

# Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

MAY 2014

## Wake Electric's Annual Meeting was a *Great Success*

**W**ake Electric held its 2014 Annual Meeting on March 28, and it was a great success. 574 members, plus their guests, attended the meeting held in the Louisburg College Auditorium.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear reports on the current plans and programs of Wake Electric from Phil Price, chief operating officer and assistant general manager. Members also had the chance to ask senior management questions about the co-op.

Three board members re-elected during the business meeting to serve three-year terms on the Wake Electric Board of Directors were Mike Dickerson of Oxford (District 3), Roy Ed

Jones of Wake Forest (District 6) and Reuben Matthews of Middlesex (District 9).

Children attending the meeting with their parents and caregivers also had a great time participating in special activities planned for school-aged children. All the activities were provided by Crafts on Wheels and the children thoroughly enjoyed decorating sand art projects, painting flower pots and other plaster sculptures, as well as building wooden airplane models and playing with puzzles and games.

Members in attendance were entered into a drawing for cash prizes totaling \$5,000. The lucky winners are listed on page 22.



Rosemarie A. Leon of Wake Forest was the big cash-prize drawing winner. She received \$1,000 at Wake Electric's 2014 annual meeting. She is pictured with Roy Ed Jones, president of the board of directors for Wake Electric (district 6).



Phil Price talked to the members about Wake Electric's current plans and programs during the business meeting.



*Exciting meeting highlights included an electric car and the co-op's new electric vehicle rate, the Fridge and Freezer Farewell program, the co-op's LED lighting program and the magazine for North Carolina's electric cooperatives, Carolina Country.*

More than 570 members attended this year's annual meeting.



 Wake Electric  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

Name	Town	Prize Money Amount
Rosemarie A. Leon	Wake Forest	\$1,000
David W. Moell	Wake Forest	\$500
J. Y. Person	Kittrell	\$500
Tessie J. Jackson	Wake Forest	\$250
Juanella T. Hawkins	Oxford	\$250
Odie R. Dickenson	Wake Forest	\$250
Phillip Williams	Wake Forest	\$250
Ajaz Sadiq	Wake Forest	\$100
Stella Daniska	Wake Forest	\$100
Thomas Knitter	Wake Forest	\$100
Rodney Privette	Wake Forest	\$100
Shirley D. Strickland	Louisburg	\$100
Tyrone Davis	Youngsville	\$100
Preston Wright	Louisburg	\$100
Jacqueline Johnson	Wake Forest	\$100
Joseph Dibiasie	Youngsville	\$100
Jerry W. Keith	Wake Forest	\$100
Joann Pendergrass	Kittrell	\$100
Leroy Kearney	Kittrell	\$100
Judie Davis	Kittrell	\$100
William L. Dunston	Kittrell	\$100
Judy C. Briggs	Wake Forest	\$100
Louise P. Bizzell	Kenley	\$100
Christy L. Mitchell	Zebulon	\$100
Kimberly and Anthony Poole	Youngsville	\$100
Carolyn and Christopher Crowder	Creedmoor	\$100
Faye Dunn	Wake Forest	\$100

NOTE: Wake Electric has a policy that if we draw the registration card 1) of a church, business or civic organization, or 2) of an employee of Wake Electric who is also a member or 3) of a board of director of Wake Electric who is also a member, then we will grant that member a cash prize, but will draw again until a non-employee, residential account is drawn. When this occurs, more cash prizes are awarded than the number of cash prizes originally advertised. The winners falling into that category this year are: Concord Baptist Church of Kittrell (\$1,000-organization) and Phil Price of Wake Forest (\$100-employee).

## Fridge & Freezer Farewell Recycling Program Ending Early

LAST PICK-UPS WILL OCCUR IN MAY

Wake Electric members have until May 9 to schedule with Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc. (ARCA) for pickup of old, secondary refrigerators or freezers under the Fridge & Freezer Farewell program.

Between now and May 9, Wake Electric members can call 1.877.341.2310 to schedule to have their old refrigerators or freezers picked up, free of charge, and have them properly recycled. Members will even get \$50 for properly recycling these old appliances through the program (up to two appliances a year per member.)

Wake Electric and North Carolina cooperatives contracted with ARCA to provide the free pickup and recycling service to their members. ARCA has decided to close its Morrisville, NC, recycling center earlier than originally planned. The last pickups by ARCA are expected to take place no later than Friday, May 23.

To schedule your appliance pickup, call ARCA at (877) 341-2310 on or before May 9. Call center hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays.

In order to participate in Wake Electric's Fridge and Freezer Farewell program, you must be a residential electric customer with a valid account number. Refrigerators and freezers turned in for recycling must be secondary units in working condition (cooling), 10–30 cubic feet, owned by the person calling and picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account.

