



Piedmont Electric

CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.coop

January 2012



Stephen C. Long

Long Selected to Fill Unexpired Board Term

Stephen C. Long of the Prospect Hill community in Caswell County has been selected to serve as a member of the Cooperative's Board of Directors representing District 4.

He is filling the unexpired term left vacant by the late C. Franklin Murphy.

Mr. Long has been a member of Piedmont Electric for 29 years. A property manager and part-time farmer, he also restores Corvettes.

He and his wife, Jane, have two daughters, Sarah and Jessica. They are members of Bethel Methodist Church where Mr. Long serves in various capacities, including Administrative Board Chairman.

He is also a past member of the Board of the Prospect Hill Volunteer Fire Department.



Durham Tech Students Visit Microcell Fuel Cell Exhibit

Students from Durham Technical Community College's Orange County Campus visited the Microcell Fuel Cell exhibit at the Cooperative's headquarters in Hillsborough. Six students and their instructor, Ed Witkin, heard from Tyler Eshraghi and Robert Page of the Microcell Corporation, as well as several Piedmont Electric employees who demonstrated the use of the fuel cell. In addition, students learned about the advanced grid and meters as well as electrical safety and resources currently used in our state to produce electricity.

Nominating Committee to Meet January 7

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors are up for election at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members.

These seats are currently held by **Doug Simmons** of Elon, District 3; **Bill Barber** of Rougemont, District 7, and **Richard Roberts** of Hillsborough, District 8.

The Nominating Committee will meet January 7.

Those serving on this year's Nominating Committee are:

- Brent Adcock Roxboro
- John Melton Roxboro
- Vance Albright Mebane
- Blanche Oakley Rougemont
- Dianne Murphy Mebane
- Homer Brintle Elon College
- Joanna Brown Hillsborough

- Karen Barrows Hurdle Mills
- Joe Currin Chapel Hill
- Sylvia Wade Rougemont

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, 2012, preceding the Annual Meeting at which such directors are to be elected.

The Annual Meeting will be held Friday, April 20, at Orange High School in Hillsborough.



From Your President...

Looking Back to Plan Ahead

R. G. Brecheisen

President & Chief Executive Officer

Looking back when planning for the future is a solid business practice. In reviewing the past year, Piedmont Electric has faced its challenges head-on, and laid plans for 2012.

With power supply extremely important, Piedmont Electric successfully negotiated a revised long-term agreement with Duke Energy related to supplying a large portion of our wholesale power resource needs.

Through the agreement, Duke Energy will continue to provide power scheduling services, and will serve an increasing amount of the Cooperative's wholesale power

requirements through 2031.

This agreement with Duke Energy secures a reliable and cost-effective power supply for our members for many years into the future.

The Cooperative began 2011 by restructuring its rate schedules to make them more equitable for all members.

The "decoupling" of rates combines the base facilities charges (what it actually costs to deliver power to consumers—from construction to administration), which allows the energy charge per kWh to stand alone.

An additional rate schedule was offered at the same time for residential consumers who meet "Energy Star" requirements for efficiency.

The Cooperative also began offering LED security lights on request. The LED lights use about 47% less electricity to operate, and will last up to 15 years—about three times as long as high pressure sodium bulbs.

During 2011 Piedmont Electric continued emphasizing more efficient energy consumption with the revamping of its website, www.pemc.coop and the tools provided through it.

Another tool offered by the Cooperative during the past year is the "Kill a Watt" detector. Consumers may borrow the detectors from Piedmont Electric to monitor the amount of energy a connected appliance uses in their homes.

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While helping member-consumers manage their electricity

use is a priority for the Cooperative, Piedmont Electric is also committed to the communities in which it does business.

During 2011 employees raised more than \$4,100 for Duke Children's Hospital. They also sponsored a food and toy drive to help those less fortunate in our local communities.

Piedmont Electric participated in the Triangle Flight of Honor to send one of our own World War II Veterans to Washington, DC, to view the memorials in our nation's capital. David Torian of Person County was selected for this day-long trip.

Four \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to our members' children, and two others received scholarships to attend basketball camps. One student was selected to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington.

In addition, more than \$20,000 was awarded in 2011 to local teachers in the form of Bright Idea Grants to facilitate innovative teaching projects.

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Piedmont Electric lost two very important members of its co-op family during the last year. Retired general manager Earl Ross and long-serving director C. Franklin Murphy both passed away in 2011. Both men made critical contributions to the Cooperative through their service. They will be missed.

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May you all have a happy and prosperous 2012. We look forward to serving you in the year to come.

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.



ELECTRIC BILLS REFLECT WEATHER PATTERNS

Minimizing Movement of Conditioned Air Can Cut Costs

Electric bills vary with the seasons, driven by weather and consumer use patterns.

