

Each New Era Builds on the Cooperative Foundation



How much of a commitment would you and I make to get something we really wanted? If we knew the desired outcome might take years and success depended on generating a large group consensus as well as borrowing funds with our neighbors, would we engage in the process?

Those were the circumstances that a local group of farmers and rural residents, located primarily in Autauga, Elmore, Chilton and Coosa counties, dealt with as they came together in 1936 to get something they wanted: electricity to their farms and homes. They knew by working together, they could accomplish more. And they did.

Two years later on November 28, 1938 a cooperative was born, and Central Alabama Electric Membership Corporation was officially recognized by the State of Alabama.


Prior to the co-op's incorporation, a front page article of the September 29, 1939 *Alabama Journal* newspaper predicted the dawning of a new era as the writer announced, "By this revolutionary move, oil lamps seem destined to disappear from many farm homes." For the first 1,500 cooperative members, the new era of electricity began on November 14, 1939 with the flip of a switch.

Oil lamps were put away as more and more light bulbs came on, and the cooperative's first official reports published the system's annual usage at 10,960 kilowatt hours (kWh). Compared to today's

standard, that usage would not even cover the annual power requirement for the average home, which utilizes 15,600 kWh. System-wide, CAEC averages 750,000,000 kWh annually.

The reasons why we work for our members have not changed during the last 70 years. Those foundational ideals of the seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Member's Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community, have continued to guide our actions and decisions.

Maintaining our principles and the cooperative way of doing business are important to our continued existence long into the future. As a new era dawns and the national energy issues are debated, we (you and I) need to stay engaged in the process. After all, our strength lies in our unity and in the number of individuals who constitute the whole. It is a grass roots effort.

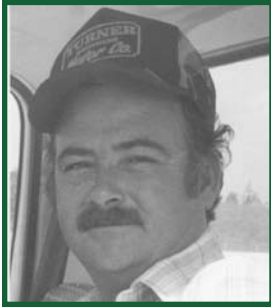
As this year unfolds, my aim is to keep you informed of those issues affecting you and your energy usage, especially legislative activity and technology development. I encourage you to give me your feedback and comments. 

Tom Stackhouse, CAEC President and CEO

YOUR BOARD		LOCATIONS
Chairman Chase Riddle, Prattville	Patsy M. Holmes, Wetumpka	Prattville Headquarters 1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North (334) 635-6762 / (800) 545-5735
Vice Chairman Jimmie Harrison, Jr., Maplesville	Terry Mitchell, Stewartville	Clanton Office 1601 7th St. North
Secretary/Treasurer Ruby Neeley, Jemison	David A. Kelley, Sr., Rockford	Rockford Office U.S. Highway 231
C. Milton Johnson, Statesville	Van Smith, Billingsley	Wetumpka Office 637 Coosa River Pkwy.
Don Whorton, Wetumpka	Charles Byrd, Deatsville	CAEC Mailing Address: P.O. Box 681570 Prattville, AL 36068

CAEC: Through Employees' Eyes

Each of these 30-plus year employees has witnessed significant changes at CAEC. From technology, advances in safety, communications and more, they give their thoughts on what the changes have meant.



“So much has happened since I’ve been here. I would say the biggest change has been in the area of technology. The capability that technology has brought to our staff and linemen has been amazing—and better for the membership.

I remember when we had to stop at people’s homes and use the phone before the first cell phone was invented. Partnered with those advances in technology has been our training and safety initiative, which has made work safer for our linemen and more efficient for the members. I’ve worked with a lot of great people and continue to be amazed at what they accomplish on a daily basis.”

Terry Mullins, Business Development Specialist, 1969



“There have been many changes since I began work in 1972. As a member of an outside crew, we had only one bucket truck in the Clanton crew, where I started, and everything had to be done by climbing the poles. There was no uniformity with our trucks; they had no

certain color and did not have logos on them. There was no dispatch after hours. If someone had an outage, they called the home of the employee who was on stand by. All employees that were on call had their phone numbers on the bill card. The method of communicating was very limited. No e-mail, no Linc, no cell phone. The only method was 2-way radio and land line phones.”

