



FEATURE ARTICLE

## CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING DRAWS CLOSE TO 800; PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERS ELECT THREE DIRECTORS

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation (PEMC) welcomed almost 800 attendees, including 407 registered members, at its annual meeting Friday, April 12, in Orange High School's auditorium. The annual meeting is the co-op's largest and most important event, which brings together members from across PEMC's six county service area to participate in the democratic cooperative's election process, to learn more about the cooperative's business, and to discover new ways to save energy and money.

SEE MEETING PAGE 24

## REPLACE YOUR HVAC SYSTEM WITH A HEAT PUMP

When upgrading your HVAC system, you have two heating fuel options: a system that burns gas or a system that uses electricity for heating. Both systems use electricity for cooling.

When using electric heat, you can choose between resistance heat and an electric heat pump. Throughout most of Piedmont's service area, liquid propane is the only combustible fuel available.

With today's energy costs and the current heating and cooling systems, an electric heat pump has the lowest operating cost.

An electric heat pump costs approximately 70% less to run than a liquid propane furnace and about 10% less than a natural gas furnace.



You could end up saving \$1,300 per year by replacing your current HVAC system with an electric heat pump.

Electric heat pumps are also safer to operate, require less maintenance and provide comfortable heat. If you would like help selecting your new system, just give us a call!



## BRIGHT IDEAS EARLY BIRD REMINDER

Piedmont Electric has awarded more than \$300,000 to local teachers since 1994. This year, North Carolina's electric cooperatives allocated more than \$660,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to award educators for innovative classroom projects for the 2013–2014 school year.

Teachers, principals and school counselors can apply for grants of up to \$1,500. To learn more about the program and start an online application, visit [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com).

The deadline to submit applications for the 2013–2014 school year is September 20, 2013. Applicants who submit their application by the early-bird deadline on August 16 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Your swimming pool doesn't have to be a drain on your electric bill. Simply covering it will go a long way to reducing evaporation, which will cut back on refilling and reheating. Also, consider investing in a high-efficiency or multi-speed pool pump when it's time for a replacement—they cost more, but save a lot more energy than older models. Visit [www.EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov) for more info.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network



R.G. Brecheisen  
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As the weather heats up this summer, so does the battle between keeping a comfortable temperature in your home and controlling your energy bill.

We want to help you make informed decisions about using electricity and controlling your electric bill. We are also working diligently to control wholesale power costs.

My message this month focuses on ways you can control your electric bill and things you can do to help us control the co-op's wholesale power bill this summer.

If you have not already done so, **have your air conditioner checked** by a qualified professional. This check typically measures refrigerant levels, cleans the evaporator and condenser coils, and checks the hoses, duct work and thermostat.

**Keep lamps and electronic appliances away from your thermostat.** The thermostat can sense heat from these devices and make your air conditioner run longer.

**Replace air conditioner filters** at least once a month. Learn how much you can save on page 23!

**Weatherstrip, seal and caulk leaky doors and windows,** and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.

As a member of Piedmont Electric, you may take advantage of several programs designed to increase the energy efficiency of your home and manage your utility bills.

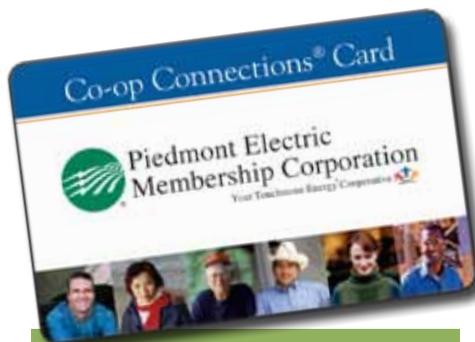
**What you do to reduce power usage during peak periods lowers overall demand, which lowers costs for everyone.**

Check out the inside cover of this month's issue for a comprehensive list of money-saving programs available to you.

Summer is the most expensive time to buy wholesale power. As a co-op member, you have the power to control those costs. What you do to reduce power usage during peak periods lowers overall demand, which lowers costs for everyone.

Here at Piedmont EMC, our priorities are to keep costs down, keep you informed, and look out for your interests.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of **\$7,912.38** in Rx purchases since October 2012!

### FEATURED PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

**SAVE 10%**  
**THE VILLAGE GALLERY FLORIST**  
Roxboro, NC  
ANY REGULARLY PRICED ITEM

**SAVE 10%**  
**POSITIVE WELLNESS-SHAKLEE 180**  
Hillsborough, NC  
PLUS FREE CONSULTATION

**SAVE 10%**  
**FOX'S SUZUKI/KAWASAKI INC.**  
Roxboro, NC  
MOTORCYCLE HELMETS AND RIDING JACKETS

**SAVE 20%**  
**NATIONAL CAR RENTAL**  
National  
AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL OFFERS

Visit Piedmont Electric's website, [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop), and click on the Co-op Connections® Card for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies.

