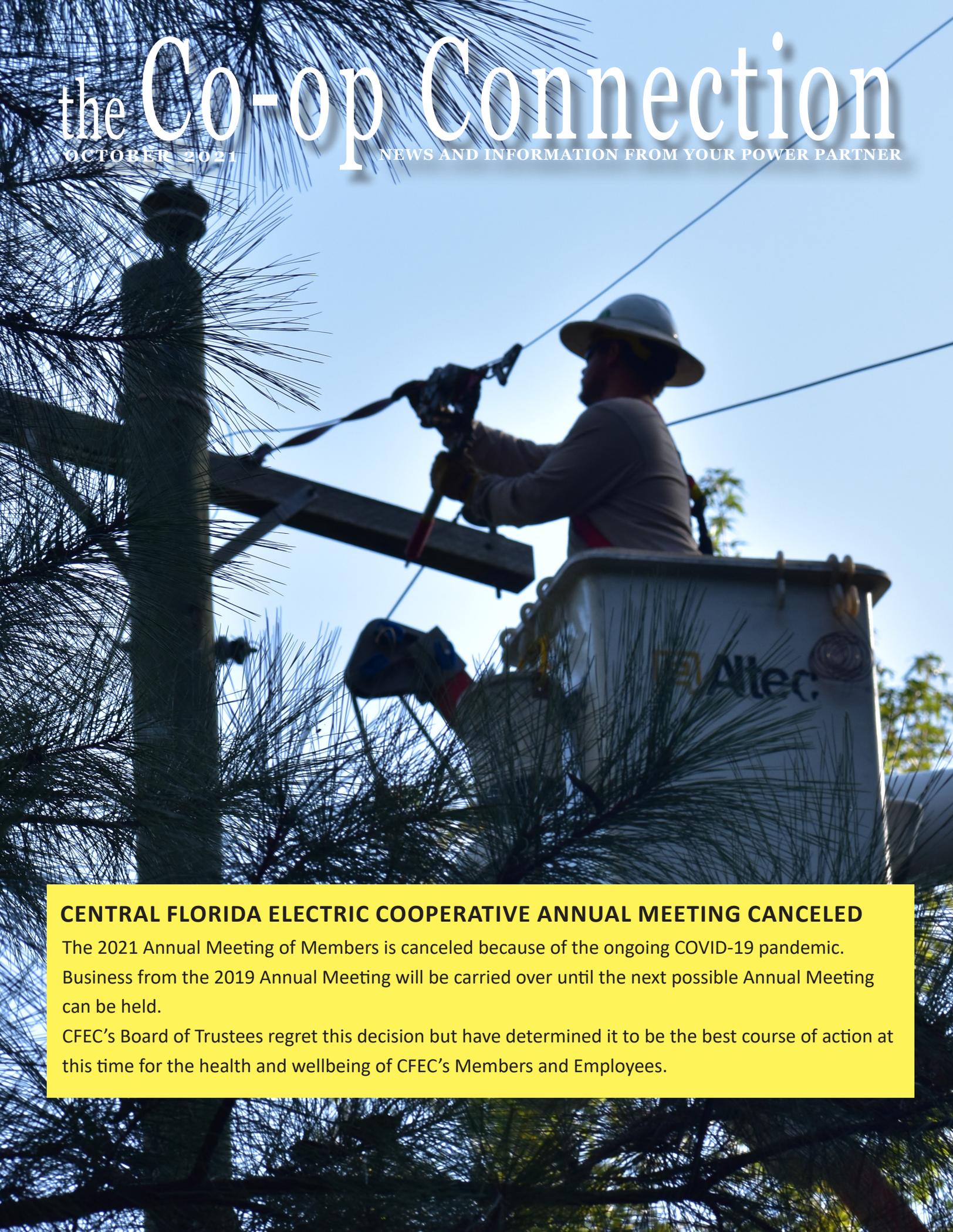


the Co-op Connection

OCTOBER 2021

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members is canceled because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Business from the 2019 Annual Meeting will be carried over until the next possible Annual Meeting can be held.

CFEC's Board of Trustees regret this decision but have determined it to be the best course of action at this time for the health and wellbeing of CFEC's Members and Employees.

Meeting The Challenges And Opportunities



CFEC's Denny George met with Representative Joe Harding, who represents Florida District 22, to discuss legislative issues important to cooperative members.

