



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.coop

December 2012

Nominating Committee Set to Meet Jan. 5

In preparation for the April 12, 2013, Annual Meeting of the Members of Piedmont Electric, a Nominating Committee has been appointed to prepare a slate of nominees for three seats on the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Appointed to the 2013 Nominating Committee are:

- John Melton Roxboro
- Vance Albright Mebane
- Cleotis Lawson, Jr. Roxboro
- Dianne Murphy Mebane
- Homer Brindle Elon College
- Joanna Brown Hillsborough
- Karen Barrows Hurdle Mills
- Joe Currin Chapel Hill
- Sylvia Wade Rougemont
- Jerry Hawkins Timberlake

The Board seats are currently held by Stephen C. Long, Prospect Hill, District 4; Talmadge W. Yancey, Roxboro, District 6, and Sam T. Woods, Hurdle Mills, District 9.

The Cooperative's bylaws provide an alternative to the nominations of the Nominating Committee.

Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts from which they are nominated, on or before February 14, 2013, preceding the Annual Meeting at which such directors are to be elected.



Dr. Frances Brindle shows her students at Carolina Friends School in Durham a facsimile of the check she was awarded in the Bright Ideas Grant Program.

Teachers' Bright Ideas Earn Grants

More than \$20,360 has been awarded by Piedmont Electric to area teachers for 18 Bright Ideas Grants for the 2012-13 school year.

The grants, co-sponsored by the Cooperative and the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, are part of the Bright Ideas Grant Program.

Winners were chosen by an independent panel of judges based on grant applications. This year's recipients include:

- **Emily Quadrio**, Grey Culbreth Middle School, Chapel Hill, "Wind Energy"
- **Janice Albaugh** and **Beth Boyce**, Pathways Elementary School, Hillsborough, "Pathways in the Garden"
- **Kristie Mabry**, A. L. Stanback Middle School, Hillsborough, "Transferring Energy with Circuits"
- **Dr. Frances Brindle**, Carolina Friends School, Durham, "Environmental Inquiry"
- **Wykendra Parker** and **Beth Kirby**, Stoney Creek Elementary School, Reidsville, "A Gardener's Secret"
- **Traci Carter**, Helena El-

ementary School, Timberlake, "Interacting with the Whiteboard"

- **Cornelius Lassiter, Teresa Elliott, Amanda Vaughn, Jay Carmichael** and **William Whitfield**, Northern Middle School, Roxsboro, "Biotechnology"

- **Susan Poole, Donna Hamm, Megan Bendson** and **Kim Leonhardt**, North High School, Durham, "Northern Courtyard"

- **Julia Higby-Naquin**, Voyager Academy, Durham, "A Gel Electrophoresis Experience"

- **Mary Andrews, Rena Norwood, Jennifer Pedersen** and **Eileen Regan**, Estes Hills Elementary School, Chapel Hill, "READ2ME: Tailgate Stories"

- **Melissa Barnhouse**, Gravelly Hill Middle School, Efland, "Judge a Book by Its Cover"

- **Thomas Watson**, Gravelly Hill Middle School, Efland, "You Are What You Eat: A Nonfiction Unit about Fast Food, Whole Food and Social Issues"

- **Kimberly Body**, Spring Valley Elementary School, Durham, "Channeling History's Giants"

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From Your President

Piedmont Electric Members Have Connections

R. G. Brecheisen

President & Chief Executive Officer

It's that time of the year again when stores are filled with holiday decorations and all kinds of gift ideas.

Your electric cooperative does not believe in waiting until the last minute to offer you special values. We work diligently to offer you "specials" all year long through a variety of member benefits.

The most recent of these member benefits from Piedmont Electric is the new Co-op Connections® Card, which provides discounts at local businesses—including prescription drugs.

Each month we'll update the list of discounts both in this newsletter and on our website, www.pemc.coop. Remember to keep your Co-op Connections® Card with you so you can take advantage of this member benefit.

There are many other benefits from your electric cooperative, including free residential energy audits and HVAC technical advice from Piedmont Electric's experienced Energy Specialists.

Our experienced Energy Specialists are available to conduct a free home energy analysis and

make recommendations for improving energy efficiency.

The Cooperative also offers low interest loans to eligible members for replacing HVAC systems, electric water heaters and solar systems. Rebates are also available for members who install efficient HVAC systems, CFLs and solar water heaters.

Through the website, TogetherWeSave.com, you can find the tools to help you make better use of the energy you buy, as well as MyUsage.com which allows you to track your daily electricity use.

The Cooperative also offers a variety of rate schedules, such as the Time-of-Day rate, which some members prefer so they can tailor the rate to their lifestyles. Our "Load Control" and "Beat the Peak" programs also help lower your power costs.

On the "purchase" side of the benefits offered by Piedmont Electric are electric water heater wraps and Green Energy Bags—which, incidentally, make great gifts for friends and family, and are available at a competitive cost at each of the Cooperative's offices.

As the season of giving and sharing arrives, thoughts of helping less fortunate members comes to mind. Each year Piedmont Electric Employees sponsor a Holiday Food and Toy Drive to help those less fortunate. This year's drive is already underway with donation boxes in each of the Cooperative's offices.

Members may also choose to participate in the Helping Hand Project which helps fellow members in crisis situations pay their electricity bill. Check with your Member Services Representative at 800.222.3107 for details.

One of the most tangible benefits of membership in the Cooperative is the retirement of capital credits.

On page 24 of this newsletter is the announcement of a general retirement of capital credits to members who were receiving service from Piedmont Electric in 1983 and 1984.

As a not-for-profit business, the Cooperative returns money to members as long as it is fiscally sound to do so.

