

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.

WRITING ENTRIES

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

Others involved: Barbara Uebelacker

SILVER AWARD

Mountain View Electric Association

Falcon, CO

[Colowyo Coal Mine Under Threat of Closure](#)

Sarah Schaefer

schaefer-s@mvea.org

Others involved: Jim Herron

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

Others involved: Steve Ruthenbeck

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

Others involved: Southwestern Electric Cooperative

SILVER AWARD

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

Lihue, HI

[Currents](#)

Jim Kelly

jkelly@kiuc.coop

Others involved: Ruralite Services, Pam Blair, Adfix Design Studio,

Amy Devitt

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

Bastrop, TX

[Texas Co-op Power magazine](#)

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

Melissa.Segrest@bluebonnet.coop

Others involved: Joe Stafford, Jay Godwin, Kathy Warbelow

SILVER AWARD

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative

Livingston, TX

[Sam Houston Electric Cooperative Texas Co-op Power Local Pages](#)

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative

mpedigo@samhouston.net

Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey, Randy Mallory,

Stephen Myers, Mary Kate Pedigo

Classification 4

GOLD AWARD

Jackson EMC
Jefferson, GA

[JEMCO News](#)

April Sorrow

asorrow@jacksonemc.com

SILVER AWARD

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
Manassas, VA

[Keeping Current](#)

Priscilla Knight

pknight@novec.com

Others involved: Ginnefine Jalloh

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

Hoosier Energy
Bloomington, IN

[EnergyLines](#)

Communication Department

eneely@hepn.com

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

mgouffray@aiken-co-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

[TEC Report](#)

Texas Electric Cooperatives

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@farmerelectric.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@glenergy.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.Najeway@gasoc.com

6. Best Special Publication – Large

Classification 1

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 2

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
cherylb@pcec.coop

Classification 3

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 5

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

SILVER AWARD

East Kentucky Power Cooperative
Winchester, KY

[Demand Side Management Annual Report](#)

East Kentucky Power Cooperative

kevin.osbourn@ekpc.coop

Others involved: Randy Bucknam, Sha Collier, Scott Drake,
Josh Littrell

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

tthompson@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

heidsmith@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

jenniferg@pcec.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@tidelandemc.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.hester@carrollemc.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

[Wattson: Cobb EMC Safety Mascot](#)

Mark Justice

mark.justice@cobbemc.com

Others involved: Andrew Herdeg, 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

SILVER AWARD

White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Branson, MO

[You're Invited: Annual Meeting 2015](#)

Christina Swaters
cswaters@whiteriver.org

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD

Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Troy, MO

[Cuivre River Electric 2016 Calendar](#)

Lonnie Tucker
ltucker@cuivre.com

SILVER AWARD

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX

[Operation Round Up Banner](#)

Mary Kate Pedigo
mpedigo@samhouston.net

Others involved: Rachel Frey

Classification 4

GOLD AWARD

Great Lakes Energy
Boyne City, MI

[Vegetation Management brochure](#)

Great Lakes Energy
sculver@glenergy.com

Others involved: Mitchell Graphics

SILVER AWARD

Pedernales Electric Cooperative
Johnson City, TX

["2016 Youth Tour: Make It Monumental" Youth Tour poster](#)

Pedernales Electric Cooperative
dann.ross@peci.com

Classification 5

GOLD AWARD

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
Denver, CO

[Power Makes It Possible Swag](#)

Tri-State Generation & Transmission
arosier@tristategt.org

SILVER AWARD (tie)

Texas Electric Cooperatives
Austin, TX

[Texas Co-op Power, Alvin Deluge](#)

Texas Electric Cooperatives
clohrmann@teas-ec.org

Others involved: E.R.Bills, Scott Dawson, Charles Lohrmann, Andy Doughty, Jane Sharpe, Karen Nejtek, Tom Widlowski

Texas Electric Cooperatives
Austin, TX

[Texas Co-op Power magazine, Natural Wisdom](#)

Texas Electric Cooperatives
clohrmann@teas-ec.org

Others involved: E.R. Bills, Zima Saunders, Jane Sharpe, Andy Doughty, Charles Lohrmann, Karen Nejtek, Tom Widlowski

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

Poudre Valley REA
Fort Collins, CO

[Pay As You Go Ad](#)

Amy Blunck
ablunck@pvrea.com

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative
Livingston, TX

[I Work for the Queen](#)

Mary Kate Pedigo
mpedigo@samhouston.net

Others involved: Keith Stapleton, Rachel Frey

SILVER 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

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@bepec.com

SILVER AWARD

Georgia System Operations Corporation
Tucker, GA

[Rocky Mountain Recreation Ad](#)

Georgia System Operations Corporation
stan.najeway@gasoc.com

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

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
lmattox@crec.coop

Others involved: Guernsey

Classification 3

GOLD AWARD

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pickens, SC

[Bolts of Brightness](#)

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
denise.mccormick@blueridge.coop

Others involved: AP Design, Fisheye Photography

SILVER AWARD

Flint Energies
Warner Robins, GA

[Sudden Impact](#)

Marian McLemore
mmclemore@flintemc.com

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

Classification 5

GOLD AWARD

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bismarck, ND

[Basin Electric 2015 Annual Meeting](#)

Basin Electric Communications and Creative Services
dsullivan@bepec.com

Others involved: Basin Electric Power Cooperative

SILVER AWARD

Hoosier Energy
Bloomington, IN

[Facilities Dedication](#)

Hoosier Energy Communications Department
jgates@hepn.com

**An At-large category is judged without consideration to the size of the cooperative.*

FEATURED ENTRY

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
Moneks Corner, SC

75 Acts of Education

Leisa Stilley

leisas@bec.coop

SILVER AWARD

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Fredericksburg, VA

REC's Storm Preparation Initiative

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

ann.lewis@myrec.coop

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

Great River Energy, Minnkota Power, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, National Information Solutions Cooperative, and State Historical Society

**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