Staying in touch with our elected officials is an important part of my job.

Few legislative sessions go by these days without some proposed bills that affect electric power generation and distribution. Some of these issues are a threat to our ability to provide reliable and affordable electric service, but some are opportunities to do more for our members.

It's hard to escape the topic of climate change in the news. As the current administration strives towards a carbon pollution free power sector by 2035 and a net zero emissions economy no later than 2025, we will continue to see rising costs and significant volatility in various fuels. This will directly impact future power bills to our members and greatly affect low and fixed-income members.



CFEC General Manager Denny George and other members of the Florida Electric Cooperative Association met with Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. (FL-02) to talk about challenges and opportunities for rural electric cooperatives in this legislative climate.



CFEC General Manager Denny George and Clay Electric's Todd Martin met with Representative Chuck Clemmons who serves Florida's District 21.

While the electric utility industry has done tremendous work over the last decade to reduce emissions, these additional pressures will affect the cost of almost every good and service Americans purchase. We will work diligently to mitigate the effects of this type legislation on our members.

Exploring An Opportunity For Service

Another item we are working on is understanding the role CFEC may have in the arena of broadband. A first step we are taking is understanding and exploring the upgrades that would be needed to CFEC's substations for a broadband network. Together with other entities desiring to enter into a tri-county broadband network, we are working to determine relative costs and then how to proceed based on what we determine is CFEC's role in this important service. Our employees, just like our members, desire improved broadband to their homes. We know this is something we need in our area to attract good business development, which is critical to employ the growing population.

Talking with legislators, both state and national, on these issues and others is critical for CFEC and the fulfillment of our mission to members.



**Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER~

Our mission is to be the finest example of an electric cooperative where excellent service, competitive rates and concern for the consumer, community and environment guide our every action.

Cover Photo By: Dustin Jones, CFEC Serviceman

CFEC Linemen Help Restore Power In Louisiana

Cooperatives help build a better America – that was the first theme of October is National Cooperative Month in 1964.

And it is true that cooperatives, including Central Florida Electric Cooperative, have provided goods and services, including electric power, that have allowed members and communities to grow and thrive.

Electric cooperatives are governed by a set of principles – the Seven Cooperative Principles. One of those principles is cooperation among cooperatives that encourages support of cooperatives in need.

To celebrate October National Cooperative Month, keep CFEC's linemen in mind when disasters happen in Florida or neighboring states. Just as cooperatives have traveled hundreds of miles to help our member-consumers recover from storms, CFEC's linemen are ready to answer the call to help other electric cooperatives.

CFEC Demonstrates Cooperative Principles

In early September, CFEC linemen traveled to Louisiana

to help the cooperative DEMCO restore power to their members after Hurricane Ida. An initial assessment made by DEMCO,

which serves the Baton Rouge area, found that 60 transmission poles were down as well as over 300 three-phase poles affecting an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 members.

Within five days, thanks to CFEC and other work crews, power had been restored to more than half of those members.

Knowing that cooperatives work together for the betterment of all members is another reason to celebrate October is National Cooperative Month!



CFEC's linemen discuss the job before heading out for Louisiana.

October National Cooperative Month Facts:

- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national Co-op Month theme, in 1964, was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."
- Every October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture releases its annual Co-op Month proclamation.



Linemen from left to right; CJ Silliven, Josh Hires, Garrett Durrance, David Coulter, Klint Wood.

Safety of our members and employees is the No. 1 priority of CFEC.

With that in mind, cooperative members should be aware that a CFEC employee may need to come to a member's residence for any number of reasons. Meters, even those that are read automatically, are checked periodically by CFEC, and transformers may undergo a safety check or a cleaning by CFEC personnel. There may be a problem on the line that CFEC is aware of, but the member may not know about, that generates a job ticket and requires a CFEC work crew to come onto a member's property.

For these reasons and others, members should keep in mind that someone approaching their property may be an employee of CFEC. However, it is important that members know what to look for to identify a CFEC employee. This picture and the accompanying information will help in identifying a cooperative employee.

Keep in mind, CFEC does not send personnel to a member's residence to obtain payments and will not ask for any personal information. The same applies to phone calls; CFEC will not call you and ask for payment or personal information. If you are ever in doubt, call 1-800-227-1302 for verification.

