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ALONG THE LINE

17 Years of Bright Ideas and Counting

The 2010 Bright Ideas grant contest kicked-off on April 19, and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC encourages teachers to send us their grant applications before the "Early Bird" deadline on August 16, 2010. Educators who submit their grant application before this deadline will be entered in a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card. All grant applications can be completed and submitted online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC awarded 11 Bright Ideas grants in 2009 totaling \$7,000. Jo Peele, a teacher at Roanoke High School, was awarded one of the grants last year to help implement a reading program in her classroom. Jo is no stranger to the Bright Ideas grant program and she has been awarded more Bright Ideas grants than any teacher in our area. She recently commented, "My classroom has been so enhanced by the many Bright Ideas grants that I have been awarded since 2003. Every year I have asked for sets of books for my room and we use them over and over again. I have more books checked out of my room than the media center does!! Former students come back to borrow books, and students not even in my classes come in to get books. There is no doubt in my mind that most students enjoy reading – if teachers are able to get the right books. With the Bright Ideas grants, I have been able to find something to spark a love of reading in most of my students. I will be forever grateful to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and the Volunteer Action Committee for their support in my efforts to educate our students."

Jo Peele is a multiple award-winning Bright Ideas grant recipient from Roanoke High School, who knows how to get her students motivated to read. Submit your Bright Ideas grant application for a chance to help fund an innovative learning experience in your classroom this year.



BRIGHT IDEAS

3 WAYS TO HELP YOU CONSERVE



1. Inspect duct connections in your homes crawlspace or attic to verify they are sealed properly.

2. Make sure the insulation in your attic and crawlspace is installed correctly.



3. Condensation forming on windows is a sign that conditioned air is leaking from your home.

More Capital Credits for Members



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's board of directors have authorized the general retirement of \$974,724 in capital credits to the members of the Cooperative who had active accounts during 2008 and 2009. Although the Cooperative normally returns patronage capital in the form of capital credits only once per year; this second disbursement is being made for a different

reason. This retirement of patronage capital is being made due to a reporting adjustment from SEPA (Southeastern Power Administration) to NCEMC (North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation), which handles our wholesale power purchase agreements.

These capital credits will be issued beginning June 1, 2010. Capital credits that are greater than \$10.00 will be mailed

in the form of a check, however, capital credits less than \$10.00 will be credited to the members' respective accounts. As previously stated, this second retirement of capital credits during 2010 will only affect members who had active accounts during 2008 and 2009, and it is not a general retirement that will likely take place in the future.

Another Annual Meeting for the History Books

The 73rd Annual Meeting for Edgecombe-Martin County EMC brought many members and their families to the Cooperative to enjoy the day's festivities on March 20, 2010.

Incumbent directors Norman Roberson (District M-1), Billy Trevathan (District E-2) and Jimmie Jernigan (District E-5) retained their seats on the board of directors.

Entertainment included "The Golden Platter." Milton Bullock, and The Tar River Boys Bluegrass Band. Children enjoyed inflatable rides, a rock climbing wall and cotton candy stations that were on site.

The Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC provided homemade desserts for sale and they also held several raffles and a silent auction to help raise funds for the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Booths were set-up that provided energy efficiency information to members, and a high-voltage

demonstration was manned by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC line crews to help educate members about the dangers associated with electricity.

A prize drawing was held at the end of the meeting, and \$1,800 in electric bill credits were awarded to numerous members. Several members also won laptop computers the co-op had retired from service. Raffle tickets were sold at the meeting and all of the funds raised from this initiative went to the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 74th Annual Meeting of Members is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2011. We hope to see you there!



Children enjoy festivities at the 73rd Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 20, 2010.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.ememc.com.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

LINES FROM THE V.P. OF ENGINEERING

What is Smart Grid?

