

Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Supporting rural electrification abroad

By Curtis Wynn, *President and CEO*



Curtis Wynn

The business model in which your cooperative operates is one that is very distinguished because it truly puts consumers first. Since

the inception of the model dating back to 1844, cooperatives worldwide have operated from seven abiding principles that still

hold true today.

Most of the time when we speak of living up to these principles we tend to emphasize “Concern for Community” and “Member Economic Participation” due to our community work and the fact that we consistently return monies to you in the form of Capital Credits. 102982-001 However, I am proud of the leadership your cooperative shows here and abroad and would like to share with you the support we lend to our sister organizations. This effort indicates that we are continually evolving through our founding principles as we “Cooperate with other Cooperatives.”

We have historically done this through mutual aid agreements with other electric cooperatives by being available to assist them during major storms, coordinat-

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Roanoke Electric hosts Philippine delegation. (Left to right) Sondra Dickens, Executive Director, The Roanoke Center; Wilfred Billena, President of the Philippines Rural Electric Cooperative Association and General Manager, Iloilo 1 Electric Cooperative; Jim Walsh, Senior Representative, NRECA International Programs; Arvin Barosa, Technical Manager, Batangas 2 Electric Cooperative; Thomas Villaflor, Chief Operating Officer, Rural Electrification Financing Corporation; Curtis Wynn, President & CEO, Roanoke Electric Cooperative; Bernard Benavidez, Board President, Misamia Oriental 1 Electric Cooperative; Marlino Braga, Board Member, Batangas 2 Electric Cooperative; Susan Melton, Technical Assistant Coordinator; and Marshall Cherry, Vice-President Member Services, Marketing & Technical Support, Roanoke Electric Cooperative.



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REC hosts Phillipine delegation (continued from page 29...)

ing joint power purchasing contracts to pass on the best rate available to our respective memberships, and training opportunities to ensure we have a workforce equipped to provide the highest level of service.

During February, we hosted a group from the Philippines at our headquarters office. Recently, we became part of a Cooperative Development Alliance, along with the Rural Electrification Financing Corporation (REFC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Ltd.

The REFC, established in 2001, is a private financing corporation in the Philippines that is dedicated to providing financing assistance to electric cooperatives like Roanoke EC in the Philippines. Primarily these funds are used to support their needs for goods and services sourced from the United States. NRECA International Ltd, a branch of the electric cooperatives' national support network, was formed to

promote international rural electrification development that has assisted in initiating the electric cooperative program in the Philippines.

While they were here, they saw firsthand how our staff uses e-sourcing tools in purchasing goods and services. These tools have allowed us to ensure that we are getting the lowest responsible price in all of our purchasing. They also reviewed other aspects of our operation to enhance their model.

In formulating and launching the alliance, we will actively support them in establishing an e-sourcing purchasing model similar to what we have developed here locally for all electric cooperatives in the Philippines' network. This endeavor has been quite a learning experience for us as well, and we have learned much about, and from, our newfound friends from Southeast Asia.

The Roanoke Center offers range of financial and tech services, programs

Need copies printed, meeting space, office space, internet services, or need to pay your REC utility bill? Then stop by The Roanoke Center (TRC) and enjoy receiving your services in a business-friendly environment. TRC offers a diverse range of attractive financial and technical assistance services and programs to meet your personal and professional needs.

The Roanoke Center is prepared to offer resources, coaching, training, lending, and business expertise that will help fulfill your business pursuits.

As a nonprofit affiliate of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, TRC is dedicated to providing services to all individuals requesting assistance. However, certain programs are tailored specifically for REC's members. The services and information are free or offered at significantly affordable rates. Our purpose is to help build the local economy by helping you or your business grow and go!

By partnering with other business affiliates, TRC is able to put enhanced business resources at your fingertips and help take your business to the next level. This one-stop site saves you time as well.

Give us a call at (252) 539-4600 or visit the office at 409 North Main Street, Rich Square. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed daily from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 pm). Check out our website at www.roanokecenter.org. We look forward to serving you!



Mark your calendars for a “Straight Talk” Community Forum

A shortage of electric capacity, huge increases in demand for power and the cost of climate change are among the challenges electric utilities and their consumers face today.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative board of directors and staff are gearing up to actively convey the message about the political impact on the industry, the cooperative’s energy efficiency programs’ enrollment, and the value of being a co-op member.

This effort consists of numerous presentations located throughout the service area to communicate this message.

The “Straight Talk about Energy” Forums’ dates for 2013 are as follows:

March 19: REC Headquarters, Ahoskie, 6 p.m.

April 25: The Roanoke Center, Rich Square, 6 p.m.

May 18: Greater Wynns Grove Baptist Church, Colerain, 10 a.m.

June 29: Windsor Community Center, Windsor, 6 p.m.

July 18: Gates County High School, Gates, 6 p.m.

