




CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2019



PIEDMONT EMC

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

A trip of a lifetime

For more than 50 years, America’s electric co-ops have made their voices heard by sending outstanding high school students to Washington, D.C., for a week on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

These students tour our nation’s capital, learn about the cooperative difference and compete to represent their state on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), a national co-op program that aims to develop America’s strongest young leaders.

We’re proud to announce that Karis Dean, one of Piedmont Electric’s student representatives, was selected as the North Carolina YLC representative by her peers to represent them on a national level. After the Youth Tour, we had the chance to chat with Karis about her experience.

What was your favorite part of the Youth Tour?

My favorite part of the Youth Tour was being able to see a variety of ideals, perspectives and disciplines. I was able to meet people that have lived completely different lives, all of us united by a common passion.

What did you learn about co-ops?

I learned about the seven cooperative principles and how those principles are applied at electric cooperatives like Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation. I was blown away to see the real impact volunteer linemen had on the communities in rural counties through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s international program.

What are you most looking forward to about the role of being North Carolina’s YLC representative?

I am so excited to learn more about cooperatives, especially electric co-ops, and their impact on their communities. I am also extremely excited to get to know my fellow “YLC-sters.”



Piedmont Electric’s Youth Tourists Rainier Vaughn (left) and Karis Dean (right) in front of the United States Capitol.



We show our commitment to the community through a wide range of youth programs and giving opportunities paid by the Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation through members who voluntarily round up their monthly bills. Some of these programs include our basketball camp scholarships, college scholarships and our Youth Tour. Applications for these programs are now open. To learn more, visit pemc.coop/community.

IMPORTANT DATES

September

Basketball camp, Youth Tour and college scholarship applications are open

September 2

Labor Day

Our offices will be closed for the holiday. Employees will be on call.

Bright Ideas deadline

All Bright Ideas applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm.

October 12

Community Day

1:00 - 4:00 pm
Cedar Grove Ruritan Club

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September right-of-way maintenance

ORANGE COUNTY

New Sharon Church Road
Terry Road
Walker Farm Road
Palmers Grove Church Road
Lawrence Road





TAKE THIS QUIZ TO SEE IF YOU CAN GET AN A+ IN SAVING ENERGY

Now that summer is winding down and the kids are heading back to school, we're giving you an energy efficiency pop quiz! But don't worry if you haven't studied up on energy efficiency, because this is one quiz where your score won't affect your grade. It can, however, affect your energy bill by teaching you some simple energy-saving tips. Test yourself to see how much you know about saving energy. The answers are upside down at the bottom of the page, but we don't think you will need them!

1. Which of the following actions can help decrease your energy bill?

- a. Turning off lights.
- b. Lowering the temperature on your water heater.
- c. Setting a heating and cooling schedule on your thermostat.
- d. All of the above.

2. Which Piedmont Electric program lets you pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak hours?

- a. Beat the Peak
- b. Smart thermostat savings program
- c. Time-of-day
- d. Load management

3. Plugged in appliances and electronics can still consume energy even when they are turned off.

- a. True
- b. False

4. Which free tool on pemc.coop allows you to input information about your house for personalized cost-saving recommendations?

- a. Appliance calculator
- b. Energy advisor
- c. Heating calculator
- d. Lighting calculator

5. How often should you change the air filters in your home?

- a. Monthly
- b. Quarterly
- c. Yearly
- d. Every 3 years

6. Ceiling fans should be used to cool down a room, even if no one is in it.

- a. True
- b. False

Check to see how you did! For more energy-saving tips, visit: pemc.coop/save-energy-money.

Answers: 1. d. All of the above, 2. c. Time-of-day, 3. a. True, 4. b. Energy advisor, 5. a. Monthly, 6. b. False



SAVE THE DATE

You're invited to Community Day!

We hope you'll join us on Saturday, Oct. 12:

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Cedar Grove Ruritan Club

6116 Efland-Cedar Grove Road

Cedar Grove, NC 27231



Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 12, as we'll be celebrating our annual Community Day. Everyone is invited to join us for a fun FREE day spent outside with a kids' carnival, bucket truck rides, tasty treats and exciting giveaways.

COMMUNITY IS EVERYTHING

The seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, is a constant reminder that by empowering our current and future members, we ensure a brighter and stronger future for all. We show our commitment to our communities through a wide range of programs like:

Helping Hand Foundation Our Helping Hand Foundation supports these community programs in addition to helping members in need pay their energy bills. We are so appreciative of members like you who help support the foundation.

Bright Ideas education grants Local educators with innovative classroom project ideas can apply for a grant to bring their idea to reality. Since 1994, Piedmont Electric has awarded more than \$460,000 in Bright Ideas grants.

Community loan program Our cooperative works with the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG) to provide zero-interest loans to local rural organizations that strengthen our communities.

College scholarship program High school students who are planning to continue their education at a college, university, community college or technical school can apply for a \$2,000 scholarship from Piedmont Electric.

Basketball camps Middle school students learn life skills, teamwork and basketball all while getting a glimpse at life on a college campus.

Youth Tour High school students learn valuable leadership skills while learning more about co-ops and touring our nation's capital.



Together, we can ensure our communities continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. To learn more about our community efforts, visit pemc.coop/community.

Managing rising costs



Steve Hamlin President and CEO

With the start of fall just around the corner, thoughts at your local cooperative turn to a couple of different things: preparing for fall weather, college football rivalries and our annual budgeting process.

And whether you track your budget on your favorite phone app, your laptop or the checkbook, you may be surprised to find that the items in your budget aren't all that different from ours.

While we don't think anyone has 40-foot utility poles in their budget you will see familiar things like supplies and materials, insurance, maintenance, property taxes and more. And just like in your home you may notice the price of these things is creeping up each year.

Here at Piedmont Electric, we strive to provide exceptional service while still managing the rising costs in

our industry. As your local electric cooperative, we are owned by the members we serve and ultimately any costs we pay are passed on to our members.

So, when it comes to saving money for you, we keep an eye on every part of our business while continuing the quality service you've come to expect. From preventive equipment maintenance and right-of-way clearing to prevent and reduce the impact of outages to refinancing loans at lower interest rates to reducing our bill printing costs, we look at it all.

Our efforts have allowed us to keep our residential rate the same for going on half a decade. We've worked hard to keep electric rates stable even in the face of increasing costs and as a result, electricity continues to remain a good value.

For example, think about how much television you could watch for \$100. According to the Nielson report, the average American watches 5 hours of television a day, which means we spend about \$0.06 in electricity costs powering our television each day. *

So, for \$100 you could power your TV habit for more than 1,500 days. In comparison, your Netflix subscription for those 1,500 days would cost you about \$700.*

We can all agree, electricity powers so much more in our lives than our television.

As we put together our budget this fall, we will be taking a look at the rates we charge in addition to what we spend in an effort to balance quality service with cost. If any changes to our rates are necessary, we will be sure to inform you and provide ways to offset any changes.

While we know the cost of everything eventually goes up, we promise you that we will do what we can to continue to manage our costs while providing our trademark exceptional service.

**Calculations based on a 100-watt 48-inch LED TV, rate of \$0.1275 per kWh and Netflix service at \$12.99 per month.*

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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2500 NC Highway 86 South
PO Drawer 1179
Hillsborough, NC 27278

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
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Opt in for text alerts by texting "pemc" to 800.222.3107. Once you've opted in, report an outage by texting "#out" to 800.222.3107.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the number connected to your account by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

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