

# Current Communicator



MEMBER NEWSLETTER  
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Fall 2019 VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3

## Annual Meeting

Recap and Election Results

## Scholarships

7 CVEC students earn  
VMDAEC Scholarships

## Fiber Build

How do we choose?

## A Letter from the CEO

The first half of 2019 has been very positive for Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) and its members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, CVEC is owned by the members it serves and meeting their needs remains the key priority for the CVEC Directors, management team, and all employees. Whether the focus is increased reliability, lowest possible power costs, or increased security and safety – you will benefit from the “Cooperative Difference.”

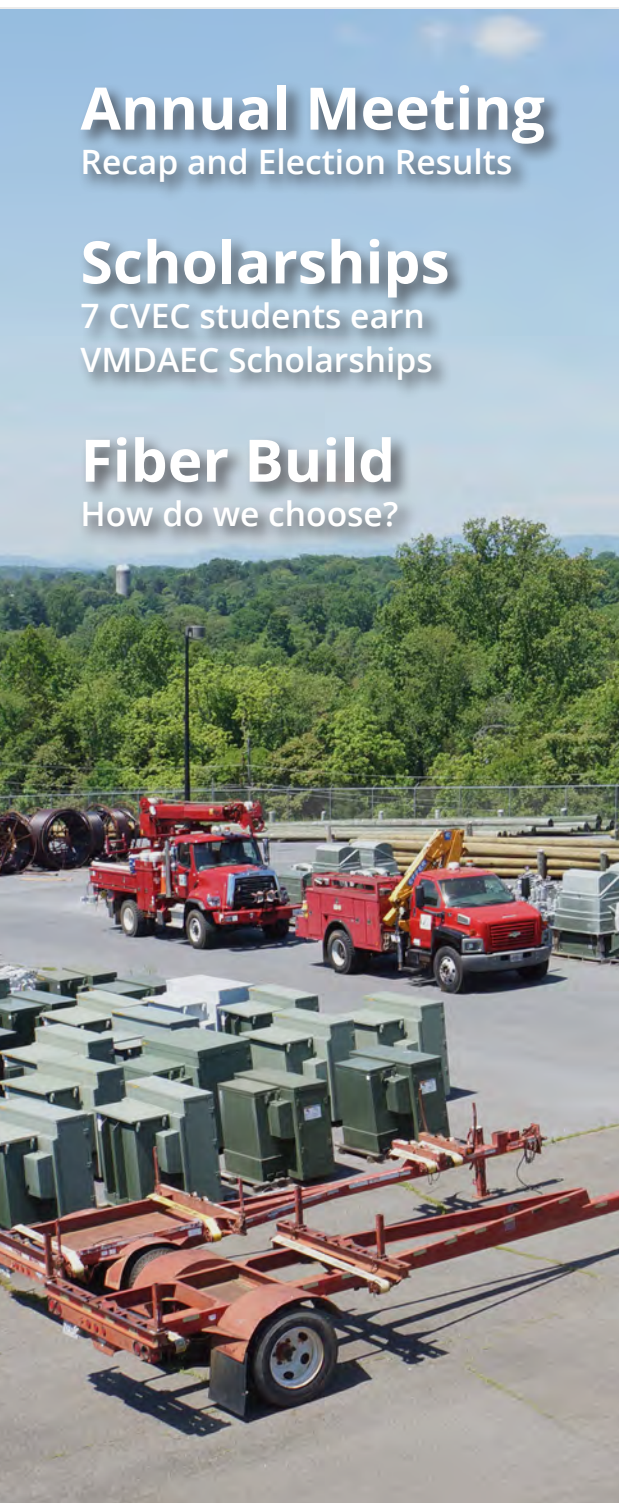
**Keeping the lights on is the number one goal of the Cooperative** and the best way we can serve our members. Major strides have been made in reliability across CVEC’s distribution grid and we are not done yet! In addition to keeping the rights-of-ways trimmed and hazard-free, CVEC is committed to improving performance at substations that require maintenance and upgrades.

As a result of member requests, **CVEC introduced a community solar program called Solar Share**. In just over a year, the program is 86% subscribed and still going strong. CVEC continues to seek out renewable generation where cost effective to avoid wholesale transmission fees and stabilize low energy costs for the long-term.

