The Spotlight on Excellence Awards recognizes a body of outstanding work produced by electric co-op communications and marketing professionals across Co-op Nation. Winners of the 2016 Spotlight on Excellence Awards represent leading practices across all communication platforms and position them as the best in the field through their superior accomplishments that have lasting impact, demonstrate a high level of professionalism and deliver exceptional results.

Because the system of finite scoring is used, some categories and classifications may not have a full slate of winners. Gold winners scored 90 points or more in their category and classification, while Silver winners scored at least 80 points. The Spotlight on Excellence Award is an initiative of the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and is NRECA’s highest communication honor. Awards are presented for best projects and programs for the year that embody high standards of quality and achievement.

1. **Best News Story** *(At-large category)*

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative  
   Bastrop, TX  
   Fire & Floods  
   Janet Wilson  
   janet.wilson@bluebonnet.coop

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association  
   Great Falls, Montana  
   Here Comes the S.U.N.  
   Ryan G. Hall  
   ryanh@mtco-ops.com

2. **Best Feature Story** *(At-large category)*

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina  
   Cayce, SC  
   In the line of fire  
   Diane Veto Parkam  
   keith.phillips@ecsc.org

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Minnkota Power Cooperative  
   Grand Forks, ND  
   Wild Rice heroes  
   Kevin Fee  
   kfee@minnkota.com

3. **Best Column** *(At-large category)*

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Rock Energy Cooperative  
   Janesville, WI  
   Country’s Energy Future Filled with Uncertainties  
   Shane Larson  
   barbu@rock.coop

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Mountain View Electric Association  
   Falcon, CO  
   Colowyo Coal Mine Under Threat of Closure  
   Sarah Schaefer  
   schaefer-s@mvea.org

4. **Best External News Publication**

   **Classification 1**

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Federated Rural Electric and Brown County Rural Electrical Association  
   Jackson, MN  
   Cooperative Connections  
   Andrea Christoffer  
   ruthenbeck@federatedrea.coop

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Consolidated Electric Cooperative  
   Mount Gilead, OH  
   Connections  
   Nikki Vanderkooi  
   phawk@conelec.com

   **Classification 2**

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
   Greenville, IL  
   The Southwestern  
   Joseph Richardson  
   joe.richardson@sweci.com

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Kauai Island Utility Cooperative  
   Lihue, HI  
   Currents  
   Jim Kelly  
   jkelly@kiuc.coop

   **Classification 3**

   **GOLD AWARD**  
   Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative  
   Bastrop, TX  
   Texas Co-op Power magazine  
   Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative  
   Melissa Segrest@bluebonnet.coop

   **SILVER AWARD**  
   Sam Houston Electric Cooperative  
   Livingston, TX  
   Sam Houston Electric Cooperative Texas Co-op Power Local Pages  
   mpedigo@samhouston.net

Writing Entries
5. Best Internal News Publication

**Classification 1**

**GOLD AWARD**
Umatilla Electric
Hermiston, OR
*Umatilla Electric “The Current”*
Arla Smith
arla.smith@umatillaelectric.com

**Classification 2**

**GOLD AWARD**
Appalachian Electric Cooperative
New Market, TN
*The Hotline - AEC’s Employee Newsletter*
Becky Burks
bburks@aecoop.org

**SILVER AWARD**
Aiken Electric Cooperative
Aiken, SC
*WATTS On Line*
Aiken Electric Cooperative
mgoulthay@aikenco-op.org

**Classification 3**

**GOLD AWARD**
United Cooperative Services
Burleson, TX
*United Perspective*
United Cooperative Services
mauri@united-cs.com
Others involved: Marty Haught

**SILVER AWARD**
Flint Energies
Warner Robins, GA
*Three Phase*
Marian McLemore
mmclemore@flintemc.com
Others involved: Jennie Lacey

**Classification 4**

**GOLD AWARD**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA
*PowerLines - Feb, Apr, May*
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
ann.lewis@myrec.coop
Others involved: June Padgett, Bright Eyed Design

**SILVER AWARD**
Great Lakes Energy
Hart, MI
*Envision*
Linda Kotzian
lkotzian@glenergy.com
Others involved: Mitchell Graphics

