



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Knowing from whence we came...

By Curtis Wynn, *President and CEO*

If you lived 75 years ago in the area we now serve, you would have experienced darkness so complete it might have frightened you. Except for the feeble orange glow from a lantern carried by a farmer tending his chores, there was no light.

It was a time of great hardship for the people living outside the city limits. Your day began and ended with the rise and set of the sun. Every chore required back-breaking labor. There was no indoor plumbing. Water had to be carried from the creek, the spring or from a shallow well. When nature called, one headed outside to the outhouse, where battles were raged with wasps, spiders and snakes.

Every farm operation — from milking the cows, to putting the loose hay in the barn loft — had to be done by hand.

In the kitchen, it was even worse. Cooking on a wood stove required incredible skill. Of course someone had to cut the wood, stack it, carry it inside and carry the ashes out later. Many housewives cooked with a lantern held in one hand.

Wash day meant hauling more water, heating it in an iron kettle, and then boiling clothes in the hopes of removing the grime. Then, they were scrubbed on a corrugated washboard and taking care not to scrub knuckles.

The clean clothes were hung on clothes lines, outside in the summer, wherever space could be found inside in the winter. Imagine having to break the ice off your sheets before putting them back on the bed!

Ironing was done with the appropriately named “Sad Irons” — chunks of iron with a handle. They were heated on the wood stove and care had to be taken not to get ashes on the clean clothes.

Sen. George Norris, an early proponent of rural electrification, recounted the despair and darkness that moved the founders of electric cooperatives in those early days. He said:

“I had seen first-hand the grim drudgery and grind which had been the common lot of eight generations of American farm women. I had seen the tallow candle in my own home, followed by the coal-oil lamp. I knew what it was to take care of the farm chores by the flickering, dependable light of the lantern in the cold rains of the fall and the icy winds of winter. I recall the never-ending punishing tasks performed by women who grew old and died before their time. Those rural women were conscious of the great gap between their lives and the lives of those women whom by birth or choice lived in towns and cities with electricity in their homes.”

Small wonder it was the women who pushed their husbands into establishing electric cooperatives like Roanoke EC.

Your cooperative’s roots can be traced to early meetings among its incorporators and first board of directors: James R. Hall, Irvin Strickland, George D. Satterthwaite, J. L. Armstrong, Mrs. Madie Butler, Mrs. L. M. Flora, and Mrs. Ray Miles. We incorporated on September 30, 1938, and operated from the Farm Service Administration Building in Halifax, N.C. We started with 317 members and 56 miles of line that were energized on May 29, 1939.

We are celebrating these pioneers along with many other contributors and contributions to the rich history of our co-op. Today, we have grown to more than 14,400 services in a seven-county area by providing reliable, safe, and affordable electricity. We will keep you posted as we celebrate 2013 as the year we reach a major milestone—75 years of service. Please check our anniversary website at rec.celebrate75th.com and feel free to contribute your stories celebrating our history.

We thank you for your part in bringing REC where it is today, and look forward to many more years of serving you.



Curtis Wynn

Preparing for ice storms and power outages

January can be a pretty cold month in our state, and North Carolinians are no strangers to snow and ice storms. Unfortunately, bad winter weather can sometimes lead to power outages, but a little prep work now could make the winter weather season easier to endure.

To prepare for an ice storm, be sure to have the proper supplies handy. Flashlights and extra batteries are essential to your winter weather supply kit. Include a battery-powered radio in your supply kit so that you can listen to the weather forecast during an outage. Be sure to keep extra clothes and blankets in your emergency kit to stay warm if the power goes out, and remember to have a first aid kit handy. Cordless phones will not work if the power 114699-001 goes out, so always keep one corded phone in your home.

Many grocery and convenience stores may be closed or inaccessible after an ice storm, so stock up on non-

perishable foods before the storm arrives and make sure that you have a manual can opener that can be used to open canned food during a power outage. Keep plenty of bottled water in your home. Fill your gas tank before the storm, and if you take any prescription medications, be sure to have at least one week's supply available. Having all of these supplies on hand before an ice storm or power outage will make the experience less stressful.

To keep your home safe, make sure that all of the batteries in your smoke alarm are working properly. Also, be sure that you have fire extinguishers in your home and teach each resident the proper way to use them. If you are without electricity and use a portable generator, follow the generator's safety guidelines to avoid carbon monoxide emissions, burns and possible electrocution. If you have questions about generator safety, call your electric cooperative.