Piedmont Electric will be refunding approximately \$1,200,000 to current and former members this year, including approximately \$180,000 that is being returned to the estates of deceased members.



As the year comes to a close, we thank you for allowing us to serve you, and we wish for you a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year.



If Your Power Goes Out, Call Us...

If your power goes out, call Piedmont Electric's outage reporting number —800.449.2667—to report the outage.

The Cooperative uses your phone number to determine your service location when you use the automated outage reporting system to report a service outage. If, like some folks—you no longer have a land line and use a cellular phone, please make sure to let the Cooperative know. Unless we have your correct phone number(s), we may not be able to pinpoint your outage location as quickly. Please complete and return the form on your monthly billing statement if your telephone number has changed, or call 800.222.3107 to let us know.



(L-R) Piedmont Electric Board President Bill Barber was on hand to present Amanda Bedo a Bright Ideas Grant as Rachel Hawkins of Piedmont and Principal Kirk Brozy of the Woodland Elementary School look on.

Bright Ideas Grants • (Continued from page 21)

- **Susan Hess**, Helena Elementary School, Timberlake, "Digital Perspectives in Art"
- **Dan Moise** and **Alan Green**, Emerson Waldorf School, Chapel Hill, "Blacksmithing"
- **Nancy Huskins**, **Beth Moss** and **Clarence Winston**, A. L. Stanback Middle School, Hillsborough, "We Fit In"
- **Amanda Bedo**, Stories Creek and Woodland Elementary Schools, Roxboro, "Video Communications"
- **Blake Norris** and **Aimee Haygood**, Chapel Hill High School,

Chapel Hill, "Honors Geometry Golf-o-Rama"

Since the Bright Ideas Grant Program began in 1994, Piedmont Electric has awarded more than \$300,000 to local educators to provide innovative teaching projects not funded through traditional means.

"We're very interested in the education of the young people in our service area, and these grants allow us the opportunity to show our commitment to our communities," says the Cooperative's CEO R. G. Brecheisen.



December Right-of-Way Maintenance

Durham County
 Mason Road
 Johnson Mill Road
 Preston Andrews Road
 Patrick Road
 Ball Road
 (and surrounding areas)

Locations are subject to change due to uncontrollable circumstances

Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24 & 25, in observance of Christmas, and Tuesday, January 1, 2013, for New Year's Day.



Employees will be on call. Please have a safe, blessed Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year!

By the Numbers...

- 2,072 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 836 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 465 members have turned in receipts for 4,470 CFLs, representing a total of 1,533,210 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 37 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 876 electric water heater wraps sold
- 578 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates
- 896 visits to TogetherWeSave.com for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$329,743.51
- 499 members have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program



Thomas Pettiford of Rougemont, above, was the winner of a panini maker in the Hillsborough office on Co-op Day.

2012 Co-op Day



ABOVE: Kenneth Hodges of Timberlake was the winner of a panini maker in the Roxboro office on Co-op Day.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Aldridge of Burlington dropped by the Caswell County office—and walked away with their own panini maker. Members had the chance to meet employees and learn about some of Piedmont Electric's programs and services.

Co-op to Make General Retirement for 1983, 1984

Consumers who were members of Piedmont Electric in 1983 and 1984 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 Co-op's 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 \$20 and more.

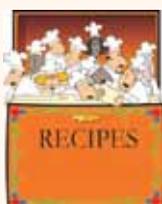
Those whose capital credit accounts are less than \$20 will receive credits on their electric bills.

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, money 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 \$1,200,000 to current and former members this year, including approximately \$180,000 that is being returned to the estates of deceased members.

As a not-for-profit organization,



Pass It On...

Loretta Smith of Efland passed on this recipe for White Mountain

Frosting. If you have a recipe 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 your recipe is printed, you will receive a copy of a cookbook from the Cooperative Council of North Carolina. Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.

White Mountain Frosting

1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons water
1/4 cup light corn syrup
2 egg whites (1/4 cup)
1 teaspoon vanilla
Beat egg whites until stiff enough to hold a point.

Mix sugar, water and corn syrup in saucepan. Bring to a rolling boil. Remove from heat, cover and cook to 242 degrees, or until syrup spins a 6"-8" thread.

Pour hot syrup very slowly in a thin stream into the beaten egg whites. Continue to beat until frosting holds peaks. Blend in vanilla.

When spreading on cake, make pretty swirls with a spatula.

the Cooperative refunds money as long as it is fiscally able 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.

Please remember the Cooperative's Food & Toy Drive to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Boxes are located at each Piedmont Electric office.



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.
2500 N.C. Highway 86 South, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

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Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Douglas Simmons, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
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Monday—Friday

Hillsborough: 919.732.2123 • Caswell County: 336.421.1296

Roxboro: 336.599.0151 • Elsewhere in North Carolina: 800.222.3107

To report an outage 24 hours a day:
800.449.2667*

To pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day:
877.999.3394*

*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call BEFORE You Dig:
800.632.4949 or 811

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor



Businesses Added

Check out our website—www.pemc.coop—for information about this new Member benefit and give us a call if you've got questions. Please visit the website for a complete listing of participating businesses.

Click on the Co-op Connections® Card on the website for the complete listing. Additional Co-op Connections Local Discounts as of November 5, 2012.

- **La Cocina #4, Roxboro**
10% Off Total Bill, excluding alcohol & other discounts
- **Burger King, Roxboro**
Buy One Whopper, Get One Free
- **Vintage Revival Shops, Hillsborough**
10% off any purchase of \$25 or more

If you know of a business, or if you want your business to participate in the Co-op Connections® Card Program, please call Rachel Phelps Hawkins at 919.644.3402.