

Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

November 2010

2011 Annual Meeting Preparations Underway

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Members is being planned for Friday, April 15, at Orange Senior High School in Hillsborough.

All persons nominated for election to the Cooperative's Board of Directors must meet the qualifications guidelines as set by the bylaws, Section 4.02. A copy of the bylaws is available on request.

Four seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election at the meeting. The following are the incumbents on the Board whose terms expire this year, as well as their respective Directorate Districts:

- David B. Poythress, District 1
- James Kinley, District 2
- Paul Bailey, District 5
- Richal Vanhook, At Large

Piedmont Electric is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership from among its members. The Bylaws of the Cooperative provide for the nomination of directors by several methods.

An excerpt from the Bylaws pertaining to nominations may be found on page 27 of this newsletter.



Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed for the Thanksgiving

holidays on Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26. Employees will be on call. Please have a safe, happy holiday.

EXPLORE A WEB OF SAVINGS

The air conditioner is off, the heating system is on, and www.TogetherWeSave.com is on top of things.

The popular energy efficiency website from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives is continually updating its content to reflect the changing seasons.

Visitors to the site's virtual home click on its thermostat to learn how to save energy and money.

The thermostat is in the living room of the house, and when you look out the sliding glass door, you'll notice the trees and the lawn reflect the time of the year.

There's also an application which spotlights energy efficiency in manufactured homes at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Visitors to the website can move the mouse around to 15 spots, each offering an energy efficiency tip, such as "Install interior storm windows."

And, the site's Energy Savings Home Tour shows how to cut up to 10% of your energy bill by strategically placing trees and shrubs.

These updates to the Together We Save website are valuable because they allow our members to continue to be energy efficiency

experts and, they serve as an excellent resource for those who take advantage of the website's information.

You can watch videos and learn from energy experts as they show simple do-it yourself tips to improve your home's energy

efficiency. Topics include Lighting, Heating and Cooling, Sealing and Insulation and Tips to Save Energy.

In the

months to come, Touchstone Energy plans to add more to the site, including features on air filtration, duct sealing, HVAC maintenance and refrigeration.

While you're at your computer, please check out another service offered by Piedmont Electric—www.MyUsage.com.

With this free service you can check your actual electricity use up to the previous day, and not have to wait until your monthly bill arrives. Monitoring your daily use can help you make better use of the electricity you buy.

The Cooperative has a variety of products and services to help members. Check out our website at www.pemc.org for more information.





From Your President...

Balancing Smart Grid Buzz with Common Sense

R. G. Brecheisen

Chief Executive Officer & President

A lot of us get excited about the latest gadget to hit the market. It might cost a bit extra, but most of us simply have to have it. I never quite understood the excitement—until now.

At Piedmont Electric, we've implemented aspects of the so-called "smart grid." We have installed "smart" meters at every member's home.

These "smart" meters give you daily energy information. As with any cutting-edge concept, it seems new smart grid bells and whistles are constantly being touted.

While we've been careful not to get caught up in the hype, I often have members ask me, "What's all the buzz about?"

The North American electric grid—the largest interconnected machine on earth—operates as a humming highway moving electricity from power plants to your home.

About 3,000 utilities operate 10,000 power plants nationally. All

of this power—more than one million megawatts—flows across 300,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines.

And, while the way we use electricity has changed drastically over the decades, most of the highway that delivers power to our homes was built 50 years ago.

As we talk about upgrading the nation's grid from a hands-on, mechanical system to a digital "smart" network, there are three key words to remember: affordability, efficiency and reliability.

To keep electric bills affordable, a smarter grid will provide tools to help improve operations and reduce costs.

Technology focused on boosting efficiency could shrink our carbon footprint by letting you reduce your electric use during peak demand periods.

Finally, a smarter grid will be more secure and can help us restore service following an outage much faster and safer.

Piedmont Electric continues to test technologies that will enhance our existing "smart" grid meters such as MyUsage.com and FlexPay programs, to see what make the best sense for our members.

Thanks to partnerships between electric cooperatives and NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, we will continue to study how digital smart grid technologies can improve service for you.

Any smart grid needs to be flexible—some components don't make sense everywhere.

Rest assured that your management team at Piedmont Electric will employ some hometown smarts of our own in how we expand our smart grid programs.

Our bottom line? We want to help you make wiser energy choices to keep your electric bill affordable.



November Right-of-Way Maintenance

Orange County
Corbett Ridge Road
Claiborne Road
Atkins Road
Carr Store Road
Penecost Road
Harmony Church Road
Pleasant Green Road
Durham County
Craig Road
Ebenezer Church Road
(and surrounding areas)

JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING...

Piedmont Electric is offering a special "Green Energy Bag" for the Christmas season that includes 12 20-watt CFLs and an electric water heater jacket kit for the low cost of only \$20.

These items are packaged in a reusable bag that is perfect for everyday uses.

The "Green Energy Bag" items have a \$65 retail value so save some green when you buy them and keep saving green for years to come.