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Roanoke EC awards grants to local teachers for their “Bright Ideas”



Left to Right: Rev. Milton Jones, Bright Ideas Judge; Janet Fasig Moore, William L. Manning Elementary in Roanoke Rapids; Luis Giron, Lawrence Academy in Merry Hill; Robert J. Brown, Jr., Bertie High in Windsor; Heather Marshall, West Bertie Elementary in Kelford; and Robin M. Phillips, Roanoke Electric's Coordinator of Communications/PR.

Roanoke Electric recently awarded area teachers grants through the Bright Ideas education program. Four area applicants were funded a collective total of \$8,000 for the 2012-2013 year. The grants allow them to implement innovative classroom projects that would otherwise go without funding.

“Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$7.9 million for 7,700 projects benefitting more than 1.4 million students in North Carolina,” said Robin Phillips, Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations at Roanoke Electric Cooperative (REC). “We are committed to local communities, and we believe there’s no better way to contribute than by investing in the education of our youth.”

REC and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have allocated more than \$620,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2012-2013 school year. The program is open to all North Carolina public school educators serving grades K-12 and supports projects in any discipline. The grants, which fund innovative instructional projects the schools could not otherwise afford, are awarded annually in a competitive evaluation process involving volunteer judges.

The Bright Ideas Annual Banquet was held on November 12 at the Hilton in Greenville, where the recipients received their grants.

The judging committee 123961-002 was composed of Mrs. Linda Boone, Rev. Richard Powell and Rev. Milton Jones.

The cooperative is proud to support the communities we serve.

REC's 2012-2013 Bright Ideas grant recipients

Mrs. Heather Marshall of West Bertie Elementary received a \$1,948 grant for her project entitled “Using Technology, Manipulatives, and Math Literacy to Become 21st Century Learners.”

Mr. Robert J. Brown Jr. of Bertie High received a \$1,962 grant for his project “Building a Physics and Physical Science Program.”

Mr. Luis Giron of Lawrence Academy received a \$1,548 grant for his project “Smart Classroom.”

Ms. Janet Fasig Moore of William L. Manning Elementary received a \$2,001 grant for her project “Get Smart, Get Graphics.”

Middle School Students: Apply now for Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships

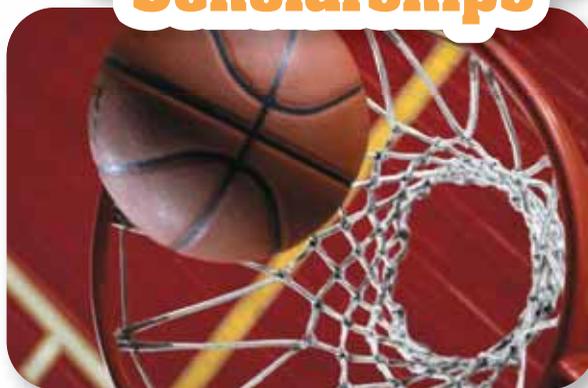
Roanoke Electric Cooperative and North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are offering all-expense-paid scholarships for middle-school students from across the state to attend basketball camps this summer at two of North Carolina's largest college campuses.

Young women can apply to attend the Kellie Harper Wolfpack Basketball Academy Aug. 1-4 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 15-19 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Roanoke EC will award scholarships to one area boy and one area girl and is accepting applications Tuesday, Jan. 1, through Friday, March 29.

Students who will be in sixth, seventh and eighth grade during the 2013-14 school year are eligible to apply. More information and applications, which are judged on academics, extracurricular activities and an essay, can be found at www.roanokeelectric.com or by contacting Robin Phillips at (252) 209-2259.

Touchstone Energy®

Sports Camp Scholarships



Office closed for holidays

Roanoke Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2013, for New Year's Day, and closed Monday, January 21, 2013, for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 358-9437.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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Did you know your Power Company is owned by YOU?

Since When? Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation Chartered in 1938

By Whom? Residents in Halifax County

Why? To get electricity to their homes in rural areas

How? Assistance from REA

Who Owns it? It is owned by each and every member it serves

How Many Owners? There are now more than 14,000 members in seven counties

Who Administers? A Board of Directors elected by you the members

When Elected? These Directors are elected at the annual meeting

Who Can Vote? Each member has one vote

Managed By? The Board appoints a manager to operate the co-op for you

Who Profits? Members, including you, buy your power at cost. All excess monies are returned to you

Whose Business? Your Co-op is your business - why not take an active part in it?