



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013



FEATURE ARTICLE

ENERGY AUDITS MAKE THE SUMMER MORE COMFORTABLE

The hot summer months have a tendency to make homeowners distinctly aware of the issues in their homes. Problems with comfort have multiple implications – not only does it make your time at home less relaxing, but it can also significantly reduce your energy efficiency.

Piedmont Electric offers free home energy audits for our members. An experienced Energy Specialist can perform a comprehensive analysis of your home and provide you with detailed recommendations for improvement. The home inspection includes a check of your insulation, doors, window seals and more.

SEE AUDITS PAGE 28

CYRUS VERNON TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 3

Cyrus Vernon of the Milesville Community in Caswell County has been selected to serve as a member of the Cooperative Board of Directors representing District 3.

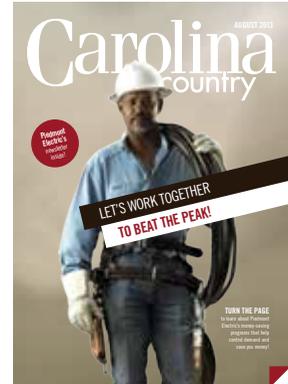
He is filling the unexpired term left vacant by the late J. Douglas Simmons.

Mr. Vernon has been a member of Piedmont Electric for 43 years. He is a retired Agriculture teacher who worked at Bartlett Yancey High School for 35 years. He currently works with his son in his apple tree business in the Camp Springs Community.

He and his wife Janice have two sons who both teach in Alamance County. Cyrus and Janice are also active members of Westside Fellowship in



Elon and the Caswell County Historical Association where Mr. Vernon is currently serving as vice president.



MEET ROBERT

You may have noticed Robert on the cover. He is a real co-op line-man from Texas. Electric cooperatives employ 70,000 people in the US, like Robert, and serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states.

PEMC AWARDS LOCAL STUDENTS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

At Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, we have a deep connection to the members and communities we serve. To ensure a brighter future for our communities, we strive to empower our members – especially younger generations.

SEE SCHOLARSHIPS PAGE 27

TIP OF THE MONTH

Power Down, Stay Cool

In these hot summer months, it can be hard to remember that almost anything using electricity in your home is also producing heat. During these warm days, avoid using the oven, turn off the lights and try to reduce usage of any other electronic devices that emit heat. You may not realize it, but even common appliances like your computer and television can warm the room.

Source: cooperative.com



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"Together we save" is an important concept for any cooperative. So important, in fact, that it has become the flagship slogan for cooperative membership nationwide. Often I wonder if some of you are reading these messages and thinking, "are we really working together? Or am I just on my own to curb energy costs?"

The answer truly is that every single member of Piedmont Electric, from the average user to our main office, is an important piece of our cooperative. Every decision you make about electric usage has an effect on every other member. That's why we do our very best to ensure that each of you are informed about all the programs that can help us save on our energy bills.

But it's not just the members who have a responsibility to control their energy use. The cooperative offices and operations also have to monitor the way the system as a whole consumes electricity. That's why we are constantly researching and implementing new technologies that make our infrastructure more efficient and reliable.

If you didn't get a chance to look over the inside front and back covers of this month's *Carolina Country*, I encourage you to do so. Looking at our programs side-by-side is a great way to visualize exactly how you, your neighbors and your cooperative are all working together to be more energy efficient.

Continue reading Piedmont Electric's monthly Connection for information about our energy-saving programs or visit www.pemc.coop. For energy-saving tips and to learn more about the power of your co-op membership, visit www.togetherwesave.com. As members of this cooperative, we all have a job to do, and the more we work together, the more we save.

**Together we save,
Together we grow.**

Piedmont Electric will be closely following President Obama's "Climate Action Plan" initiative, announced on June 25, and will keep you informed on how these plans could impact electricity prices.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

RECENTLY ADDED BUSINESSES



QI GARDEN
Hillsborough, NC

SAVE 10%

**10% OFF MERCHANDISE, EXCLUDING
FEATURED ARTISTS AND JEWELERS**

SAVE 15%

SILPADA JEWELRY
Hillsborough, NC
ALL STERLING SILVER
SILPADA JEWELRY

**FREE TANK
CHANGE OUT**

**DIVERSIFIED ENERGY
PROPANE**
Raleigh, NC
AND 40¢ OFF PER GALLON
ON THE FIRST FILL UP



Visit Piedmont Electric's website, 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, subject "Co-op Connections," to become a part of this exciting new member program!

SCHOLARSHIPS

FROM PAGE 25

This past June, we awarded four local high school seniors each a \$1,500 scholarship to the school of their choice. Students were selected by an independent panel of judges based on formal applications. Applicants were required to write a short essay describing their Rural Electric Cooperative and how it differs from other businesses – we received some fantastic essays. Read what our winners had to say below! We wish them a bright and successful future.