These items, once installed, can save the user as much as \$150 a

year in electricity costs for the next 10 years.

Each of the CFLs can save as much as \$47 each over their 10,000 hours of use, and the electric water heater jacket kit can save as much as \$100 per year in reduced water heating costs.

So, buy "Green Energy Bag" gifts that keep on giving and reduce the impact on the environment. It makes a great gift for your family or others who could use a little help with managing their electric costs.

*Do you have a question or comment for your cooperative?
If so, send it to todd.pope@pemc.org.*

Annual Toy, Food Drive Underway



Once again Piedmont Electric is collecting for its annual Holiday Toy and Non-Perishable Food Drive at each of the Cooperative's three office locations.

New toys for children (infant–12 years of age) and items for the teenage group (ages 13–18) are accepted at each location through December 3 at the Cooperative's Hillsborough, Roxboro and Caswell County office locations.

Cash donations will also be accepted at each office. Toys and

non-perishable food items will be purchased for the drive with any cash donations received.

Non-perishable foods for the holiday season include canned/evaporated milk, cake mixes, sugar, dried fruits, popcorn, crackers, canned fruits, peanut butter, jelly, soup, candy, etc.

Designated Piedmont Electric employees at the three branch offices will deliver these items to the Social Services Department in each of the three counties.

This project is part of the Cooperative's commitment to the communities in which we live and serve.

Tax-Free Weekend

Remember to take advantage of this year's tax-free weekend on Energy Star appliances November 5-7. If you plan to buy a new appliance soon, this is a good time to buy an energy efficient model, and avoid paying N.C. sales tax on your purchase.

Procedures Provided for Board Nominations

The following is an excerpt from the Bylaws pertaining to nominations.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(a) Nominations Committee: It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of ten (10) persons who are members but are not directors or close relatives of directors, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts shall have one representative thereon.

The Committee shall meet and nominate candidates for each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts to be elected at the next annual meeting and the at large director if that directorate is to be elected at the next annual meeting.

The Committee shall nominate not less than two (2) nominees for each such District and shall show clearly which nominees are opposed with respect to the same Directorate District. In addition, the Committee shall nominate, each three (3) years, not less than two candidates for the "at large" position.

The Committee shall meet and complete its nominations no later than thirty days preceding the deadline for nomination by petition as is set forth in the following subsection

to provide the opportunity for any qualified member who desires to be placed on the ballot at the upcoming annual meeting but not nominated by the Committee, to seek nomination by petition as set forth in the following subsection.

(b) Nominations by Petition: 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** preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected.

(c) Mailing of Notice of Elections: The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, or through any publication routinely used by the Cooperative for communication with the membership on a monthly basis at least seven (7) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected from each of the Directorate Districts, and the names and addresses of all nominees for each such district, showing separately those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

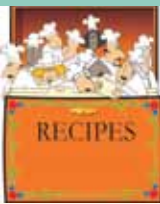
(d) Posting of Nominations: Once the signatures of the members on any petition and the qualifications to serve of the nominees are verified, the names of all nominees for each directorate district and the names of each nominee for the at large directorate, if it is to be elected at the upcoming annual meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative.

The Posted Notice of all nominees shall show the directorate for which each nominee seeks election as director and may indicate those nominated by the nominations committee and those nominated by petition.

(e) Announcement at the annual meeting: The candidates and their respective districts shall be announced at the annual meeting prior to the election of directors. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with Section 4.03.

(f) Validity of Elections: Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board after the election of directors.

Pass It On...



This month's recipe for "Chocolate Peanut Clusters" comes from Jean C. Mangam of Hurdle Mills.

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.

Chocolate Peanut Clusters

- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 cup (about 6 ounces) butter-scotch chips
- 1 cup (about 6 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups salted spanish peanuts

Melt peanut butter, butter-scotch chips and chocolate chips in microwave oven. Stir until smooth. Stir in peanuts.

Drop by rounded teaspoons on to waxed paper and place in refrigerator until firm. Yields 48 clusters.

Don't Miss a Chance to Save!

Incentives provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help you make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home expire December 31, 2010.

You can receive a tax credit for 30% of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010.

For a full list of qualified improvements, visit:

www.energystar.gov/taxcredits

Don't miss your chance to save!

By the Numbers...

- 1,315 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 488 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 371 members have turned in receipts for 3,683 CFLs, representing a total of 1,263,269 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 25 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 478 electric water heater wraps sold
- 524 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates



WE HAVE YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART

HIGHER INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS
LOWER INTEREST RATES ON LOANS
JOIN NOW FOR YOUR BEST INTEREST

AS A CONSUMER OF YOUR
ELECTRIC CO-OP,
YOU ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR
CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP.



GO TO WWW.ELECTELCCU.ORG
800-849-5600



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J. Douglas Simmons, Secretary **H. James Kinley, Treasurer**
Paul L. Bailey, Bill R. Barber, David Poythress, Richal Vanhook,
Sam T. Woods, Talmadge W. Yancey

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor

