



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JULY 2019

Meet our new Piedmont Electric board directors

As a locally owned and operated co-op, our board of directors is made up of members just like you! Because we're run by people who live and work in our communities and who understand our local values, you can be sure our members' best interest is always our priority. We'd like to introduce the newest Piedmont Electric board directors, Elizabeth (Beth) Townsend and Andrew (Andy) M. Oakley.



Elizabeth (Beth) Townsend (District 6)

Director Elizabeth (Beth) Townsend immersed herself in Person County when

she moved here in 2004 to be closer to family. A 13-year employee of Piedmont Community College as the Director of Public Information and Marketing, she has been a volunteer/board member for: Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce, Person County's Futures Committee, Healthy Personians, Directors' Round Table, State Employees Credit Union, Animal Protection Society and Roxboro Community School. Beth and her daughter are active members of Roxboro Presbyterian Church. With a passion for education and community, Beth is a firm believer in the mission and guiding principles of Piedmont Electric.

In April, at the 2019 annual meeting, Beth was elected by the membership to the District 6 director seat.



Andrew (Andy) M. Oakley (District 8)

Director Andrew Oakley utilizes his civil and environmental engineering background to

enhance his community through his employment with the City of Roxboro as the Public Services Director and as a volunteer with local organizations. With skills ranging from strategic and capital planning to cost estimates, plan analysis and distribution system design, Andy brings a wealth of experience to the table. Andy's commitment to his community is clear through his board memberships with Mt. Harmony Baptist Church and The Gideons International.

Earlier this year, Andy was appointed to fill the District 8 director seat which was vacant because of the passing of Director Glennie Beasley.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 4

Independence Day

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call.

July 25

Roxboro and Hillsborough blood drives

22 **Save some green**

23 **Sign up for a time-of-day rate**

24 **Buddy's graduation**

July right-of-way maintenance

DURHAM/ORANGE/PERSON

Bivins Road
St. Mary's Road
Lipscomb Grove Church Road
Schley Road
Range Road
Uzzle Road
Clayton Road
Mt. Harmony Church Road
Peed Road
Allen Creek Road
Range Road
Fitch Oakley Road



July is a

PEAK MONTH

Watch for Beat the Peak alerts via text or e-mail to limit power use during peak times to save money for you and your co-op! Sign up for text alerts by texting BTPEAK (first and last name) to 85700.

Save some green while you celebrate the red, white and blue!

Independence Day is just around the corner and Americans across the country are preparing for a day of backyard picnics, parades and fireworks.

When you're out celebrating our nation's birthday, don't forget to put these energy-saving best practices to good use.

Fire up the grill

There's a good chance you were already planning to grill out for the holiday, but an added bonus is that it will benefit your energy bill. Using your stove not only uses electricity, but it also raises the temperature in your house causing your air conditioning unit to run longer. By grilling outside, you'll save on energy costs and help keep your house at a comfortable temperature.

Solar powered yard lights

Light up your backyard with solar lights that are powered by the sun! This clean energy source will provide your yard with sufficient lighting as day turns to night.

Use the cooler

Every time you open the refrigerator door and let cool air out, the refrigerator has to bring the temperature down again. If you're hosting a barbeque, avoid this issue by filling a cooler with ice and drinks for your guests.

Adjust the thermostat

If you'll be spending the day outside, don't forget to adjust your thermostat so you're not needlessly cooling an empty house. And don't forget to close all your blinds and curtains before you leave to keep the sun and excess heat out of your home.

HOW DO YOUR ENERGY COSTS MEASURE UP TO YOUR INDEPENDENCE DAY FAVORITES?



For the same cost as an apple pie* you can cool down under a ceiling fan for 700 hours.



For the same cost as a dozen hot dogs and buns* you can watch your favorite TV show for 1,675 hours.



For the same cost as sparklers* you can play your favorite video game for 2,500 hours.

**Calculations are based on a \$5 apple pie/75 watt fan, \$15 of hot dogs/90 watt 46 inch LED TV, and \$30 of sparklers/120 watt PS4 console.*

TIME-F-DAY

Sign up for a time-of-day rate to pay less for your energy use

Would you like to pay a lower rate for the energy you use? With Piedmont Electric's time-of-day rate, you can!

What is a time-of-day rate?

Our time-of-day rate rewards members who avoid using energy during on-peak hours which are times when energy use across the cooperative is at its highest.

When you sign up for a time-of-day rate, you pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak hours. Reducing energy use during on-peak hours saves you money and helps keep rates low for everyone!

When are on-peak hours?

In the summer, expensive on-peak hours are from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm,

Did you know: 85% of the hours in the week are considered off-peak!

since this is the hottest part of the day and members are using energy to cool their homes. You'll

want to shift your energy use to an earlier or later time.

It's the opposite for on-peak hours in the winter, as members are warming their homes in the mornings. Our winter on-peak hours are from 6:00 am to 10:00 am so you'll want to adjust your energy use accordingly.

What can I do to get the most out of a time-of-day rate?

The most important thing to remember is that you don't have to stop doing the things you normally do; it's all about shifting your energy use to off-peak hours instead. For example,

instead of doing a load of laundry right when you get home at 5:00 pm, wait until after 6:00 pm to start it.

Similarly, if you have a programmable thermostat, use it to "pre-cool" your house so you can turn off your cooling system

during on-peak hours. If you're at home during the day, you can set your thermostat lower at 11:00 am to start cooling down the house, have it turn off at 1:00 pm, and then have it set to turn back on at 6:00 pm. This will leave you feeling comfortable during the hottest part of the day and save you money.

Need another reason to love the weekend? Don't forget that weekends are considered off-peak, so all the electricity you use during that time will be billed at a lower rate!



The average Piedmont Electric member saved more than \$22 per month by switching to a time-of-day rate last year. That could be you!

Switch to a time-of-day rate by logging into your SmartHub account or visiting pemc.coop/timeofday.





Buddy Goes to High School

The first day of high school is a nerve-racking experience even for the most prepared student and local student Buddy is no exception. The only difference is that Buddy is a three-year-old bearded dragon.

For the past three years, Buddy has been an exemplary pupil at Stoney Creek Elementary School in Caswell County where he is a popular student and avid reader.

Buddy attends Stoney Creek because of a Bright Ideas grant won by his favorite teacher, Teresa Perkins. Bright Ideas grants are funded by Piedmont Electric's Helping Hand Foundation to support creative, engaging projects in local classrooms.

"Since winning our grant, we were able to purchase many animal and dragon-themed books for the

children to read in class. With the younger children, many of them would read aloud to him, which helped with their confidence and fluency. This really encouraged my reluctant readers to read," Mrs. Perkins said. "Buddy has also given me the opportunity to provide an example of how to care for pets and about being a responsible pet owner."

When Buddy isn't busy reading, he enjoys relaxing in his luxury condo that overlooks Mrs. Perkin's 5th grade class. He especially loves it when his classmates bring him crickets, clover flowers and turnip greens from the school garden. Since Mrs. Perkins will be retiring in the Fall, she arranged for Buddy's new home to be in Bartlett Yancey High School with teacher Sarah Smith.

"We're excited to welcome Buddy to our animal science classes as a class

pet. He will join many other animals we house here on campus, including my six-year-old bearded dragon Fred. My students learn proper animal care, identification and nutrition through our classroom animals. I have watched several students grow by simply handling animals in the classroom," Ms. Smith explained.

While Buddy knows he will miss his Stoney Creek family, he is excited to make new friends and continue sharing his gifts with local high school students. He's also heard the turnip greens in the school's cafeteria are delicious!



ncbrightideas.com

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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