

# the Co-op Connection

JUNE 2023

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER

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Fiber Now Installed!**  
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# CFEC 2023 Annual Meeting Recap

**The Annual Meeting of Members for Central Florida Electric Cooperative was a rousing success this year.** Moved from the main office warehouse location to the Suwannee River Fair Livestock Pavilion, Members still came out in support of CFEC, their Power Partner.

More than 300 Members attended the meeting and were offered a meaningful performance by The Reflectsons gospel group. In the meantime, Members were free to walk around the information booths and ask questions, update their phone numbers on their accounts or pre-register with Fiber by Central Florida. Coffee, drinks and snacks were also offered.



**Thank you to the Suwannee River Fair & Livestock Pavilion for serving as a great location for this year's Annual Meeting of Members!**

President James McCain called the meeting to order and introduced his fellow trustees. An empty chair on the stage represented Mrs. Barbara Townsend, who served as a Trustee from District 9 for 15 years and passed away in March. Her family and friends in attendance were offered condolences for the

loss of this loving and dedicated woman. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was offered by Pastor Chuck Scott of Priscilla Baptist Church.

A special guest in attendance, Congresswoman Kat Cammack spoke about the important role of CFEC and the exciting news of bringing broadband to this rural service area. She works diligently in Washington D.C. to make sure rural Americans are adequately represented.



**Congresswoman Kat Cammack addressing the crowd at the 2023 CFEC Annual Meeting.**

After this, General Manager Denny George and President McCain offered their remarks, which can be read on the following page.

For election results, Cooperative Attorney, Norm Fugate announced the re-election without opposition of James McCain and Donald Lane, representing Districts 1 and 5, respectively. Selected by the nominating committee to serve District 9 was Larry K. Thompson, who you can read about in the July issue of the Co-op Connection.

At the adjournment of the business meeting, Members listened for their ticket numbers, hoping to be a winner of one of the door prizes.

On behalf of the Trustees, management and staff of CFEC, thank you to everyone who attended the meeting!



~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: Fiber-Optic Line Being Installed on CFEC Poles in the Chiefland Area  
by Madison Redd, CFEC Communications Specialist

## General Manager Denny George highlighted several important items Members should know about CFEC and Fiber by Central Florida.

The following are some excerpts from his Annual Meeting speech:

- First, let's touch on the safety side. We have now reached 1,579 days without a lost time incident or accident. That is over four years. There is much to be proud of in this track record.
- As well, we are growing our work force for the future in line side operations. We graduated three new linemen last summer and now have eight more in the pipeline. With two more likely to follow at some point soon, these will be the linemen of the coming decades.
- Also, we continue to strive to keep costs down. While in 2022, rising natural gas prices forced our 1,000 kwh bill up to \$156.50 at peak, with declining prices we are now back down to \$134.50 and – if natural gas forecast holds true through this year – we are hoping to be able to adjust downward again, likely around July or August billing with a credit of \$11, which would place our 1,000 kwh bill at \$118.50 – a level lower than where we were for the entire year of 2019.
- Now, onto the fiber side, since making the decision in July of 2022 to proceed into this effort, so far things have progressed almost exactly as they have been planned. We have almost 7,700 members pre-registered for service, have pulled the first circuit and have begun splicing (already pulling on the second circuit), and will begin to light up and provide internet to the first members on or about June 1.
- As well, our make-ready engineering and make-ready construction crews are about 600-700 miles ahead of the fiber teams. So, there is plenty of cushion as we move into this fiber build. Now we are setting our sights on how to speed the process up.



**Denny George**  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Additionally, President James McCain offered some additional reminders to Members:

- Just last year at the Annual Meeting, we talked about investigating the possibility of providing high-speed internet service to our Members. In July of 2022, the Board voted to build a Fiber-to-the-Home network. So much work and progress has happened since that time. Building a network from scratch is not an easy or quick process, but things are moving along as planned. The reason we had to move the Annual Meeting offsite is because the warehouse is full of spools of fiber and materials for building the network.
- That said, we are not going to forget our first mission – to provide reliable, affordable electric service. The recent and fairly rapid decline in natural gas is welcome news. Hopefully the decline in gas prices will help bring down other costs needed to get power to our Members, and we can eventually reduce the wholesale power cost adjustment back to where it was in 2021 and early 2022.
- One other item I wanted to mention, June 1st begins Hurricane Season. We all hope, like you, that it is a quiet season with little storm activity. However, CFEC will be prepared for any situation, and you should be prepared at your home, too.



**James McCain**  
PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 1

***Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members!***



Hurricane Preparedness

weather.gov/hurricane



# Prepare Before Hurricane Season



Develop an evacuation plan



Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash



Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions



Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts



Strengthen your home



Hurricane Preparedness

weather.gov/hurricane



# Know Your Risk: Water & Wind



Consider your threats: storm surge, flooding from heavy rain, strong winds, tornadoes, rip currents



Determine if you live in a flood-prone area




Find out if you live in an evacuation zone




Identify your home's structural risks (mobile homes & basements can be especially vulnerable)



Hurricane Preparedness


weather.gov/hurricane 

# Understand Forecast Information

 Rely on forecasts from the National Hurricane Center & your local NWS office

 Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch and Warning


 Focus on potential impacts, regardless of storm size or category

 Know that deadly hazards occur well outside of the Forecast Cone





**NOAA**


Hurricane Preparedness


weather.gov/hurricane 


# Use Caution After Storms

 If you evacuated, only return home when directed it's safe to do so

 Remain vigilant, as hazards remain: heat, downed powerlines, floodwaters, & more

 Clean up safely: don't push yourself, and check on neighbors

 Only use generators outdoors, 20+ feet from your home

 Prepare for the likelihood that help and communications may not be available



**NOAA**

## Vegetable Pasta Salad

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large bell pepper, diced
- 1 pint tomatoes, halved
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 pound whole wheat pasta (your favorite)
- ½ cup black olives, halved
- ½ small red onion, diced
- 6 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, cube
- ½ cup pepperoncini, sliced thin



- 3 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose seasoning
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

### Dressing:

- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

### PREPARATION

Cook pasta according to package instructions. Remove from heat, drain and set aside. In a small bowl combine yogurt, mayonnaise, vinegar, lemon juice, and all-purpose seasoning. Stir to combine, taste and adjust seasoning as needed. In a large bowl combine pasta and all other ingredients. Add dressing a third at a time (you may not need all of it). Serve immediately or chilled.

