


# Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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### Get the Scoop



### Holiday Closing

Four County EMC offices will be closed for Christmas and New Year's on Monday, Dec. 25, Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 1.

**Have safe and happy holidays!**

## Annual Meeting Highlights— Celebrating 80 years of Service

**Members enjoyed entertainment, fellowship, food and prizes**

A crowd exceeding 2,700 members and guests attended the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, October 9, at Pender High School in Burgaw.

Four directors were reinstated to their respective seats on the Cooperative's Board. They are, along with their Directorate District, Arlester Fullwood—At-Large; E. Carlton Raynor—East Duplin; S. Franklin Williams—West Duplin; R.W. Blanchard, Jr.—East Sampson.

Franklin Williams, President of the Board of Directors, presented his report and spoke about the cost of delivering power and the effects of coal ash. "Four County EMC is not-for-profit and that allows the Cooperative to stay focused in the right places—on our members and communities we serve. You know there's a cost for generating electricity from a power plant or other source. And you know there's a cost for transmitting and distributing electricity. But it's

more complicated, coal ash has come to the forefront recently," said Williams. He explained in depth about the effects it has on our environment and the possible costs associated with clean up. "But one thing that's constant is our mission to provide safe, reliable environmentally responsible electricity at the lowest possible cost," noted Williams.

In his address, CEO Mitchell Keel reported on the effects Hurricane Matthew had on Four County's system in 2016. "Matthew cost the Cooperative over \$3 million dollars in damage to the electric system," reported Keel.

Keel announced that the Board of Directors has approved a refund of more than \$2.6 million in the form of a capital credit retirement.



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Annual Meeting, *continued from page 21*



*Above: President of the Board of Directors Franklin Williams presents member Cheryl Kiett with the keys to the grand prize—2010 retired GMC Sierra pick-up truck!*



This retirement represents all the remaining capital credits on the books for the operating years 1991 and 1992, and 10% of the capital credits on the books for 2016. Refund checks will be mailed out in early December. “During the past five years, Four County has returned over \$12 million in capital credit refunds to our members,” stated Keel.

In closing, Keel delivered some welcoming news. “This is the sixth

straight year that rates to the membership have not changed. Much of the credit goes to cost-saving measures by Four County EMC employees and because of some very strategic decisions made by your Board of Directors, we will not need to increase rates in 2018,” noted Keel.

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

- » Cheryl Kiett of Currie was the grand prize winner—2010 retired GMC Sierra pick-up truck.
- » Russell Schaeffer of Watha—\$500 power bill credit
- » Keith Harrington, Kelly; Annie Lewis, Currie; Benjamin Jacobs, Burgaw; Sabrina Wooten, Rocky Point; Mary Wilson, Rose Hill; Marion Henderson, Rose Hill; James Starling, Turkey; Roger Parker, Rose Hill; Henry Barnette, Magnolia; Ann Montgomery, Clarkton—\$100 power bill credits
- » Twenty additional prizes 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. We look forward to seeing you at next year’s annual meeting at Elizabethtown Middle School in Elizabethtown.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit [www.energystar.gov/productfinder](http://www.energystar.gov/productfinder) for a full list of efficient products.





## Bright Ideas Grants Make Days Bright for Local Teachers

**Congratulations  
to our 2017-2018  
Bright Ideas Winners**

**F**our County Electric Membership Corporation granted a total of \$19,860 to teachers in Bladen, Duplin, Pender and Sampson counties through the Cooperative's Bright Ideas program! Bright Ideas grants provide funding for innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise not be possible.

The money will fund 21 creative teaching projects that will benefit over 4,299 students in 13 different schools within the Four County EMC service territory. The following is a list of the winning Bright Ideas grant recipients (listed by county, teacher name(s), school, project name and the amount of funds they received):

### Bladen County

- » Melanie Wohlford, Elizabethtown Primary, MaKey MaKey Music, \$1,190
- » Whitney Hern, Elizabethtown Primary, Baking Beacons, \$1,080

- » Ron Warren, East Bladen High, Rotoscoped Self-Portrait, \$1,900

### Duplin County

- » Julie Davis, Wallace-Rose Hill High, Locked in the Library, \$1,250
- » Anne Haugh, Chinquapin Elementary, The Power of Positive Statements, \$261
- » Britani Becher, Chinquapin Elementary, Lego Learning, \$955

### Pender County

- » Chelsea Ash, Team Member: Mark Lewis, Heide Trask High School, It's Electric and More, \$626

- » Chris Wirszyla, Team Member: Kelly Linville, Cape Fear Elementary, Stack it Up, \$940
- » Jessica Croson, Heide Trask High School, Body Parts from all Angles, \$357
- » Karen McGowen, Pender High, Breaking Out, \$750
- » David Knowles, Team Member: Jared Pinkston, Pender High, Start a Maker Space with a CNC Router, \$2,000
- » Linda Smith, Penderlea School, Breakout Brain Blast, \$635
- » Amy Blessing, Malpass Corner Elementary, Outdoor Learning—Connecting Kids with Nature, \$1,611
- » Stephen Christian, Pender High, Game Design Club, \$500

*Chinquapin Elementary*

- » Jared Pinkston, Pender High, Power Up Robotics with Team PHenix \$491

### Sampson County

- » Don Chabot, Union High, The Real O.C. \$2,000
- » Jennifer Li Wong, Union Middle, Pi-rate Puzzle Solver \$117
- » Janet Taylor, Union Middle, Unlock Learning, \$500
- » Caren Long, Union Intermediate, Raspberry Pi A' La Weather, \$587
- » Regina Sturgill-Dyer, Union Middle, Bounce and Build, \$510
- » Sandra Peterson, Union Intermediate, Learning Around the World in 180 Days with a Book and a Hug, \$1,600

## Winning Recipe

from the editor



### 1ST LAYER

- » 2 3-oz. packages lime gelatin
- » 1 cup boiling water
- » 2 cups cold water
- » 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple (undrained)

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add cold water and pineapple, place in clear glass serving bowl. Refrigerate until set.

### 2ND LAYER

- » 1 cup sugar
- » ½ cup of Half & Half
- » 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- » ½ cup cold water
- » 1 8-oz. cream cheese, soften
- » 1 teaspoon vanilla
- » ½ c. chopped nuts

Mix sugar and Half & Half together, stir until sugar is dissolved. Heat mixture until hot and boiling. In a small bowl, dissolve

## Christmas Salad



gelatin in cold water. Add to Half & Half, blend in cream cheese and add vanilla and nuts. Pour over lime gelatin mixture and return to refrigerator until set.

### TOP LAYER

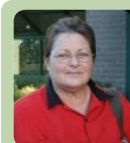
- » 1 30-oz. package strawberry gelatin
- » 1 cup boiling water
- » 1 10-oz. package of frozen strawberries thawed and chopped (undrained)

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water, add fruit. Top and return to refrigerator to set.

## 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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## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX: Four County EMC Capital Credit refunds are coming this month

Four County members will receive over \$2.6 million in Capital Credit refunds. The refund represents 100% of each member's share representing margins for 1991, 1992; and 10% of 2016. Member's qualifying for these remaining margins will receive a refund check in early December.

Any member whose share of the margins is less than \$5.00 will not receive a check at this time, but the amount will be credited to their December electric bill. Capital Credits are one of many advantages of being a member of your electric cooperative.



## 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

### A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We believe in the Power of Human Connections

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Elizabethtown .....862-3551  
Rose Hill .....289-4534