



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Is it collaboration, partnership or coalition?

The answer in this case is Coalition—the United Faith Coalition! A coalition embraces all activities that bring together two or more entities in shared action. Six years ago such actions created the partnership between The United Faith Coalition (UFC) and The Roanoke Center (TRC) to serve individuals, families, and communities in need. Today, both organizations see much value in everybody working together.

The United Faith Coalition is a united body of churches and communities in Northampton and neighboring counties dedicated to the spiritual, educational, and economic well being of individual churches and their members. TRC and UFC work to empower communities through education, employment, financial literacy, and economic instruction. Through collaboration and utilizing a diversity of resources and talents, UFC is able to impact many lives while raising awareness and preparing pastors and community leaders for greater stewardship.

Building partnerships take work. No matter the catalyst, effective partnerships do not emerge overnight. Like a basketball or football team, rules for each partner should be clear and written or formalized. UFC and TRC created an action plan that walked them through the steps of developing a mission, goals, objectives, a logo, and becoming

incorporated. The partnership develops different strategies based on the opportunities and needs in the communities. The organizations work through issues using the experience of each other as guidance to forge a path that everyone can support.

Coalition in action

At a time when rural communities are taking on more and more responsibility for meeting challenges in maintaining services and the quality of life, the help provided by UFC and TRC is increasingly important. Lots of work is needed now in undertaking major issues such as economic uncertainty, climate change and environmental sustainability. With the support provided by Roanoke Electric Cooperative, The Roanoke Center, and the United Faith Coalition, local citizens are benefitting from working together to solve problems; thus becoming more self-reliant and sustaining the community spirit on which rural communities rely.

UFC and TRC's focus is to provide technical assistance and training to increase skills and knowledge, host capacity building

workshops, encourage community residents to be stronger advocates and take more responsibility for their community, coordinate services and strengthen communication between agencies and clients, and educate communities on topics including energy efficiency, economic assistance, financial literacy, technology, and supplier diversity.

In the end our partnership enhances the community anchor that provides programs and services to uplift individuals, strengthen families and make stronger communities in the Cooperative service area. By replicating “best practices” and collaborating with other organizations, UFC and TRC will continue its efforts to bring much needed services to the region.

Numerous services and benefits are offered to individuals, businesses, or organizations that are members of UFC. We invite you to join or attend our monthly meetings. For more information, contact The Roanoke Center at (252) 539-4600 or email dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com.



*Find your account
number in this newsletter,
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\$25 Roanoke Bucks!*

Speller elected to statewide board

At the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives' Statewide Annual Meetings on April 6-7 in Raleigh, Roanoke Electric Cooperative's Board Chairman, Allen Speller, was elected to serve as the secretary/treasurer to the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NCAEC) Board of Directors. Speller will serve a one-year term that began on April 6, 2011. His primary duties will be keeping meeting minutes and being the custodian of corporate records and of the seal of the association.

Since 1943, NCAEC has worked as a statewide association to promote training, safety and education among their consumers and the general public. NCAEC programs serve the needs of their 26 member cooperatives. These needs include:

- ✓ Government relations in Washington, D.C., Raleigh and local communities
- ✓ Carolina Country magazine, published monthly for consumer-members since 1946
- ✓ Training programs and conferences for co-op directors, managers and staffs

- ✓ Youth scholarships, education programs and tours to Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Safety and job training for line workers
- ✓ Strategic communications planning, advertising and branding, and community relations efforts on behalf of the member cooperatives



Speller became a member of Roanoke Electric Cooperative's board of directors in 1997 serving District 8—most of the southern portion of Bertie County. Since that time he has achieved the Credential Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certifications. He has also served as Roanoke EC's Board Chairman since 2002.

Speller resides in Windsor with his wife, Lori, and they have two children, Bridget and Allen II.

Operation RoundUp awards 2nd-quarter grants

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 119725-03. 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.

Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program awarded a total of \$12,650 in grants to 13 area non-profit organizations for the second quarter of 2011.

