festival each November

Brown Chapel AME Church which served as the start-

morial wall made of brick that came from Cahaba, Alabama's first capital (1820-1826), and iron gates that were on the capitol grounds when Jefferson Davis was sworn in as President of the Confederacy. Located in present day Orrville, at the confluence of the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers, a major flood struck the town in 1825, causing part of the statehouse to collapse and a decision was made to move the capital to Tuscaloosa in January 1826. Even after the move, it remained the home of 3,000 people and the county seat for Dallas County. During the Civil War, the town's large cotton warehouse served as a prison, and became known as Castle Morgan from 1863-1865. It was here, at the location of the Crocheron Mansion, that Confederate General Nathan



Brick columns are all that remain of the Crocheron Mansion in Cahaba

Bedford Forrest and Union General James H. Wilson discussed the exchange of prisoners captured during the Battle of Selma. In 1866, the county seat was moved to Selma, and the town slowly slipped away. Today, visitors can visit cemeteries and see the massive brick columns that are all that remain of the Crocheron Man-

sion. You can even take a ghost tour in October and relive the area's past and have a chance encounter one of its former residents.

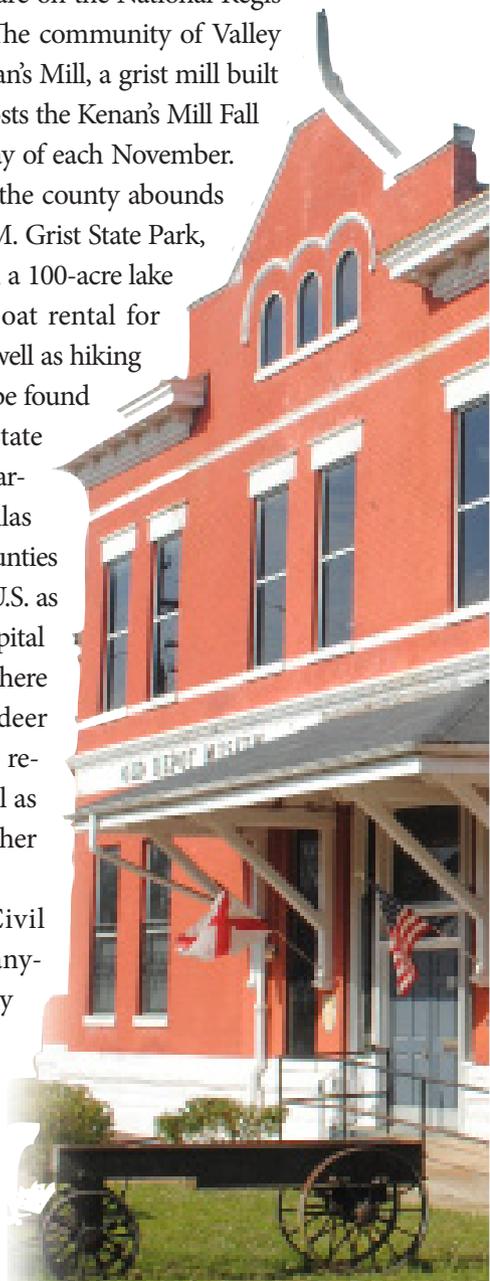
Notable Dallas County residents that left their mark on the state include Benjamin Sterling Turner, a former slave who was elected as the United State's first black Congressman in 1870; Vice President William Rufus King, who founded Selma and is the only Alabamian to serve in a presidential capacity; Harriett Hooker Wilkins, the first woman elected to the Alabama Legislature in 1922; and author Kathryn Tucker Windham who

is best known for her series of ghost story collections, beginning with the 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey. All of these famous Alabamians have passed on, but can be visited at Old Live Oak Cemetery in Selma, one of four historic cemeteries in the state.

Throughout the county, historical places of interest dot the landscape. The Sardis community is home to the J. Bruce Hain home, a classical revival home of roughly 8,000 square feet and the Adams Grove Presbyterian Church, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The community of Valley Grande is home to Kenan's Mill, a grist mill built in the mid 1800s and hosts the Kenan's Mill Fall Festival the first Saturday of each November.

For the nature lover, the county abounds with activities. At Paul M. Grist State Park, 17 miles north of Selma, a 100-acre lake has canoe and small boat rental for fishing or exploring, as well as hiking trails. More fishing can be found at the Dallas County State Public Fishing Lake in Sardis. For the hunter, Dallas County is one of five counties known throughout the U.S. as the "Whitetail Deer Capital of the Nation" because there are more white-tailed deer per acre than any other region in Alabama, as well as countless turkey and other small game.

Whether it's the Civil War, Civil Rights or anything in between, history comes alive in Dallas County with some of the many people and places that make Alabama an amazing place to live or visit any time of year. ■



The Old Depot Museum is home to countless artifacts and the history of Dallas county



Safety Tips for Portable, Standby Generators

When Superstorm Sandy knocked out power to millions on the East Coast last fall, many of those affected turned to portable, standby generators to help keep food safe, lights on and safety and medical equipment operating. The growing popularity of emergency generators has resulted in several million being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation.

However, many may be hooked up or used incorrectly. Generators can be temporarily or permanently installed. If you're wiring your generator into a house, it should be done by a qualified, licensed electrician using a transfer switch. This protects you, your neighbors and repair crews from electricity backfeeding onto power lines—which can seriously injure anyone near those downed power lines, especially co-op crews working to restore power. A temporary generator fired by gasoline or diesel fuel should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse or outlet; instead, it should be properly connected directly to the appliances with the appropriate extension cord.

Follow these tips to keep you and your family safe when using a generator:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions on how to properly ground the generator.
- Standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system—use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators produce gases, including deadly carbon monoxide, and require proper ventilation.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only



Generators are quickly becoming essential items to have when it comes to hurricane preparedness, but they can be dangerous and even deadly if used incorrectly.

when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.

- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is off and cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.
- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on.
- Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator while it is in use.

As we enter hurricane season, a portable generator could be useful. Just make sure you follow these tips to enjoy the convenience they bring without compromising safety. ▀

CAEC Offices will be closed July 4th



Water Heater Rebates

CAEC offers rebates for water heaters. Purchase your new electric water heater from any store and receive a rebate for meeting the following criteria:

*Electric water heaters only
(cannot be tankless)*

Minimum energy factor of .92

Participation in CAEC's Peak Shaving Program
(at no additional charge)*

Water heaters will be inspected to verify:

Installation at member's address

Manufacturer's Information:

Name and spec information (which includes model and serial numbers and the energy factor)

Proof of purchase:

Copy of receipt and store name

Rebates are available in the following amounts:

Under 80 gal:	up to \$235
80 gal & up:	up to \$375

For more information about our rebate program, call (800) 545-5735, ext. 2118 or (334) 351-2118.

**To learn more about CAEC's Peak Shaving program, visit www.caec.coop.*



Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Recipe for *Efficiency* from CAEC

Insulation

Have you looked in your attic lately? Insulation in your attic is an essential component to help keep your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. While your attic temperature is still comfortable, it's the perfect time of year to re-apply attic insulation before the summer heat arrives.

There are numerous types of insulation to choose from, and each has a different method of installation. The example below uses cellulose--an easy "do it yourself" process.

Ingredients (supplies):

Cellulose Insulation

Utensils (tools):

Insulation Blower Machine

Gloves

Breathing Masks

Goggles

Directions:

Purchase the cellulose insulation at your local home improvement store where you should also be able to rent an insulation blower. The amount you need will depend on the square footage of your home and the thickness of the existing insulation. Make sure the thickness of your insulation (including any existing insulation) is between 12 and 15 inches, which should give you an R-value of 38.

You will need at least one person to assist you in applying the insulation.

Installing Cellulose Attic Insulation

1. Place the insulation and the blower machine outdoors. DO NOT operate the machine indoors.

2. Take the blower's tube into the attic (through a window or door in the house). Make sure you are outfitted with gloves, goggles and breathing mask.



3. Have the person (also outfitted with gloves, goggles and a breathing mask) stationed near the blower machine and begin to feed it with the loose, cellulose insulation, one bale at a time. When ready, this person will also control the flow of the insulation by using an on/off switch or a lever that allows insulation to pass through.



4. In the attic, sweep the blower's tube in the locations where you desire the insulation, avoiding vents so they do not become clogged with insulation. When finished, have the person stationed with the blower turn the machine off.



On average, an 1,800 square foot house will take approximately four hours to complete at a cost of \$500. Prices and times may vary due to retailers, square footage and depth of existing insulation. On a house with little or no pre-existing insulation, adding more—and doing it yourself—can help make your home more comfortable and provide some cost savings on your power bill.