

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

FEBRUARY 2014

Scholarship Opportunities Available at Wake Electric

Wake Electric has a longstanding commitment to supporting students in the communities we serve by offering several different scholarship opportunities.



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SPORTS CAMPS 2014

Wake Electric is accepting applications from middle-school students for scholarships to summer basketball camps on two of the state's largest college campuses.

Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 21–25 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young ladies can apply to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 23-26 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2014. For more information or to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/basketball.aspx.

2014 RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

Wake Electric seeks applicants for the 2014 Rural Electric Youth Tour,

which includes a \$1,000 scholarship for college, plus a free, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip will be held June 14–20. Applicants must be current high school juniors living in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties. Students do not have to live in households served by Wake Electric to win. For more information on eligibility or to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/youthtours.aspx.

The deadline to submit applications to the Youth Tour program is Friday, March 14, 2014 by 5 p.m.

WAKE ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Wake Electric is currently seeking students to apply for its prestigious scholarship program. Students can apply for the coveted Fred M. Alford

Scholarship (\$2,000), as well as 16 Touchstone Energy Scholarships (\$1,250 each). All applications will be under consideration for one of the two scholarship categories.

Students only need to submit one application to be considered for both scholarship categories. To find out the requirements for both scholarships and to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/scholarships.aspx.

The deadline to submit applications to the Wake Electric Scholarship Program is Friday, March 14, 2014 by 5 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

Please contact Wake Electric at communications@wemc.com or (919) 863-6312.

 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.–6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811
Dedicated pay-by-phone number: 866.999.4593

SmartHub Users Now Have Access to POWER USAGE ALERTS

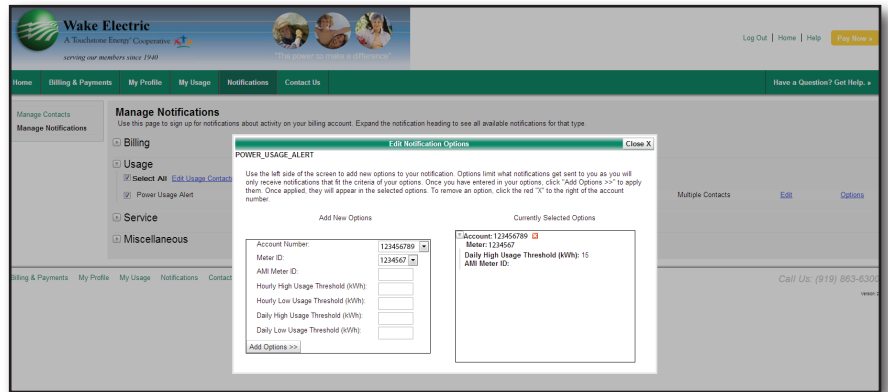
Wake Electric recently made available a Power Usage Alert feature that can inform members about high consumption by way of email and/or text notifications.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Members often call their cooperative upon receipt of the electric bill to inquire about higher than expected usage. With this new SmartHub feature, members can now set an alert to inform them about higher than normal consumption on a daily basis. By using it to notify you of higher than normal usage, members can take proactive measures to review their usage, or perhaps have appliances and/or HVAC equipment serviced before a problem persists.

For example, if your account typically uses 40 kWh per day, you might set your alarm to notify you if usage is above 60 kWh per day. Receiving a high usage notification from SmartHub could signify there is a problem, unless of course your day has been atypical or the weather has been extremely hot or cold. The notification would alert you to investigate further to determine if there might be a problem in the home (water leak, water heater issue, HVAC, etc.). The Power Usage Alert notification will help members address household issues in terms of electricity usage before the monthly bill is issued, thus saving money. The high usage alert could also simply be used as an indication that you used more electricity than expected, prompting you to make better energy choices by initiating lower cost energy efficiency measures in the home.

To begin receiving these notifications, members can simply log in to their SmartHub account to set up the alert. Go to the



“Notifications” tab and select the “Manage Notifications” link. Once you are here, select the “Usage” option and further select “Power Usage Alert.” At this point, the member can set any of the parameters listed.

For your alert to be effective it's important to be familiar with what a normal day or hour looks like in terms of energy usage at your home. In this way, the alert will alarm you of atypical usage. To determine your usage pattern, simply review history of your account in SmartHub in order to best determine what parameters to set up in the Power Usage Alerts notification system. We hope you will take advantage of this exciting new tool to monitor and manage your electric usage!

