



From the Manager's Desk

DAVID VONDRAN, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Let's Connect!

When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But when you're a member of an electric co-op, there's so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we'd like to help you maximize the value you can get from C & L Electric through a variety of programs and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save money on your energy bill through our energy audits. We offer a variety of payment options for your convenience. Members can enroll in bank draft, pay bills online, pay by text or pay by our automated phone system.

When you follow us on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, annual meeting news, co-op director elections, energy-savings tips and more. You'll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects, and who doesn't enjoy seeing good things happening in our community?

By connecting with us, you can get updates from your co-

op. That's why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. Please update your contact information by calling 870-628-4221. Be sure to remove landline numbers no longer in service and update your email address.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That's because when you call to report an outage, our automated system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage-management system predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can — whether that means attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees or simply liking our Facebook posts.

C & L Electric exists to serve our members, and when we're better connected to you and our local community, we're better prepared to answer the call.

We look forward to connecting with you!



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David Vondran appointed as new CEO of C & L Electric

The Board of Directors of C & L Electric Cooperative has named David Vondran as the new CEO/General Manager. Board President Robert Floyd said, "We are excited to announce David Vondran as the newly appointed CEO of C&L Electric." Vondran succeeded Greg Smith, who retired in December.

Vondran served as CEO/General Manager of Benton Utilities, the municipal electric, water and wastewater utility provider to the city of Benton and surrounding areas. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Arkansas and brings 26 years of combined engineering, managerial and financial experience.

He has served as a member/director of the Arkansas Municipal Power Association (AMPA) and has served on the legislative committee as an advocate to Congress for shaping the impact of federal legislation at the local level. He is also currently a member of the American

Public Power Association (APPA), the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities, and participates in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) – Transmission Dependent Utilities (TDU) Sector.

Vondran's educational background includes a Master of Business Administration from Wichita State University, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas and completion of the APPA's Public Power Manager Certificate Program.

Vondan and his wife, Stacy, have one son, Andrew, and enjoy traveling, spending time outdoors and being with family and friends. "I am honored to be selected as the next CEO of C & L Electric," Vondran said. "I look forward to the opportunity to serve the member/owners and am very excited for the chance to lead an exceptional group of employees into the future."

Retirement congratulations!

Greg Smith, CEO/General Manager for C & L Electric Cooperative, retired in December after working at the co-op for 35 years. Smith, the son of the late Forrest and Eileen Smith, graduated from Hampton High School in 1983. He attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM), graduating in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Smith worked in the Agricultural Department at UAM while in college and started working at C & L as the staff accountant in 1987. He became the CEO/General Manager in December 2016.

Smith and his wife, Wednesday, are looking forward to traveling more, enjoying the lake and relaxing. He is also looking forward to having more time for his woodworking hobby.

C & L employees and directors wish him the very best in his retirement!



my co-op

Need assistance paying your electric bill?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides help with paying heating costs in winter months to qualifying individuals and families.

Beginning Jan. 9, applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds are available. Businesses are excluded from receiving the benefit.

Check eligibility at your local Community Action Agency (CAA) acaaa.org.

LIHEAP is not administered by your local cooperative, but rather through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and it is operated by community action agencies.



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Re-file for Sales Tax Exemption by March 1

If you are currently exempt from paying sales tax on the first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity used each month, that exemption expired Jan. 1, 2023. If you still qualify, you may continue receiving the exemption if you complete and return the exemption form to C & L Electric by March 1, 2023.

Act 120 of 1983 provides that members whose household income is less than \$12,000 annually shall be exempt from paying sales tax on the first 500 kWh of electricity used each month. All charges for electricity used above 500 kWh will still be taxed.

To qualify, members must complete a form supplied by the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and

Administration. These forms must be completed and re-filed annually to get the exemption. If you filed a form last year and are currently receiving the exemption, you must file again this year.

These forms may be obtained from the Commission of Revenues or from any one of the cooperative's offices in person or by mail. As noted on the official form, all claim forms are "subject to audit for tax purposes, by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration."

Completed claim forms must be in the C & L headquarters office by March 1 to be eligible for the exemption during all of 2023. All applications received after March 1 will be for the remainder of the year.

C & L HELPS PROTECT SERVICE TO ELDERLY AND DISABLED MEMBERS

C & L Electric provides special considerations to ensure the protection of our *elderly* and *disabled* members. This protection includes:

- Before disconnecting your service due to an unpaid bill, we will make two attempts at different times of day to contact you, an adult at the premises, or someone previously designated by you, either in person or by telephone at least 72 hours before suspending service. If the attempt to contact is successful, we will offer to explain what can be done to avoid suspension of your service and explain payment and assistance options.
- If the attempt to make personal contact is not successful, we will give you 24 hours written notice, which explains what can be done to avoid suspension of your service.

To receive C & L Electric's "protection" service, you must register and provide written documents certifying

the status claimed. This protection is provided to prevent disruption of your electric service. It does not relieve you of liability for your electric bill or reduce the amount of your electric bill.

ELDERLY — An "elderly" member is one who is at least 65 years of age.

DISABLED — A "disabled" member is one who has a severe physical or mental impairment, who is certified as being disabled by a physician, licensed psychologist, the United States Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, the Arkansas State Hospital or a licensed mental health center.

If you wish to register for elderly or disabled status, fill out the form below & return to C & L with proof of age for elderly or physician's statement for disabled status.

REGISTRATION FORM (Mail form to: C & L Electric, P. O. Box 9, Star City, AR 71667)

(Providing false information shall be grounds for termination of service.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____ C & L Account # _____

CHECK STATUS: HANDICAPPED _____ ELDERLY _____

Attach proof of age for Elderly or physician's statement for Disability