The system-wide fiber communications installation that is underway will increase security, improve electric service reliability, lower power costs, and enable demand response programs. In addition, **all CVEC members will have the option to subscribe to reliable, affordable high-speed internet** with Firefly Fiber Broadband<sup>SM</sup>, CVEC’s wholly-owned subsidiary. The construction costs for the communication network will be paid for by the sale of the internet sales and the profits from Firefly will be the property of CVEC and its members.

Your team here at CVEC is committed to providing stellar service and reliable, affordable and safe energy every single day. In addition, we will seek new ways to communicate with members and offer information on ways to reduce usage and save money.

Gary Wood  
President & CEO



# 2019 Annual Member's Meeting

CVEC members and special guests gathered at Nelson County High School on June 19<sup>th</sup> to participate in CVEC's 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

During the meeting, members received updates on CVEC's 2018 achievements and finances. CEO Gary Wood discussed Solar Share, CVEC's community solar program, and updates on CVEC's rural broadband initiative.

Members also voted to re-elect three directors: Roberta Harlowe - East District; Henry Chiles - West District; and Frank Baber - South District.

After the election, members were able to ask questions before adjourning to collect their prizes. CVEC members returned 1,784 proxies by mail and 106 in person. Members who mailed in ballots were entered into a drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

## The ten 2019 winners are:

Donald P. Hanson | Troy, VA  
James Ferguson | Appomattox, VA  
Philip P. Burks | Richmond, VA  
Raymond J. Kyle | Buckingham, VA  
John Lambert | Appomattox, VA  
Michele Blair | Concord, VA  
Louise S. Jargowsky | Palmyra, VA  
Maria C. McMullen | Nellysford, VA  
Maury R. Paslick | Shallote, NC  
Benton Scott | Gordonsville, VA

CVEC also awarded one Grand Prize  
**- a check for \$500!**

This year's lucky recipient is:

Frank H. Sweet | Dillwyn, VA

## Energy Saving Tip:

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.



Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



*R. Kinkle Robinson  
South District  
Board Chair*



*Roberta Harlowe  
East District  
Board Vice Chair*



*Frank H. Baber III  
South District  
Board Secretary*



*Dr. Brian Bates  
South District  
Board Treasurer*

# Seven CVEC Students Earn VMDAEC Scholarships



**Caitlyn Amos** of Scottsville graduated from Buckingham County High School where she was Vice President of Beta Club,

a National Honors Society Member, Captain of the Varsity Volleyball Team, and FBLA member. Amos will attend Virginia Tech in the fall to study Psychology.



**Chase Coleman** of Concord graduated from Appomattox County High School with magna cum laude honors and Central

Virginia Community College with honors, earning his associates degree. He served as a Teen Leader for five years at Holiday Lake 4-H Camp where he received the Team Leader of the Week for after school 4-H Archery Club at Appomattox Elementary School. Coleman also played two years of Varsity Football where Appomattox won 2A State Champions both years. He won a Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games in Deadlift and is the national record holder in deadlift through his participation with the Powerlifting Team. He also served as a member of the National Honors Society. Coleman will join the Engineering program at James Madison University this fall where he will study to become a Civil Engineer.



**Katie Coleman** of Afton graduated from Nelson County High School. Coleman was an active member of the National Honors

Society and served as Vice President. She joined the Nelson County High School Musical where she held an ensemble role in the *Addams Family* and *Legally Blonde*. As Student Coordinator for the Nelson County Diversity Initiative, she helped to improve the treatment

of students of marginalized identities based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability status. Coleman worked as a canvasser on the campaign of Leslie Cockburn for the House of Representatives. She will attend the University of Virginia this fall where she will pursue a career in civil rights law or working to reform the justice system.



**Laurynn Hackett** of Appomattox graduated from Cornerstone Christian Academy.

She spent many years playing soccer and won the "Crusher's" Award in 2017. She plays piano and has assisted as a counselor at Music Camp since 2013. She received the 3-Year Participant Award for the Gold Cup Festival and 5-Year Participant Award for the Guild Auditions. The last three years, she volunteered with Acteens where she helped the Salvation Army with meal supply, dedicated hours to the Selah Pregnancy Center, and the Widows Brunch at Evergreen Baptist Church. Hackett participated in the Cornerstone 4-H Club and held leadership roles as Secretary and President. She is active in the Central Virginia Livestock Show and won Grand Champion Market Goat in 2017. Hackett will attend Ferrum College in the fall where she will study Animal Science.