For more information on this program, please visit [www.wemc.com/fridgeandfreezer](http://www.wemc.com/fridgeandfreezer) or email [communications@wemc.com](mailto:communications@wemc.com) with questions.

# Wake Electric Earns Important Safety Accreditation



Farris Leonard, job training and safety specialist from North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (far right); presents the safety award to: Herbby Alford, supervisor of warehouse and facilities maintenance; Darnell Alford, business operations specialist; and Brad Coley, mechanic; all of whom served terms as chairs of Wake Electric's Employee Health and Safety committee during the 2010–2013 time period.

**W**ake Electric has received a national recognition for its compliance with a comprehensive safety program called the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP).

RESAP is one of the few programs in the country that provides electric cooperatives a management tool for continuous safety and loss control assessment. This is the 12th time the certificate has been awarded to the cooperative.



## Teachers: Apply Now For Two Grant Programs Sponsored By Wake Electric

The Classroom Technology Awards grant program is in full swing and area K–12 public school teachers, as well as community college teachers, can now apply for a grant of up to \$3,000. The grants, to be used during the 2014–2015 school year, will be awarded in any discipline or subject for specific technology such as computers, digital cameras and software. The technology must benefit the students in the classroom. To apply or 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 has also kicked off. Area K–12 public school teachers can now apply for a Bright Ideas grant that awards up to \$3,000 for hands-on projects in any discipline. To apply or find out if your school is eligible, please visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

For more information on either scholarship program, please contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at (919) 863-6312 or (800) 474-6300 or e-mail her at [Darnell.Alford@WEMC.com](mailto:Darnell.Alford@WEMC.com).

## Wake ElectriConnection

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P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait Avenue,  
Wake Forest, NC 27588, [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com)

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### MEMORIAL DAY CLOSING

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in honor of Memorial Day. For emergencies, please contact us at (919) 863-6300 or 1-800-474-6300.

## Wondering How You Can Utilize SmartHub to the Fullest?

### CHECK OUT SMARTHUB VIDEO DEMONSTRATIONS ONLINE

Have you signed up for a SmartHub account yet? SmartHub is a convenient two-way communication app that allows members to access their Wake Electric account information through personal computers and mobile devices, including iPhone, iPad and Android smart phones and tablets.



Signing up for a SmartHub account is quick and easy to do! You can do so many things through this online bill payment system, such as view monthly, daily and hourly electricity usage, pay your bills electronically, manage account information, track payment history, report an outage, sign up to receive notifications via email or text and contact through SmartHub to initiate various customer service requests.

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

Also, we now have video demonstrations to walk you through all the different ways you can utilize SmartHub. Just go to [www.wemc.com/smarthub](http://www.wemc.com/smarthub) and check out the SmartHub videos for more detailed instructions on how to use SmartHub to the fullest.

# May is Electrical Safety Month

A world without electricity is hard to imagine. Lights flick on, cell phones ring, television channels flip... all because of electricity. Even though we use it every day, most of us don't think

about it every day. That's why May is recognized as National Electric Safety Month. This month gives us the opportunity to remind you of some basic precautions to take when dealing with electricity.

Let's start with some general statistics. Every year, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), electrical failures can cause 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries and \$1.47 billion in property damage. Follow these guidelines to avoid becoming a statistic.

### HOME

These tips help keep your home a safe haven for sleeping, eating and living.

- ★ If small children are in the house, be sure to childproof your home. Place plastic caps on all unused outlets to prevent small fingers and curious hands from getting shocked.
- ★ Periodically check for damaged outlets, wires and plugs. These electrical hazards could start a fire if not maintained.
- ★ Make sure outlets outside, in the kitchen and in bathrooms are GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) specific. GFCI outlets constantly monitor electrical

current within the circuit, and if the current is altered in anyway, the GFCI quickly interrupts the flow to prevent electrical shock.

- ★ Refrain from using extension cords. If you absolutely have to use them, do not run them under carpet or rugs because you won't be able to see if the cords incur damage.



- ★ Place lamps on even surfaces so they are less likely to tip over. Tipped lamps are a serious fire hazard.

- ★ Never overload an outlet. This means refraining from using a "splitter."

### WORKPLACE

Whether you work in an office, at a home or in the field, you are using electricity, and safety precautions should be followed. According to ESFI, during the work day a worker is hurt every 30 minutes so severely from electricity that it requires time off the job. Don't let that be you.

- ★ If you see an unsafe situation, report it immediately. Be aware of your surroundings, including the location and conditions of outlets and cords near your workspace.
- ★ When unplugging something, pull from the base to prevent breaking the cord, which could result in electric shock.

No matter where you are, keep electrical safety in mind. Stay safe this month and every month.