

Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

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Let's Get Real About Energy

By Curtis Wynn
Executive Vice President and CEO

There has been a lot of talk about energy lately. The subject is covered in newspapers, on cable news, talk radio and innumerable blogs. It's been the topic of many speeches in Washington, D.C. The remedies proposed by our national leaders for our "energy crisis" are coming from all directions.

It's time for us to get real about energy.

I think we can all agree that the country needs a strong energy policy that strives for "energy independence" from foreign sources and is sensitive to environmental concerns. We can also agree the country is experiencing one of the worst economic recessions in recent memory. The American people are having a tough time, and here in North Carolina, we feel it too.

Pending legislation in its current form has raised concerns from utility leaders nationwide. The projected increase in electric costs is approximately 40% if it is passed. Frankly, I believe the intent is to jumpstart a new energy policy that pursues reliable energy sources,

promotes energy efficiency programs, reduces carbon emissions, and creates badly needed jobs. Additionally, they want to do this right away.

OK, I get that. But what I don't get is raising costs to the point people can't afford electricity. Maybe for some that is the point. They believe if your electric bill is too high, then you will use less electricity. While that may be a response from some, we think there is a better way to formulate a sound national energy policy, while meeting our environmental challenges.

We are in favor of using energy wisely. And we offer our members ways to do that without making undue sacrifices in their lifestyles. For example, Roanoke Electric's prepaid metering program allows members to maintain electrical service at their residence while better managing cost. The in-home display shows the remaining balance, average daily usage, previous day usage, monthly usage, last month's usage and the date and time. This program allows the member to get the most from their energy dollars.

A quick "back of the envelope analysis" of what Congress is considering today, combining renewable and energy efficiency mandates, as well as costs associated with decreasing greenhouse gases to battle climate change, could add as much as an

additional \$40 a month to the average cooperative consumer's electric bill in North Carolina. That



Curtis Wynn

is an increase of \$480 more a year. This may be a low figure as carbon costs may rise considerably more depending on decisions made by the Administration and the Congress in the coming months. Where will much of this money go? Washington, D.C.

Electric cooperatives support a balanced solution that doesn't send all your energy dollars to D.C. We have a smart country. Let's spend some time and help Congress get this right. Your cooperative is advocating on your behalf with the leaders of Congress today. Let's hope they will listen.

Let's look for lower cost solutions that are sustainable over time and get us to the goal - energy independence and protecting our environment. This isn't about fear, it's about getting this right and we can do it without breaking the bank.

Learn more about what you can do at www.findabalancedsolution.com. Or call toll-free at 1-877-40-225-2623 (1-877-40BALANCE). Let's get real about our energy future and work together with Congress to solve our problems.

Find A
Balanced Solution



Roanoke Electric Cooperative awards scholarships for local students to attend summer basketball camp

Sharonda Lassiter of Conway Middle School and Shakira Anderson of Conway Middle School will attend the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp and Christian L. Folston of Riverview Elementary School will attend the Roy Williams' Basketball Camp, all on scholarships from Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

Sharonda is the daughter of Lula Lassiter, Shakira is the daughter of Cassandra Hinton.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges based on the completion of an application that included a creative essay about the students' reasons for wanting to attend camp. Both camps will be held during the week of June 21-25.

Winning applicants will have the opportunity to stay in dormitories on campus at NCSU in Raleigh and UNC in Chapel Hill and receive instruction from both schools' coaching staffs and players.

"Roanoke Electric Cooperative is pleased to give these outstanding students the opportunity to experience life on a college campus



Sharonda Lassiter



Shakira Anderson



Christian Folston

and the chance to learn from winning collegiate coaches and student athletes," said Robin Phillips, coordinator of Communications and Public Relations.

This is the sixth year that Touchstone Energy has sponsored young women to attend the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp and the fourth year that the cooperatives have sent young men to the Roy Williams Camp.

The staff of the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp includes new championship-winning Head Coach Kellie Harper, who joined the Wolfpack women from

Western Carolina University, and current N.C. State Women's basketball players. The Roy Williams Camp is led by two-time NCAA National Championship Coach Roy Williams and current and past UNC Tar Heel basketball players. Both camps will work closely with each camper to help develop fundamental basketball skills and motivate students to set and achieve goals.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative announces Youth Tour winner

Thomas A. Vaughan has been selected to represent Roanoke Electric Cooperative this summer on the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The tour is scheduled for June 13-19.

This is an annual contest sponsored by Roanoke Electric Cooperative to help increase awareness among our local young people about the role of cooperatives.

The Youth Tour is an all-expenses-paid weeklong trip to the nation's capital. The youth will enjoy a number of social and cultural activities, as well as participate in educational seminars on government and rural electrification, visit historic sites, meet with members of the Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill and gain insight on the way the federal government operates. If schedules allow, they will meet members of Congress.

Vaughan is in the 10th grade at Ridgcroft School in Ahoskie. His parents are Keith and Elaine Vaughan.



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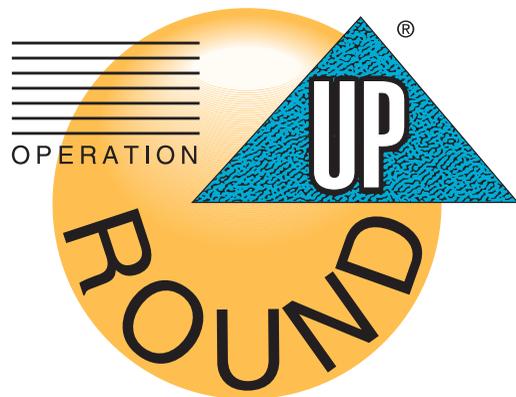


Roanoke EC's Operation RoundUp awards grants to non-profit groups

Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program awarded a total of \$13,135 in grants to seven area non-profit organizations for the 2nd Quarter of 2009. Those organizations were:

- ❑ Rhesville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Roanoke Rapids, \$1,000
- ❑ Rich Square Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Rich Square, \$2,135
- ❑ Seaboard Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Seaboard, \$2,500
- ❑ Roanoke Valley Veterans Center, Roanoke Rapids, \$1,500
- ❑ Lasker Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Lasker, \$2,500
- ❑ Union Rural Volunteer Fire Department of Hertford County, Inc., Ahoskie, \$1,500
- ❑ The Family Life Center at Branches Chapel, Inc., Rich Square, \$2,000

The Operation RoundUp program is administered by the Roanoke Electric Care Trust, who grants funds quarterly to non-profit organizations that serve local communities. Members of Roanoke Electric round their electric bills to the next whole dollar to create a reliable source of funds that provide educational, charitable, or economic development services.



If your non-profit organization is located in Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Halifax, Northampton Chowan or Perquimans counties, you are invited to submit grant applications to Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program. Grant requests can be made for up to \$5,000 and are given out in January, April, July, and October. The next grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on July 3.

For more information or to receive an application, visit our Web site at www.roanokeelectric.com.

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Roanoke EC offices closed for Independence Day

The cooperative's office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe holiday. For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437.