**Chloe Hellerman** of Afton graduated from Nelson County High School and participated in the Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School for

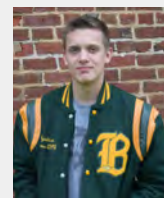
all four years. Hellerman is a member of the National Honors Society and served as president for one year. She was also a student intern at the Virginia Space Grant Consortium during her four years where she took a course and was a summer academy participant in Virginia Space Coast Scholars, Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology

Scholars, Virginia Earth Systems Science Scholars, and served as a virtual intern for Building Leaders for Advancing Science and Technology. For over a decade, Hellerman has attended Blue Ridge Irish Music School where she plays the celtic flute, dances, and teaches her peers. She was awarded a scholarship to attend Swannanoa Gathering Celtic Week. She will attend the University of Virginia this fall to study mechanical engineering and hopes to pursue a career in industrial design.



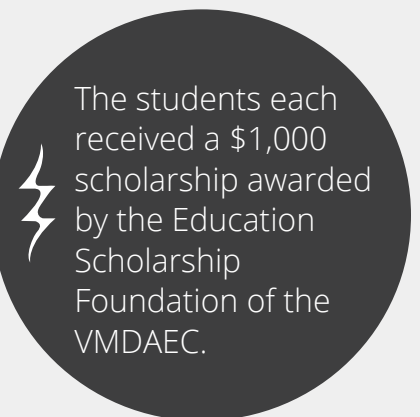
**Henry Thompson** of Afton graduated from Western Albemarle High School. He is a member of the National Honors Society, JV/Varsity Lacrosse, and

Investing Club President and Founder. Thompson will attend Virginia Tech this fall where he will study Engineering.



**Wyatt Yoder** of Dillwyn graduated from Buckingham County High School. He participated in basketball, the

Scholastic Bowl Varsity Team, President of the School Chess Club and Straight Shoot Club. Yoder will attend the University of Virginia this fall where he will study Engineering.





## "United We Light: Project Bolivia 2019"

Three CVEC linemen are heading to Bolivia for three weeks this fall to expand the existing power network, providing power to families in Oruro Bolivia for the first time.

Fifteen lineworkers from Virginia and Maryland cooperatives will work 8-10 hours a day to set poles, string wire and hang transformers to bring power to 42 homes in rural areas. Lineworkers will need to acclimate to the elevation, which is more than two miles above sea level, and the temperature that ranges from 25 to 60 degrees in a day. All three of these seasoned CVEC linemen have traveled abroad and have helped many states during hurricanes and other natural disasters but they are all very excited to use their skill set to help bring power to rural parts of Bolivia.



## MEET THE JOURNEYMAN LINE TECHS!



**Jason Purvis**  
14 years  
of service

Why did you volunteer for the Bolivia trip?

*It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. You'll never get the chance to meet these specific people in this specific village ever again.*

What are you most excited about?

*Getting to know the local people and experiencing the culture....and getting a picture of a sloth!*

What do you plan to do in your free time?

*I want to learn as much about the people of Bolivia as I can: What are their traditions and values? What are their families like?*



**Josh Golladay**  
17 years  
of service

Why did you volunteer for the Bolivia trip?

*You're going to have the opportunity to provide something to these villages that they've never had before. In many places, everyone in a family has left but the eldest generation because there's nothing there. By bringing electricity to those area, it could allow for families to be brought back together. We get to take a specific skill set that we have to help someone in an absolutely tremendous way.*

What are you most concerned about?

*I want to make sure we get the job done safely so we can make it back to our families unscathed.*



**Allan Thacker**  
25 years  
of service

Why did you volunteer for the Bolivia trip?

*As the other guys said, it's an amazing experience to get to be a part of. I get to see a different country and something new.*

What must have item will you take with you?

*Coffee and layers of clothing! Temperatures there will range from 20°F to 50°F!*

What will be the accommodations on the trip?