**Classification 5**

**GOLD AWARD**
Texas Electric Cooperatives
Austin, TX
*Texas Co-op Power Magazine*
Texas Electric Cooperative
clohrmann@texas-ec.org
Others involved: Martin Bevins, Charles Lohrmann, Karen Nejtek, Andy Doughty, Tom Widlowski, Jane Sharpe, Chris Burrows, Suzanne Halko, Ellen Stader, Grace Arsiaga, Christine Carlson

**SILVER AWARD**
East Kentucky Power Cooperative
Winchester, KY
*Compass*
East Kentucky Power Cooperative
kevin.osbourn@ekpc.coop
Others involved: Scott Mandl, Randy Bucknam

6. Best Special Publication – Small

**Classification 1**

**GOLD AWARD**
Coastal Electric Cooperative
Midway, GA
*Co-op Connections cover wrap*
J. Mark Bolton
mark.bolton@coastalemc.com
Others involved: Kathy Shuler Cousson

**SILVER AWARD**
Consolidated Electric Cooperative
Mt. Gilead, OH
*PCI Compliance stuffer*
Nikki Vanderkooi
nvanderkooi@conelec.com
Classification 2

**GOLD AWARD**
Wiregrass Electric Cooperative
Dothan, AL

“Scam Alert!”
WEC Member Services
dalbritton@wiregrasselectric.coop

**SILVER AWARD**
4-County Electric Power Association
Columbus, MS

*Online service bill stuffer*
Brad Barr
brad.barr@4county.org
Others involved: Electric Power Associations of Mississippi

Classification 3

**GOLD AWARD**
Farmers EC
Greenville, TX

*Summer Mailer*
Jim Nimmo
jnimmo@farmerselectric.coop
Others involved: cue:creative

**SILVER AWARD**
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Bastrop, TX

*Bluebonnet Calling bill stuffer*
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Melissa.Segrest@bluebonnet.coop
Others involved: Joe Stafford

Classification 4

**GOLD AWARD**
Jackson EMC
Jefferson, GA

*How to Cut, Slice & Dice Energy Use in the Kitchen*
April Sorrow
asorrow@jacksonemc.com
Others involved: AdSmith

**SILVER AWARD**
Great Lakes Energy
Boyne City, MI

*How are my dollars spent?*
Great Lakes Energy
sculver@glenenergy.com
Others involved: Mitchell Graphics, Dennis Preston

Classification 5

**GOLD AWARD**
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Humboldt, IA

*LED Puzzle Direct Mail Postcard*
James Sayers
james.sayers@cbpower.coop
Others involved: Marena Fritzler, Inside Information, Amazing Mail, Services Concept

**SILVER AWARD**
Georgia System Operations Corporation
Tucker, GA

*Solar Energy Brochure*
Georgia System Operations Corporation
Stan.Nojewoy@gasoc.com

Classification 6

**GOLD AWARD**
Jackson County REMC
Brownstown, IN

*New Member Packet*
Nicole Ault
nault@jacksonremc.com
Others involved: Sherlock Homes, Co-op Connections, Rainbow Printing

**SILVER AWARD**
Copper Valley Electric Association
Glennallen, AK

*Strategic Issues Paper 2015*
Copper Valley Electric Association
crisp@cvea.org
Others involved: Sharon Crisp, Robert Wilkinson, John Duhamel, Travis Million, Dale Orvedahl, Jaime Matthews, Nancy Heidelberg

Classification 7

**GOLD AWARD**
Bandera Electric Cooperative
Bandera, Texas

*Electrical Service Standards*
Amy Zink
a.zink@banderaelectric.com
Others involved: Jim Ward, Ruby Hinojosa

**SILVER AWARD**
Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative
Kearney, MO

*Business Plan 2016*
Cheryl Barnes
csheryl@pcec.coop

Classification 8

**GOLD AWARD**
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX

*2016 Calendar & Member Handbook*
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

**SILVER AWARD**
Delaware Electric Cooperative
Greenwood, DE

*Delaware Living 2015*
Jeremy Tucker
jtucker@decoop.com
Others involved: Teresa McCann, Matt Rogers

