



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Member-Owners are at center of cooperative's New Year's resolution

By Curtis Wynn, *President and CEO*

The New Year is the time to reflect and set goals to guide efforts throughout the year. Each year, there is always a common guiding hallmark by which your co-op sets its goals: the satisfaction of our member-owners. Your cooperative is forever motivated to respond to your call for us to serve you at the highest level possible. How? Our efforts are aligned to meet your expectations while staying true to our mission and remain relevant in the midst of the rapid changes in the industry.

As your co-op reflects over the past two years, we take great strides to fulfill our mission while directly addressing the pocketbook issues that affect your monthly budget.

The mission of your cooperative family is to “provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, while enhancing the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve.”

Providing Safe, Reliable and Affordable Electricity

In addition to our commitment to be a leading cooperative providing top-tier performance in safety, service and reliability, your co-op believes that our member-owners should be able to afford the superior service they expect and deserve. Over the years, we've gathered that the most common cause for high energy bills is more consumption of the service in our area compared to other electric utilities.

Higher energy consumption + Home's energy inefficiency = Higher energy bills

Fortunately, your co-op recognizes that many of our member-owners may already be doing some things to cut down on their energy use. However, we believe in going above and beyond to ensure that we're delivering the highest quality of service available at the most affordable price. That's why our member-owners have access to these programs:

Community Solar: Member-owners who participate in our Community Solar program receive a credit to their electric bill of approximately \$32.26 per year.

Bright Savings: Member-owners who have the new outdoor lighting experience savings of \$2.30 per month.

Upgrade to Save: The Upgrade to Save program allows member-owners to make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes while reaping \$32-\$90 in monthly savings.

In addition to ensuring that our member-owners have access to exclusive programs that improve their overall quality of life, your co-op also strives in its day-to-day operations to monitor wholesale power costs to deliver electricity at the most affordable pricing. As a result, member-owners are currently benefiting from a wholesale power cost adjustment that started last November.

Savings for many member-owners range from \$35 to \$50 per month.



Curtis Wynn

Margins are repaid back to you

As a member-owner of an electric cooperative, your co-op doesn't technically earn profits. Therefore, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered “margins” and are repaid back to you. In August, your co-op was pleased to retire \$500,000 in general retirements to its membership.

New Year's Resolution: you are “member-owners”

While our mission and commitment to you will forever remain the same, your cooperative has changed the way that it wishes to recognize your valued membership. Without you, there is no Roanoke Electric. That's why we'll never treat you like a customer.

Our members are our owners, and your cooperative has officially made a New Year's resolution to change your title from “members” to “member-owners”.

Stay updated about all of the strides we're taking to serve and fulfill our mission in 2016, please visit www.roanokeelectric.com/TheCall2018.

Roanoke Electric awards grants to local teachers with Bright Ideas

Roanoke Electric Cooperative awarded \$8,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to five teachers to fund engaging classroom learning projects. This year, more than 600 students at schools in Hertford, Gates, and Northampton counties will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by Roanoke.

“Our Bright Ideas grant winners are making a real difference for students,” said Marshall Cherry, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Roanoke Electric. “Teachers have so many innovative ideas to engage students in learning, and we’re excited each year to support pioneering initiatives and creativity in the classroom through our Bright Ideas grant program.”

Winning projects awarded this past November include “exergaming” to inspire physical activity, using Raspberry Pi Computer kits to develop computer engineering and coding skills, and collecting various parameters of water quality from the Chowan River to assess the specific threats to our waterways.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Roanoke has contributed more than \$200,000 to local teachers.

“Roanoke Electric Cooperative is committed to the communities we serve, and we believe there is hardly a better investment than in the education of our youth and future leaders,” Cherry said.

Roanoke is one of 26 member-owned electric cooperatives in the state offering Bright Ideas grants to local educators. Last November, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives awarded teachers statewide close to \$600,000 in Bright Ideas education grants.



Top, left to right: Teachers Megan Lewis, Teri Campbell, Seville Sanford and Susan Parker with Roanoke Electric Community Coordinator Brittany Tann.



Inset: Teacher Gregory L. Watford

Since 1994, North Carolina’s electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$9.6 million to Tar Heel teachers. The Bright Ideas program has reached well over 1.8 million North Carolina students and sponsored more than 9,200 projects in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2016.

For more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.roanokeelectric.com/BrightIdeas.