## Grape Tomato and Orzo Pasta Salad

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 clamshell containers grape tomatoes, rinsed and cut in half
- 1 pound orzo pasta, cook according to directions and cool completely
- 1 cup fresh basil, chopped fine
- 1 1/2 lemons, juiced
- 1 cup Parmesan



- cheese, grated
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more if desired
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

### PREPARATION

Cook 1 pound of orzo pasta and let cool. Rinse grape tomatoes and cut in half. Combine tomatoes, basil, lemon juice, Parmesan cheese and olive oil in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste, mix thoroughly. Serve at room temperature.

## No Cook Peanut Butter Rice Noodle Salad

### INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces rice noodles
- 1 tablespoon roasted peanut oil
- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1/4 cup Tamari or soy sauce of choice
- 2 teaspoons sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated ginger
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tablespoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon sriracha
- 2 cucumbers, 1 grated, 1 thinly sliced
- 1 scallion, chopped, divided
- 1/4 cup salted roasted peanuts, chopped, divided
- 1 small carrot, thinly sliced
- 1 jalapeno, thinly sliced, optional
- 1 cup thinly sliced snow peas
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves



### PREPARATION

Bring four cups of water to a boil. Place the rice noodles in a shallow pan, then pour the boiling water over the noodles, completely covering them. Use tongs to move the noodles around a bit in the pan then place a lid over the noodles and allow them to soak for 20-25 minutes, occasionally using the tongs to stir the noodles. When the noodles are soft and the texture is to your liking, drain the water. Toss the noodles with the roasted peanut oil, set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together the peanut butter, sesame oil, rice vinegar, Tamari, sesame seeds, honey, ginger, garlic, red pepper flakes and sriracha. Add the grated cucumber, half the scallion, and half the peanuts. Add the prepared rice pasta and toss to coat. Transfer to a serving bowl or platter and top with the cucumber slices, carrot, jalapeno, snow peas, cilantro and remaining scallions and peanuts.

## 7 Ways To Pay Your Bill:



### In Office / Drive-Through

Make your payments at any CFEC location during working hours or place your payment in a drop-box after hours.



### Mail

Mail your payment to: Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Chiefland, FL 32644. Allow for adequate delivery time or the payment may be late.



### Phone

Pay by phone at 352-493-2515 or toll free at 844-434-3962 through a third-party provider. A \$2.50 service fee will be charged by the provider per \$500 transaction and is NOT a charge by CFEC. Payments made by phone are posted to the member's account at the time of payment.



### Online

Go to [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com) to pay online. Choose the e-check option to pay with NO FEE. To pay with credit or debit card, a \$2.50 convenience fee will be applied by the third-party payment provider.



### Power Partner App

Use CFEC's Power Partner App to make a payment. Choose e-check to pay with NO FEE. A convenience fee of \$2.50 will be charged to pay by credit card or debit card.



### Bank Draft

Set up automatic recurring bank draft payments and receive a \$1 CREDIT on your bill each month. Members can use their bank routing and account information to complete a Bank Draft Application to ensure timely payment each month. Applications can be found online at [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com) under the Documents tab, then under Member Benefits & Safety Documents, or at any of our office locations.



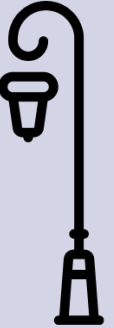
### Bank Locations

Payments can be made at Seacoast Banks located in the CFEC service area or at Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Fla., during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.

## Lights out? *We Need To Know.*

Outdoor lighting fixtures help light up dark areas near your home or business. Outdoor lights operate automatically by coming on at dusk and going out at daylight.

*At times, the outdoor light can malfunction or become inoperative. If this happens, please contact the cooperative so that we can repair the light in a timely manner.*

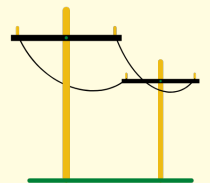


### WHEN REPORTING THE PROBLEM, CFEC NEEDS TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

1. A specific street address of where the outdoor light is located.
2. A description of where on the property the outdoor light is located.
3. A description of the type problem with the outdoor light.
4. Information, including your name, address, telephone number and account number.

## 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 Power Partner App: On the Home page, click "Outage," then select "Report an Outage." Fill out the form as to Outage information and press "Report Outage."
- Online: Click on the "Report Outage" button located at the top of the website. Fill in the "Identify Outage Location," form and click "Submit."



Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.

~ 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.



**CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC**



**Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

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**MAIN OFFICE**

11491 NW 50th Ave.  
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247  
352-493-2511  
or 800-227-1302  
[www.cfec.com](http://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**

Seacoast Bank  
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)  
*For a complete listing of payment locations,  
go to [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com).  
This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

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**Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER ~



*A special thank you to all those who came  
out last month for another successful CFEC  
Annual Meeting of Members!  
- from Your Power Partner*