



HELPING HAND FOUNDATION

FEATURE ARTICLE

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE HELPING HAND FOUNDATION

As a member of Piedmont Electric, you are a vital part of our cooperative's success. When we work together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us and build a better community.

We have developed the Helping Hand Foundation to provide more financial support for community programs and increase our assistance to those in need throughout our service area.

What is the Helping Hand Foundation?

Earlier this year, Project Helping Hand was updated from a program within our cooperative's operations into a stand-alone foundation. This update also included a name change to the Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation.

The Helping Hand Foundation gives Piedmont Electric and its members the power to support community projects including aid for members in need, funds for Bright Ideas grants for teachers, college scholarships, youth programs and other charitable outreach.

Recent changes to the Helping Hand Foundation

As of October 2017, we began an automatic enrollment in the funding of the foundation. All enrolled members' bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar to contribute to the fund.

For example, if your monthly energy bill came to \$85.75, we would round your bill up to \$86.00 and donate \$0.25 to the fund. On average, a member will donate around \$6.00 per year, although your contribution could range from \$0.00 to a maximum of \$11.88 per year.

Opt out of the Helping Hand Foundation at any time

We understand that some of our members may want the option to opt out of supporting the Helping Hand Foundation. We've made it easy to opt out of the program at any time or receive a full refund of any donated funds. To opt out, call 800.222.3107 or visit pemc.coop/helping-hand-info. If you have already contacted us and requested out of the program, your bill will not be rounded up.

As your local electric co-op, it is our mission to improve our members' quality of life. Thank you for helping us continue to make our community a great place to live, work and raise a family.

IMPORTANT DATES

**NOV
23-24**

Thanksgiving

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call. Enjoy your holiday!

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Want to go green and stop getting a printed bill?

Login to SmartHub at pemc.coop and make sure your email is up to date. Then go to the **My Profile** section, click on **Update My Printed Bill Settings** and then turn the status to off. You've just gone paperless!



Q&A WITH SUSAN CASHION

Susan Cashion
Vice President – Chief Compliance and Administrative Officer

What is the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)?

The REDLG program provides zero-interest funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to local electric cooperatives who in turn lend the money to local entities for projects that support rural areas. These loans promote rural economic development and job creation projects. As the funds are repaid to the co-op, a portion of the funds can be re-loaned to assist with future projects in our communities.

Who chooses who receives the loans?

There are specific restrictions established by the USDA that interested borrowing entities must meet to apply for funding. If an organization meets the USDA requirements, they can make an application, which gets presented to the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors who will review the request to determine if Piedmont Electric members will benefit from the project, if there are available funds, and if the project meets the spirit of our program. If all conditions are met, then the loan application is processed. A submitted application to the USDA does not guarantee funding as they compete with applications from other states.



Commitment to Communities

A Core Value of your Cooperative

How does this program help our members?

At this point in time, Piedmont Electric has focused on improving emergency preparedness and education within the communities we serve. These types of partnerships with local government and fire departments have long-lasting and deep-reaching impact on the quality of life in our communities. From faster emergency response time to lower homeowners' insurance rates to improved public education, these projects will continue to make a positive impact for years to come. When we strengthen the communities' infrastructure of safety and education, we create a better environment for those living in the communities we serve.

Who has already received REDLG funding in our area?

Since we began our program in 2013, Piedmont Electric has secured more than \$9 million in funding within Orange, Person, Alamance, Durham

and Caswell counties for fire trucks, fire stations, ambulances, schools and a library and helped create more than 35 jobs. The list of those who have received zero interest funding includes:

- Bethel Hill Charter School**, school facility
- Caswell County**, public library and ambulances
- City of Mebane**, fire trucks
- Efland Volunteer Fire Department**, fire equipment
- Eno Fire Department**, fire truck
- Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department**, fire trucks
- Moriah Volunteer Fire Department**, fire truck
- New Hope Fire Department**, fire trucks
- North Eastern Alamance Volunteer Fire Department**, fire station
- Orange Rural Fire Department**, fire trucks and station
- Roxboro Community School**, auditorium and gymnasium
- Roxboro Fire Department**, fire truck
- Semora Volunteer Fire Department**, fire truck
- Town of Yanceyville**, fire station
- White Cross Volunteer Fire Department**, fire truck

Why does Piedmont Electric offer these loans?

Commitment to communities is one of the core values that has guided us since we were founded in 1938. Utilizing this loan program from the USDA allows us to provide opportunities for rural organizations in need and help make sure our communities continue to be great places to live, work and raise a family.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

ELECTEL COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Hillsborough, NC
FREE BOX OF CHECKS WITH ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT OPENED.

Did you know?

Did you know that there is a full service financial service provider located at each of our branch offices? ElecTel Federal Credit Union offers higher savings rates, lower loan rates and fewer fees than you'll find at most other financial institutions. Membership is open to any electric cooperative member and their families. Just another benefit to being an electric co-op member!



Visit Piedmont Electric's website, 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 centers and pharmacies.

Warm hands. Happy wallets.

Winter is right around the corner. Don't let it cost you more to keep warm.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- **Maintain and inspect heating equipment** and chimneys every year to confirm they're working safely and properly.
- **Install storm windows** for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- **Caulk and weather strip doors and windows** to make the most out of your heating system.
- **Wrap pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic** and allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes. Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst.

KEEP YOUR ENERGY BILL LOW THIS WINTER

Program your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit to make sure your emergency heat does not turn on which will drive up the cost of your energy bill.

Unless it is truly an emergency, do not use the emergency heat option on your thermostat!

For more information about how weather and your energy use patterns can affect your bill, visit pemc.coop/winter.

BYLAW REQUIREMENTS LISTED FOR NOMINATIONS OF DIRECTORS

The following is an excerpt from our 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 and the at large directorate 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 at least one (1) nominee for each such District and may nominate more than one (1) nominee for each such District. The Committee shall show clearly each nominee(s) and the Directorate District for which they are nominated. In addition, the Committee shall nominate each three (3) years at least one (1) candidate and may nominate more than one (1) candidate for the "at large" position. The Committee shall ensure that all members nominated meet the

qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02. The Committee shall meet as necessary in order to 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. Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee's name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.

(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, the names 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.

Piedmont Electric Bylaws can be found at www.pemc.coop/about-my-coop/bylaws

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an
equal opportunity provider
and employer.

Stephen B. Hamlin
President and CEO

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chairman
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
Glennie C. Beasley, J. Randy
Kinley, Stephen C. Long, David
Poynthress, Cyrus Vernon &
Talmadge W. Yancey

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US AT 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, let us know by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day by calling 877.999.3394. Voice instructions will direct you through the system.