



**CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

[www.centralepa.com](http://www.centralepa.com)

**Annual Meeting of the Membership**

**CARTHAGE COLISEUM**

Registration begins at **9:00 a.m.**

## Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 20

Central Electric Power Association will hold its Annual Meeting of the Membership on March 20 at the Carthage Coliseum, Highway 16 East in Carthage.

In accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and the bylaws of the Association, three directors will be elected for three year terms. Members will elect one director from Neshoba County, one director from Rankin County, and one director from Scott County.

### Committee on Nominations:

A summary of Section 4.04, Committee on Nominations, of the association bylaws states:

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which the Board members are to be elected, a Committee of Nominations consisting of three (3) members who shall be selected from the given areas from which the Board members are to be elected as to ensure equitable representation. No existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director, and close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household of existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors of known candidates for director may serve on such committees.

The committee shall receive and consider any suggestion as to nominees submitted by members of the Cooperative. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of

nominations for Board members.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected from and represent and the name and address of the candidates nominated by the Committee of Nominations.

Any fifty (50) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor.

Any petition of nomination shall be submitted on a form designated and provided by the Cooperative. Each member signing such petition shall place thereon the date of signing, address, account number and service location of the member. Nominations made by the petition if any, shall be received no later than 9 a.m. on the Thursday before the date of the annual meeting. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

A report from the Committee of Nominations, along with proxies, ballots and other annual meeting information will appear in the March issue of Today in Mississippi. As a member-owner of Central Electric Power Association, you have a right to participate in the annual meeting to hear the latest cooperative news and to elect the board of directors.

Mark your calendar for March 20 and plan to attend Central Electric's annual meeting at the Carthage Coliseum on Highway 16 in Carthage.

# CENTRAL EPA RETIREES

*receive special honor*



**Talmadge King 50 years of service (1968-2018)**



**Felton Dean Luckett 40 years of service (1978-2018)**



**Riley Sanders 33 years of service (1984-2017)**



**Steve Bryan 24 years of service (1994-2018)**

## Service Awards

**40 YEARS** Mike Stewart

**35 YEARS** Clemon Fortune

**30 YEARS** Robert Alford  
Bill Lofton

**25 YEARS** Pettey Leach

**20 YEARS** Eric Griffin

**15 YEARS** Joe Crawford  
Kristin Ogletree  
Sonny Palmer

**10 YEARS** Aaron Akers  
Kelly Butler  
Chris Cumberland  
Heather Jones

Glenda Pugh  
Bett Raymer  
Jeremy Shoemaker  
Paul Smith

**5 YEARS** Kim Clark



Thank you for your years of service to Central Electric Power Association. We congratulate our retirees and wish them well in their futures.

# Paul Long retires

## after 45 years with the Association

Paul Long retired on Jan. 5, 2018, at the age of 66 after a long and rewarding career at Central Electric Power Association in Carthage. Long graduated from Walnut Grove High School in 1969 and began working at the Association during the summer. He continued to work at the Association during the summer months from 1969 to 1973 while attending Mississippi State University in Starkville, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

After graduation from Mississippi State University in the spring of 1973, Paul became employed full time as an electrical engineer with the cooperative. He was hired by E.T. Thames, which was the first general manager of Central Electric Power Association since the Association was organized in 1937.

On November 4, 1983, Paul D. Long, became the fourth general manager of the Association. Long has worked under the prior three general managers as an electrical engineer and assistant manager. During his tenure as general manager, he has served on the Board of Directors for the following:

- Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (Served as president for two years)
- North Mississippi Industrial Development Association (Served as president for two years)
- Leake County Industrial Development

Association (Served as president for two years)  
Long has represented and supported economic development in each of the seven counties the Association serves.

Under his leadership as general manager and the guidance of the Board of Directors of the Association, the existing headquarter facility that was constructed during the 1940s in Carthage, MS has been renovated. A new headquarter facility and payment center in Carthage was constructed in 1989. Also, a new district office and warehouse was constructed in both Scott and Rankin counties.

Long has been employed with Central Electric Power Association for 45 years. He is a member of Freeny Baptist Church where he has served as a deacon. He is married to Donna Long and has two children and five grandchildren.



From left: TVA employees Josh Wooten, John Malone and Bill Duke present Paul Long with the TVA Appreciation Award.



Board President Joe Sanders presents a plaque of recognition to Paul Long for 45 years of service.



Paul Long pictured with his wife, Donna, at his retirement reception.



Paul Long greets Michael Callahan, Chief Executive Office of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi at his retirement reception.

## A message from Paul Long

When I finished high school at Walnut Grove, I asked Mr. E.T. Thames, the first manager of Central Electric Power Association for a summer job. Mr. Thames graciously hired me and allowed me to work with the staking engineers. After the summer was over, Mr. Thames asked me what I was going to major in at Mississippi State University and I told him electrical engineering. Mr. Thames told me to come back each summer and work and that he would hire me full time when I graduated. He hired me as a full time electrical engineer in May 1973.