Classification 9

**GOLD AWARD**
Tri-State Generation & Transmission
Denver, CO

*Work of Power Campaign Brand Book*
Tri-State Generation & Transmission
arosier@tristategt.org
Others involved: Willie Peterson
7. Best Annual Report to Members

Classification 1

**GOLD AWARD**
Garkane Energy Cooperative
Kanab, UT
*Sharp Curves Ahead*
Neal Brown
neal.brown@garkane.com

**SILVER AWARD**
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Rushford, MN
*Next Generation of Power*
Brenda Tesch
btesch@tec.coop
Others involved: Dairyland Power

Classification 2

**GOLD AWARD**
Mohave Electric Cooperative
Bullhead City, AZ
*Working Together to Make a Difference*
Mohave Electric Cooperative
pgillman@mohaveelectric.com
Others involved: Tyler Carlson, Lori Fonzi, Theresa Leclerc, Arizona's G&T Cooperatives, James Bujarski, Peggy Gillman

**SILVER AWARD**
Corn Belt Energy
Bloomington, IL
*People, Power, Progress*
Hillary Cherry
hillary.cherry@cornbeltenergy.com

Classification 3

**GOLD AWARD**
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
*2014 Sam Houston EC Annual Report*
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey, Joe Lowery

**SILVER AWARD**
Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative
Seguin, TX
*Never Standing Still - 2014 GVEC Annual Report to Members*
Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative
thompson@gvec.org
Others involved: Carla Maldonad, Melissa Johnson, Chris Carson

Classification 4

**GOLD AWARD**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA
*The Connection*
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
ann.lewis@myrec.coop
Others involved: Dennis McWaters

**SILVER AWARD**
GreyStone Power Corporation
Douglasville, GA
*Powering Everyday Value 2014 Annual Report*
Vicki Harshbarger
vicki.harshbarger@greystonepower.com
Others involved: Ashley Kramer, G&T Communications

Classification 5

**GOLD AWARD**
East Kentucky Power Cooperative
Winchester, KY
*Strength In Numbers*
East Kentucky Power Cooperative
kevin.osbourn@ekpc.coop
Others involved: Tim Webb

**SILVER AWARD**
Hoosier Energy
Bloomington, IN
*65th Anniversary, Hoosier Energy Annual Report, 2014*
Claire Gregory
cgregory@hepn.com
Others involved: Mary Lynn Beaver, Chris Denison Design, Caperion
8. Most Innovative Use of Digital Communication

Classification 1

**Silver Award**
SEMO Electric Cooperative
Sikeston, MO

*Member Highlights*
SEMO Electric Cooperative
gcantrell@semoelectric.coop
Others involved: Jeff Oesch, H. Wilson

Classification 2

**Gold Award**
Tideland EMC
Pantego, NC

*Amiee’s Story: The Power of Second Chances*
Tideland EMC
heidismith@tidelandemc.com
Others involved: Amazing Studios

**Silver Award**
White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Branson, MO

*What’s a “minimum bill” charge?*
White River Valley Electric Cooperative
dbradford@whiteriver.org
Others involved: jackson+appleton video production

Classification 3

**Silver Award (tie)**
Union Power Cooperative
Monroe, NC

*Union Power Cooperative Website*
Union Power Cooperative
communications@union-power.com
Others involved: Luanne Sherron, Carrie Stroud, Kathy Williams, Rhonda Smith, Hal Setser, Apogee Interactive

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Bastrop, TX

*Lineman’s Lingo video*
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Melissa.Segrest@bluebonnet.coop
Others involved: Chelsea Beauchamp, Joe Stafford

Classification 4

**Gold Award**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA

*Preparing for the Storm*
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
ann.lewis@myrec.coop
Others involved: Ryan White, Tri-21 Media

**Silver Award**
Pedernales Electric Cooperative
Kyle, TX

*Vegetation Maintenance*
Matthew D. Gonzalez
matthew.gonzalez@peci.com

Classification 5

**Silver Award**
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives
Raleigh, North Carolina

*Empower*
Kristie Aldridge
kristie.aldridge@ncemcs.com
Others involved: Lewis Advertising