Jerry Vines, Lead Staking Tech, 1972



“A lot has changed – for the better. The co-op treats its employees fairly and continues to look out for us. The biggest change has been with technology, and now everything we do ties with computers. We used to have one bucket truck,

one line truck and one pick-up truck. There was only one radio per truck but it didn’t have an outside speaker, so you had to be in the truck to hear and relay messages. Today we have portable radios and phones. All these changes have definitely been for the better. ”

Ray Ellison, Journeyman Linemen, 1972



“Computers have changed the way we do everything—from communications to daily work duties. When we’re in the field, we can stake jobs quicker and they’re more accurate. This helps us move work orders to the crews more quickly.

And all of this is done without paperwork. Even some of our safety training is taught through computers. It’s amazing how something, that now seems so common today but wasn’t around a decade ago, can change how we serve our members.”

Bobby Sanford, Staking Tech, 1974

Celebrating 70 Years of Service

With a loan of \$378,000 and the desire to bring electricity to their homes, central Alabama citizens helped to turn the lights on for generations.


In 1936 when Clarence Hall moved his family back to Titus from Cincinnati, they brought their household furnishings with them. Hall had been working in the mail department for the railroad. When he retired, it was natural for him to return to the land that had been in his family since 1834.

The appliances the family had used in Cincinnati, however, were useless without electricity. Organizing like-minded neighbors, Hall and several other key persons set out to find a way to bring electricity to their homes and farms.

Armed with the signatures of rural residents who desired electricity, Hall and his neighbors met with representatives from the local electric utility at Sewell Memorial School. The utility rep-

resentatives were willing to provide electricity to those residents whose names were on the petitions. However, when Hall asked whether the power company was willing to provide services to the property of William Maddox in Jones, for example, the company's answer was "no."

Committed to bringing electricity to all rural homes, farms and businesses, Hall and the committee put an alternative plan into action—the formation of a rural electric cooperative. Electric service in rural central Alabama made its debut on November 14, 1939.

Our history has been rich with many milestones demonstrating the successes we have had as we have worked together. 



The *Alabama Journal* newspaper centered on CAEC in the Sept. 21, 1939 issue. Topics about uses of electricity, home wiring do's and don'ts and how the co-op was formed graced the pages from front to back.



With his signature on the Articles of Incorporation, Clarence Hall served as one of CAEC's first board members, from 1938 to 1971.



Basil Thompson was one of CAEC's original employees and served as General Manager from 1939 to 1944.



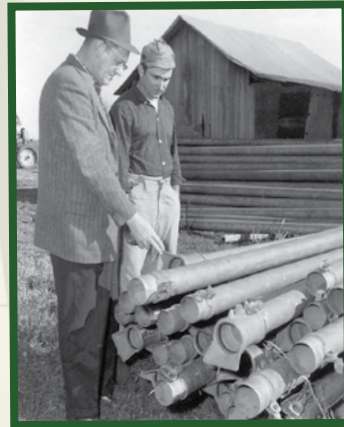
Billy Adair (left), J.B. Neighbors and Ruby Neeley visit one of the 17 substations CAEC had in 1984.



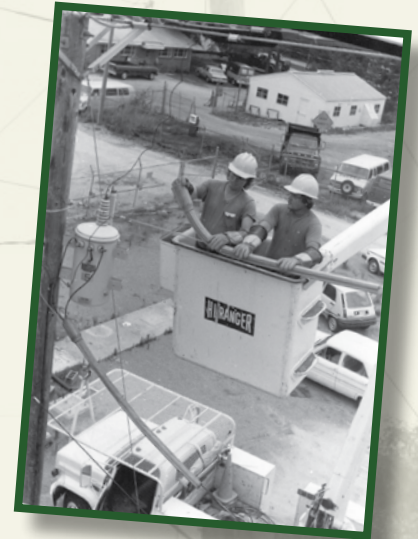
The original downtown Prattville office was always bustling with activity. Everything was done by hand since the widespread use of computers was still decades away.



Crews work on CAEC's first substation located in Speigner.



