

## Board of Trustees

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### Jimmie Harrison, Jr.

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### Ruby J. Neeley

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### C. Milton Johnson

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### Mark Presnell, Sr.

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### David A. Kelley, Sr.

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# Members Working for Members

**B**orn from a shared need to have electricity in their homes and at their farms and businesses, a group of rural citizens came together several decades ago and formed Central Alabama Electric Cooperative. A key part of developing the co-op was forming a Board of Trustees to keep the members' best interest in mind and to make the decisions needed to help the cooperative run efficiently. Comprised of people from the communities we serve, we've had 35 trustees serving you during the last 75 years, including our current 10-member board.



But who are the people serving on your board? They're everyday citizens—farmers, business professionals, educators, parents and grandparents—voted on and elected by you, their fellow members. They pay for electric service from the cooperative and have a vested interest in the quality of service, as well as the cost of power they use in their daily activities.

Throughout our co-op's history, our trustees have strived to deliver quality power at affordable rates to our neighbors and communities. From that first group 75 years ago who came together to have power brought to our area to those who worked through rough times such as the 1979 energy crisis, your current board finds itself facing a new hurdle in an increasingly regulated landscape.

Like you, we find ourselves concerned about the cost of electricity and how a potentially dramatic rise in cost, due to pending regulations, will affect our households. It is this concern that has your board and co-op employees, as well as cooperatives from across the country, working with our elected officials and making our voices heard with regulatory organizations, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Our goal is to send a clear message that we care about the environment and we also seek a balanced and affordable approach to our nation's energy policy. So far, more than 1,000 CAEC members have joined over half a million other cooperative voices from across the nation in sending messages to the EPA through the Cooperative Action Network. If you haven't done so, I urge you to make your voice heard concerning costly regulations for existing coal plants by visiting [action.coop](http://action.coop) or you can take advantage of the opportunity to send your message at our Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Aug. 8.

It's hard to believe that just 75 years ago, electricity was considered a luxury that not many people in our area had experienced. But through the hard work of that first group of members, it became the reality we depend on today. And by continuing to work together, we can fight to keep it affordable and reliable for future generations. ■

*Chase Riddle, Chairman Board of Trustees*

# CAEC Member Appreciation and Annual Meeting

## Friday, August 8

Register by mail or in person and receive a  
\$5 credit on your September bill and chances at door prizes  
including a \$500 grand door prize\*

Special gift for those attending

4:00 p.m.	Registration/Activities Begin ○ Health Screenings  ○ Efficiency Expo  ○ Children's Activities	6:30 p.m.	Business Session  ○ Statement of quorum  ○ Audit, officer and management reports  ○ Certification of Trustee Election  ○ Unfinished Business  ○ New Business  ○ Adjournment
4:30 p.m.	Performance by <b>The Kempfers</b>		
6:00 p.m.	Performance by <b>The Prattville High School Show Choir</b>		
6:30 p.m.	National Anthem		

\*You do not have to be present to win door prizes, including the grand prize. Whether attending in person or not at all, mail in the ballot in the center of this magazine. Your ballot registers you for Annual Meeting, qualifying you for a \$5 credit on your September bill. It also enters you into the prize drawings.

Door Prizes ●

Health Screenings  
and Expo ●

Food ●

Children's  
Activities

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members of Central Alabama Electric Cooperative

### Annual Meeting

It will be held at the cooperative headquarters, 1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North, Prattville, on Friday, Aug. 8, 2014, at 4 p.m. with the business session beginning at 6:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

- Presenting reports of trustees, management and auditors.
- Installing trustees.
- Acting upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**Ruby J. Neeley**, secretary/treasurer

### Election of Trustees

At a meeting of the board of trustees on March 20, 2014, a committee was appointed to nominate candidates for trustees of the cooperative for the coming year (Article IV, Section 4.05 CAEC Bylaws). The following members were nominated by the committee and accepted the nomination as candidates for trustees:

**District 1:** C. Milton Johnson of Statesville

**District 4:** Terry Mitchell of Stewartville

**District 6:** Jimmie Harrison Jr., of Maplesville

# Natural Gas: Fueling Power For You

**W**hen you think about electricity, you may not think of natural gas—but this resource plays a vital role in producing your power. Natural gas is a fuel that requires very little processing to be usable for industrial procedures. It is high in heating value, or Btu content, and has few impurities as compared to some other fossil fuels. In the power industry, natural gas has historically been used for intermediate and peaking power plants, or plants that come online during “peak” usage times, such as cold

winter mornings or hot summer afternoons when a large population is using a greater load of electricity. In recent years natural gas has been used more and more for base-load power generation.

