



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2022



Support Giving Tuesday by Giving to the Helping Hand Foundation

With Giving Tuesday just around the corner on Nov. 29, many of us are looking for ways to support community members in need. Unless you've opted out, you're already helping to support your fellow members by rounding up your electricity bill each month to the nearest dollar.

If you'd like to offer extra support for Giving Tuesday or any other time throughout the year, you can do so through any of the following ways, all of which are tax-deductible.

- Donate future capital credits through our beneficiary designation form.
- Donate online through the Piedmont Electric Pay Now portal.
- Set up a one-time or recurring monthly donation on your bill through our website or the SmartHub app.
- Donate by phone at 800.222.3107.
- Donate by mail by sending a check made payable to "Helping Hand Foundation" to this address: Attn: Helping Hand Foundation, Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

Thanks to your donations to the Helping Hand Foundation, our cooperative is able to:

- Provide energy assistance to members in need.
- Support local educators through Bright Ideas grants.
- Help students continue their education through college and community college scholarships.
- Support community organizations on projects such as public broadband and youth camps.
- And more!



Thank you for your support!

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support of the Helping Hand Foundation on Giving Tuesday and throughout the rest of the year. To learn more about the foundation and how to support it, visit pemc.coop/donate.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 11

Veterans Day

November 24-25

Thanksgiving

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

November 29

Giving Tuesday

Support our local community by donating to the Helping Hand Foundation at pemc.coop/donate.

- 22 **Supportive Programs for Seniors During the Winter**
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- 24 **Support Giving Tuesday**

We Thank Our Veterans!

Thank you to all of our veterans for serving our country with courage and dedication.



Supportive Programs for Seniors During the Winter

We know the colder winter months can be challenging for some members, particularly those on a fixed income. Everyone deserves to feel safe, comfortable and warm in their homes and we're proud to help promote the following programs that help members do just that.

Weatherization Assistance Program

North Carolina's Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income residents save energy and lower their utility bills. The program provides insulation of attics, floors and walls; repairs and replacements to heating and air systems; minor home repairs and more at no cost to the homeowner.

Families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the program. These guidelines differ based on the number of individuals in a household. If you qualify, you can schedule a professional evaluation of your home for safety and energy efficiency and you can request minor repairs around your house. Learn more by visiting deq.nc.gov and searching for weatherization.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP offers assistance in managing home energy costs so low-income seniors and families can stay safe and warm during the winter. Households with a senior (60 and older) in the home can apply starting Dec. 1 each year while all families can apply beginning Jan. 1.

Low-income qualifications will differ based on the number of individuals in the household and the county.

Visit epass.nc.gov to apply or contact your county's department of social services for more information.

Piedmont Electric Bill Payment Assistance

As your cooperative, we recognize that everyone needs help from time to time. If you need energy assistance, we'll extend your due date up to 10 days from your disconnect date, no questions asked. You can submit your request through your SmartHub account or by calling **800.222.3107**.

Budget Billing and Prepay

Budget Billing allows you to pay the same amount each month which helps you avoid the highs of winter and summer.

We also offer flexible payment schedules for our members to help make it easier to manage your electricity bill. With our prepay option, you can customize your payment schedule based on your needs, pre-purchasing energy when it's convenient for you. To learn more about all of our payment options visit pemc.coop/membership/payment-options.

Call us at 800.222.3107 if you wish to speak directly with one of our member service representatives.



Get 50% OFF Energy this Thanksgiving (and More!)

The most delicious day of the year is often one of the electrically-intensive days. Between cooking your favorite family recipes and keeping the TV on all day to watch the parade and football, your energy use can skyrocket on Thanksgiving.

What if you could pay half off the energy you use on holidays (and beyond)? With our time-of-day rate, you can! By signing up, you'll get 50% off the energy you use during off-peak times all year long, which includes weekends and most holidays like Thanksgiving.

The average member saves around \$20 per month by participating in our time-of-day rate, which is the equivalent of buying 8 cans of yams* for your famous sweet potato casserole. That's something we can all be thankful for this year!

Best of all, this program is completely risk-free. If you sign up and don't see savings compared to our regular rate, we'll refund you the difference. Unlock 50% off your power this holiday season by visiting pemc.coop/timeofday.

Call us at 800.222.3107 if you prefer to talk to one of our member service representatives.



My household has been on a time-of-day rate for the past five years and I've already had \$60 in savings this year thanks to this special rate. I typically see an annual savings of \$100. I get excited when I receive an email notification from Piedmont Electric letting me know how much money I've saved on this rate. For a household of five including three kids, every dollar saved adds up. If you're thinking about signing up for this rate or any of Piedmont Electric's programs, I highly recommend signing up today!

- Kirk, Rougemont

*Calculation based on the 2021 average member savings of \$20 per month and a \$2.28 can of yams.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS DECEMBER 3

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric board of directors are up for election in 2022. These seats are currently held by David Poythress (District 1), Randy Kinley (District 2) and Stephen P. Bailey (District 5). As a reminder, there will be no voting at the annual meeting. All voting will be conducted online or by mail-in ballot.

The members serving on the nominating committee are:

JOE CURRIN Chapel Hill, District 1	GREGORY RUDD Yanceyville, District 3	ADAM SARVER Roxboro, District 5	MARTIN A. DAVIS Timberlake, District 7	SYLVIA WADE Timberlake, District 9
GREG MARTIN Mebane, District 2	DIANNE MURPHY Mebane, District 4	CORY MELTON Roxboro, District 6	ALVIS LONG Hillsborough, District 8	

The cooperative's bylaws provide an alternative to the nominating committee. 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 Jan. 14, preceding the next election of directors. 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 can be placed on the ballot for election.

Piedmont Electric's bylaws can be found at www.pemc.coop/bylaws

Official Notice: Bylaw Changes

The Piedmont Electric Cooperative board of directors recently voted to amend the cooperative's bylaws. The changes are to Article IV of the by-laws which pertains to the co-op's directors.

The board decided to reduce the number of board members from 10 to 9 thereby eliminating the vacant at large seat. Sections 4.01, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06 and 4.09 of the bylaws were updated. A copy of the bylaws can be found at pemc.coop/bylaws.

This decision will result in a cost savings for the cooperative and cooperative members while still ensuring that all members are represented by a member elected from their board district.

All board members are elected by the co-op's membership via online and mail-in ballots leading up to the cooperative's annual meeting each April. In 2023, districts 1, 2 and 5 will be up for election. For more information on the candidate nomination process see the official notice above.

A copy of the bylaws can be found at pemc.coop/bylaws or by calling 800.222.3107 to request a printed copy.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Cooperative. Piedmont Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hillsborough and Roxboro Drive-Thru Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Caswell Drive-Thru Hours:
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Offices are closed except for scheduled appointments.

Report outages, make payments and access account information by phone 24-hours-a-day by calling 800.222.3107.
Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

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

Stephen B. Hamlin
President & General Manager

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chair
Randy Kinley, Vice Chair
David Poythress, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
Steven P. Bailey, Stephen C.
Long, V. Kay Scurlock-Ferguson,
Elizabeth Townsend
& Cyrus Vernon

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL OR TEXT 800.222.3107

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 or "#status" for an update on your outage.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the phone number connected to your account online through SmartHub, by completing the form on your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Use the SmartHub app to report an outage or online at pemc.smarthub.coop/#reportanissue.

Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for our system to recognize new cell phone numbers in the text outage alert program.