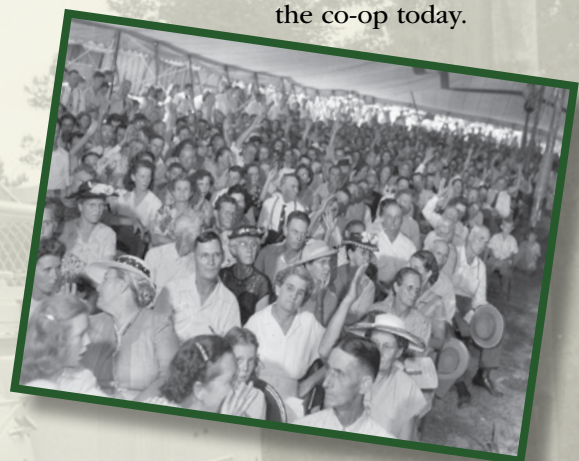
A Coosa County farmer receives a first-hand look at co-op equipment.



Greg Lolley and Randall Cleckler work on insulation lines in 1986. Both employees are still with the co-op today.




Employees from the Clanton office work on a Chilton County substation. The first substation in the county was built in 1951 at Thorsby.



One of the Cooperative Principles calls for "Democratic Member Control," which is demonstrated regularly at Annual Meeting.

Windows: Clearly Keeping Heating Costs *Down*

Windows can account for a quarter of your heating bill. Simple steps can help make your windows work for you this winter.



Windows can be one of your home's most attractive features. They provide views, day light, ventilation and solar heating in the winter. Unfortunately, they can also act as a hole in your wallet and account for 10 to 25 percent of your heating bill.

If your home has single-pane windows, consider installing storm windows with them or replacing them with double-pane windows.


New double-pane windows with high-performance glass (low-e or spectrally selective) are widely available and help combat the heat loss in the winter while keeping your home cooler in the summer.

If you decide not to replace your windows, the less costly measures listed below can improve their performance.

- Install clear plastic barriers on the inside of windows. Such barriers work by creating an insulating dead-air space inside the window. They

can be made from rolls of plastic material found at your local hardware store and cut heat loss by 25 to 40 percent.

- Install tight-fitting, insulating window shades on windows that feel drafty.
- Close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day to utilize the heat given off by the sun.
- Check weather stripping on exterior doors and windows. Adjust and/or replace the stripping if you can see light around the door or feel drafts/cool air coming from windows.
- Caulk around the frame to seal any cracks or small holes.

Use these simple tips this winter to help keep your heating costs down. For more energy efficiency tips, visit our Web site, www.caec.coop. 

CAEC Rates

Effective Jan. 1 2008

	Facility Charge	Cost/kWh	PCA
Residential	\$18.00	.0605	.03876
Small Power Service	\$18.00	.0605	.03876
Commercial	\$24.00	.0645	.03876

Rates are designed to recover the cost of purchasing wholesale power, operating expenses and a margin level required by our lenders. While the base rates and facility charges have not changed, the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) tracks the fluctuating cost to generate and purchase power.

Scholarships for High School Seniors

College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating this coming spring.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded by the Electric Cooperative Foundation, Inc. (ECF), which provides scholarships for post-secondary and vocational education accredited institutions.

Applicants must be dependents of CAEC members. The scholarship will be paid by the Foundation directly to the educational institution for credit to the student's account.

For an application, contact Tiffany Trueblood at (334) 351-2125 or 1-800-545-5735 ext. 2125, or e-mail ttrueblood@coop.caec.com.

Deadline: March 14, 2008



We're working to keep rates down... *Will you join us?*

CAEC's wholesale power costs are determined by our members' highest electricity usage and can affect your rates for the whole year if that usage is extremely high.... but there's something you can do through CAEC's peak shaving program.



This effort targets water heaters, which can use approximately 14 percent of your home's annual electricity. A peak shaving device for your electric water heater will be installed AT NO COST to you. While you still have hot water when you need it, the reheating process is delayed to off peak times.

Sign the form below or give us a call at (800) 545-5735. Join us and do your part to help keep rates down.

Mail form to: Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 681570, Prattville, AL 36067

☒ Yes, I agree to do my part to help keep rates down with a peak shaving device for my electric water heater.

Name: _____ Phone #(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Email: _____

Number & Size(s) of Water Heater(s): _____

Signature: _____

A licensed electrician will install a peak shaving device for your water heater at no cost to you.



Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.caec.coop

Energy from CAEC: *A Powerful Value*

Morning Latte Powers Home for 24 Hours



For the cost of a morning latte, CAEC provides power to your home for 24 hours. Electricity is one of today's greatest values. How energizing!

fact:

The national cost of electricity today, when adjusted for inflation, is less than it was in 1980.



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