From exploration and discovery to power generation, several steps occur before natural gas can be converted into electricity—from locating the resource to utilizing it to its fullest extent, you’ll understand natural gas’ role in supplying power to your home.

## Exploration

Natural gas is found underground in deposits. It takes geologists and geophysicists and the use of technology to make educated guesses as to the location of these deposits. This process can take from two to 10 years. Geologists typically begin with geological surveys at the top of the earth’s surface—looking for characteristics indicative of natural gas deposits.

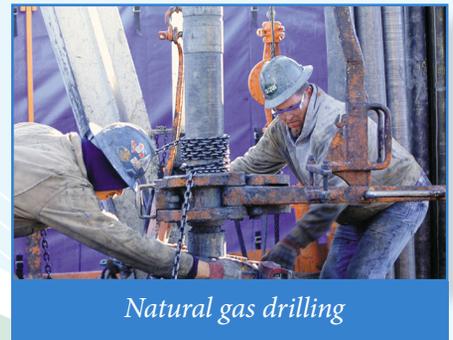
Once probable areas are located, geologists then use equipment such as seismographs (similar to those used to record earthquake fluctuations), magnetometers (to record magnetic properties) and gravimeters (to measure gravitational fields) to explore the composition of the earth below and determine if the environment is favorable for natural gas deposits. If these tests are positive, exploratory wells are then dug allowing geologists to see firsthand the underground characteristics and confirm if deposits are present.

## Extraction

Once it is confirmed that an area has a high probability of gas deposits, drillers begin a three week, 24-hour a day process of digging down (in some cases, more than 20,000 feet below the earth’s surface) to these areas—where it is still not 100 percent certain if natural gas deposits exist.

Drillers use two methods: percussion drilling which is the raising and dropping of a heavy metal bit into the ground, creating a hole; or rotary drilling which uses a sharp, rotating bit (much like a handheld drill) to dig. The rotary method is, for the most part, the most common form of drilling today. If natural gas is located, a well is constructed; if natural gas is not discovered, the site, or “dry hole,” is cleaned up and the process of trying to locate natural gas begins again. For example, from 1995-2005, 60 percent of wells drilled for natural gas were deemed dry holes.

If deposits are found, a conduit to the surface is opened and since natural gas is lighter than air, the pressurized gas will rise to the surface with little or no interference. In some instances, an electric charge is sent down the well breaking up the rock around it. After the charges are set off, a highly-pressurized liquid fracking solution, composed of 99.51% of water and sand, is sent down the well which further breaks up the rocks, releasing the natural gas. Since the gas is lighter than the solution, it rises to the top of the well for capture. Once lifted out of the well, the gas travels through a network of pipelines to be treated and processed.



## Processing

Natural gas used in homes is vastly different from the raw form of natural gas that comes from the ground. The gas is sent to processing plants where excess water, fluids, sulfur, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons are extracted, resulting in pure natural gas.

## Arrival to the Power Plant



*A gas yard removes impurities from the natural gas and conditions it before entering the power plant.*

The processed gas arrives at the power plant in a mainline transmission pipe. This pipe connects to the power plant's gas yard where filters further remove impurities and any excess moisture (such as water or liquid hydrocarbons) is collected and removed. Gas yards also condition the gas for equipment used in power production by adjusting the pressure to meet combustion turbine (see paragraph below) design requirements. Natural gas must stay in a "gaseous state," and not be condensed into droplets of liquid. If natural gas condenses as hydrocarbons in a more concentrated form, it could cause internal equipment damage. One method utilized to maintain the required gaseous state is gas heaters, which help ensure the natural gas remains above the dew point.

