

# COLUMBUS CURRENTS

## Preserving What Matters

### October is National Cooperative Month

Every October, we celebrate National Cooperative Month. Why? Because it's a time to reflect on what makes co-ops special. This year, we're adding a little extra flavor with our slogan, letting you know as a cooperative, members are our jam.

It might sound like a silly slogan we're using to spread the fun, but it's the truth. Cooperatives put people before profits, serve the community and give you and your neighbors the power to make local decisions. And to us, that's as sweet as it gets.

Just like your favorite jam, Columbus Electric Cooperative is made of real ingredients. Real people. Real care. Real principles. Seven principles, to be exact, that guide everything we do and remind us why the cooperative model is worth preserving.

#### **Our Recipe for Success: The Seven Cooperative Principles**

##### **1. Open and Voluntary Membership**

Everyone is welcome. It doesn't matter your race, religion or gender. If you need our services and accept the responsibilities of membership, you're a member.

##### **2. Democratic Member Control**

You're not a customer, you're a member. That means you help guide the direction of your cooperative by electing fellow members to serve on our board of directors and make decisions on your behalf.

##### **3. Members' Economic Participation**

When you invest in us, we invest in you. At Columbus Electric Cooperative, we spread your dollars across the

community, improving your service, strengthening local nonprofits and, when possible, returning any leftover money to you through capital credits.

##### **4. Autonomy and Independence**

We're local through and through, which means we answer to you, not far away investors. It also means we won't enter into any agreements or partnerships that put local control of the co-op at risk.

##### **5. Education, Training and Information**

Knowledge is power. We prioritize education, training and sharing information about the issues that affect our co-op.

##### **6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

Have you tried a mixed-berry jam? The flavors support each other just like co-ops support each other. Together we're stronger. We work with other cooperatives at the local, state and national levels to share knowledge, improve services and strengthen the communities we serve.

##### **7. Concern for Community**

This is our home, too, and Columbus Electric Cooperative succeeds when our communities do. That's why we care deeply about supporting you, through college scholarships, community sponsorships, and charitable contributions.

These aren't just words on paper, they're the ingredients that make Columbus Electric Cooperative a sweet addition to our community. Members are our jam not only in October but all year long.

Thanks for being part of something meaningful.

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## Board Highlights

It was business as usual at the September meeting of the Board of Trustees. The financial and operations reports were reviewed and approved. The Board listened to reports related to our Statewide organization and our G&T, Tri-State.



Our office will be closed Tuesday, November 11, 2025 in observance of Veteran's Day

## Congratulations Alvin!



Pictured above: (left) Bryan Jackson, Operations Manager, (middle) Alvin Sias, Journeyman Lineman (right) Garrett Green, Crew Foreman

Alvin Sias, an employee with Columbus Electric Coop, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the United States. Michael and the support staff at Columbus Electric Coop can be proud of their accomplishment. Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association personnel. Congratulations to Alvin Sias, who can look forward to a very rewarding lifelong occupation.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



Emergency Response Number  
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number  
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

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