



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

December 2010

CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE RETURNED

Consumers who were members of Piedmont Electric in 1979 and 1980 will soon receive their share of the capital credits for those years.

This is just one of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative. All money after the bills have been paid are returned to those who were receiving service based on the amount of electricity they bought during the affected years.

General retirement checks will be mailed to those active accounts with retirements of \$50 and more. Those whose capital credit retirements are less than \$50 will receive credits on their electric bills.

Inactive accounts with general retirements of \$20 and more will also receive a check, providing there is a current mailing address on file. For those with less than \$20 in their patronage account, checks will be held until the \$20 amount is met in a future year.

With this retirement of capital credits, Piedmont Electric will be refunding approximately \$580,000 to current and former members this year, including approximately \$170,000 that is being returned to the estates of deceased members.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Cooperative refunds money as long as it is fiscally responsible to do so. Until a specific year is "retired," the money is used for maintenance of the electrical system, and to allow Piedmont to meet the financial requirements of our lenders.



Lots of food and toys were donated last year.

At this time a year almost all of us are looking for a way to spread the true meaning of Christmas by sharing with those less fortunate.

Last year Piedmont Electric employees and members collected food and toys for those in all counties served by the Cooperative.

Once again Piedmont Electric is collecting for its annual Holiday Toy and Non-Perishable Food Drive at each of the Cooperative's three office locations.

New toys for children (infant to 12 years of age) and items for **the teenage group (ages 13–18) are** accepted at each location through December 3 at the Cooperative's Hillsborough, Roxboro and Caswell County office locations.

Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, and on Friday, December 31, for the New Year's holiday. Employees will be on call. Please have a safe, joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas!

*Co-op,
Employees
Ready for
Food, Toy
Donations*

Cash donations will also be accepted at each office. Toys and non-perishable food items will be purchased for the drive with any cash donations received.

Non-perishable foods for the holiday season include canned/evaporated milk, cake mixes, sugar, dried fruits, popcorn, crackers, canned fruits, peanut butter, jelly, soup, candy, etc.

Designated Piedmont Electric employees at the three branch offices will deliver these items to the Social Services Department in each of the three counties.

This project is part of the Cooperative's commitment to the communities in which we live and serve.





From Your President...

Determining the Most Equitable Rates

R. G. Brecheisen

Chief Executive Officer & President

Finding the most fair and equitable way of setting rate schedules to recover cost has always been a goal for your electric cooperative.

Throughout the years Piedmont Electric has set rates primarily based on the number of kilowatt-hours (kWhs) members use.

We realize we need to create the right retail rate environment for energy efficiency, conservation and to recover cost from our members more equitably.

And, we need to provide you, our member-consumers, with meaningful rates that will help you better control your electric bills.

Under Piedmont Electric's current rate structure, the base facilities charge is used to offset the cost of delivering power to your home.

The key word is "offset." Though some of the cost of delivering service is built into the base facilities charge, the remainder is factored in to the cost per kWh.

The cost varies on how much electricity the consumer uses.

Our goal is to recover the cost of delivering electricity to members as fairly as possible for both larger and smaller use consumers.

Consider what goes in to distributing electricity to you. This includes equipment, such as poles, transformers, metering equipment, substations and other "hardware."

Behind the scenes, there are costs associated with accounting, customer service and, of course, linemen.

There are also other costs associated with our business, such as taxes, equipment and right-of-way maintenance.

These things represent about 40% of Piedmont Electric's total operating costs regardless of how many kWhs are used.

After much study and consideration, your Board and management team believe these fixed costs should be more equitably divided among all Piedmont Electric member-consumers.

As a result, we will be recovering more of the fixed costs in the facilities charge portion of your monthly bill.

The remaining 60% of the Cooperative's costs goes for whole-

sale power, which fluctuates with the marketplace.

In addition to the rate schedule for each type of consumer (residential, small power, etc.) the market fluctuations can be addressed on the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) portion of your monthly bill, if necessary.

Next month Piedmont Electric will be changing its rate schedules to better reflect the actual cost of delivering electricity to your home or business.

Some members will actually see their costs go down, while others may see a slight increase, based on the amount of power they use. Of course, there will be some members who will see no change in their cost of service.

We will address the adjustments in the January newsletter when the change becomes effective.

As 2010 comes to an end we want to thank you for your patronage and wish you the best in the coming year. May you and your loved ones have a safe and joyous holiday season.



December Right-of-Way Maintenance

Orange County

New Sharon Church Road
Terry Road
Sawyer Road

Durham County

Bill Poole Road
McKee Road

Person County

Dick Holeman Road
Bowen Road
Helena-Moriah Road
(and surrounding areas)

By the Numbers...

- 1,352 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 518 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 375 members have turned in receipts for 3,740 CFLs, representing a total of 1,282,820 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 27 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 514 electric water heater wraps sold
- 534 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates

ENGINEER VOLUNTEERS AT BOLIVIAN CO-OP



When asked by NRECA's International Foundation to help provide some substation training this year in Bolivia, Robin Blanton, Piedmont Electric's Manager of Engineering, agreed to go.

Robin visited nine urban and three rural substations belonging to CRE, the largest power distri-

bution system in Bolivia and the oldest overseas co-op affiliated with NRECA.

CRE was in the process of upgrading and renewing some 15 substations. Based on their

visits to the sites, Robin and the other volunteers offered recommendations to CRE for standardization of design features and maintenance procedures.

Thanks to the volunteers' efforts, CRE staff gained a greater understanding of the need for bypass schemes for all main breakers,

plus additional details on arrangements for protecting outgoing secondary lines.

Robin says his approach was to keep things as simple and as standardized as possible. "Don't try to reinvent the wheel every time something new comes along," he says, "But don't be afraid to change things when it is truly necessary."

He says he thinks the training efforts were successful and that the local co-op employees appreciated the volunteers' training efforts.

"I had a great experience. It was as much a learning experience for me as it was for them."

PHOTO: Robin Blanton, second from left, worked with a Bolivian co-op on substation design.

Local Teachers Rewarded for 'Bright Ideas'

More than \$19,350 has been awarded by Piedmont Electric to local schools for the 2010-2011 Bright Ideas Grant Program.

The winning 18 grants cover a variety of topics, but all have a common denominator—they are innovative projects that would normally not be funded in traditional school budgets.

Winning grants were chosen by an independent panel of judges.

The winners include:

- **Patrick Kavanaugh** and **Lynne Gronback**, Cedar Ridge High School, Hillsborough, "How Does a Fuel Cell Work?"
- **Samantha Lawrence**, Stoney Creek Elementary School, Reidsville, "Learning through Video Games"
- **Judy McCarson Hilliard**, Easley Elementary School, Durham, "Learning Lyrically with a Much-Needed Laptop"
- **Nancy Huskins**, Garrett Elementary School, Mebane, "Cash IN and Fit IN"

- **Joanne Andrews**, Rogers-Herr Elementary School, Durham, "Digital Cameras for the Art Studio"

- **Amy Richardson**, Gravelly Hills Middle School, Efland, "The 3G Network: Gravelly Grizzlies Garden"

- **Beth Coleman** and **Kim McColman**, Efland Cheeks Elementary School, Efland, "Math Transformation Stations"

- **Elizabeth Sherron**, Stories Creek Elementary School, Roxboro, "Digital Library"

- **Nina Morley Daye** and **David Latta**, Orange Senior High School, Hillsborough, "Fuel Cells to Go Green"

- **Blake Norris** and **Aimee Haygood**, Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill, "Geometry Golf-O-Rama"

- **Agatha Brown**, Union Independent School, Durham, "Young Scientist: Demystify Your World"

- **Brandon Thompson**, A. L. Stanback Middle School, Hillsborough, "Let's Race"

- **Traci Carter**, Helena Elementary School, Timberlake, "Theatre in the Classroom"

- **Donna Kimbro**, Eastlawn Elementary School, Burlington, "Planting Seeds of Inquiry"

- **Beth Kirby**, Stoney Creek Elementary School, Reidsville, "Listen and Learn"

- **Bobbie Lequire**, Stovall-Shaw Elementary School, Stovall, "Just Trippin' with Oliver"

- **Susan Hess**, Helena Elementary School, Timberlake, "State Symbol Murals"

- **Beverly Jones**, New Hope Elementary School, Chapel Hill, "Free to Read"

Since the program began in 1994, Piedmont Electric has awarded more than \$260,000 in local grants. The program is co-sponsored by NCEMC.

The Cooperative received 40 Bright Ideas applications this year.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Youth Tour Date Set

Once again Piedmont Electric is sponsoring a trip to Washington, DC, for a local rising high school junior whose parents are served by the Cooperative.

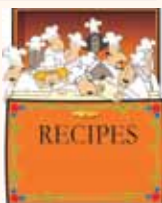
The expense-paid trip is set for the week of June 11-17, 2011, and is coordinated through our statewide organization.

The trip includes visits to the Smithsonian, White House, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Congress, where students have the opportunity to meet with their congressional representatives, among other activities.

More than 30 students from across North Carolina will travel by chartered bus to the nation's capital.

Interested students should visit Piedmont Electric's website for further information at www.pemc.org.

Pass It On...



We need YOU to pass on your recipes. If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont Electric members, please send it to: Pass It On, c/o Piedmont Connection, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278, or you may include it with your monthly payment.

If it is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of a cookbook from the Cooperative Council of North Carolina.

Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.

Be sure to check out this magazine's cover for more information about the Cooperative's Green Energy Bag promotion.

Three lucky members won electric roasters during the Co-op Month celebration.



Delmar Allred Glenda Blackwell Sarah Spoon

CO-OP MONTH CELEBRATED

Piedmont Electric celebrated Cooperative Month at its three office locations in October.

Employees explained the Cooperative's various energy savings programs and shared information about the *MyUsage.com* and the *TogetherWESave.com* websites.

Members and visitors enjoyed refreshments and received a few take-away items from the event.

Several members won cookbooks, screwdriver sets, and three members won electric roasters.

Winners of the roasters are: Sarah Spoon, Hillsborough; Glenda Blackwell, Roxboro, and Delmar

Allred, Caswell County office.

Winners of cookbooks and screwdriver sets are:

Herman Roberts, Yanceyville; Frances P. Tate, Elon; Helen Crisp, Winston-Salem; Cindy Badillo, Elon;

Harold Jefferson, Yanceyville; Gail Aldridge, Elon; Dennis Simmons, Elon; Linda Pinkard, Yanceyville; Cassandra Young, Roxboro;

Larry Green, Roxboro; Cecil Oakley, Rougemont; Dorothy McCain, Roxboro; Mary Currin, Timberlake; Linda Dixon, Timberlake; Rose Groves, Timberlake, and Loraine Howard, Timberlake.



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor

