

# Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Bright Ideas and Classroom Technology Deadlines Coming Up

Teachers, the deadline for both the Bright Ideas Education Grant program and the Classroom Technology Awards program is Monday, September 12. You don't want to miss applying for these amazing grant opportunities!

The Classroom Technology Awards program provides grants up to \$3,000 to area K-12 teachers and community college teachers for specific technology needs such as computers, digital cameras and software. The technology must benefit the students in the classroom. To apply or to find out if your school is eligible, please go to [www.wemc.com/classawards.aspx](http://www.wemc.com/classawards.aspx).

The Bright Ideas grant program also awards grants up to \$3,000 for hands-on projects in any discipline to area K-12 teachers. For more about this program, please visit [www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx](http://www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx). Teachers can apply online for a Bright Ideas grant by visiting [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

For more information on either



Students from Lacey Coley's class at Royal Elementary in Louisburg participate in a virtual frog dissection computer lab, thanks to a 2010 Bright Ideas grant from Wake Electric.

program, please contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at 919-863-6312 or 1-800-474-6300 or e-mail her at [darnell.alford@wemc.com](mailto:darnell.alford@wemc.com).

Both the Bright Ideas and the Classroom Technology Awards programs are made possible by voluntary contributions by members and employees to Operation RoundUp. Through the program, participants allow their bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar. The money generated by "rounding up" is used to fund important community programs such as these.

## MAC Meetings are Right Around the Corner

Do you want to discuss recent energy legislation and electric utility issues that matter to you? Then join Wake Electric at one of its Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings on Monday, October 17, Tuesday, October 18, or Thursday, October 20. All members are invited to meet and talk with members of the Wake Electric management team.

Topics that senior management will cover include the increasing role that natural gas is playing in our electricity generation mix, as well as new technologies, such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, that are driving the natural gas markets.

Dinner is included for all attendees, and there will be several drawings for a \$25 credit on attendees' next electric bill. All October MAC meetings will be held at Wake Electric's Youngsville office at 228 Park Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on the meetings or how to RSVP, visit [www.wemc.com/membermeetings.aspx](http://www.wemc.com/membermeetings.aspx).

You must RSVP by October 12 before 5 p.m. Space is limited and attendance is on a first come, first serve basis. If the date you have chosen is full, you will be notified. Be sure to leave a contact number in your RSVP message.

# Safety Training is a Top Priority at Wake Electric

**W**ake Electric takes safety very seriously, and we believe in conducting regular safety training to sharpen our employees' skills both in the field and in the office.

Wake Electric recently held Pole Top Rescue recertification and is proud to report that all participating climbers met the requirements for recertification. Pole Top Rescue recertification participants must carry out a scenario where they complete a series of events, including: placing an emergency radio call; donning climbing gear; scaling 20 feet up a utility pole; rigging a rope; lowering a 105-pound mannequin; and beginning CPR. Cory Lawrence, a serviceman at Wake Electric, scored the best time of 2 minutes, 30 seconds.

This summer, Wake Electric also conducted Bucket Rescue Training, which is similar to Pole Top Rescue. It requires linemen to help a co-worker who is in trouble while working on a

line get down safely to the ground, as well as to perform CPR. They must complete the steps within five minutes to be a qualified second person on the job when Wake Electric is performing bucket work. In addition to our line workers, our right of way supervisor, superintendents and mechanic were recertified. Senior Serviceman Jeff Garrett had the fastest time at 1 minute, 13 seconds.

Ken Parks from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange also held a safety program this summer on Safety Awareness at Wake Electric for outside employees. Parks covered hazard recognition, contractors working on the co-op's system, prescription drugs causing driving under the influence (DUI) and electric line identification, as well as reviewing employee injuries from Federated's case files.

Wake Electric remains committed to upholding high safety standards to help provide you with the safest, most reliable electricity possible.



Cecil Alexander, Maintenance Superintendent, participates in Bucket Rescue Training at Wake Electric.

## Wake Electric to install new meters

Wake Electric will be upgrading our meters to smart meters across our service territory, beginning October of this year.

These new, upgraded smart meters will help improve reliability, accelerate outage notification and enhance power quality monitoring to provide you the most reliable, safe and affordable electricity.

We are informing you about this upcoming meter exchange in case service work is performed in your area. If we install a new meter on your home, we will leave notification on your door alerting you that a meter exchange has occurred. Your electric service

will be interrupted briefly as a result of switching to these upgraded meters. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but the benefits of upgrading to these smart meters will vastly enhance your electric service.

Wake Electric continues to look for better ways to serve our members, such as leveraging technology, so that we may continue to bring you the safe, reliable and affordable electricity you have come to know and deserve. If you have questions about the upgraded meter exchange, please contact our office at 1-800-474-6300.

# Wake Electric Awards RoundUp Grants to Deserving Nonprofits

Wake Electric awarded more than \$12,600 in grant monies during the 2nd quarter of 2011 to deserving nonprofit organizations located in counties served by the co-op. These grants were made available through the Operation RoundUp program.

Nonprofit agencies located in counties that Wake Electric serves, which include Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties, are eligible to apply. The agency does not have to be a member of Wake Electric.

Grants are open to all project and subject areas that enhance economic infrastructure and job creation, promote service or charitable organizations, and meet emergency needs of individuals within the service area of Wake Electric. Each quarter, the board of directors for the program's administrative body, the Wake Electric Foundation board, meets to determine who will be awarded funds.

The next deadline for Operation RoundUp grant applications is Friday, September 9, 2011. A simple, downloadable application can be found at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com).

Since Operation RoundUp began in 1996, the program has awarded more than \$315,000 to area nonprofits.

## The 2nd Quarter 2011 Operation RoundUp grant winners are:

\* Alice Aycock Poe Center, \$175 (Wake County)

Air quality flag program

\* Durham County Health Department, \$1,000 (Durham County)

Diaper Bank Project

\* Franklin County 4-H, \$2,000 (Franklin County)

4-H Livestock Show

\* Hospice of Wake County, \$1,500 (Wake County)

Benevolent Care Program

\* C.C. Spaulding Alumni Association, \$1,000 (Nash County)

Ceiling Fans for Renovation

\* North Carolina Medical Society Alliance, \$800 (Wake County)

Pedometers for Get Fit Program

\* Remnant Community Development Corporation, \$1,700 (Franklin County)

Book Bags and School Supplies

\* Safe Space, Inc., \$1,500 (Franklin County)

Shelter Supplies for Victims

\* Rescue Mission Ministries, \$1,500 (Durham County)

School Supplies for Needy Children

\* The Salvation Army, \$1,500 (Vance County)

Food Pantry Assistance

For more information on the Operation RoundUp program, please visit the Wake Electric website at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com). The funds for Operation RoundUp grants come from voluntary contributions from Wake Electric members through the Operation RoundUp fund.



## Holiday Closing

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 in honor of Labor Day. For emergencies, please contact us at 1-800-474-6300 or 919-863-6300.

# Wake ElectriConnection

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## Changes in Delinquent Notification

**S**tarting September 1, 2011, Wake Electric will no longer mail separate delinquent notifications to members who are past due on their electric utility bill payment. Members should always refer to any notice on the bill regarding payment deadlines and consider that communication a final reminder for payment prior to disconnection of service. Wake Electric makes several efforts each month to let members know when a bill is due and past due, but in order to streamline our efforts and cut costs, we will no longer mail a separate delinquent notice.

Bills are due and payable upon receipt and considered delinquent if payment is not received in our office

by the close of business on the 25th day from the billing date. Members whose bills become delinquent are charged a late payment charge of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month or a minimum of \$5.

If the bill is still delinquent when the next month's bill is prepared, the bill will show the previous month's account balance, indicating the amount and date for which service is subject to disconnection. Wake Electric's office can be contacted prior to the disconnection date to discuss payment arrangements. Members may also request in writing that a copy of their bill(s) be sent to a third party if desired. For more information on bill payment, please visit [www.wemc.com/about.aspx](http://www.wemc.com/about.aspx).



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

#### Replace Your Washing Machine

Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third—and water costs by more than half—by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*



## Think lightning can't get into your house and ...

- ⚡ Damage your computer?
- ⚡ Ruin your dimmer switches?
- ⚡ Harm your flat-screen TV?

Think again.

**Protect Your Appliances—  
Get Surge Protection Today!**

Today's homes have more appliances and electronics than ever before. Lightning is a dangerous source of raw electricity that can destroy those appliances and electrical equipment in a flash.

Triangle Services Group (TSG) offers Surge Protection that can save your investments by helping to prevent destructive lightning surges from entering your home.

Our surge protection for your whole house includes:

- ⚡ Leased equipment (1 point of entry PEMCO Meter Base Whole House Surge Arrestor)
- ⚡ Cost of only \$5.95 per month added to your electric bill
- ⚡ \$50 installation fee

Are you ready to sign up and start protecting your home now? Call 919.863.6306 or email [info@wemc.com](mailto:info@wemc.com).