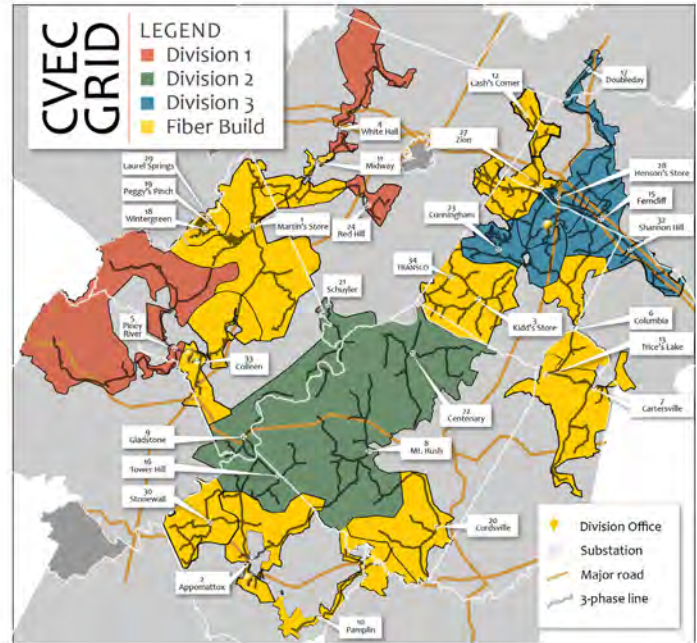
*I was expecting a tent in the middle of a jungle, which would have been an experience! There is actually a hotel there that we'll be staying at.*

# Fiber Build: How Do We Choose?

*"When will my neighborhood get broadband and how do you determine which area is next?"*

CVEC has several factors to consider when determining which area is next for fiber construction: density, lowest cost to serve and network connectivity. During the first several years of the fiber build, it is important to the project finances to build in areas where the cost to serve is lowest. Areas with more members per mile bring internet to more members at once and are less expensive to build. However, grant funds can help to offset the cost of the build and make more rural areas eligible. Finally, the engineers must evaluate how CVEC can connect each area together and the sequence that makes most sense.

The majority of our membership has struggled to find a solution to the lack of reliable options for internet access in their homes. Building 4,500 miles of fiber is a large undertaking, but CVEC is committed to building fiber to each of its members by 2023. Internet service will be offered by Firefly Fiber Broadband<sup>SM</sup>, CVEC's wholly-owned subsidiary. Please check the Firefly website often for updates: [www.fireflyva.com](http://www.fireflyva.com).



# CVEC's Solar Share: Homes Powered by the Sun

Only 1,500 shares remain for CVEC members!

Solar Share, CVEC's community solar program, launched in Spring 2018 and offers 40% of the output of the solar farms leased by the cooperative for use by the program. Members may purchase blocks of solar energy, for a total of 1,000 kWh per household per month. The response to Solar Share has been tremendous and over 86% of the shares are subscribed! Don't miss your chance to take advantage of solar energy without the hassle of installation, maintenance, or a contract. Visit the "Community Solar" page at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com) to sign up and claim your shares today.

CVEC is  
harvesting  
solar energy.

Contact CVEC to learn more.





## CVEC Gaff-n-Go Rodeo

CVEC Linemen finished strong at the Gaff-N-Go Rodeo, held on May 10-11 at Meadow Event Park in Doswell, VA.

The CVEC Journeyman team, comprised of Jimmy Wilmoth, Steven Matney, and Dustin Foley took first place in the Hurt Man Rescue event and took second in both the Capacitor Change Out and Truck Hurt Man Rescue Events. Apprentice lineman, Billy Cascio, placed first in the individual apprentice Hurt Man Rescue event and third in the climbing skills event. Apprentice lineman, Blaine Cunningham participated at the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo for the first time this year.

Linemen Matt Wilbun and Brute Gardner, and Training & Safety Specialist Randy Golladay served as volunteer judges for this year's event, while Lineman T.R. Eubank served as Rodeo Coach for the CVEC competitors. Retired CVEC employee C.T. Bryant continues to co-chair the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo Working Group.



*(L to R) CVEC Linemen Steven Matney, Jimmy Wilmoth, and Dustin Foley flanked by representatives of the title sponsors of the 2019 Gaff-N-Go Rodeo, Terex(L) and NESCO(R)*



### Congratulations on a job well done!

#### HARVEST SAFETY TIP

Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.