SMARTHUB- HOW TO SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT:

Have you signed up for a SmartHub account yet? If not, it's quick and easy to do so! Not only can you receive high usage alerts, but you can also be informed about many other types of notifications concerning your account. You can also easily pay your bill online through SmartHub using your personal computer or mobile devices, such as a smartphone or tablet. Sign up today to enjoy all the

features of the application:

- ★ View monthly electricity usage and history, including daily and hourly kWh for all meters (must have meter with AMI technology)
- ★ Pay your electric bill electronically
- ★ Manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices or the web
- ★ Report an outage
- ★ Sign up to receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on an account
- ★ Contact our office to initiate various customer service requests

Just go to <https://wemc.smarthub.coop> and follow the prompts to start a new SmartHub account today!



Next Member Advisory Meetings are This Month! RSVP NOW!

RSVPs are due on Wednesday, February 5, at 5 p.m. for the winter 2014 Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings. We hope you can join us for one of these exciting meetings to discuss electric utility issues and the current plans and progress of Wake Electric with its senior management team.

These casual meetings are open to all Wake Electric members. As an incentive, we will have several drawings for a \$25 credit on your next electric bill. A catered dinner is included for all attendees.

The February MAC meetings will be held at Wake Electric's Youngsville office at 228 Park Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

Members can choose to attend ONE of the following dates:

- ★ Mon., February 10
- ★ Wed., February 12
- ★ Thurs., February 13

Questions or wish to RSVP? Please contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at (919) 863-6312 or (800) 474-6300 or via e-mail at communications@WEMC.com. For more information, visit www.wemc.com/membermeetings.aspx.



Mark Your Calendars!

JOIN US FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 28

Wake Electric invites all of its members to please join us on Friday, March 28, at Louisburg College Auditorium for our Annual Meeting. During this business meeting, members will have the opportunity to hear current plans of Wake Electric as well as ask senior management questions about the co-op.

Members in attendance will be entered into a drawing for \$5,000 in cash prizes. The grand prize is \$1,000. There are also two second-place prizes of \$500 each, four third-place prizes of \$250 each and 20 fourth-place prizes of \$100 each. There will also be special activities for school-aged children.

Members in attendance will also receive a free gift from Wake Electric (one per household) and other freebies from our participating vendors.

Be on the lookout for the special cover wrap around your March edition of Carolina Country magazine. On that cover, you will find an official registration card with your member number on it. Bring this card to the meeting to enter the prize drawings.



Members registering at last year's Annual Meeting.

Registration for the Annual Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the cash prize drawing will be at the close of the business meeting, which typically ends around 8 p.m.

The Louisburg College Auditorium is located at 501 Main Street, Louisburg, N.C.

For more information on Wake Electric's Annual Meeting, please visit www.wemc.com/annualmeeting.aspx or contact us at 1.800.474.6300 or (919) 863-6300. You can also e-mail us with questions at information@wemc.com. We hope to see you there!

Play It Safe with Appliances



Appliances make our everyday lives a bit simpler, but that doesn't mean they are without hazards. Be sure to keep these safety tips in mind when using appliances.

GENERAL

- ★ Always follow an appliance's instructions to be sure that you are using it correctly and safely.
- ★ Check to see if your appliances have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- ★ Check your appliances occasionally for damages, looking for breaks in the power cords, plugs, or connectors.

WATER

- ★ If an appliance is plugged in and falls in water, be sure the circuit is shut off before grabbing the appliance.
- ★ It is important that your hands are dry before touching appliances to avoid electrical shock.
- ★ Never have electrical appliances such as radios, TVs, or hairdryers near a sink or bath tub.

CORDS

- ★ Keep cords neat and tucked

away to avoid tripping or having pets chew on them.

- ★ Don't run cords under rugs and carpets. This is not only a fire hazard, but it prevents you from seeing the condition of the cords.
- ★ Never run cords over heated appliances such as toasters or stoves. This is a serious fire hazard.

OUTLETS

- ★ Refrain from using outlet "splitters" or running too many extension cords. It can damage your home's electrical system or cause a fire.
- ★ If your appliance is damaged, you should either take it to a certified repair center or just throw it away and buy a new one. Never continue using it for safety reasons.
- ★ Unplug small appliances such as curling irons, hair dryers, toasters, irons, etc. when not in use to conserve energy and reduce fire hazards.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com
U.S. Department of Energy

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P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait Avenue,
Wake Forest, NC 27588, www.wemc.com

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