9. Best Use of Social Media (At-large category)*

**Gold Award**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA

*The Many Faces of REC Campaign*
REC’s Communications and Public Relations Department
ann.lewis@myrec.coop

**Silver Award**
Midwest Energy Cooperative
Cassopolis, MI

*Feed the Need Food Drive Video Contest*
Nicole Barfell
nicole.barfell@teammidwest.com

10. Best Digital Storytelling

Classification 1

**Gold Award**
Kosciusko REMC
Warsaw, IN

*Kosciusko REMC Restoration Video*
Katy Berger
kberger@kremc.com
Others involved: 212 Media Studios

**Silver Award**
Coastal Electric Cooperative
Midway, GA

*The Next Greatest Thing – 75 years later*
J. Mark Bolton
mark.bolton@coastalemc.com

Classification 2

**Gold Award**
Peninsula Light Company
Gig Harbor, WA

*Storm Responders*
Peninsula Light Company
jonathanw@penlight.org
Others involved: North Woods Productions

**Silver Award**
Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative
Kearney, MO

*Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative Solar Panel Construction*
Jennifer Grossl
jennifer@peci.coop
Others involved: Dave Christensen, Dave Deihl, Cheryl Barnes, Linda Richardson
Classification 3

GOLD AWARD
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Bastrop, TX
Memorial Day Weekend Storms 2015 Video
Sarah Beal
sarah.beal@bluebonnet.coop

SILVER AWARD
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Bastrop, TX
Inside the Burn Zone video
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Melissa.Segrest@bluebonnet.coop
Others involved: Joe Stafford

Classification 4

GOLD AWARD
Jackson EMC
Jefferson, GA
What makes a company great?
Mark Owen
mowen@jacksonemc.com
Others involved: The Adsmith

SILVER AWARD
Jackson EMC
Jefferson, GA
2015 Ice Storm Response
Mark Owen
mowen@jacksonemc.com
Others involved: Radar Productions

Classification 5

GOLD AWARD
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bismarck, ND
Lineman Perspective 2015
Gregory L. DeSaye
gdesaye@bepc.com

SILVER AWARD
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Topeka, KS
Kansas Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
Shana Read
sread@kec.org
Others involved: Serena Kefayeh, Creative Ideation, Anne Barnes

11. Best Hard Copy Reinvention

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
2015 Board of Director Election Ballot
Rachel Frey
rfrey@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Mary Kate Pedigo, Survey and Ballot Systems

SILVER AWARD
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
2014 Digital Annual Report
Rachel Frey
rfrey@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Mary Kate Pedigo, Joe Lowery, David Guy, Pioneer Design

Classification 4

SILVER AWARD
Jackson EMC
Jefferson, Georgia
Electric Animals
April Sorrow
asorrow@jacksonemc.com
Others involved: Jackson EMC
12. Best Photo (At-large category)*

**GOLD AWARD**
Berkeley Electric Cooperative
Moncks Corner, SC
*Macedonia Substation Flooding*
Micah Ponce
micahp@bec.coop
Others involved: Electric Co-op Today

**SILVER AWARD**
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Austin, TX
*Hidden Pines Fire 2015*
Sarah Beal
sarah.beal@bluebonnet.coop

13. Best Wild Card

Classification 1

**GOLD AWARD**
Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative
Eldorado, TX
*70th Annual Meeting Silver Medallion*
Eddie L. Albin
ealbin@swtec.com
Others involved: Sunshine Mint

**SILVER AWARD**
Garkane Energy Cooperative
Kanab, UT
*People Behind the Power*
Neal Brown
neal.brown@garkane.com

Classification 2

**GOLD AWARD**
Tideland EMC
Pantego, NC
*Selfie Station*
Tideland EMC
heidismith@tidelanndemc.com
Others involved: Concept Development

**SILVER AWARD (tie)**
Northwestern REC
Cambridge Springs, PA
*Lineman on the Line*
Northwestern REC Employees
lking@northwesternrec.com
Others involved: Andy Aultz, Jim Henry, Lynn Moore

Mid-South Synergy
Navasota, TX
*Mid-South Synergy International Lineman's Rodeo Shirts*
Eric Hubbard
ehubbard@midsouthsynergy.com

Classification 3

**GOLD AWARD**
Carroll EMC
Carrollton, GA
*Father's Day Card*
Carroll EMC
kelly.hestercarrolllemc.com
Others involved: Aislinn Rain Photography, Shutterfly

**SILVER AWARD**
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
*2016 Calendar & Member Handbook*
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

Classification 4

**GOLD AWARD**
Cobb EMC
Marietta, GA
*Watson: Cobb EMC Safety Mascot*
Mark Justice
mark.justice@cobbemc.com
Others involved: Andrew Herde, Alex Hamilton

**SILVER AWARD**
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative
Hughesville, MD
*SMECO bike ride shirt*
Jonna Jones
jonna.jones@smeco.coop

Classification 5

**GOLD AWARD**
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
Denver, CO
*Power Makes It Possible Launch Kit*
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
arosier@tristategt.org

**SILVER AWARD**
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative
Glen Allen, VA
*Electronic Holiday Greeting Card*
Shena L. Crittendon
scrittendon@odec.com
Others involved: Circle S Studio

14. Best Graphic Design

Classification 1

**GOLD AWARD**
Garkane Energy Cooperative
Kanab, UT
*People Behind the Power*
Neal Brown
neal.brown@garkane.com

**SILVER AWARD**
The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.
Dodge City, KS
*Victory Electric Safety Scratchpads*
Jerri Ann Imgarten
jerri@victoryelectric.net
Others involved: Consolidated Printing

Classification 2

**GOLD AWARD**
Wiregrass Electric Cooperative
Dothan, AL
*“Seven Cooperative Principles”*
WEC Member Services
dalbritton@wiregrasselectric.coop
15. Best Individual Ad

Classification 1

GOLD AWARD
Clearwater Power Company
Lewiston, ID
Use Electricity Wisely
Jeff Marshall
jmarshall@clearwaterpower.com
Others involved: Clearwater Power

SILVER AWARD
Rock Energy Cooperative
Janesville, WI
Natural Gas Safety
Barbara Uebelacker
barbu@rock.coop
Others involved: Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Classification 2

GOLD AWARD
White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Branson, MO
Celebrating National Co-op Month
Christina Swaters
cswaters@whiteriver.org
Others involved: Jackson Appleton Video Production

SILVER AWARD
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
I Work for the Queen
Mary Kate Pedigo
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD
Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX
I’m the Leader of Thousands
Mary Kate Pedigo
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

SILVER AWARD
Texas Electric Cooperatives
Austin, TX
Power Makes It Possible Swag
Mary Kate Pedigo
mpedigo@samhouston.net
Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

Classification 4

GOLD AWARD
NOVEC
Manassas, VA
Powerful Values That Power Your Life
NOVEC PR Team
mcurtis@novec.com
Others involved: G&T Communications, Inc.

SILVER AWARD
Berkeley Electric Cooperative
Moncks Corner, SC
Our members are our family
Micah Ponce
micahp@bec.coop
Others involved: WCBD-TV News - Mike Futeral/Tony Di Resta
Classification 5

**GOLD AWARD**
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bismarck, ND

*Brave the Shave PSA 2015*
Gregory L. DeSaye
gdesaye@bepc.com

**SILVER AWARD**
Georgia System Operations Corporation
Tucker, GA

*Rocky Mountain Recreation Ad*
Georgia System Operations Corporation
stan.najeway@gasoc.com

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16. Best Event

**Classification 1**

**GOLD AWARD**
Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Port Orford, OR

*CCEC Strategic Planning*
Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
christine@cooscurryelectric.com

**SILVER AWARD**
High West Energy
Pine Bluffs, WY

*Branding Party*
High West Energy
lwalter@highwestenergy.com
Others involved: Lorrell Walter, Chelsea Schnyer

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**Classification 2**

**GOLD AWARD**
Dixie Electric Power Association
Laurel, MS

*Katrina 10 Years Later*
Dixie Electric Power Association
lydiawalters@dixieepa.com
Others involved: Randy Smith, Lydia Walters, Pollyanna Magee, Elissa Fulton, Mark Bridges

**SILVER AWARD**
Central Rural Electric Cooperative
Stillwater, OK

*Innovation Pointe Announcement*
CREC Communications Team
lmattax@crec.coop
Others involved: Guernsey