## Combustion Turbines/Generator

Once at the proper pressure and temperature, the gas travels to the combustion turbine, which is very similar to a jet engine. Combined with compressed air generated in the forward part of the engine (also known as the combustion chamber), the burning of the natural gas causes the blades of the turbine to spin. The turbine is connected to a generator via a shaft. This shaft causes the generator to spin and transforms mechanical energy into electrical energy by using magnets and copper wire to create an electrical charge. This power is then transferred to the power plant's step-up transformer and switch yard before entering the transmission system.



*The combustion chamber (above) mixes the natural gas with compressed air before entering the turbine.*



*The Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) is connected to the turbine and uses exhausted gases to convert water into steam.*

## Combined Cycle Natural Gas System

After the turbine burns the natural gas, more power can be produced by utilizing a combined cycle system. This system takes the exhaust heat from the turbine (ranging from 900-1,150°F) and sends it to a Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG).

The HRSG takes the exhausted hot gases and uses it to convert water into steam. This steam is then sent to a steam turbine that, like the combustion turbine, is connected to a generator to create electrical energy. The steam is sent to a condenser that cools the steam, turning it back into water where it is reused in the HRSG and the water/steam process is repeated.

Natural gas plays an important role — as a resource for generating power as well as providing employment through the natural gas industry to 1.8 million Americans. Approximately 83 percent of the

natural gas used in the United States comes from wells in the U.S., with another 15-16 percent coming from Canada. ■

# 2014 Trustee Nominees

*Below are this year's candidates for trustee election. Remember, every member has the opportunity to vote for each trustee. Your ballot/registration form is included in the center of this magazine.*



## District 1

C. Milton Johnson of Statesville has been a member of CAEC's Board of Trustees since May 1990. Johnson has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CAEC from 1995-2002.

A lifelong resident of the Statesville community in Autauga County, Johnson is a retired farmer. He also served in the U.S. Army in Korea for 15 months. Johnson served as president of the Autauga-Dallas Farmers Co-op, Dallas Compress, Central Alabama Farmers Co-op, Autauga County Farmers Federation, Autauga County Cattlemen's Association, Autaugaville Lions Club and the Autauga Farm Service Agency. He received the Alabama Farm Bureau 1969 Outstanding Young

Farm Family Field Crops Division and Progressive Farmer's "Mr. Alabama Farmer" awards.

He has been married to the former Jeannie Rainwater, of Evergreen, for 53 years. They are the parents of three sons (one of whom is deceased) and have five grandchildren. The Johnsons are members of Ivy Creek United Methodist Church in Statesville.



## District 4

Terry Mitchell of Stewartville has served on CAEC's Board of Trustees since February 1999. A member of the cooperative since 1978, Mitchell and his wife, Diane, represented CAEC in 1996 at the Alabama Council of Cooperatives Annual Co-op Couples Conference. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Mitchells are owners and operators of an apparel and tailor shop, Mitchell & Company in Alexander City. He currently serves as the Probate Judge for Coosa County. A native of Coosa County, Mitchell participates in numerous community and civic organizations. He was one of the founders of the Coosa County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Coosa County Industrial

Development Board and a member of Coosa Action Network as well as serves on the Board of Cancer Outreach and Community Hope, "COACH," a nonprofit organization to assist cancer victims in Coosa County founded by his wife Diane.

The Mitchells have two sons, Terry and Bill, and two grandsons, Walt and Parker, and one granddaughter, Olivia. They are members of Bethany United Methodist Church in Stewartville.



## District 6

Jimmie Harrison, Jr. of Maplesville has served on the cooperative's Board of Trustees since August 1999 and is currently the Vice Chairman. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

A farmer since 1957, Harrison also served as Senior Vice President of Peachtree Bank in Maplesville from 1981 to 2001. Harrison serves on the Board of the Chilton County Farmers Federation and the Chilton County Industrial Development Board and is also a member of the Chilton County Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Alice Faye, are members of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Maplesville and have four children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 2002, his family was recognized as the Chilton County Farm Family of the Year.

# CAEC's Efficiency Loan Program



Cindy Browder  
CAEC Energy  
Advisor

**W**e all want to use less energy and save money on our power bill, but sometimes improvements may be just out of our budget—that's where CAEC's Efficiency Loan program can help. The program allows members to finance energy efficiency improvements such as heat pumps, insulation, sealing, ventilation, water heating and windows and doors through financing with PowerSouth and Regions Bank.

To be eligible for these low-interest loans, you must own the dwelling, receive electric service from CAEC (as a member in good standing) and be approved by Regions Bank. Here are some of the frequently asked questions regarding our Efficiency Loan program.

## How do I get started?

The first step is to call us at (800) 545-5735 ext. 2118 where one of CAEC's Energy Service Representatives (ESR), will make sure you have everything you need to begin the process.

## How long will the process take?

If you're eligible for the program and approved for the bank loan, an energy audit must be performed on your home by a CAEC ESR before any purchases can be made. Once the audit has been completed, the member can contact a contractor to schedule a time to install. After they have installed the product, the member must call back for a final inspection to verify that the improvements have been completed. Our ESR will then sign the completion paperwork for the member to take to closing to complete the loan process.

## Can I have my purchase added to my monthly billing?

No, the monthly loan payments must be paid to Regions Bank directly.

## What are the interest rates and terms for the loan?

Weatherization projects can be financed for up to five

years at 4.99% APR; heat pump purchases can be financed up to 10 years at 6.99% APR.

## Is there a minimum/maximum amount for the loan?

Minimum loan amount is \$2,000 and the maximum amount is \$10,000 for weatherization projects and \$20,000 for heat pumps.

## Do I receive the loan check or does the contractor?

All installations and improvements must be performed by a licensed contractor, and upon signing the closing documents with Regions Bank, Regions will issue the contractor a check within a couple days of closing.

## Once I'm approved, how long do I have to complete the work?

Your contractor has 90 days to have the work completed.

## Qualifying Projects

- **Heat pump purchase and installation**
- **Heat pump tune-up**
- **Duct repair or replacement**
- **Attic, floor, exterior wall or perimeter insulation (foam or cellulose only)**
- **Air sealing**
- **Heat pump water heater purchase and installation**
- **Water heater blanket and pipe insulation**
- **Attic ventilation**
- **Insulated doors**
- **Energy-efficient windows/tinting**
- **Programmable thermostats**
- **Skirting (the barrier that covers the space between the floor of a mobile home and its foundation)**

# CFLs: Don't Bake All Bulbs

Oven lights are handy. Curious if a casserole's ready? Flip the switch; no need to open the oven and release heat to get a baking update. But be careful when replacing this little light and never put a bulb in the oven that's not built for high heat, such as a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

While CFLs are a great option to reduce energy use in your home when compared to classic incandescent bulbs, they're not a safe alternative when it comes to extreme temperatures.

Why won't CFLs work? Instead of heating a filament until white-hot to produce light like an incandescent bulb, a fluorescent lamp contains a gas that produces ultraviolet (UV) light when excited by electricity. The UV light and the white coating inside the bulb result in visible light. Since CFLs don't use heat to create light, they are 75 percent more energy efficient, but this same technology that cuts energy use doesn't stand a chance in an oven's 400+ degree heat.

If you find yourself needing to replace an oven light, look for an appliance light bulb that is designed for extreme temperatures in ovens and refrigerators. Also, keep these other safety tips in mind when it comes to using CFLs around your home:

- Don't dim unless it's dimmable. Buy a specifically designed CFL for a dimmer switch application.
- Give them air. CFLs may be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures create temperatures too high for CFLs.
- Protect CFLs outside. Look at the package or bulb for temperature restrictions before using a CFL outdoors.
- Do not twist. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base. Never forcefully twist the glass tubes of the CFL into a light socket.

CFLs are a great way to save energy in your home, but just make sure you are using them correctly. And as always, if you want to recycle your CFLs after their use, you can drop them off in a sealed zip-top bag at any of our service centers. ■

