

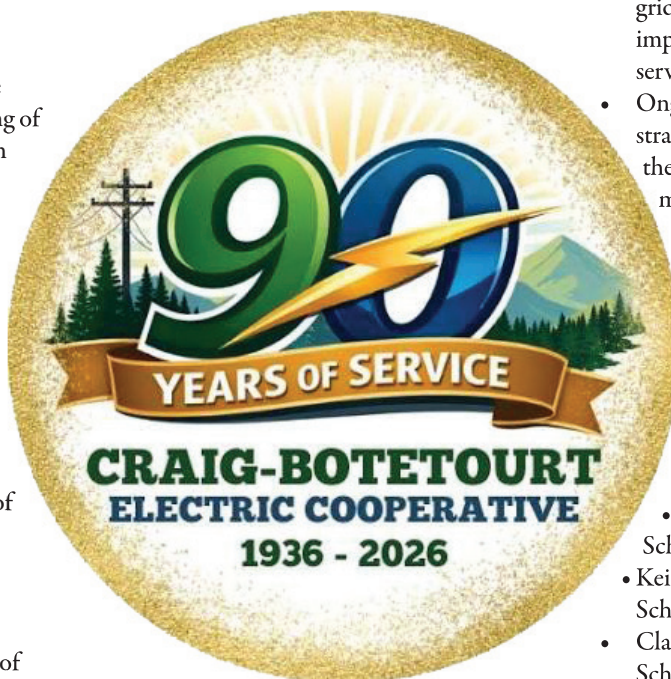
Nine Decades of Dedication

Celebrating 90 years of serving members, strengthening communities and powering the future together

Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative members gathered on June 4 for the Cooperative's 89th Annual Meeting of the Membership, a special occasion that celebrated not only another successful year of service but also CBEC's 90th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1936, CBEC has remained committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service while strengthening the communities it serves. This year's meeting reflected on that proud history while looking ahead to the future of the cooperative.

Members enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, entertainment by local musician Tim Rowlett and a meal prepared by CBEC Director of Operations Troy Hall before hearing updates on the Cooperative's financial performance, strategic initiatives and community investments.



LOOKING AHEAD WHILE BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

During his annual report, CEO Jeff Ahearn shared that CBEC remains in a strong financial position despite significant challenges facing electric cooperatives across the region, including rising wholesale power costs, inflation and increased material and labor expenses.

"Our focus remains on making decisions that protect the long-term strength of the Cooperative while keeping our members at the center of every decision," Ahearn said.

He highlighted several initiatives helping prepare CBEC for the future, including:

- Continued expansion of Bee Online Advantage broadband service, including ongoing work in Alleghany County.
- Construction of CBEC's battery energy storage project, expected to

improve grid resiliency and reduce long-term power costs.

- Investments in Advanced Metering Infrastructure, SmartHub and other grid modernization efforts that improve reliability and member service.
- Ongoing efforts to pursue grants and strategic partnerships that strengthen the electric system while helping manage costs for members.

INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERS

One of the highlights of the meeting was recognizing CBEC's 2026 Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Scholarship recipients:

- Ryder Ward – James River High School
- Keira Crawford – James River High School
- Claire Morris – Craig County High School
- Ian Morris – Craig County High School
- Cole Fogus – James Monroe High School (WV)

These outstanding students were honored for their academic achievements, leadership and commitment to their communities as they prepare to continue their education.

Continued on page 15

CONTACT US

26198 Craigs Creek Rd., P.O. Box 265
New Castle, VA 24127-0265

Phone

540-864-5121 • 800-760-2232

Email

craigbot@cbec.coop

Website

cbec.coop



Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

President

Patrick J. Ryan

CEO

Jeff M. Ahearn

*Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



Ian Morris of Craig County High School (right) with Maiya Ashby, Director of Communications with Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative.

Ninety Years of Service Honored by Virginia General Assembly

Del. Lily Franklin visits Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative to celebrate a legacy of service and the future of rural energy

As CBEC celebrates its 90th anniversary, the cooperative recently welcomed Virginia Del. Lily Franklin to its headquarters for a special visit recognizing nine decades of service to rural Virginia (and Monroe, W.Va.) and highlighting the cooperative's continued investment in reliable, resilient infrastructure.

Delegate Franklin's visit brought together cooperative leadership, industry partners, and members of the CBEC Board of Directors for a discussion about the cooperative's history, the challenges facing today's electric utilities, and the opportunities ahead for rural communities.

Board President Pat Ryan and Board Director James Huffman welcomed Delegate Franklin and the visiting guests, alongside Jeff Ahearn, CEO; Troy Hall, Director of Operations; Mary Ann Gober, Director of Human Resources and Executive Services; and Maiya Ashby, Director of Communications. Also participating in the visit were Kyle Shreve, Vice President of External Affairs for VMDAEC; Chloe Hodges, VMDAEC Director of Legislative Affairs; Troy Garrett, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs; and Andrew Vehorn, Senior Vice President of Member Engagement for Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, reflecting the

strong partnerships that support Virginia's electric cooperatives.

During the presentation, Ahearn shared the story of CBEC's evolution from its incorporation in 1936 and the energizing of its first electric lines in 1938 to the member-owned utility it is today. CBEC now serves more than 5,800 members across seven counties through more than 1,300 miles of energized distribution line, much of it traversing the rugged Appalachian Mountains and Jefferson National Forest.

The discussion highlighted several key issues impacting electric cooperatives and the communities they serve, including rising wholesale power costs, the importance of continued infrastructure investment and the unique challenges of maintaining reliable electric service across a large rural territory. Ahearn also highlighted the cooperative's ongoing commitment to innovation through investments that strengthen the electric grid, support economic development and improve quality of life throughout the service area.

A highlight of the visit came when

Delegate Franklin presented a Virginia General Assembly resolution commending CBEC for 90 years of dedicated service and community commitment. The resolution recognizes the cooperative's longstanding role in bringing electricity to rural Virginia and West Virginia, and its continued dedication to serving its member-owners.

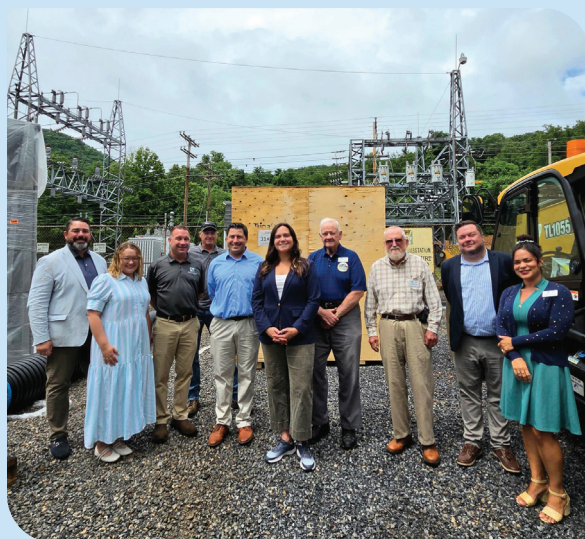
Following the presentation, Delegate Franklin and visiting guests toured CBEC's Meadow Creek Battery Energy Storage System. The almost completed

4-megawatt battery storage facility represents a significant investment in grid resilience and reliability. The project is designed to help reduce peak demand costs, improve system flexibility and enhance service reliability while positioning the cooperative to meet future energy needs.

The visit also showcased the cooperative model in action, one built on local leadership, member ownership and a commitment to serving rural communities. From bringing electricity to isolated mountain homes nearly 90 years ago to investing in advanced technologies and expanding services like Bee Online Advantage broadband, CBEC continues to adapt while remaining focused on the needs of its members.

"Celebrating 90 years is not only a chance to reflect on our history but also an opportunity to share our vision for the future," Jeff Ahearn, CBEC's CEO, said. "We appreciate Delegate Franklin taking the time to learn more about the cooperative model and the unique needs of the rural communities we serve. We are honored by this recognition from the Virginia General Assembly and remain committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service while investing in the future of our members and communities."

As CBEC commemorates its 90th anniversary, the visit served as a meaningful reminder that while technology and infrastructure continue to evolve, the cooperative's mission remains unchanged: improving the quality of life for the members and communities it proudly serves, today and for generations to come.



Nine Decades of Dedication

Continued from page 13



HONORING EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

CBEC also recognized employees celebrating employee service milestones:

- Jeff Ahearn, CEO – 10 years
- Colton Ratliff, Journeyman Lineman – 5 years
- John Storey, Director of Information Technology – 5 years

Their dedication and commitment continue to help deliver the dependable service that CBEC members expect every day.

POWERED BY COMMUNITY

Throughout the meeting, members learned about the Cooperative's accomplishments over the past year, participated in bill credit drawings and heard about projects that will continue strengthening CBEC for years to come.

Most importantly, the annual meeting served as a reminder that the Cooperative's greatest strength has always been its members.

As CBEC celebrates 90 years of service, the Cooperative remains focused on the same mission that inspired its founding nearly a century ago: providing reliable electricity, investing in local communities, embracing innovation and serving its members with integrity.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their leadership, our employees for their dedication and every member who joined us for this milestone celebration. Here's to 90 years of serving our communities and to many more years of powering life together.



A Labor Day poster for the Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative. The background features a scenic view of a green field, trees, and mountains under a cloudy sky. An American flag flies on a tall pole on the left. The text on the poster reads: "Honoring the Workers Who POWER OUR COMMUNITIES" (with stars on either side), "CLOSED FOR Labor Day" (with "CLOSED" in large bold letters and "FOR Labor Day" in a script font), and "MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7" in a black box. Below this is the cooperative's logo and name: "CRAIG-BOTETOURT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE". At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text: "WISHING OUR MEMBERS A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY! 🇺🇸" and "FOR OUTAGES, PLEASE CALL (540) 864-5121 OR 1-800-760-2232".