



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Serving 14,400 Members

“Owned by those we serve”

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REC hosts its first on-site lineman seminar

Roanoke Electric is fulfilling the promise that it made to its members. The first is to provide reliable energy to members in the most efficient way possible and at the lowest cost possible.

The second is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and Roanoke Electric is making its commitment evident. In mid-July, REC partnered with Nash Community College to offer a 40-hour seminar to help individuals determine whether or not a lineman career would be suitable for them.

Thirteen young men attended the on-site seminar, held on July 16-20. “This seminar was designed to evaluate the natural competencies of the individuals as a lineman. We want to identify all interested individuals who may

have a career as an electric lineman,” stated Bob Schubauer, Nash Community College instructor.

During the seminar, Schubauer presented a thorough overview of electrical theory, transmissions and distribution works, substation transformation, single and three-phase electricity, and hands-on basic climbing techniques.

Major emphasis was placed on safety in the class, including the use of person/protective equipment and grounded technology. The hands-on training covered basic climbing techniques, with the men using a 40-foot light pole. Each



Three potential linemen performed exceptionally well in the hands-on climbing session. Left to right: Marcus Everette of Murfreesboro, Michael Porter of Margaretville and Kenneth Liverman of Ahoskie.

candidate was asked to demonstrate the proper technique used when climbing.

Three guys performed exceptionally well and climbed to the top of the pole. “It normally takes anywhere from two to three weeks before individuals make it to the top of the pole. These guys are awesome!” Schubauer stated. While learning the proper climbing techniques, individuals were also taught to inspect poles for any obstructions that could violate safety protocols.

At the end of the 40-hour seminar, all interested individuals were encouraged to attend an Electric Lineman Technology program offered at various community colleges. Most community colleges offer a 65-credited-hour program that can be completed within two years.



Men who attended REC's lineman seminar learned about electrical theory and transmission and participated in hands-on training to determine their potential as linemen.

Board of Directors visits Roanoke Rapids Substation



Pictured left to right, first row: Directors J.P. Garner, Chester Deloatch, Carolyn Bradley, Allen Speller, Millard Lee and Delores Amason. Second row: Directors Darnell Lee, Robert Riddick, Kenneth Jernigan, Vice President of Engineering & Operations George Jenkins, and Attorney Everett Winslow.

The Board of Directors recently toured areas of Roanoke Rapids and Halifax to see first-hand the tremendous amount of growth that's taking place. While out, they visited the Roanoke Rapids substation.

George Price, Vice President of Operations & Engineering, provided the directors with detailed information about the substation, including additions that will take place to better service Carolina Crossroads.

"The Board of Directors showed a lot of interest by asking questions in regards to the features and operations of the substation," Price stated.

REC Board is 100% Certified in CCD & BLC

Roanoke EC's Board of Directors is working hard to make good, sound decisions that best suit the needs of our co-op.

In an effort to continue to make the "right decisions," each Director on REC's Board has successfully obtained certifications in Credentialed Cooperative Directors and Board Leadership Certification.

These certifications are designed to give directors the knowledge and skills needed to meet the daily challenges that affect directors today.

Our Board of Directors will be recognized for their accomplishments at the Region I-IV Meeting in Pittsburgh in September. Congratulations to our Board of Directors.

A little change can change a lot!

Rounding up pennies makes a lot of "Cents!" It's a pretty simple idea. Operation RoundUp collects pennies, nickels and dimes from members of the co-op family to create a reliable source of funding for organizations that assist charitable, civic and educational programs in our community.

It's a whole lot easier to get something done when people work together instead of individually.

Imagine assisting with the operation of local non-profit organizations to help make their service to the communities a lot easier and more effective. For an example, we never know when we may need the assistance of our local fire department. You could assist by donating anywhere from 10 to 99 cents a month. That's right! Members could have their electric bills "rounded up" to the next highest dollar.

A \$68.30 bill, for example, will

be rounded up to \$69. A total of \$0.70 would be contributed to the Operation RoundUp account for later distribution to community non-profit groups and organizations. Multiply those possibilities throughout your community and witness the power of change.

During the 2007 second and third quarter of Operation RoundUp, Roanoke Electric Cooperative awarded grants to area volunteer fire departments totaling \$8,500. A total of \$1,000 of the \$8,500 help fund needed equipment to Millennium Fire Department, Inc. The funds received were used to help purchase one set of Res-Q-Jacks and one 20" Hurst Ram. These items will enable



Operation RoundUp helped the Millennium Fire Department buy one set of Res-Q-Jacks and one 20" Hurst Ram. Left to right: Ray Harris, MES Fire Equipment; Mike Vaughan, Fire Chief; and Eddie Drew, Secretary.

the department to expand its abilities to stabilize the work area when responding to emergency scenes.

Lend a helping hand by rounding up your electric bill. Let's work together to make a difference in our community. To participate in Operation RoundUp, call (252) 539-2236.

Financial Education Fun Day

More than 150 attend interactive workshop on building wealth and self-sufficiency

Community members pulled off yet another informational Financial Education Fun Day to get vital information in the hands of community members regarding money management and asset building.