Veronica Walker

"Piedmont Electric's indefatigable dedication to its customers is very impressive and sets it far apart from other profit-minded electric companies."

Veronica is the daughter of Dalia and Dwight Walker of Durham, in Durham County, NC. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.



Andrew Oakley

"I am proud that my home is in an area that is served by PEMC. I wish all of the businesses that we encounter in our lives used the model that PEMC has used, and been very successful with."

Andrew is the son of Sherry Stanfield Oakley and Henry Lee Oakley of Prospect Hill, in Caswell County, NC. He plans to attend North Carolina State University in the fall.



Devon Allen

"I take pride in associating with Piedmont Electric because the company extends itself past simply providing localized electricity, but attention to their environmental impact and focusing on the needs of the customer."

Devon is the daughter of Joann Quigley and Kent Allen of Hillsborough, in Orange County, NC. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.



Austin Cole

"Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation differs from businesses because they put the customers as a first priority and they prefer to complete a job with great quality than to perform a job that only produces revenue."

Austin is the son of Angela and William Cole of Timberlake, in Person County, NC. He plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS



For North Carolina's K-12 educators, the September 20 deadline to apply for the Bright Ideas grant is quickly approaching. More information about the program and the application can be found at www.ncbrightideas.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,215 MEMBERS

have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com

881 MEMBERS

are participating in the FlexPay Program

498 MEMBERS

have turned in receipts for 4,644 CFLs, representing a total of 1,592,892 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

40 MEMBERS

received solar water heater rebates

916 MEMBERS

purchased electric water heater wrap kits

591 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS

have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

962 VISITS ↑ 2 VISITS

to TogetherWeSave.com, for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$354,049.51

543 MEMBERS ↑ 5 MEMBERS

have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,361 MEMBERS ↑ 11 MEMBERS

are participating in Project Helping Hand

4,794 MEMBERS

are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

6,169 MEMBERS

are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

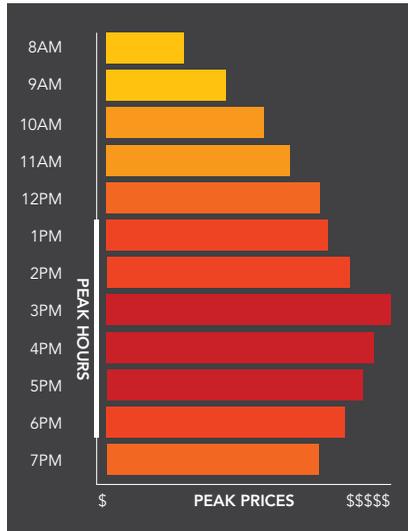
ORANGE COUNTY

- Ebenezer Church Road
- Pleasant Green Road
- Split Rail Place
- Saddle Road
- Fox Drive
- Inverness Drive

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

BEAT THE PEAK. YOU HAVE THE POWER.



Join the Beat the Peak program this month and you're not just saving money in August, you're saving money for the next 12 months!

Our wholesale power costs are significantly impacted by your usage during summer months. When you lessen energy use during peak-demand hours this summer, you help us keep wholesale power costs down, which keeps your rates down!

To enroll, text BTPEAK (first and last name) to 85700 or include your name and address in an email to BeatThePeak@pemc.coop.

AUDITS

FROM PAGE 25

If you'd like to perform your own home energy audit, you can take simple steps to locate air leaks in your home.

Start by inspecting common locations for air leaks, such as damaged seals around doors and windows. If you can see daylight or feel air, repair the area with caulk and weather stripping.

Be sure to check recessed canister lights and electrical outlets where leaks can easily occur. Outlets can be insulated for as little as \$2, and canister lights require just a little bit of weather stripping around the edges to seal.

Once all your leaks have been corrected, check out the insulation in your attic, crawl space, and basement. The amount of insulation will depend on your home; you can see how adding insulation can save you money by visiting www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-using-energy-wisely.

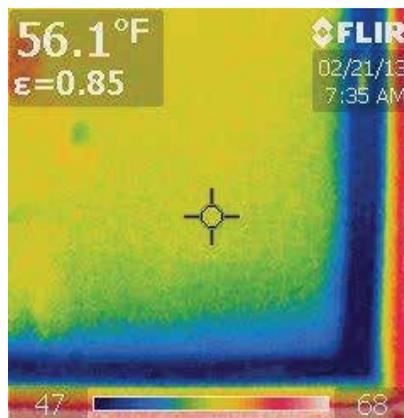


Image from a thermal camera used to test windows and ensure that they are properly sealed.

A free home energy audit by a Piedmont Electric Energy Specialist will help you find all of the leaks and inefficiencies in your home to ensure that you can stay comfortable and save money during the dog days of summer. To schedule your home energy audit, call 800.222.3107.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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.