When it's cool outdoors, family members generally want the house warm. When it's warm outside, air conditioners make living areas pleasant.

How much weather affects your electric bills depends on many factors, including your home's original construction materials, insulation, air leaks and heating and cooling equipment.

Personal comfort plays a role too, as does the difference between the thermostat setting inside and temperatures outdoors.

When a house stays at 68 degrees Fahrenheit, but the outdoor temperature varies from minus 0° F. degrees in winter to more than 100° F. on a muggy summer's day, demand for heating and cooling can be significant.

Warm air leaving a home essentially wastes the money spent to heat it. The same is true for air a homeowner has paid to cool.

R-value offers a way of measuring insulation's effectiveness (a higher R-value indicates more effective insulation).

Contact Piedmont Electric and

ask for a free energy audit. Our Energy Specialists can save you hundreds of dollars by uncovering energy waste and making recommendations to improve energy efficiency.



In the meantime, adjust the thermostat. Keep blinds and drapes on the sunny side of your home open in winter and closed in summer.

Find mysteriously "hot" or "cold" spots in the house

and solve them by installing gasket seals around outlets and weather stripping along doors and windows, replacing old windows and upgrading insulation.

When practical, adjust landscaping to provide shade for your property in summer and sunlight in winter.

Weather doesn't have to play havoc with electricity bills. There are a variety of tools, appliances and resources available to solve all sorts of energy challenges.

Some, such as new windows or a roof, require significant financing. But there are a lot of options that are inexpensive and simple to benefit from.

Piedmont Electric offers low-interest loans to eligible members

who want to make energy-saving home improvements.

Find more ways to save at www.TogetherWeSave.com, and sign up at www.MyUsage.com to see your daily energy consumption.

Finally, check out the list below to see the programs and services Piedmont Electric offers its member-consumers.

We're Here to Help

Piedmont Electric has the following programs on-going for 2012 to help member-consumers better manage their energy use:

- ♦ Free Residential Energy Audits
- ♦ Free Residential HVAC Audits
- ♦ Infrared Camera Energy Audits
- ♦ Several Energy Efficient Rates
- ♦ Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) Rebate Program
- ♦ Water Heater Efficiency Kits Program
- ♦ [MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com) Program
- ♦ Energy Efficiency Heat Pump Rebates
- ♦ FlexPay Program
- ♦ Energy Efficiency & Renewable Low-Interest Loan Program
- ♦ Converting Mercury Vapor Lights to High-Pressure Sodium Lights or LED Lights
- ♦ Solar Water Heater Rebate Program
- ♦ [TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) Program



Energy Tip of the Month

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, gas lines, water faucets and dryer vents.

By the Numbers...

- 1,854 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 665 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 440 members have turned in receipts for 4,333 CFLs, representing a total of 1,486,219 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 33 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 846 electric water heater wraps sold
- 547 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates
- 709 visits to [TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$261,346.51

Students Can Win Expense-Paid Trip to Washington, DC

Applications for this year's Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, DC, are due March 31, 2012.

Piedmont Electric is sponsoring the expense-paid trip to the nation's capital for a local rising high school junior or senior whose parents are served by the Co-op.

The trip is set for the week of June 16-22, 2012, 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 Piedmont Electric's website for further information at www.pemc.coop.



January Right-of-Way Maintenance

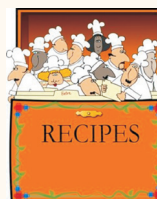
Orange County:

Union Grove Church Road
Bethel Hickory Grove Church Road
Dairyland Road
Jo-Mac Road
Highway 54 West
(and surrounding area)

Locations subject to change due to uncontrollable circumstances

Please Pass On Your Favorite 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 your recipe is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of a cookbook from the Cooperative Council of N. C. Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.



PROJECT



HELPING HAND

Electric began to give members an opportunity to help less fortunate members during crisis situations.

By allowing Piedmont Electric to round up your monthly electric bill to the next dollar, you can lend a helping hand—for only pennies a month.

Or, if you prefer, you may make a one-time donation or have a set

Program Lets Everyone Help!

Neighbor helping neighbor is part of the co-op tradition.

Project Helping Hand is a program Piedmont

amount added to your electric bill.

The money collected will be divided proportionately among the counties served by the Cooperative, and will be administered by the individual county Departments of Social Services to aid less fortunate members with their electric bills.

To contribute, call Piedmont Electric at 800.222.3107.

Please Remember:
Turn in your CFL receipts to get up to a \$15 credit/year on your electric bill.

Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.
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Richard Roberts, **Richal Vanhook**,
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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 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 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