

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

APRIL 2011

February MAC Meetings Were a Success

Wake Electric held its latest round of Member Advisory Committee Meetings in February and they were deemed a great success! We had a total of 152 members attend the MAC meetings on February 15, 16 and 21. Members had the opportunity to meet and talk with the Wake Electric management team about important issues facing the co-op. The issues that Jim Mangum, General Manager & CEO of Wake Electric, covered at the meetings included the Duke Energy/Progress Energy merger, replacing older, coal-fired generation, energy efficiency and its effect on consumption, North Carolina renewable and legislative "set asides," and conservation made possible by new technology. The MAC meetings were very informative nights, with lively discussions and great questions asked by the members.



Don Bowman, Manager of Engineering, discusses co-op business with members while waiting for the MAC meeting to begin.

Co-op members enjoyed a dinner catered by Cook Shack Catering Company of Louisburg, as well as fellowship with one another.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Check Your Air Filter

Check your HVAC system's air filter monthly. If it looks dirty, change it. A dirty filter makes your system work harder.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Holiday Closings

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Friday, April 22, in honor of Good Friday. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 474-6300 or (919) 863-6300.



**Wake Electric
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155
Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811

Wake Electric Awards RoundUp Grants to Area Nonprofits



Wake Electric awarded more than \$5,000 in grant monies during the 4th quarter of 2010 to

deserving nonprofit organizations located in counties served by the co-op. These grants were made available through the Operation RoundUp program.

Nonprofit agencies located in counties that Wake Electric serves, which include Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties, are eligible to apply. The agency does not have to be a member of Wake Electric.

Grants are open to all projects and subject areas that enhance economic infrastructure and job creation, promote service or charitable organizations, and meet emergency needs of individuals within the Wake Electric service area.

The next deadline for Operation RoundUp grant applications is June 10, 2011. A simple and convenient downloadable application can be found at www.wemc.com.

Since Operation RoundUp began in 1996, the program has awarded more than \$300,000 to area nonprofits.

The 4th quarter 2010 Operation RoundUp grant winners are:

- ★ **Bunn Rescue & EMS, Inc.**
\$2,000 (Purchase oxygen tanks & sonar units for rescue boats)
- ★ **Meals on Wheels of Durham**
\$1,000 (Emergency Meal Project)
- ★ **Outreach Ministries Restore**
\$1,000 (Temporary housing/ meals)
- ★ **Wake Forest Elementary PTA**
\$1,134 (Backpack Food Program for the Weekend)

The funds for Operation RoundUp grants come from voluntary contributions from Wake Electric members. For more on the program, please visit www.wemc.com/oproundup.aspx.

Monitor & Manage Program— The Premier Option

This year, Wake Electric is rolling out its new Monitor & Manage Program. The first, most dynamic and comprehensive option under this program is the Premier Option, and it will help members better monitor, manage and conserve on their monthly electric bill.

This home monitoring system with energy automation and control will offer members an unprecedented level of choice and control over how they use energy. The technology will allow you to eliminate energy consumption created by electric appliances while you are away from your home or when they are not needed.

Payment options, e-billing, service requests and usage reports are also part of the Premier Option. This option is available to all members for \$9.95 a month. For more on the Monitor & Manage Program's Premier Option and to sign up to receive updated information as it continues to roll out, please visit www.wemc.com/monitorandmanage.



CFL Recycling Program

Did you know Wake Electric offers compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling for residential members at all Wake Electric offices during business hours? For more information on the program, including office locations, please visit www.wemc.com/CFLRecyclingProgram.aspx or call (800) 474-6300.

Wake Electric's Bright Ideas Education Grant Program Kicks Off 18th Year of Giving

TEACHERS CAN APPLY NOW FOR 2011-12 BRIGHT IDEAS EDUCATION GRANTS



Wake Electric has earmarked \$50,000 for classroom-based projects through the Bright Ideas education grant program for the 2011–2012 school year. Teachers may begin applying on April 1 for grants up to \$3,000. To learn more about the program or to start an online application, visit www.ncbrightideas.com.

The Bright Ideas grant program, the only one of its kind in our state, is exclusively for North Carolina's K–12 teachers. The deadline to submit applications for the 2011–2012 school year is Monday, September 12. Teachers who submit their application by the early-bird

deadline on Monday, August 15, will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

"Wake Electric is proud to continue promoting creativity in North Carolina classrooms and award these grants to deserving teachers," said Fred Keller, Manager of Member & Energy Services. "Last year, the cooperatives were able to collectively benefit more than 100,000 students through the program statewide."

Bright Ideas has funded a wide variety of classroom projects in all disciplines that would otherwise cost teachers money from their own pockets or go unfunded. Since its inception in 1994, the Bright Ideas program has awarded more than \$7.3 million in grant money and funded more than 7,000 projects. Wake Electric's Bright Ideas grant program alone has awarded more than \$530,000 to area educators since 1994.

"We have the utmost respect for teachers in our state and look forward to continuing to do our part to improve their jobs and the quality of education in North Carolina through the Bright Ideas program," said Keller.

The primary elements of this year's online application include an explanation of the creative project and its potential benefits to students. Examples of past projects are on the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com.

For more on Wake Electric's Bright Ideas grant program, go to www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx or contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at (919) 863-6312 or (800) 474-6300 or e-mail her at Darnell.Alford@WEMC.com.

Classroom Technology Awards Program Kick-Off

Wake Electric seeks applicants for its Classroom Technology Awards grant program. The co-op will award grants to North Carolina teachers serving both grades K–12 and area community colleges. The grants, to be used during the 2011–2012 school year, will be awarded in any discipline or subject for specific technology such as computers, digital cameras and software. The technology must benefit the students in the classroom.

Public school and community college teachers in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties are eligible to apply. The final deadline to submit all grant applications is Monday, September 12. Teachers can apply for grants up to \$3,000. Only online applications will be accepted.

For more information or to apply for a Classroom Technology Awards grant, go to www.wemc.com/classawards.aspx or contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at (919) 863-6312 or (800) 474-6300 or e-mail her at Darnell.Alford@WEMC.com.

Funding for community projects is made possible by Wake Electric member-consumers and Wake Electric employees through the Operation RoundUp Program.



Poles aren't for Posting!



April is the time of year for spring cleaning and yard sales. You might be tempted to post yard sale signs on utility poles in your neighborhood. This seemingly innocent strategy creates serious safety hazards.

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs, as well as the signs themselves, pose dangers to your electric cooperative's line workers. These workers climb poles to restore power following storms or to perform routine maintenance to ensure system reliability. Objects such as birdhouses, balloons, flags and posters can interfere with accessibility and nails and tacks can snag utility workers' boots or

puncture safety clothing and other protective equipment. A hole in protective clothing puts line workers at risk for electrocution.

Furthermore, tampering with utility poles is illegal and can result in costly fines. According to North Carolina law, this misdemeanor could lead to a fine, community service or jail time.

So, instead, consider stand-up yard signs that can easily be placed in your yard and neighborhood. Also consider posting flyers on bulletin boards or leaving flyers with local retailers. Your electric cooperative appreciates your help in keeping utility poles clear and line workers safe.

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