The utility industry has seen an extreme amount of technological advances in recent years. The latest push is this idea of having a “Smart Grid.” The U.S. Department of Energy defines “Smart Grid” as the application of technologies, tools and techniques available now to bring knowledge to power, knowledge capable of making the power grid work more efficiently, ensuring its reliability, maintaining its affordability, accommodating renewable and traditional energy sources, reducing our carbon footprint, and introducing advancements and efficiencies yet to be envisioned. This idea of Smart Grid is not just the systems that are employed but the interaction between these systems and how this information is used to provide economical, stable, and dependable power. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has embraced this concept and we have taken steps toward meeting the goals set forth in Smart Grid plan.

The Smart Grid initiative has identified the following characteristics and performance features of a smart grid:

- Self-healing from power disturbance events
- Enabling active participation by consumers in demand response
- Operating resiliently against physical and cyber attack
- Providing power quality for 21st century needs
- Accommodating all generation and storage options
- Enabling new products, services, and markets
- Optimizing assets and operating efficiently

This initiative has set a standard for utilities to provide the level of service that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has strived to provide for years. We are now building a foundation of technology that will provide opportunities in the future for our members to have an active role in how they use energy, and this will ultimately help us provide an improved level of service. Your cooperative will accomplish this through supplying the knowledge and resources needed to help members use their energy more efficiently and provide mechanisms that will enable utilities to reduce costs.

We have implemented technologies such as AMR (Automated Meter Reading), which reads your meter in such a way that we now have the ability to view hourly usage, outage events, and check voltage without leaving the office.

These tools enable employees to gather more accurate data so they can make informed decisions in a timely manner. This information also allows us to help members troubleshoot many issues involving service reliability, unexplained usage, and other power quality issues. The AMR system makes it possible to verify if a particular meter is active, which means we can interrogate meters on a circuit once an outage call is received to more efficiently dispatch linemen to the source of the outage.



Employees also use our GIS (Geographical Information System) and CIS (Consumer Information System) to guarantee data is as accurate as possible, which helps ensure system modeling can be performed effectively. This allows for efficient load growth planning and system maintenance. Line crews utilize this information to assist them with system inspections and to aid them in system maintenance.

We have also interconnected with renewable energy generation resources such as the solar field at the QVC facility. This alternative energy resource has been pumping energy back onto Edgecombe-Martin County EMC’s system for over a year now, and it has provided some necessary REC’s (Renewable Energy Certificate’s) to help us meet REPS (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards) mandates set by North Carolina.

Your cooperative is constantly striving to find ways that utilize our existing technologies and resources to their fullest potential, so our system mimics the characteristics and performance features listed above. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is determined to find the most cost effective methods available to deliver our members reliable, economical, and efficient energy through the introduction of new programs and innovations that the future brings.

Cooperatively Yours,

Russell H. Guerry

Scholarships Available for College!

This is just a reminder that the deadline for all Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship applications is July 23, 2010. Scholarships are offered to members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC who plan to complete a one or two-year vocational/technical/community college program of study. The technical school or community college must be accredited in North Carolina.

These scholarships give prospective students the opportunity to further their education so they can acquire new skills and knowledge to improve their livelihood.

During 2009, the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC awarded two Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships to Robert David Jones and Donnie Stroud, Jr.

Scholarships will be awarded at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester. You can access, complete, and submit applications online at www.ememc.com. If you wish to receive an application form by mail, please call the cooperative at (252) 823-2171.

The Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships are made possible through the dedicated work of the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and other private donations. The Volunteer Action Committee helps raise funds for the scholarship by selling desserts and various raffles at the Annual Meeting of Members each year.



The Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC works diligently every year to raise funds for the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need and an applicant's motivation for attending college.

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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Harper Retires After 32 Years

Bobby Harper retired on February 19, 2010 after 32 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative. Bobby worked as a serviceman for the co-op and felt extremely privileged to serve the members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

A retirement luncheon was held for Bobby on March 23, 2010 at the Cooperative. He reminded all of the employees to never forget that they worked for the member-owners of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and to take pride in their jobs.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC wishes Bobby Harper all the best in his future retirement. Your positive attitude and dedication will be missed.



Eddie Stocks, V.P. of Member and Industrial Development, wishes Bobby Harper well in his retirement and thanks him on behalf of the Cooperative for his many years of dedicated service.