July 20: NC Cooperative Extension Service Building, Halifax, 6 p.m.

August 24: Hertford County High School, Ahoskie, 6 p.m.

September 21: Northampton County Wellness Center, Jackson, 6 p.m.

Space is limited, so call the “Straight Talk” message line at (252) 209-2267 to reserve your seat! Please leave your name and the event you wish to attend.

In addition to energy industry information, these events will be filled with useful information about energy audits, helpful energy efficiency tips, and valuable opportunities through your cooperative. Door prizes, including up to \$150 toward your electric bill, will be given out at each forum, as well as a meal served to attendees.

Update for state’s tax code among General Assembly issues

The General Assembly has begun its legislative session and chief amongst its tasks is to write a state budget that details how North Carolina will collect and spend money for the next two years.

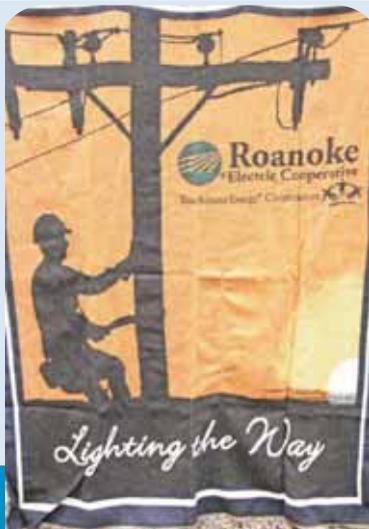
Within the budget debate is a discussion about reforming North Carolina’s tax code. Many of the state’s tax laws were written in a time when textiles and manufacturing dominated the state’s economy. Legislative leaders have discussed making changes that would bring the state’s tax system more in line with a modern economy, including taxing more services such as landscaping, haircuts and accounting services. To balance the new taxes on services, some lawmakers are seeking to reduce or eliminate the personal and corporate income taxes.

The General Assembly will also be working on a

slew of other pieces of legislation, some of which could affect Roanoke Electric Cooperative. Some of these issues include:

- An update to the laws that govern underground digging to provide more safety for employees and more efficient work for diggers.
- Changes to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard that sets how much renewable energy electric utilities in North Carolina must use.
- Repeals or reforms to burdensome regulations to encourage economic growth.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative constantly monitors legislation in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., for how bills might affect our cooperative members and we will keep you informed as legislation progresses.



Let’s Celebrate 75 Years of ‘Lightning the Way’

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Come by REC in Ahoskie on Friday, April 5, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and enjoy a delicious hotdog lunch.

A beautiful lap throw (pictured) will be given away on the same day. You’ll need to register for the blanket drawing beforehand, so stop by our office in Ahoskie to register anytime during business hours now through Thursday, April 4. We need you to help us celebrate this momentous occasion! Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information so you won’t miss a thing:

www.facebook.com/roanokeelectric, www.twitter.com/roanoke_ec.

Unplug items, place cords out of reach to boost pet safety

It's not unusual to come home and catch your cat or dog doing something naughty, like napping on the furniture or chewing on something other than a toy. In fact, some pets try to get their teeth on anything in sight. While the occasional shoe may be harmless, items like electrical cords could be extremely dangerous.

Pets can be tempted to chew on dangling cords, presenting a choking hazard or chance for electric shock. If the cords can't be placed out of reach, consider encasing them in PVC pipes, purchasing "pet-proof" cords or spraying the cords with a bitter-tasting pet deterrent.

Gnawed-on cords should not be your only concern for your pet's safety. The heat from electrical appliances can create a cozy place for pets to nap. Do not allow them to sleep near the computer, television or other places where there are numerous electrical connections. Your pet could hurt itself or damage the appliance by easily knocking a cord from the outlet. Additionally, the electrical connections could overheat, potentially leading to a fire.

Be careful to not leave bathroom appliances, such as hair dryers or space heaters, plugged in. Pets can knock these into water, causing electric shock or a fire.

Additionally, knocking over any other household item placed near the edge of a counter, like a toaster or coffee pot, could lead to burn or injury. Unplug and put away all items not in use.



Indoor pets are not the only ones who need to be looked after. Underground electrical or cable lines are potential hazards for outdoor pets. A determined pet could potentially dig deep enough to strike a utility line. Discourage digging and keep an eye on your pets outside. If you are unsure of your line locations, you can call 811, the designated "Call Before You Dig" phone number, to have your lines marked. When a storm is approaching, bring your pets inside. Lightning, wind and rain can be serious hazards, especially if they may bring down power lines.

Creating a safe environment for your pet will help you avoid a stressful (and expensive) trip to the vet. It may be tough to keep an eye on your pet all of the time, but taking these steps will help ensure their safety.

Energy efficiency tip

Sleek, new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws. HD pulls more electricity, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, 6696-001 while LCD TVs use much less. Remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.



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