How To Identify A CFEC Employee

This employee of Central Florida Electric Cooperative demonstrates some of the ways CFEC personnel will make themselves known to members. This is for the safety of both the employee and the member. Numbers below will correspond to the feature in the picture.



1. CFEC vehicles will have a logo on the door of both the driver and passenger side.
2. CFEC vehicles also have an identification number on the front of the vehicle. Larger vehicles will also have a Florida Department of Transportation number.
3. Most CFEC employees entering a property will be wearing a uniform-type shirt with the CFEC logo on the upper left side.
4. When performing certain jobs, an employee will be wearing a hard hat with the CFEC logo and a CFEC ID badge. Employees may also be wearing an orange vest when working by the roadside.

Let's Talk About Your Dog

CFEC employees face many dangers on the job. Unfortunately, a hazard CFEC personnel are finding more frequently is members' dogs. Training for work with high voltage lines is much more straightforward than dealing with the risk of aggressive animals.

A majority of households across the United States own at least one dog. When you combine this with the fact that CFEC personnel still need access to members' property to check meters and transformers, this leads to a lot of encounters with your pet.

Dogs are pack animals and are protective of their family's property. This is a natural part of the dog's instincts. Although this can be a positive reason for owning a dog, it can also put CFEC workers and anyone else that needs

to visit the property in peril. Man's best friend isn't always the best friend of visitors.

CFEC is asking that members be aware of the danger that can happen with your pet. Any dog can become aggressive or bite if it feels threatened by a stranger entering the property. It is never the intention of CFEC personnel to hurt your pet; however, they will protect themselves from a dog bite as necessary. With this in mind, we ask that members keep the following Do and Don't list in mind.



Doggie Dos and Don'ts



Do understand that any dog can become aggressive if it feels scared or threatened.



Don't assume that because your dog is not aggressive to you or does not bite you, that it will not bite a visitor to your property.



Do be aware that CFEC personnel must have access to members' property from time to time.



Don't think that a "bad dog" sign will keep CFEC personnel from entering the property to conduct their work. It also does not eliminate your liability for an aggressive dog should an unfortunate incident occur.



Do remove the dog from the situation by taking it inside or temporarily putting it in a pen where it will feel safe.



Don't yell at your dog, or at CFEC personnel for that matter, which only escalates the dogs' fear of the situation.



Do confirm who is on your property first and then speak to your dog in a sweet, loving manner to deescalate the dogs' fear.



Don't attempt to hold back your dog by its collar, which also reinforces the dogs' fear of the stranger and can lead to an attack should the dog get free.

Honey-Glazed Fried Chicken Wings

INGREDIENTS

- 12 chicken wings (separated into 2 pieces)
- 1/3 cup Florida honey
- ¼ cup Florida orange juice
- 10 sprigs fresh thyme, finely chopped
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

In a small sauce pot combine honey and orange juice. Bring to a boil and reduce to simmer for 5 minutes or until thickened. Set aside to cool. Add oil to deep fryer and preheat to 350-375 degrees. Set up breading station in three separate bowls as follows: beaten eggs, flour, and breadcrumbs. Season each with salt and pepper. Season flour and breadcrumbs with thyme and 1 ½ tablespoons all-purpose seasoning each. Dip each wing into flour, then egg mixture, then breadcrumbs, and lay onto sheet pan. Fry chicken in small batches until cooked through or internal temperature reaches 160 degrees. Place onto pan lined with paper towels to drain. Add fresh herbs and drizzle with cooled honey and orange juice mixture and serve warm.



Florida Buffalo Hot Wings



INGREDIENTS

- 24 chicken wings (separated into 2 pieces)
- 1 (12-ounce) bottle hot sauce
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In a small saucepan over low heat combine hot sauce, butter, Worcestershire sauce, garlic powder, cayenne, salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside. Spray a baking sheet with nonstick spray. Spread out wings in one layer, season with all-purpose seasoning and bake for 45 minutes. Turn oven up to 425 and bake for additional 15 minutes or until golden brown and crispy. Remove from oven and toss with buffalo sauce and garnish with chopped fresh herbs. Serve with vegetables on the side.

Sweet and Salty Wings



INGREDIENTS

- 24 chicken wings, separated
- ½ cup roasted peanuts, finely chopped
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 cup sweet chili sauce
- 2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- Fresh herbs for garnish, finely chopped (such as parsley or cilantro)
- 1-2 tablespoons all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
- Non-stick cooking spray
- Salt and pepper to taste

PREPARATION

In a small saucepan over low heat combine honey, sweet chili sauce, soy sauce, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes or until honey is melted. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Remove from heat and set aside. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Spray a baking sheet with nonstick spray. Spread wings in one layer, apply all-purpose seasoning, and bake 45 minutes. Turn oven up to 425 and bake 15 minutes or until golden brown and crispy. Remove from oven and toss with honey mixture. Sprinkle with crushed peanuts and garnish with chopped herbs. Serve warm.

Payment Options:

- **In Office / Drive-Through** – Payments can be made at any CFEC location during working hours. Payments can also be placed in the drop-box at each location after hours.
- **By Mail** – Mail payments to: Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Chiefland, FL 32644. Please allow sufficient time for delivery or payment may be received as late.
- **Phone / Online** – Payments can be processed through our third party provider, SEDC. A \$2.50 service fee will be charged by SEDC per \$500 transaction and is NOT a CFEC charge. Payments made through SEDC are posted to the member's account at the time of payment. Pay By Phone at 352-493-2515 or toll free at 844-434-3962. Pay online at www.cfec.com.
- **Bank Draft** – Payments can be made automatically by bank draft by filling out a form and mailing or dropping it off at any CFEC office. The form can be found at cfec.com under the "Documents" tab. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.
- **Bank Locations** – Payments can be made at any Drummond Community Bank location or at the Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Fla., during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.



~YOUR POWER PARTNER~

MEETING NOTICE:

The Board of Trustees for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Cooperative's main office in Chiefland. Members are always welcome to attend.

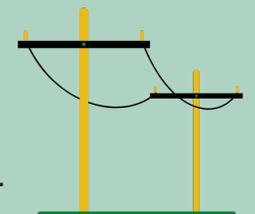
Do we have your current phone number and address?



CFEC's Automated Outage Response System uses customer telephone numbers to locate accounts and corresponding locations. Additionally, a new Automated Delinquency Call will provide an additional notice as a courtesy for accounts that are delinquent one day before your disconnect date. These services will not be possible if CFEC does not have your current phone number on file.

It is important to update phone numbers and mailing address associated with your service location. Inaccurate phone number/service location combinations may result in delayed handling of the outage or a missed opportunity to avoid a power disconnection. If you have questions or need to update your contact information and phone number, call 800-227-1302.

To Report A Power Outage:



- **Call: 1-800-227-1302 or 352-493-2511**, follow the prompts of the Automated Outage Response system.
- **Use the CFEC Connect App:** On the Home page, click "Report An Outage," select the issue causing your outage and the information will be submitted.
- **Online:** Click on the "report outage" button located at the top of the website. Fill in the "Identify Outage Location," form and click "submit."



MAIN OFFICE

11491 NW 50th Ave.
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247
352-493-2511
or 800-227-1302
www.cfec.com

Physical Address/Payment Locations

MAIL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 9
Chiefland, FL 32644-0009

CROSS CITY OFFICE

207 NE 210 Ave.
Cross City, FL 32628
352-498-7322

INGLIS OFFICE

167 Highway 40 West
Inglis, FL 34449
352-447-3553

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Drummond Community Bank
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)
*For a complete listing of payment locations,
go to www.cfec.com.
This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members is canceled because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Business from the 2019 Annual Meeting will be carried over until the next possible Annual Meeting can be held. CFEC's Board of Trustees regret this decision but have determined it to be the best course of action at this time for the health and wellbeing of CFEC's Members and Employees.

**Apply For The Cooperative
Youth Tour!**

Attention High School Juniors:
Now is the time to apply for the 2022
Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Tour Dates:

- Tallahassee: Feb 16-17, 2022
- Washington D.C.: June 14-19, 2022

For an application, go to cfec.com.

Application deadline: December 6th 2021



In This Issue:

Making Contact With Legislators	page 2
October National Cooperative Month	page 3
Recognizing A CFEC Employee	page 4
Do's And Don'ts With Your Dogs	page 5
Give Your Wings Some Zing!	page 6