The 2015-2016 Roanoke EC Bright Ideas education grant recipients

Bright Ideas Grant Winner	School	Grant Name	County	Amount Awarded
Adrienne Beasley	T S Cooper Elementary	“Get your Groove On!”	Gates	\$1,600
Gregory L. Watford	Hertford County High School	“I Spy Raspberry Pi: Building Computers and Creating Digital Stories from Scratch”	Hertford	\$1,600
Megan Lewis	Gaston Elementary	“Read for Fun, Read for Life”	Northampton	\$1,600
Susan Parker	Buckland Elementary	“Ag a’la Cart”	Gates	\$1,600
Teri Campbell	Gates County High School	“Wet, Wild, Wonderful Water: Fostering Citizen Scientists through Water Monitoring of the Chowan River”	Gates	\$1,600

Be prepared for winter storms

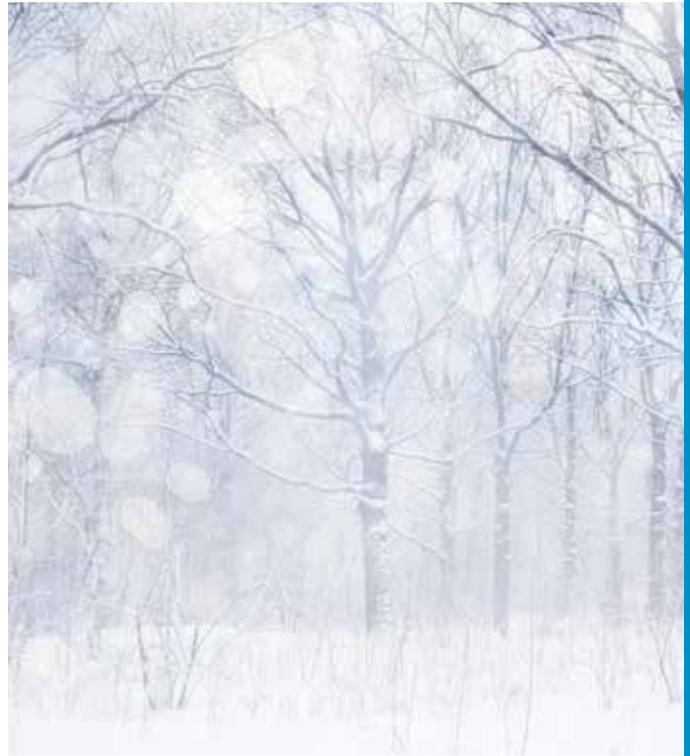
When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. Roanoke Electric cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm:** Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using them. Never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- **Stay fed:** The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- **Stay safe:** When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you



encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 1.800.358.9437 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Roanoke Electric is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.



Quiera Leary



Leonard Fagin

Members win the sun

Member-owners Quiera Leary of Windsor and Leonard Fagin of Kelford each won a free solar panel in the Roanoke Electric 2015 ACRE drawing. Member-owners who participate in our Community Solar program receive a credit to their electric bill of approximately \$32.26 per year.

As a member-owner of Roanoke Electric, you have the unique right to make financial contributions to the campaigns of candidates who support electric cooperatives. You can do this by joining the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). Call us at 252.209.2236 to find out how you can become a ACRE Co-op Owner today.



Lions, tigers, and bears-oh my! Welcome Bear Path Acres to the Co-op Connections Card program

You can spend an hour or pack your lunch and spend the day at the Bear Path Acres Animal Educational Center located in Franklin, Southampton County, Va.

Bear Path Acres, a USDA-Licensed Zoo, is a charitable and educational organization founded by CEO Debbie Jeter. With more than 30 years of experience in the animal world, Debbie provides a safe haven for unwanted, unloved, abused, neglected and malnourished exotic animals. It is through Debbie's love, compassion, admiration of animals and a deep desire to help them in their time of need that animals are provided a safe, caring, and permanent home.

Bear Path Acres is open to the public. The zoo is committed to providing schools, libraries, and others

with wildlife conservation awareness and with opportunities to educate visitors on basic animal husbandry, ecosystems, and wildlife from around the world. Bear Path Acres is also available for school groups, church groups, senior centers, day care centers, and birthday parties. The zoo can customize a program just for you.

Visit the hometown zoo and discover ways you can help or get involved. If you love animals, love people, or love the idea of working at the zoo, Bear Path Acres has a place for you! There are great opportunities and benefits in becoming a zoo partner, such as taking a Twilight Tour, being a zoo keeper for a day, feeding an animal, being a sponsor, giving a donation, volunteering to be a guide, or sharing your corporate hospitality.

Stop by and meet the animals — they will make you smile. Show your Co-op Connections card and receive \$2 off admission.

Bear Path Acres Animal Educational Center

34574 Smith's Ferry Rd

Franklin, VA 23851

757-516-8774

www.bearpathacres.org

Open: (weather permitting)

Wednesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed: Monday & Tuesday



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Roanoke EC office closed

Roanoke Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday and on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.