

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

APRIL 2014

February Member Advisory Committee Meetings

Were a Success!

Wake Electric held its Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings on February 10 and February 17 and they were a great success!

Wake Electric had to postpone two of its MAC meetings because of winter weather and combined them together for the February 17 meeting. Thank you to our members for their flexibility and willingness to meet on a different night.

More than 120 members attended the two meetings and heard Phil Price, chief operating officer and assistant general manager of Wake Electric, give an overview of Wake Electric's programs and practices. A catered dinner was included for all attendees and there were several drawings for \$25 credits on electric bills.



Celebrating 20 years of Bright Ideas grants

CELEBRATING

20

YEARS OF
BRIGHT IDEAS

North Carolina's
Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives across the state are celebrating a big milestone in 2014. Our Bright Ideas education grant program, which provides funding to Tar Heel teachers for innovative learning projects, is turning 20 years old this year.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$9.1 million in Bright Ideas grant funding, and well more than 1.6 million N.C. students have participated in 8,800 Bright Ideas projects. Last year alone, Wake Electric awarded more than \$49,000 for 21 projects supporting local teachers and students.

Wake Electric is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas

education grants for the 2014–15 school year. Teachers in K–12 public school classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$3,000.

Grant applications will be accepted Tuesday, April 1, through September 15. It could pay to apply early: all teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift cards.

Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects.

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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

Yard Safety Tips for Spring

The weather is warming up, and you may be eager to breathe some life back into your yard after winter. Follow these tips to stay safe while doing yard work:

BEFORE YOU START

- ★ Wear the appropriate clothing, including long pants and sleeves to protect your legs and arms. You should also wear closed toe shoes. If you are lifting a lot of heavy materials, you may want to wear steel toe shoes. Wearing gloves can prevent blisters and safety glasses can prevent debris from getting in your eyes.
- ★ Bug repellent and sunscreen can keep you from feeling the sting in the morning.
- ★ If you're doing strenuous work, consider stretching your muscles for a few minutes before starting.

GENERAL

- ★ When using a ladder, be sure it is firmly on the ground and someone is holding it from the bottom. You should also watch out for overhead power lines when using a ladder. Stay 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- ★ Before digging, make sure you call 811 to find out if there are utility lines buried where you plan to dig. It will keep you safe and save money and time. Call before you dig.
- ★ Yard work such as raking leaves can cause muscle soreness from the repetitive motion. Changing your position will help prevent stiffness and muscle fatigue.
- ★ When lifting heavy objects, lift with your legs (bending at your knees), to prevent injury.

- ★ When pulling weeds, be careful of what you are pulling. It's important to be familiar with the types of weeds you are pulling to avoid things like poison ivy.
- ★ When picking up objects from the ground or dark areas, be mindful of where you are putting your hands. Critters like snakes and black widow spiders sometimes hide and don't like being disturbed.
- ★ Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

MOWING AND MACHINERY

- ★ Before mowing the lawn, be sure you have removed rocks, sticks and other objects that can sling up and hurt someone.
- ★ Never stick your hands or feet under the lawn mower to clear it. The blades under the mower could still be spinning, which could cause serious injury.



- ★ Be careful putting gas in machinery. Always turn the equipment off and let it cool before filling it up with gas.
- ★ Always read the manufacturer's instructions before operating tools or machinery. If you have to step away from machinery, be sure to turn it off.
- ★ When operating loud equipment, be sure to wear ear plugs.

It might seem like an extra step, but heeding safety precautions is well worth the time invested.

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Spring Forward

Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

By B. Denise Hawkins

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- ★ **Get help from a professional** who can inspect and service your unit.
- ★ **Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning.** Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by

making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days.

Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.

- ★ **Check weather stripping.** When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.
- ★ **Check out your roof.** See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak; even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you



know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles, repair leaks, and clear gutters.

- ★ **Make your electric cooperative a resource.** Wake Electric can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings. You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS

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To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx or www.NCBrightIdeas.com.

Funding for Bright Ideas grants comes from Wake Electric members who agree to round up their light bill to the nearest whole dollar through the Operation RoundUp program. For example, if the bill is \$190.91—the bill will be rounded up 9 cents to \$191. These pennies add up to major dollars. Partial funding also comes from the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), located in Raleigh. The NCEMC consists of a family of corporations formed to support the state's 26 electric cooperatives.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

These days, it may be easier to trim your refrigerator's energy use than it is to trim your waistline. Consider this energy-saving and maintenance regimen to keep your refrigerator in shape. Set the refrigerator temperature above 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure door seals are in place and are snug when closed. And keep outside coils unobstructed and clean; dirty ones could overwork the unit's compressor.

—Energy.gov



Wake Electric's 'Give Us an A' Program Rewards \$25 VISA Gift Cards to High-Achieving Students

RECENT "GIVE US AN A" WINNERS

Wake Electric recently awarded 40 \$25 Visa gift cards to area students who received at least one "A" (or its equivalent) on their report cards through the co-op's "Give Us an A" program. This program encourages academic achievement and Wake Electric encourages the winners to purchase a savings bond through www.treasurydirect.gov with their Visa gift card money. These awards are part of a drawing held three times a year.

Students in any grade in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties are eligible to apply.

The deadline for the next drawing is May 20, 2014, by 5 p.m. *NOTE: Because each school district may have a different time for issuing report cards, if a student's entry misses one deadline, the entry will automatically be included in the next drawing.*

For more information on Wake Electric's "Give Us an A" program and how to enter the drawing, please visit www.wemc.com/giveusana.aspx.

Funding for the "Give Us an A" program is made possible by Wake Electric members through the Operation RoundUp program.

Name	School County	County
Holly Baker	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary School	Wake County
Emily Berrier	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Ronald Berrier	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Savannah Blalock	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Kendall Bland	Heritage Middle School	Wake County
Alexandra Butulis	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary School	Wake County
Christopher Butulis	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary School	Wake County
Timothy Cannizzaro	Wakefield High School	Wake County
William Clement, IV	East Wake High School-Health & Science	Wake County
Wade Creech	Zebulon Middle School	Wake County
Whitley Creech	Zebulon Middle School	Wake County
Emily Deem	Wake Forest-Rolesville High School	Wake County
Ava Farrell	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Graysen Farrell	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Elisabeth Farrell	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Connor Fussa	Heritage Middle School	Wake County
Devin Fussa	Heritage High School	Wake County
Rasheed Grant	Longview Middle School	Wake County
Alexis Harris	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Benjamin Hayes	Heritage Middle	Wake County
Teliza Henderson	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Alec Heroux	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Aimee Heroux	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Ashlynn Heroux	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Jordan Metcalf	Endeavor Charter School	Wake County
Drew Mormann	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Mallory Mormann	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Amy Nguyen	North Ridge Elementary School	Wake County
Aden Perry	Sanford Creek Elementary School	Wake County
Elsie Perry	East Wake Academy	Wake County
Dillan Phillips	Louisburg High School	Franklin County
Megan Rogers	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Caitlin Rogers	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Andrew Sample	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Stephanie Sample	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Krista Smith	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Suanna Smith	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Austin Walters	Wake Forest-Rolesville High School	Wake County
Claire Wilson	Franklinton High School	Wake County
Chloe Worner	Thales Academy (Wake Forest)	Wake County