Don't see your favorite business here? Tell them to contact us at 800.222.3107 or [pemcinfo@pemc.coop](mailto:pemcinfo@pemc.coop), subject "Co-op Connections" to become a part of this exciting new member program!



Gabrielle Tesoro



Alston (A.J.) Jackson



Mercedes King

## SUMMER PROGRAM WINNERS

### Rural Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour Washington, D.C. Winner

Gabrielle Tesoro, a rising junior from Hurdle Mills, will attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 14–21, where she will see some of our nation’s most historic sites.

### Basketball Camp Winners

Piedmont EMC is awarding two local students with Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships to summer basketball camps at two of the state’s largest college campuses.

Alston (A.J.) Jackson, a student at Frank Porter Graham Elementary in Carrboro, will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp.

Mercedes King, a student at River Mill Academy in Alamance County, will attend the N.C. State Women’s Basketball Camp.

“Piedmont EMC is pleased to give these outstanding students the opportunity to experience life on a college campus and the chance to learn from NCAA coaches and student-athletes,” said R. G. Brecheisen, CEO at Piedmont Electric.

“These camps teach valuable lessons that students can apply in their lives both on and off the court.”

## CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER TO SAVE ENERGY

The hotter the weather, the harder your air conditioning system must work to keep you comfortable. Want to make sure your cooling system is operating more efficiently (aka—save some money)? Try these tips:

### Change your air filter regularly

It only takes a couple of minutes to change the air filter in your heating/cooling system. A dirty air filter causes dust and dirt to build up in your system, so changing your air filter regularly will reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

As TogetherWeSave.com has shown, changing your filter every month can save you \$82 a year.

### Step-by-step

Experts recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—is pointing toward the blower motor. When you’ve made the change, turn your system back on.

### Buy in bulk

To save time, it’s a good idea to keep a couple of spare filters on hand.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,199 MEMBERS** ↑ 14 MEMBERS  
have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)

**862 MEMBERS** ↑ 13 MEMBERS  
are participating in the FlexPay Program

**494 MEMBERS** ↑ 2 MEMBERS  
have turned in receipts for 4,606 CFLs, representing a total of 1,579,858 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

**38 MEMBERS**  
received solar water heater rebates

**913 MEMBERS** ↑ 3 MEMBERS  
bought electric water heater wrap kits

**591 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS** ↑ 6 MEMBERS  
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

**954 VISITS** ↑ 9 VISITS  
to TogetherWeSave.com, for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$350,224.51

**534 MEMBERS**  
have signed up to participate in the “Beat the Peak” program

**1,388 MEMBERS** ↑ 94 MEMBERS  
are participating in Project Helping Hand

## THIS MONTH’S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

### CASWELL COUNTY

- Gunn Poole Road
- Burton Chapel Road
- Rascoe Dameron Road
- Fitch Road
- Corbett Ridge Road
- Dave Smith Road
- and surrounding areas

Locations SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances



Lucious S. Upchurch



Lacy E. Tinnen



Lea S. Chambers

## MEETING

FROM PAGE 21

During the business session of the meeting, members elected Sam Woods of Hurdle Mills, Stephen Long of Prospect Hill, and Talmadge Yancey of Roxboro to serve on the cooperative's Board of Directors.

PEMC's President and CEO, R.G. Brecheisen, gave a report on 2012 activities, plans for the future and the importance of the cooperative difference.

Attendees were also shown a slideshow and video presentation that celebrated PEMC's 75th anniversary. The presentation highlighted some of the pivotal moments in the cooperative's history, paying special attention to the early days and the founding members. Brecheisen told the attendees after the video presentation that "it is important to shed light on our cooperative's rich

past in order to help us carry an even brighter promise for the future—the notion that we all prosper by helping each other."

The meeting also included special recognition of Doug Simmons, who served on PEMC's Board of Directors for over 30 years and passed away earlier this year.

After the election results were announced, several raffle prizes were awarded, including:

- \$500 prize won by Lucious S. Upchurch of Durham, NC
- \$250 prize won by Lacy E. Tinnen of Cedar Grove, NC
- \$250 prize won by Henry B. Lankford, of Mebane, NC (Not Pictured)
- 46" Flatscreen Energy Star TV won by Lea S. Chambers of Semora, NC

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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Hillsborough, NC 27278

R.G. Brecheisen  
President and CEO

### DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber Chairman  
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman  
Sam T. Woods, Secretary  
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer  
J. Randy Kinley, Stephen C. Long,  
David Poythress, Richard Roberts,  
& Talmadge W. Yancey

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm  
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

## IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US...

**800.449.2667**

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. That's why it's important to update the number connected to your account. If your number has changed, or if you no longer have a land line, let us know by completing the form that comes in your monthly billing statement or call 800.222.3107.