#### Interested in seeing the development and expansion of renewable energy sources?

CVEC offers a 100% Renewable Energy Attributes Electric Service Rider (Schedule RE-1). This Rider is available on a voluntary basis as a "companion rate" to any residential customer for the entire month's electricity usage. After a member signs up for the 100% Renewable Energy Attributes Electric Service Rider, an additional charge of \$0.015 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is added to the monthly bill. This is a sell-at-cost charge with no profit or added fee for CVEC.

Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) are produced every time a renewable source (windmill, solar array, hydro, etc.) generates 1,000 kWh. Renewable Energy Credits previously purchased are sourced from one or more of the following:

- Armenia Mountain Wind Farm in north-central Pennsylvania (Tioga and Bradford counties); and/or
- Stony Creek Wind Farm in southwestern Pennsylvania (Somerset County).

The purchased Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) are retired in an amount equal to the energy used by the customers participating in this rate rider. Once the previously purchased REC's are retired, CVEC will use the REC's associated with energy purchases from the Coronal solar farms: Martin Solar, LLC and Palmer Solar, LLC.

You can sign up or find out more information by calling CVEC at 800-367-2832 or on the CVEC Rate Schedule page at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com).

## CVEC CFO Named Virginia Business Award Finalist

CVEC nominated Tina Mallia, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, for the Virginia Business CFO Awards. Each year, *Virginia Business* presents awards to chief financial executives in five categories.

Mallia was nominated for the large nonprofit award category for her numerous achievements during her tenure, including her most recent role in the successful start-up of Firefly Fiber Broadband<sup>SM</sup>, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CVEC, and \$110 million rural broadband project. She was named a finalist at the June awards banquet in Richmond.

*Congratulations!*

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and Firefly Fiber Broadband<sup>SM</sup> congratulate **Tina Mallia** for being named as a finalist for Virginia's top CFO in the Large nonprofit category by Virginia Business.



## CVEC Attends Dedication of New Training Center

CVEC Directors and Staff attended the May 22 dedication ceremony of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) Training Center and joined more than 120 co-op officials, elected representatives, government officials and dignitaries at the site located adjacent to the CVEC Palmyra office.

CVEC was presented a proclamation of gratitude on behalf of the VMDAEC for its donation of the nine acres to the association for the \$1.5 million project at a favorable price.

"This building is a great investment in a number of ways," said Gary Wood, CVEC President and CEO. "It's a deposit on the continuing investment co-ops are making in Fluvanna County. It's an investment in all the instructors and trainers because you now have a great tool to deliver your messages. And it's an investment among co-ops in our relationship because our strength comes from the partnerships we share."

In addition to line-worker training on-site, the 9,600-square-foot building will provide classrooms that employ state-of-the-art video technology for indoor training. The building also offers a full-service kitchen with a catering window, a break room, showers, and large garage bay for equipment demos and training in inclement weather.



*Herbert Patrick, chairman of the Board of Directors of the VMDAEC, presents a proclamation of gratitude on behalf of the association to Gary Wood, president and CEO of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.*

### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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## Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

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# OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



America's Electric  
Cooperatives

## New Text Alerts are Here!

Stay up-to-date on your account activity!

CVEC understands that life gets busy sometimes. We've heard your requests and added more account alerts and reminders to help keep you on track. Here are a few alerts and reminders available for standard, or non-Prepaid Program, accounts:

- 🗨 **Due Date Reminder** – Select to be reminded 0–10 days before your account due date.
- 🗨 **Past Due Date Alert** – Still forget to make your payment? Receive the Past Due Date Alert for a second reminder.
- 🗨 **Returned Check Alert** – CVEC will alert you if your check for payment was returned.
- 🗨 **Payment Confirmation** – Receive a confirmation when your payment has been posted.
- 🗨 **Energy Usage Alert** – Monitor your usage with a daily usage alert.

Sign up TODAY to receive one or all of these account reminders and alerts. You can choose to receive each by text or email or both. To sign up, log into your account portal by visiting **[www.MyCVEC.com/my-account/cvec-portal](http://www.MyCVEC.com/my-account/cvec-portal)**. Once logged into your account, select the My Alerts tab at the top of the page, below the CVEC logo. Here you have the opportunity to confirm your email address, mobile number, and select all alerts and reminders. Once you have made all of your selections, click Submit. If you elect to receive your alerts and reminders by text, you will still need to opt-in by phone for activation.

If you are unable to access the portal to manage your alerts and reminders, please call the Member Services team at 800-367-2832. Rest easy that you will never forget a due date again!