I also worked under Mr. Carlton Freeny and Mr. John Sanders as managers of the Association. I was fortunate to serve as Assistant Manager under Mr. Sanders and was named General Manager in 1983.

Having said all the above, I have worked with the greatest group of directors and employees at Central

Electric Power Association. The Board of Directors have been excellent and have supported me throughout my career.

After working for Central Electric for 45 years, I can say it has been a blessing to serve the members, Board of Directors, and employees of the Association as well as the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi and staff of other electric power associations in the state of Mississippi.

Thank you all for your trust, support and wisdom you have shared with me over the past 45 years.

To God be the Glory!

*Paul Long*



*Thank you for your years of service to Central Electric Power Association.*

*We congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you all the best in your future.*

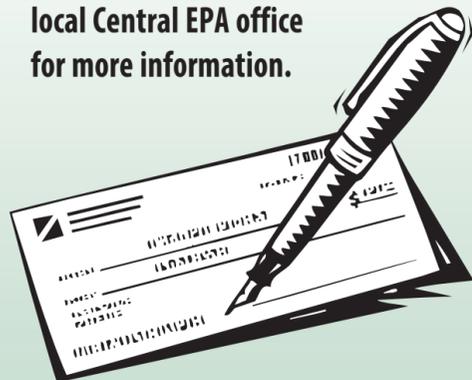
# Pay your bill the easy way...

# Autopay!

The quickest, easiest way to pay your electric bill each month:

- No Checks
- No envelopes
- No stamps
- No lost mail
- No mail delays

Your bank can electronically transfer funds to us each month to pay your electric bill. We will mail your bill to you every month as usual, and on your bill's due date we will draft your account. Complete the authorization form and submit to CEPA or call your local Central EPA office for more information.



## Authorization Agreement for Automatic Payments

CEPA Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name as appears on Account \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Name as appears on Bank Account \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK**

Routing No. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* **ONLY ONE ACCOUNT PER FORM** \*\*\*\*\*

I hereby authorize the Financial Institution named above to pay my monthly electric bill by charging each payment to my account and to make that deduction payable to the order of Central Electric Power Association. I agree that each payment shall be the same as if it were an instrument signed by me. This authority is to remain in effect until revoked by me in writing. In addition, I have the right to stop payment of a charge by timely notification to my financial institution prior to charging my account. I understand, however, that both the financial institution and Central Electric Power Association reserve the right to terminate this plan (or my participation therein).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Did you turn the heat down?

If you leave your heat at the same temperature all day and night, you're missing out on some serious energy savings.

There's no need to keep your home toasty warm while nobody's in it—like during the day if everyone leaves for work and school. And you're wrapped up tight in a comfy blanket overnight, so it stands to reason that you'll be perfectly comfortable sleeping in a home that's a bit cooler than it is before bedtime.

Your best bet: Invest in a programmable thermostat that will automatically turn the heat down when you leave for work; up



when you're due to get home; down again right after you go to bed; and up again a half-hour before your alarm wakes you up in the morning.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling if you turn your thermostat back seven to 10 degrees for eight hours a day.

## Giving balloons instead of candy?

So you're tired of bringing candy and flowers to your Valentine every year and you've decided to order a big bunch of heart-shaped, helium balloons in metallic red.

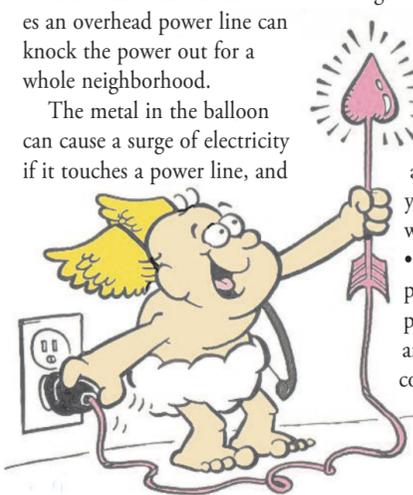
Give you sweetheart a warning with that gift. A metallic balloon that touches an overhead power line can knock the power out for a whole neighborhood.

The metal in the balloon can cause a surge of electricity if it touches a power line, and

that can short-circuit equipment. The result could be lights-out for thousands of people; a fire; or injuries.

Take a few precautions if you're giving Valentine's Day balloons this year:

- Tether each balloon to a weight so it can't float away.
- When you're ready to dispose of the balloons, pop them so they can't become airborne.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines if you're walking outdoors with a balloon.
- If your balloon happens to get tangled in a power line, leave it there and call your electric cooperative for assistance. You could get electrocuted if you touch a power line.



Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov

**TIP**  
of the  
Month



# DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact Central Electric immediately.