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**Classification 3**

**GOLD AWARD**
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pickens, SC

*Boils of Brightness*
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
denise.mccormick@blueridge.coop
Others involved: AP Design, Fisheye Photography

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**Classification 4**

**GOLD AWARD**
Cobb EMC
Marietta, GA

*6th Annual Literacy Week*
Mark Justice
mark.justice@cobbemc.com
Others involved: Tiko Jones, Andrew Herdeg, Becca Duvall, Camille Fish

**SILVER AWARD**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA

*Telephone Town Hall Meeting*
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
ann.lewis@myrec.coop
Others involved: The Telephone Town Hall company

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**Classification 5**

**GOLD AWARD**
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bismarck, ND

*Basin Electric 2015 Annual Meeting*
Basin Electric Communications and Creative Services
dsullivan@bepc.com
Others involved: Basin Electric Power Cooperative

**SILVER AWARD**
Hoosier Energy
Bloomington, IN

*Facilities Dedication*
Hoosier Energy Communications Department
jgates@hepn.com

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*An At-large category is judged without consideration to the size of the cooperative.*
17. Best Total Communication Program

**Classification 1**

**GOLD AWARD**
Garkane Energy Cooperative
Kanab, UT
*People Behind the Power*
Neal Brown
neal.brown@garkane.com

**SILVER AWARD**
Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
Jamestown, ND
*Co-op Month Can & Coat Drive*
Katie Ryan-Anderson
katiea@nplains.com
Others involved: Pingree-Buchanan School, Montpelier Public School, Edgeley Public School, Little Flower Catholic Church CYO, ServeYES! volunteers

**Classification 2**

**GOLD AWARD**
Mid-South Synergy
Navasota, TX
*Let There Be Light*
Kerry Kelton
andy.conner@gmail.com
Others involved: Andy Conner, Sirius Video, Heyman Talent

**SILVER AWARD**
Peninsula Light Company
Gig Harbor, WA
*Harbor Community Solar*
Peninsula Light Company
jonathanw@penlight.org
Others involved: Harbor History Museum and Bonneville Environment Foundation

**Classification 3**

**GOLD AWARD**
Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp.
Lenoir, NC
*Become One of the Heroes Among Us*
Grey Scheer
rwhitener@blueridgeemc.com
Others involved: Renee Whitener, G&T Communications, Carolina Country Magazine, SouthData, NickGreene.com, TSE Services, Susan Simmons

**SILVER AWARD**
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Bastrop, TX
*Knowledge Is Power*
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
melissa.segrest@bluebonnet.coop
Others involved: Joe Stafford, Chelsea Beauchamp

**Classification 4**

**GOLD AWARD**
Berkely Electric Cooperative
Moncks Corner, SC
*75 Acts of Education*
Leisa Stilley
leisas@bec.coop

**SILVER AWARD**
Peninsula Light Company
Gig Harbor, WA
*Harbor Community Solar*
Peninsula Light Company
jonathanw@penlight.org
Others involved: Harbor History Museum and Bonneville Environment Foundation

**Classification 5**

**GOLD AWARD**
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
Denver, CO
*Work of Power Campaign: Power Makes It Possible*
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
arosier@tristategt.org
Others involved: Lumenati, Tasdar Creative, Willie Peterson Creative, Tri-State’s 44 member systems

**SILVER AWARD**
NDAREC
Mandan, ND
*The Power of the People Exhibit*
NDAREC
ckesler@ndarec.com

The Edgar F. Chesnutt Award Winner will be announced at Connect ‘16 in the Opening General Session See you in Portland!

**J.C. Brown CEO Communication Leadership Award**

The J.C. Brown award memorializes the late J.C. Brown, who – as editor and publisher of NRECA’s RE Magazine – is best remembered for his dedication to communication as a vital link connecting electric cooperatives with each other as well as with their consumer-owners. The panel of five judges consisted of communication and management experts in academia, business and industry, including electric co-ops. Although it is part of the Spotlight on Excellence Awards Program, the award was presented at the yearly national conference for co-op CEOS sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

**2016 Winner - Kent D. Farmer, president and CEO**
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA