

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

OCTOBER 2009

Community Giving Operation RoundUp Awards Grants to Area Non-profits

Wake Electric invites area non-profits to submit grant applications for up to \$5,000. The 4th-quarter grant application deadline is Friday, December 11. All applicants will be notified of grant status by mid-January 2010. Applicants must be headquartered in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties.

Through its Operation RoundUp program, the Wake Electric Foundation board will consider grant requests for projects and proposals that serve a broad range of individuals and that use funds for educational, charitable, or economic development purposes.

Note: Organizations can only receive one grant per calendar year.

WINNERS FOR 2ND-QUARTER 2009 ARE:

American Legion—Post 187	\$1,300
Care & Share Center	\$1,000
Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine	\$1,000
Safe Space	\$1,500

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Operation RoundUp is a grant program awarding money each quarter of the year (in January, April, July, and October) to non-profit organizations with 501c3 status or IRS designated non-profit status. Any 501c3 or IRS-designated non-profit or not-for profit in our service area—Durham, Franklin, Granville, Nash, Johnston, Vance, and Wake counties—may apply for up to \$5,000.

HOW DOES OPERATION ROUNDUP WORK?

Operation RoundUp allows Wake Electric members to round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar and donate that amount to the program. For example, if your bill for the month of April was \$91.85, you could round it up to \$92 and donate the extra 15 cents to Operation RoundUp. It has been estimated that a member contributes an average of 50 cents per month



Members of American Legion Post 187 decorate veteran's graves in the Wake Forest area with American flags. New flags will be purchased with Operation RoundUp grant money. "It's important for all of us to remember those who have given their lives for the freedom that we enjoy," said Post 187 Member Commander Rich Heroux. "It's easy to forget that in our day-to-day lives. These flags help bring that back into the forefront." Every year, Post 187 decorates more than 1,000 graves in 14 cemeteries.

or \$6 per year. The maximum amount that a member can contribute in a year's time would be \$11.88. 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.

AS A MEMBER, HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in signing up to contribute to the program, please call (800) 474-6300 today. Contributing literally only costs you pennies a month, pennies that when combined with those of other contributors add up to powerful dollars.

 Wake Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155
Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.–9 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811



Members invited to advisory meetings

Want to discuss recent energy legislation and electric-utility issues that matter to you? Then join Wake Electric at one of its Member Advisory meetings this fall. Members are invited to meet and talk with members of the management team.

Dinner is included, as well as free gifts to increase energy efficiency in your home. Meetings are relaxed and casual. Members hear about the latest issues facing Wake Electric and are encouraged to engage in open discussion and ask questions.

MEMBERS MAY CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE MEETINGS— all meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.:

- ★ September 28, Fargo Cattle Company Restaurant, Zebulon, 1007 Shepard School Rd
- ★ October 5, Wake Electric, Youngsville, 228 Park Avenue
- ★ October 12, Dunn Cottage, Oxford Children's Home, Oxford, 600 College Street

Members must RSVP no later than three days prior to the meeting to attend.

This meeting is open to all Wake Electric members. As an incentive, we will have a drawing for \$25 credit on your next electric bill. You can increase your odds of winning by inviting and bringing another Wake Electric member who has never attended a Member Advisory Meeting. If your guest's name is drawn for the \$25 credit, you will receive a \$25 credit, too.

If you have any questions or would like to attend, please contact Angela Perez, Public Relations/Communications Specialist, at 863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300, or send an email to angela.perez@wemc.com.

Avoid electrical hazards at HALLOWEEN

The decorative lights, fog machines, black lights, and animatronics of Halloween make for adventurous, entertaining times for children and adults. With these decorations, though, the risk of fire or electrocution could be lurking around the corner. It is important to check for electrical hazards before accidents happen. Use the following tips to keep electrical hazards from haunting you this Halloween:

- ★ Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- ★ Read manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance. Check the instructions to see how many light strings can be connected together.
- ★ Always unplug light strings before replacing any bulbs.
- ★ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- ★ Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters.
- ★ Don't overload extension cords or place them near, or in, snow or water.
- ★ Make sure electrical decorations are approved by a nationally recognized certification organization like "UL" (Underwriters Laboratory) and marked for outdoor use if you are using them outside. Check www.cpsc.gov or www.ul.com for recalls. Many Halloween toys have been recalled in the past by the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission).

Sources: Home Safety Council, www.homesafetycouncil.org; Electrical Safety Foundation International, www.electrical-safety.org

Save on appliance purchases during tax-free weekend



If you are in the market for new appliances and other energy-efficiency items, you can save by purchasing them during North Carolina's upcoming sales tax holiday on November 7, 8 and 9.

Specific Energy Star qualified appliances, such as washing machines, freezers and refrigerators, air conditioners and other items will be exempt from the state's 7.75 percent sales tax on that weekend.

The Energy Star-qualified appliances that can be purchased tax-free include:

- ★ Clothes washers;
- ★ Refrigerators and freezers;
- ★ Central air conditioners and room air conditioners;
- ★ Ceiling fans;
- ★ Dehumidifiers; and
- ★ Programmable thermostats

For details, visit N.C. Department of Revenue's Web site at www.dorn.com



Concern for Community in Today's Business Environment



Sustainability...empowerment...concern for community. These are among today's most popular business values.

But these values are nothing new to the nation's 20,000-plus cooperatives. It's what co-ops have been doing for 150 years.

Cooperatives welcome the efforts of companies to protect the environment and become more involved in their communities. But that doesn't necessarily mean the companies have the long-term commitment to these concepts that characterize cooperatives. For cooperatives, concepts like sustainability, community involvement, and democratic control are more than just buzzwords. They are basic to how they do business, and how they will always do business. Cooperatives have multiple bottom lines, with social as well as economic goals. Credit unions make a special effort to serve those underserved by for-profit banks, agricultural co-ops help small farmers stay on their land, and electric and telephone cooperatives serve less-profitable rural areas ignored by other utilities.

Cooperatives also exemplify the Ownership Society. Co-ops are not owned by Wall Street investors, but by rank-and-file Americans—the people and small businesses that buy co-op products and use co-op services. Surplus revenue is distributed to their grassroots owners, rather than to outside investors. And, while stock company governance is closed to all but the largest shareholders, cooperative governance is open and democratic.

For all these reasons—their grassroots focus, their democratic governance, and their multiple bottom lines—cooperatives are truly a better way to do business.

A conservative estimate of total co-op membership is 130 million, or more than a third of all Americans. Former congressman and rural electric co-op leader Glenn English calls that a “force to be reckoned with when we decide to come together.”

These characteristics give co-ops an uncommon loyalty and commitment to the communities in which they are located. At a time when our economy is struggling, it's important to remember that tens of thousands of cooperatively owned businesses focused on their members, not just profit. For co-ops the business at hand is more personal. It's a critical part of what drives our actions, making us a more integral part of our communities than most other businesses.”

For more information about National Cooperative Month, visit www.coopmonth.coop.

ENERGY SAVER

Did you know that the majority of electrical devices pull what is called **PHANTOM LOADS** when they are supposedly “off?” Do you have a bunch of little things plugged in all the time? These items can account for more than **five percent** of your electric bill. Items include cable boxes, computers, toasters, microwaves, and any type of charger (such as one for an iPod, cellphone or mp3 player). Unplug them when not in use and you'll save money.

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