



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.coop

February 2011

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is R. G. Brecheisen, President. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feel this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Piedmont Electric employees were Santa's elves during the holidays as they gathered and donated items for the annual Food & Toy Drive to help less fortunate neighbors in Caswell, Orange and Person counties.

Food, Toy Drive Spreads Holiday Cheer



Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2010 Food & Toy Drive successful. Donations came from employees, members of the Cooperative and the community.



CO-OP LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out Piedmont Electric's website lately, you're in for a surprise! The Cooperative has upgraded its website to include even more information about its programs and services, as well as additional ways to help you better manage your electricity use. Just go to www.pemc.coop to see what you may have been missing!



Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation CONNECTION



From Your President...

We're Different: We're Looking Out for You

R. G. Brecheisen

Chief Executive Officer & President

Cooperatives are different from other business you deal with. To tell you the truth, I like being different. And the fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

We're different because we're Looking Out for You. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions.

Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs.

It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to

increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials and equipment will continue to rise.

Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, soon we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like *Carolina Country, Connection* and www.pemc.coop. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

• To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our energy efficiency programs like MyUsage.com, CFL rebates and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loan Program help you manage your energy use.

Our website, *TogetherWeSave.com* shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill.

We also offer free home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out of the energy you use every month.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated meter reading helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

• While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're

member focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first.

Piedmont Electric is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests. Don't miss our next meeting on April 15, 2011.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home.

Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010 we returned approximately \$412,000 dollars to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first.

No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're Looking Out for You.

February Right-of-Way Maintenance



Orange County

Walker Road

Ebenezer Church Road

Pleasant Green Road

Person County

Mt. Harmony Church Road

Peed Road

George Sherman Road

Allen Creek Road

Granville County

Cornwall Road

George Winston Road

(and surrounding areas)



Winners Recognized—\$19,000+ Awarded

Piedmont Electric's winners of the Bright Ideas Grants for the 2010—2011 school year were recognized at a luncheon for all of the state's grant winners.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Piedmont Electric will offer four \$1,000 scholarships for continuing education to high school seniors in our service area who are planning to attend a four-year college or technical school.

The eligibility requirements for a scholarship are as follows:

- Applicant's parent must be a member of Piedmont Electric.
- One scholarship winner per family per year.
- Applicant is a qualified high school senior planning to continue his/her education at an accredited community college, university or technical school.
- Applicants must submit:
 - Completed application form, available at www.pemc.coop (Go to Schools and Community/Scholarship Application)
 - Copy of college acceptance letter and copies of ACT or SAT
 - Official high school transcript listing courses taken and grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0

Also, applicants should have

participated in high school or outside extracurricular activities and in at least one community-related volunteer project.

—Submission of a letter of reference from teacher, counselor, employer or community person, and a short essay written by applicant on the topic: "Describe your rural electric cooperative and how it differs from other businesses" are also required.

Financial need is not a criterion for the scholarship.

Applications will only be considered if all of the above is submitted.

Judging is by an independent panel based on a 100% grading scale weighted as follows:

- Scholastic Achievement 45%
- Extracurricular Activities 20%
- Essay Content 35%

The deadline for applications is March 30, 2011.

Immediate family members of Piedmont Electric employees, its subsidiary employees and Board of Directors are ineligible.



Students Eligible for Youth Tour Trip

If your high school student is interested in an expense-paid trip to our nation's capital, have them consider applying for this year's Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, DC.

Piedmont Electric is sponsoring a local rising high school junior or rising senior whose parents are served by the Cooperative.

Applications are due by March 31, 2011.

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

Highlights of the trip include 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 North Carolina will travel by chartered bus to the nation's capital.

Interested students should visit www.youthtour.coop, or email rachel.hawkins@pemc.coop for an application.

Last year's local Youth Tourist was Hannah Allison of Efland.

By the Numbers...

- 1,516 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 554 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 386 members have turned in receipts for 3,825 CFLs, representing a total of 1,311,975 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 27 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 711 electric water heater wraps sold
- 534 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates

Energy Efficient Tip of the Month

90% of the energy it takes to wash clothes is used to heat water. If you wash in cold water, you could save \$40 per year if you have an electric water heater.

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Pass It On...

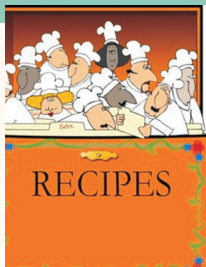
We need YOU to pass on your recipes. If you have a favorite recipe you

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.

This month's recipe for "Tangy Slow Cooker Pork Roast" comes from **Pamela Nicholson** of Mebane.



Tangy Slow Cooker Pork Roast

- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 1/2 pounds boneless pork loin roast
- 1 cup hot water
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce, to taste

Arrange onion slices evenly over the bottom of the slow cooker, and then place the roast on top of the onion.

In a bowl mix together water, sugar, vinegar, soy sauce, ketchup, black pepper, salt, garlic powder and hot sauce. Pour over roast.

Cover and cook on low for six to eight hours, or on high for three to four hours.

BASKETBALL CAMPS SET FOR SUMMER

Piedmont Electric is once again providing scholarships for local middle school students from this area to attend one of two basketball camps this year.

The scholarships are being offered to rising 6-8th grade girls to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at N.C. State University, and to rising 6-8th grade boys to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Kellie Harper is in her second season as the head coach of the Wolfpack women's basketball team, and Roy Williams is in his eighth season with the Tar Heels.

Both coaches will use the help of their staff and current players to conduct their camps, and they will work closely with each camper to develop skills that will benefit the young athletes both on and off the court.

Applications for both camps

will be accepted through March 31, 2011.

Winners of the Touchstone Energy Kellie Harper Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Raleigh, July 3-6.

Winners of the Touchstone Energy Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Chapel Hill, June 18-22.

Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp.

Students may download an application through a link on the Cooperative's website at www.pemc.coop. Go to Youth Zone/ Boys & Girls Basketball Camps.

Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay that must be submitted with the application.



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Hillsborough: **919.732.2123** • Caswell County: **336.421.1296**

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To report an outage 24 hours a day: **800.449.2667***

To access account information 24 hours a day: **800.548.2105***

*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