Those organizations were:

- ☐ Roanoke Electric Tornado Relief Fund, Ahoskie, \$5,000
- ☐ Josh Lane Golf Classic/Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Murfreesboro, \$500
- ☐ Gates County Extension Service, Gatesville, \$500
- ☐ Gaston Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Gaston, \$400
- ☐ St. John Fire Department, Inc., Aulander, \$1,000
- ☐ Halifax Academy, Roanoke Rapids, \$500
- ☐ Bertie County Council on Aging Senior Center, Windsor, \$250
- ☐ Woodland EMS, Woodland, \$1,000
- ☐ Union Rural Fire Department of Hertford County, Inc., Ahoskie, \$1,000
- ☐ The Family Life Center at Branches Chapel, Inc., Rich Square, \$500
- ☐ Seaboard Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Seaboard, \$500
- ☐ Perrytown Volunteer Fire Department, Colerain, \$1,000
- ☐ Northampton County Department of Extension, Jackson, \$500

The next grant application deadline is 5 p.m. July 8, 2011. For more information or to receive an application, visit www.roanokeelectric.com/roundup.



Roanoke Electric returns money to members through Capital Credits

In years past some members have received a Capital Credit retirement check from Roanoke Electric Cooperative. But what exactly are Capital Credits? To explain Capital Credits properly we must look at the early days of electric companies. The first electric companies in the U.S. were all investor-owned utilities. Every electric company was owned by private investors who bought stock with the hope of making a profit. Those investors started with the big cities and worked their way down to the smaller cities. They had an opportunity to electrify the rural areas, but they declined because the investment was too high for so few customers, so rural farmers and ranchers across America had to wait.

The Rural Electrification Administration — the “REA” — was created during the Roosevelt administration in 1935 to loan out money to state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and farmers’ cooperatives. Co-ops installed the poles and wire to deliver electricity to rural areas. Today there are 900 rural electric co-ops in 47 states. (Roanoke Electric Cooperative serves rural Northampton, Bertie, Hertford, Halifax and Perquimans counties.)

Every single electric cooperative in the country is consumer-owned, and every single not-for-profit electric cooperative uses an accounting system that includes Capital Credits.



In a perfect world a not-for-profit business could write a budget on January 1 to cover all expenses and end the year with a profit of exactly zero. In the real world we must always budget a bit more than projected costs, because we can't predict the weather or big, expensive storms. So every year leftover profits may amount to as little as \$10,000 or as much as \$100,000 or more. The percentage of the amount leftover is assigned to your Capital Credit account. Roanoke EC

Capital credits are margins credited to cooperative members based on their electricity purchases from the cooperative. Used by the cooperative as working capital for a period of time, then paid back to the membership.

yielded margins (money left over) as a percentage of revenue (amount billed to you) equal to approximately 4 percent in 2010. This means 4 cents of every dollar that you paid to the company will eventually come back to you for the 2010 operating year.

Once the leftover amount is assigned to your capital credit account, co-op directors look at the co-op's financial health and decide how and when to return these monies. Some years the profits are too small to warrant payments. Other years when the profits are greater, the board has a few options. The board may decide to retain some profits to be used as working capital or to upgrade a portion of the electric system. And some Credits are returned to members in cash. In the near future, the board of directors will be electing to pay a certain amount to you in Capital Credits for electric bills during the years 1980 through 2010.

Some members assume that Capital Credits are like a savings account with cash set aside for each member. Actually, Capital Credits are in the form of hard assets — poles, wire, trucks and buildings. It would make no sense for the co-op to pay back large Capital Credit payments and then borrow money from the bank to replenish working capital. Interest payments for borrowed money would be passed on to the member. Returning Capital Credits is a balancing act. No one wants to raise electric rates to raise revenue available to pay back Credits. It's better to keep rates as low as possible and pay back Credits slowly but surely.

If you have further questions about Capital Credits, call the Roanoke EC Member Service Department at (252) 209-2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com/capitalcredits.

Co-op awards sports camp scholarships

LaQuanta Benthall of Conway Middle School will attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at N.C. State University and James Conner III of Chaloner Middle School will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill, both on scholarships from Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

LaQuanta is the daughter of Rhonda Taylor and James is the son of Junie and Jay Conner. 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. The Kellie Harper Basketball Camp will be held during the week of July 3-6 and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp will be held June 18-22. The 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 and the chance to learn from winning collegiate coaches and student athletes," said Robin Phillips, Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations. "The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships aim to help students succeed both on and off the court, and Roanoke Electric Cooperative is proud to support this influential program again this year." 100676-02



LaQuanta Benthall



James Conner III

The staff of the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp includes new championship-winning Head Coach Kellie Harper 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.

Each camp will work closely with its campers to develop basketball skills and motivate students to achieve goals. The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities.

Energy Tip of the Month

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



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