



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Roanoke EC works hard to enhance service, quality of life in community

By Curtis Wynn

Executive Vice President and CEO

On behalf of our board and staff, I would like to wish each of you a happy and prosperous 2010. As we have closed the door to 2009 and opened one for 2010, we'd be remiss not to reflect on those things that have evolved us to our current existence and look forward to those that lie ahead.

Moving our level of service to a higher threshold is always a charge for this organization. I can proudly say that we've performed our mission to provide, safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, while enhancing the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve in 2009 and will work to "move the needle" in living up to this mission in 2010.

2009 Accomplishments

While there are always new and exciting ventures explored to meet

your needs, the highlight of 2009 would have to be the successful move of the cooperative's core operation from its office housed in Rich Square since the 1950s to its new state-of-the-art facility in Ahoskie. The new facility creates opportunities for better efficiency in serving your needs. We've seen a number of you use the new drive-through window already. Other operational efficiencies that the new building brings include improved materials management in our warehouse and enhanced dispatching now that we're centrally located.

The move also equips the cooperative's non-profit affiliate, the Roanoke Center, to have its own identity since that operation will be housed at the former Rich Square office. This site will also serve as a payment collection site for the cooperative. Please visit them to learn more about small

business and workforce development opportunities that may be available to you.

There were also system improvements via the 2006-

2009 Construction Work Plan and energy efficiency programs launched to better serve you.



Curtis Wynn

What's ahead for 2010?

The year 2010 will be another busy year for the staff as we look forward to getting settled in the new facility while promoting programs to serve your needs in this era of rising wholesale power costs. We appreciate all of your support in our grassroots efforts over the past year to communicate the need for a balanced approach toward addressing climate change. You've responded well to our calls to action to contact your legislators through the "Our Energy, Our Future" and "Find A Balanced Solution" campaigns.

Please stay connected to all that we're doing in 2010 by way of this Flashes newsletter, bill stuffers, the Web site, etc. Again, we look forward to another exciting year and we thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.



ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICE

The new REC headquarters is a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly facility constructed by local businesses in REC's service territories.

Rising seniors: Apply now for D.C. youth tour

Do you know a high school student who might like a one-week, all-expenses-paid trip on a national youth leadership tour in Washington, D.C. this summer?

High school rising seniors are invited to apply for the exciting Roanoke Electric-sponsored 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

All high school rising seniors in Bertie, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton counties are eligible to apply.

The Tour is an annual event coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives.

Some 1,500 high school students from 40 states will gather in D.C. from June 12–18. In just five days, participants will get to see the Smithsonian Mall, the White House,

Arlington National Cemetery, The Newseum (the world's most interactive museum), Mount Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial and learn about the rural electrification program.

As a Youth Tourist you also will have the opportunity to be eligible for one of three annual scholarships: The Gwyn B. Price Youth Scholarship (\$2,500); The Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000); and the Youth Leadership Council Scholarship (\$2,000).

North Carolina has participated in the Youth Tour since 1967, with more than 1,000 young people experiencing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Although learning is a major aspect of the trip, the fun of social networking with teens across the



YOUTH TOUR

state and nation is an added bonus. Many life-long friendships have been created on the Youth Tour. You can log on to

www.NCElectricCooperatives.com/YouthTour to learn more about what the trip has to offer.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for the youth tour; applications may be downloaded from the REC Web site at www.roanokeelectric.com. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Robin Phillips at (252) 209-2259 or rphillips@roanokeelectric.com. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 2.

Plan now for a safe and warm winter

Snowfall, ice and freezing temperatures affect North Carolinians from the mountains to the coast during the winter. Be prepared and follow these simple safety tips to stay safe and warm this winter.

Ice and snow are heavy enough to pull down power lines and cause outages. Before a winter storm hits, have a plan on how to stay warm in case of a power outage. Keep

the following safety precautions in mind when developing a plan:

- ❑ Make sure to have a fire extinguisher nearby when using alternative heat sources.
- ❑ Always keep extra blankets on hand and dress in multiple layers to stay warm.
- ❑ Have several flashlights, plenty of batteries, matches and a first-aid kit.
- ❑ Stock a few days' supply of water, medication and food that does not need to be cooked or refrigerated such as bread, crackers, cereal, canned foods, and dried fruits. Remember baby food and formula if you have young children.
- ❑ Keep a close watch of your home's temperature during an outage. Infants and persons over the age of 65 are particularly sensitive to the cold.

Another taxing part of winter is clearing snow and ice around the home. It is hard work and even has the potential to cause a heart attack. To stay safe when clearing snow you should dress warmly,

paying special attention to your feet, hands, nose and ears to prevent frostbite. When shoveling snow, try to push it in front of you and avoid lifting it up. If you have to pick up the snow, lift it up in small amounts and lift with your legs, not your back. You may want to do a few light warm-up exercises before you start and take frequent breaks.

Consider spreading non-toxic de-icing substances such as clay-based cat litter, sand or fireplace ash to prevent slippery sidewalks. Chemical de-icers are potentially dangerous to your pets, plants and the environment. Before you apply a de-icer, remove as much snow and ice as possible. De-icing products are most effective when applied to a thin layer of ice, before accumulation starts, but pre-treatments are also available. Check with your local hardware store for a pre-treatment recommendation.



Keep out the cold with weather stripping

No mistaking it: winter has arrived. Any drafts around doors and windows that went unnoticed during fall are now downright uncomfortable—and adding to your energy bills.

Weather stripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors. To determine if a door leading out of your house needs new weather stripping look for daylight. If even a sliver of daylight remains visible between the door and its frame or the floor, add weather stripping.

Next, shut the door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you're losing energy.

There are a variety of weather stripping materials available, each good for fitting different types of door and window frames. Most are made of rubber, foam, metal, vinyl, or a combination of materials. To determine the right item for the job,

check the area: if any old, worn material has been previously installed, take a sample to your local hardware store or expert like a contractor.

If no material exists as a guide, make detailed notes about the type of gap and how the door or window is installed—someone at the hardware store or your expert should be able to make a recommendation for you.

Once you have the proper materials for the job, consult any instructions that may be on the weather stripping package. Installation techniques range from simple to technical, depending on the type of material being used. If replacing old, worn weather stripping, be sure to note how it was installed as you remove it.

Here are a few basic guidelines:

- Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

When weather stripping doors:

- Choose the appropriate door sweeps and thresholds.
- Weather strip the entire door jamb. Apply one continuous strip along each side.
- Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners.
- Use a thickness that causes the weather stripping to tightly press between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

When weather stripping windows:

- Apply weather stripping between the sash and frame.
- The weather stripping shouldn't interfere with the operation of the window.



WHY ELECTEL COOPERATIVE FCU? WHY NOW?

BECAUSE NOW IS A BETTER TIME THAN EVER TO JOIN YOUR ELECTEL COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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If you answered "yes" to these questions, make the switch to ElectTel Cooperative FCU.

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Roanoke EC congratulates Bright Ideas winners

Area teachers who received 2009 Bright Ideas grants were honored at a banquet at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville, on November 17, 2009. In an effort to help teachers bring innovation to their classroom and to improve education in our state, North Carolinas's electric cooperatives created the

Bright Ideas education grant program approximately 14 years ago. The Bright Ideas program gives certified K – 12 North Carolina teachers the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 for classroom-based projects that would otherwise not be funded.

Speakers for the event were past Bright Ideas grant winners who shared their story on how the funds impacted their students. These creative projects engage students, encourage increased class participation and foster an affinity for learning.

Roanoke Electric awarded \$8,000 in grants to area teachers as part of its annual Bright Ideas grant program. Receiving grants this year were:

Billie J. Boyd of Everetts Elementary, Halifax County Schools, \$1,426 for "On Demand Learning"

Jan Lee Wicker of Weldon Elementary, Halifax County Schools, \$2,000 for "Kindergartners Learn Who's Who in the Animal Kingdom"

Tracy Vinson and Lashawn Scott of Bertie Middle School, Bertie County Schools, \$1,615 for "Achievable Dreams"

Belinda Gutierrez of Windsor Elementary, Bertie County Schools, \$400 for "Life Skills Training"



Winning teachers and school staff: Front Row (l to r): Annette Tucker, Everetts Elementary; Hertford County High School; Billie J. Boyd, Everetts Elementary; Vivian Branch, Principal of Everetts Elementary; Belinda Gutierrez, Windsor Elementary; Tracy Vinson, Bertie Middle. Middle Row (l to r): Jan Wicker, Weldon Elementary; Katherine Ambrose, Gates County Senior High; Sylvia W. Miller, C.S. Brown Development Center and Renee Duckenfield, Principal of Windsor Elementary; Back Row (l to r): Tomma Jenkins; Lashawn Scott, Bertie Middle; Teri Campbell, Gates County Senior High; Randy Martin, Principal of Gates County Senior High; Nora Artis, Principal of C.S. Brown Development Center; Teresa Wiggins, C. S. Brown Development Center, and Robin Copeland, Ahoskie Elementary.

Teri T. Campbell of Gates County Senior High, Gates County Schools, \$142 for "Look Who's Teaching"

Robin Copeland of Ahoskie Elementary, Hertford County Schools, \$1,157 for "Picture This!"

Sylvia W. Miller of C.S. Brown Development Center, Hertford County Schools, \$1,257 for "You Ought To Be In Pictures"

Ms. Jan Wicker won this year's trip to the Ron Clark Teacher Academy. Ms. Wicker, a Weldon Elementary school teacher, received a Bright Ideas grant for a project entitled "Kindergartners Learn Who's Who in the Animal Kingdom," which encourages kindergarten students to observe the differences between birds, insects, mammals and reptiles by comparing, through the use of live animals, how they move, eat and grow.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are dedicated to providing affordable and reliable electricity to more than 2.5 million people in 93 counties throughout the state. Above and beyond keeping the lights on, the cooperatives are committed to bettering the communities they serve and Bright Ideas is just another example of that commitment.

For more information, North Carolina teachers should go to www.ncbrightideas.com.

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Published monthly
for the member-consumers of
Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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Holiday closing

Roanoke EC offices will be closed Friday, January 1, in observance of the New Year, and on Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