The event, held June 30 at Central Elementary School in Jackson, was sponsored by the United Faith Coalition, The Roanoke Center, NC Mutual Life Insurance Company, Generations Credit Union and First Citizens Bank.

Community members were able to take advantage of the informal atmosphere to listen in on information sessions covering homeownership, banking services, budgeting tips, and how to start a small business.

In addition to the financial advice and resources, the N.C. Department of Corrections was on site hosting a job fair. Participants included Halifax Medical Center, Halifax Community College, NAACP, CADA, Mary Kay, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, Roanoke Energy Resources, N.C. Cooperative Extension Services, Smart Start, Vocational Rehabilitation, Northampton County Health Department, Northampton County Public Schools, Communities In Schools of the Northeast and the N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development.

The event provided activities for adults and children alike, with lunch catered by Gardners Bar-B-Que Restaurant. Door prize

winners for the day were Brenda Taylor and Lewis Winfield of Northampton County.

“I appreciate the participation of so many families,” said Financial Literacy Coordinator Ann Riddick, who was pleased with the turnout. “To inform and empower citizens is the intent of the workshops, and we must start focusing on building assets in our community and not debt.”

Riddick said she was excited about the participation of members of the faith-based community as well. “The pastors really promoted this event and their hard work paid off,” she said. “It was exciting for us to see all the adults that came out and how they brought their children out to share in this learning experience.”

Prevent electrical hazards in your home

We use electricity so frequently in our daily lives that it is easy to forget the dangers associated with it. Accidental electrocutions or electrical fires in the home cause a number of injuries and deaths, as well as property damage each year in the United States. Following a few simple precautions can easily prevent many of these accidents.

Rid your home of the following electrical hazards:

- Frayed or worn electric cords
- Appliance plugs “piggy backed” on a single outlet
- Electrical appliances such as radios, hairdryers, shavers, portable lamps or radiators near showers, baths or swimming pools
- Extension cords used in place of permanent indoor/outdoor wiring
- Electrical appliances that frequently trip the breaker, overheat or emit sparks

The most reliable way to reduce the risk of death by electrocution is to have a residual current device (RCD), more commonly known as a safety switch, installed in your household breaker panel. If the device detects faulty wiring or senses that electric current is passing through a foreign object, the safety switch immediately shuts the power off. The RCD is not guaranteed to completely prevent an electric shock. However, it will reduce severity of the injury.

General electrical safety tips:

- Have a licensed electrician install a safety switch in your household breaker panel.
- Unplug electrical appliances when they are not in use.
- When unplugging an appliance, hold the plug rather than the cord.
- Make sure outdoor appliances do not come in contact with water.
- Never touch appliances or switches with wet hands.
- Have faulty appliances repaired by a professional or throw them out; do not attempt to repair faulty appliances on your own.
- Cover all outlets in your home that children could touch.
- Place all electrical appliances out of the reach of children.



Ann Riddick recently named financial literacy coordinator for region

Ann Riddick is now serving as the financial literacy coordinator in a five-county region: Bertie, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton.

Riddick, a native of Hertford County and graduate of Elizabeth City State University, has coordinated many youth programs and community activities over the past 15 years.

Riddick states her interest in our community's well-being really peaked while attending Roanoke-Chowan Community College, where she was introduced to many unmet needs of our youth and families. She decided then to major in sociology, which has prepared her to serve all ages and populations.

Collaboratively, The Roanoke Center in Rich Square and the United Faith Coalition of Northampton County has initiated a focus on financial literacy and strengthening families through empowerment and increased levels of education on debt reduction and asset development.

Riddick was brought on board through Volunteers In Service To America. VISTA provides full-time workers to nonprofit, faith-based, public agencies and other community organizations to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. She is in her second year with VISTA.



Pastor Gary Cordin Sr. of Victory Temple in Bertie County discusses financial principles with Ann Riddick at The Roanoke Center in Rich Square.

Riddick's role has been to develop and implement a financial literacy program in the area. The program, which she calls FLIP (Financial Literacy Improvement Program) has been shared in schools, churches, senior citizens groups and social service agencies.

Since the program's development, Riddick has served nearly 1,000 individuals from ages eight to 80 years old. The program is derived from a financial education curriculum called Money Smart, which covers the following topics: Bank On It, Borrowing Basics, Check It Out, Money Matters, Pay Yourself First, Keep It Safe, To Your Credit, Loan To Own, and Your Own Home. Information is also shared on insurance fundamentals and estate planning.

Riddick says after completing the program, participants will understand the concept and benefits of budgeting and how to use budgeting as a tool to manage the family income. Promoting savings accounts is also emphasized, including the NC Saves Campaign, which allows people to open savings accounts for a deposit of \$1 after enrolling in the program with a participating bank.

"You can't have a successful program without recruiting volunteers to help out and that's part of the job," Riddick said. "Much of the work that has to be done will be carried out with the assistance of volunteers."

If you are interested in hosting a workshop at your church organization, please give Riddick a call at (252) 539-2236, ext. 276.

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