

Roanoke Electric FLASHES

INSIDE

Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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Amason, Lee and Speller receive nod at Roanoke EC annual member meeting

Roanoke Electric Cooperative proudly celebrated its 69th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on August 23, at Hertford County High School in Ahoskie. More than 800 members, spouses, guests, community organizations, friends and employees gathered for one of the cooperative's biggest events of the year.

Gardner's Foods, Inc. of Rocky Mount served a delicious turkey barbecue and baked/fried chicken lunch. Area organizations showcased their specialties, and the Kidz Carnival and Family Flavored Ice, a new attraction, were enjoyed



Area children enjoy the attractions at the recent Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation Day.

by our future members.

The cooperative's general counsel, attorney Everette P. Winslow of Winslow-Wetsch, PLLC of Raleigh, presided over the program. Board member Johnnie P. Garner gave the invocation and Michael Basham, superintendent of Hertford County Schools, welcomed everyone to the school. Board President Allen Speller welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Basham for allowing the use of the facility.

Curtis Wynn, executive vice-president and CEO, recognized special guest, vendors and retired employees of Roanoke EC. He also reported on youth activities and presented plaques to scholarship winner Lauren Bunch and NICE Youth Scholar Jalicia Barrett.

Wynn revealed this year's theme, "Our Energy Our Future—A Dialogue with America," encouraging cooperative members, family and friends to engage in dialogue with our elected officials on how we will meet our growing energy needs and the impact it will have on our utility bills.

At this year's Meeting and Member Appreciation Day, Roanoke EC members approved



Roanoke EC members listen to the business meeting speakers at the annual meeting.

the nominating committees' recommendation to elect three uncontested board members. Delores Amason (District 2), Millard Lee (District 6), and Allen Speller (District 8) will serve another three-year term on the board of directors. The nine-member cooperative board safeguards assets and represent each of the co-ops directorate districts.

Other board members include Johnnie P. Garner (District 1), Carolyn Bradley (District 3), Robert "Nat" Riddick (District 4), Ken Jernigan (District 5), Darnell Lee (District 7) and Chester Deloatch (District 9).

The two \$250 cash prizes was won by William Bazemore of Windsor, and Lisa Sessoms of Windsor.

Roanoke Electric serviceman retires

The “epitome of hard work and commitment” says goodbye after 25 years of service

“Faithful,” “hard-working,” “dedicated,” and the “epitome of what a good serviceman out to be.” Those were just some of the words colleagues and family have used to describe Roanoke EC’s beloved friend and now retired serviceman, Robert Hearn.

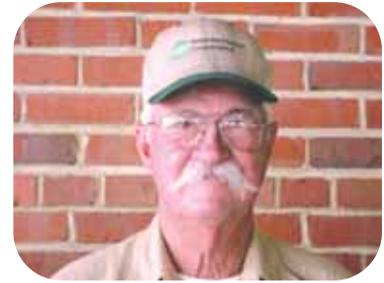
Robert Hearn began his career as a lineman in 1959 and started working for Roanoke EC on June 1, 1983. He worked his way up from first class lineman to serviceman, where he served the cooperative members in eastern Bertie County.

In his 25 years of service, Hearn worked his share of floods, hurricanes, ice storms, tornados, and other power outage makers.

“One of my favorite things about being a serviceman was the freedom of getting out and meeting the people in the service area,” said Hearn.

Clifton Ricks, supervisor of dispatch services and Hearn’s supervisor, credited Hearn with displaying an admirable work ethic at all times and going beyond the call of duty particularly during power restoration periods after natural disasters. Hearn’s character, professionalism and safety awareness earned him respect with others that knew him as well.

“When you work in the field like I did, you’re very conscious about trying to work safely and stay alive so you can go home to



Robert Hearn

your family,” Hearn said.

“Robert really loved working for the co-op,” said his wife, Sandra, who is looking forward to spending more quality time with her husband in his retirement. He and Sandra will stay busy helping people in the community.

As for the cooperative, even though we rejoice with Robert, members and employees alike will miss him dearly. We all wish him well in his retirement.

Touchstone Energy camps give kids chance to score big in life

How many middle-schoolers get to stay on a university campus for a week, compete and learn from ACC athletes and coaches, and

make new friends? All in one summer—and for free.

Each year, Roanoke Electric Cooperative gives two deserving students the chance to develop fundamental skills that enable them to excel on the court and off.

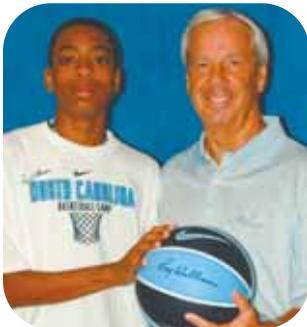
Priscilla Lunsford of Lawrence Academy and Dre’ Shaun Morris of Bertie Middle School scored that opportunity in June, as Roanoke EC’s 2008 representatives.

They were among North Carolina’s electric cooperatives 27 sixth through eighth graders who

participated in the Touchstone Energy Basketball Camps. The girls took part in the Kay Yow Basketball Camp on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and boys participated in the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill.

Applicants were judged on their academics, extracurricular activities, and an essay.

Congratulations to Priscilla and Dre’ Shaun on behalf of Roanoke Electric Cooperative’s members!



Dre’ Shaun Morris and Priscilla Lunsford won 2008 Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp scholarships from Roanoke EC.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep Your Engine Running In Top Form

Fixing a car that’s noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, www.fueleconomy.gov

Roanoke EC contributes to employment and economic growth in the communities it serves

There was a time when thinking about getting a good job, very few places around here came to mind. In reality, between January and July of this year, more than 8,000 workers were added to payrolls in our region, while some of our more metropolitan regions faced more job losses than gains.

This is in large part due to economic growth projects like Roanoke Electric Cooperative's construction of its new headquarters in Ahoskie—the project aims at putting locals to work and keeping them there.

Roanoke EC broke ground on the building in June. Most of the contractors constructing the new facility are from area companies within a 60- to 90-mile radius. The architectural firm, plumbers, engineers, electricians, pavers, surveyors and graders are all from the region. Small, women- and minority-owned businesses who met project criteria will also help on the project.

Commercial Ready Mix, a successful bidder of the project, makes the concrete for the building and has a plant just up the road from the new co-op headquarters location. The project has put about 20 people to work at the company, from plant workers, to



The new Roanoke EC headquarters building in Ahoskie. Building design courtesy of Oakley Collier, architectural firm for the new building.

administrative support and computer technology staff.

“The electric co-op really did a great job accommodating area companies. This gives us a chance to prove that we are able to handle jobs of this magnitude,” said Tommy Charles, a sales manager for Commercial Ready Mix.

Through its online procurement system, RFQHOSTING, Roanoke EC streamlined the process of accepting quotes from interested companies. When companies like REC use the web-based system, they can save large amounts of money on services, supplies and materials, without sacrificing quality.

A.R. Chesson Construction manages the entire construction

project and facilitated submitting requests for quotes and awarding contracts through the RFQHOSTING system.

“With plumbing, mechanical and electrical, we probably saved a half-million dollars, just on these line items alone,” said Jay Peaks, project manager for the company.

The online bidding service is also used by other companies across the state, including Glaxo Smith Kline, North Carolina Department of Transportation and Northampton County Sheriff's Department.

The new Roanoke EC headquarters building is slated to open in the latter part of 2009.

New remote payment center adds convenience for members

Soaring gas prices at the pump, coupled with driving long stretches of road to get around, is an expense many would rather avoid given today's tight economy.

For convenience and cost savings to members, Roanoke EC has added another remote payment station. The electric utility payment station is located in Windsor (Bertie County), at Generation Community Credit Union, giving members in surrounding towns and cities access to making electric bill payments in person. Roanoke EC already has two other remote payment sites in Gates and Halifax counties.

When you make a payment, it posts in real-time, and immediately shows up on your account as paid.

“Some members like making payments in person versus dropping payments in the mail. This provides

them comfort in knowing they're getting their payment to us in a timely manner,” said Marshall Cherry, vice president of member services and marketing.

Remote Payment Station Locations

Shell Village Mart
1131 Highway 48
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

County Market
Highway 158
Gatesville, NC 27938

Generation Community Credit Union
302 South Granville Street
Windsor, NC 27983

RBC Bank supports The Roanoke Center's financial literacy program

Making enough money to keep things going from month-to-month can be a challenge for some of us, and putting things on credit means spending money we don't have. The Roanoke Center offers financial programs to help you fight the urge to overspend.

In June, the Center, a subsidiary of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, in collaboration with The



Individuals from banks and other organizations were available for the Financial Education Family Fun Day.

United Faith Coalition, held its second annual Financial Education Fun Day at Central Elementary School in Jackson, N.C. The program assisted

members with financial education, energy conservation and money management.

In attendance were faith-based, educational, business, financial, and governmental institutions, along with service providers and residents from area communities.

The Roanoke Center and RBC Bank sponsored the event, with RBC Bank contributing twenty-five hundred dollars to encourage ongoing financial literacy efforts of the United Faith Coalition. The mission of the United Faith Coalition is to educate families, both parents and children, about the importance of managing money.

Kevin Harris, who is the Community Development Director for RBC Bank, believes that by helping people understand credit and money management creates better lending opportunities. "We recognize that there are unique needs in our community for financial education. All we can do to help ultimately comes back to the community and the bank," said Harris.

The center also creates access to capital and small business training resources and encourages entrepreneurship, job creation, and sustains business growth in rural communities.

Roanoke Construction Group launches energy efficiency program

In its effort to continue supporting the local building industry in North Carolina's northeast region, the Roanoke Construction Group, an affiliate of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, has launched its

"Energy Efficiency, Renovations, and Repairs Program."

This program is to help reduce energy usage and costs. The 2005 Energy Policy Act qualifies homeowners for a tax credit that encourages energy efficient improvements to a home's exterior (windows, doors, and insulation); its heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system (HVAC); and water heating equipment. All are target areas of this program.

RCG will coordinate increasing knowledge of energy conservation and energy efficiency for program participants. Many contractors and homeowners are not aware of resources such as the Weatherization Assistance Program that works with public housing authorities to incorporate efficiency measures in new construction. It includes home plan reviews, specification writing, contractor training, on site quality control and performance testing.

RCG's new program will assist homeowners with a directory of qualified contractors who are capable of providing the necessary workmanship to help them qualify for available tax credits. The program will also assist in identifying funding sources available to program participants.

For more information, contact Sondra Goffington-Dickens at (252) 539-2236 ext. 282 or Johnetta Chavis at (252) 539-2236 ext. 279.

Source: Sondra Goffington-Dickens, Construction Director.

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