

Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

inside Four County Connection



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Get the Scoop



Energy Tip

Save energy in the winter by setting the thermostat to 68°F while you're awake and setting it lower while you're asleep or away from home. Want to save more? Turning the thermostat down 2–5 degrees can save up to 5–10 percent a year on the heating bill, about one percent for each degree.

Highlights from the 2016 Annual Meeting

Members enjoyed entertainment, fellowship, food and prizes

Even though this year's annual meeting was rescheduled due to Hurricane Matthew, it proved to be a successful event. A crowd of over 1,200 members and guests attended the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, November 7, at the Duplin Events Center in Kenansville.

Three directors were reinstated to their respective seats on the Cooperative's Board. They are, along with their Directorate District, Bertice Lanier—East Pender; Kenneth Thornton, Jr. – East Bladen; G. Clayton Hollingsworth—At-Large.

Mr. Franklin Williams, President of the Board of Directors, delivered his address and explained to the membership how cooperatives are structured in a different way than most businesses. "Cooperatives are guided by seven (7) basic Cooperative business principles (Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Control, Members Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation Among

Cooperatives and Concern for Community). These principles are basically guidelines, but are very critical to the success of a cooperative. One of the primary differences is that any specific cooperative exists in order to fill a need and provide a specific service to its member-owners. Although providing electricity for homes, schools, stores and busi-

nesses is, and will remain, Four County's core function, the Cooperative is also open to providing other services to its members as the need or opportunity arises. We are working for the benefit of the co-op and you, the member," noted Williams.

In his address, CEO Mitchell Keel reported on the effects Hurricane Matthew had on Four County's system. "It proved to be the most destructive storm since Hurricane Fran of 1996, some 20 years ago," noted Keel.

Mr. Keel announced that the Board of Directors has approved a capital

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Bernice Newkirk of Willard was the lucky winner of this year's grand prize. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Franklin Williams, President of the Board of Directors, hands over the keys of the retired 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck to Mrs. Newkirk as comedian David Browning, "The Mayberry Deputy" looks on.

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CEO Mitchell Keel

credit refund of more than \$2.6 million in the form of a capital credit retirement. This retirement represents all the remaining capital credits on the books for the operating years 1989 and 1990, and 10% of the capital credits on the books for 2015. Refund checks will be mailed out in early December.

“During the past four years, Four County has returned over \$10 million in capital credit refunds to our members,” stated Mr. Keel.

In closing, Mr. Keel delivered some welcoming news. “There will be no rate increase for 2017. This will be the fifth straight year that the Cooperative has been able to avoid having a rate increase. Much of the credit goes to NCEMC, the Cooperative’s power supplier, which has done a good job holding down costs and the Four County Board and Staff have worked very hard to hold the line on distribution costs as well,” noted Mr. Keel.

Entertainment

Members enjoyed entertainment by the Wilmington Celebration Choir and comical entertainment by David Browning, “The Mayberry Deputy.”

A farm theme was the setting for the children’s area this year. Children enjoyed a variety of activities and creation stations. Each child was inspired to be creative

with a variety of different materials. They made their unique creation to take home at the end of the evening.

Door prizes were given away to registered members. The following is a list of winners and their respective prizes:

- » Bernice Newkirk of Willard was the grand prize winner—retired 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck.
- » Shawn James of Maple Hill—\$500 power bill credit
- » Patrice Hall, Burgaw; Deanna Bowen, Riegelwood; Eleanor Malone, Magnolia; Edwin Merritt, Wallace—\$100 power bill credits

Additional energy credits and 25 electric appliances were given away as well as a Carolina Country Gift basket and a Four County EMC PowerGuard surge protection package.

We appreciate all that took the time to participate and hope you enjoyed the evening of events. If you did not attend, we hope you can join us next October at Pender High School in Burgaw.

Members enjoyed a light meal, entertainment and fellowship before the business meeting.



The Wilmington Celebration Choir entertained over 1,200 members and guests at this year's meeting.



Opportunity for Local K-12 Teachers

Four County Electric and the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership

Ever wondered what really happens when you flip a light switch? Find out—and use that experience to help students see how STEM concepts apply in the real world—as a Kenan Fellow this summer at Four County Electric Membership Corporation.

Kenan Fellowships address the critical need to develop and empower high-quality teacher leaders, who, in turn, make learning more authentic for students. Four County EMC and the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership are pleased to invite outstanding K-12 educators in your school to apply for a 2017–18 fellowship award.

The fellowships begin with a summer internship

with a local business and are supported by 80 hours of professional development that focuses on building leadership capacity and delivering proven instructional strategies.

As a Fellow with Four County EMC, you can explore the various co-op business operations and work alongside those who build and support the infrastructure. Learn about the electric cooperative model and how Four County is working

toward a more comprehensive energy plan. Use your experience to create electrifying lessons that will help students not only understand where electricity comes from and how it is produced, but also increase their awareness of the various career pathways in the energy field.

Fellows are awarded a \$5,000 stipend and must develop and implement relevant educational materials and/or programs based on their internship experience. The year-long fellowship is designed to allow teachers to maintain their current school system duties. Fellowships are awarded in the spring to about 50 outstanding teachers across the state.



KENAN
FOR CURRICULUM
FELLOWS
AND LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT

Apply Now
Visit kenanfellows.org/application-process to learn more about becoming a Kenan Fellow. Questions? Call 919-515-5118 or email kenanfellows@ncsu.edu. The deadline for teachers to apply for a 2017–18 fellowship is January 16, 2017.

UNC and Wolfpack Basketball Camp Scholarships: *Apply today!*

Four County EMC is accepting applications from middle-school students for all-expense-paid scholarships to summer basketball camps at the University of North Carolina and NC State University. Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, and young women can vie for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh.

Students can download an application by visiting www.ncelectriccooperatives.com or www.fourcty.org beginning January 1, 2017. Four County EMC will select one student per camp in a competitive process based on academics, extra-curricular activities and a short

essay. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply, and the final application deadline is March 31.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, sponsored by Four County EMC and the state's 26 electric cooperatives, sends more than 50 students statewide to learn from renowned collegiate coaches and athletes each year. Both camps will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state and is yet another way cooperatives are demonstrating their commitment to North Carolina communities.



Four County Connection

Winning Recipe

from the editor

Ingredients

- » 1 lb. of Jimmy Dean hot sausage (or any good quality)
- » 1 block cream cheese
- » 1 can of Rotel (original)

In skillet, brown sausage. Drain excess fat. Cut cream cheese into cubes. Place the cream cheese, tomatoes (Rotel) and sausage back into skillet. Stir continuously over medium heat. Serve as soon as cream cheese melts with tortilla chips.



Spicy Sausage Dip Great Super Bowl party appetizer!



OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 19

Four County EMC offices will be closed on Thursday, January 19, 2017, for employee training. Service personnel will be on call and available for emergencies. If you have an emergency, simply call 1-888-368-7289 or your local Four County office:

Burgaw	259-2361
Elizabethtown	862-3551
Rose Hill	289-4534

In addition, our online services will be available through our website (www.fourcty.org), Four County EMC's mobile app or by phone. We sincerely hope this will cause you little inconvenience and we thank you in advance for your understanding. This training day is to assist us in providing the quality of service you deserve. All offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 20.

Four County Electric

Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members' expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

Four County Connection

Gay Johnson, Editor

Published monthly by Four County Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425, as a service to our members like:



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Atkinson, NC

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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We believe in the
Power of Human Connections

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