

# Lumbee River

Electric Membership Corporation

 JUNE 2009 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Lumbee River EMC Completes Rate Study

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation recently announced the completion of a recent rate study. The impact of this study affected all bills produced on and after May 1.

“The results of this study show that Lumbee River EMC has done a good job of minimizing the impact of fuel cost over the past couple of years while positioning the cooperative to deal with the new rate pressures we are feeling as a result of state and potentially federal mandates,” says Roger Oxendine, Chairman of the Board. “Current wholesale rates have stabilized for the time being but we must keep an eye on legislation that will have a negative impact going forward,” he said.

The impact on residential members that use 1000 kWh will be an increase from \$111.26 to \$112.84. This is a 1.42% increase above the current charges and eliminates the need to continue to reflect

the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) on the monthly bill.

“I am pleased with the work we have done over the last several years, particularly given the volatility we have seen in wholesale prices,” says Randall Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lumbee River EMC. “Our

average residential member uses about 1,400 kWh of electricity ever month. Our new rates will reflect a decrease in charges from an average of \$149.33 To \$148.97 for them. This represents a savings of .24% over the current charges that our members are seeing on their bills. While the effect

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## EMC Receives National Award for Newsletter

Lumbee River EMC recently received recognition in the 2009 “Spotlight on Excellence” national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Lumbee River EMC received an Award of Merit for its member newsletter that is included in the Carolina Country magazine each month. Ruby Clark, Community Relations Specialist, is the editor of the award-winning newsletter.

“The judges’ descriptions of this year’s entries ranged from ‘extraordinary’ to ‘impressive,’” said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence. “The consistent comment was that consumers are being well-served by communications that seek to inform and to add value for co-op members.”

A special luncheon honored the award recipients during the Connect 2009 Conference held in Las Vegas, Nev., May 12–15. Winning entries were displayed during the event.

Participants in the awards competition competed with electric cooperatives of similar sizes in 19 categories. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 744 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 21st year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri–Columbia and the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill judged the entries.

The Spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations.

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## EMC Employee Acts Fast, Saves A Life

Steve Davis, Manager of Operations, stopped in Red Springs at the local CITGO station on Wednesday, April 15th and what would have been



a routine trip to the gas station quickly turned into something else.

Cindy Taylor, Human Resource Manager for Majestic Home Care in Red Springs, and her aunt had just left the McDonald's down the street when she also stopped at the local CITGO station. As she pulled in, Taylor began to choke on some French fries she had just purchased from the McDonald's.

"My aunt and I wanted a bottled drink instead of a fountain drink so we had just pulled in to get us something to drink when I began to choke," she said.

She jumped from her car and began waving her arms since she was not able to speak. There were many people in the store but none responded. Davis noticed the woman and quickly went over and asked if she was choking. Being certified in CPR/AED and First Aid, he knew to deliver two back blows but unfortunately the blows didn't have any effect. He then performed abdominal thrust (also known as the Heimlich maneuver) and the blockage cleared.

"I didn't get to speak with the man that did it because I was in such a state of shock right afterwards, but I am so grateful that he was there," Taylor said. "He left before I ever got an opportunity to speak with him," Taylor added. "He is definitely my hero."

While Steve Davis didn't say much about the incident, Steve Sampson, Director of Safety, had this to offer: "While we always hope to never need them, it is always rewarding when we see the efforts of our training pay off." There is no doubt that Cindy Taylor would agree. Way to go Steve!

## Lightning Storm Safety

North Carolina is known for its intense summer thunder and lightning storms. According to the Ready Campaign, an emergency preparedness program developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, lightning kills approximately 300 people each year, which statistics show is greater than the number of people killed each year by hurricanes, tornadoes or floods.

By following a few simple tips, you can reduce unnecessary risks during a lightning storm.

- If a thunder or lightning storm is forecasted, monitor conditions regularly by a radio or television. Be sure to keep extra batteries for your radio in case the power goes out.
- Stay alert. Typical signs of an oncoming lightning storm are towering clouds with a "cauliflower" shape, dark skies, and distant rumbles of thunder and flashes of lightning.
- Seek shelter. The best place to be during a lightning storm is a large, enclosed building. Once you are inside, stay a few feet away from windows, sinks, electric boxes, outlets and appliances. Current from a lightning strike can travel through any of these objects.
- Never shower or take a bath during a lightning storm. Utility lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity.
- Do not use a corded telephone during a lightning storm. If lightning hits the telephone line, it could possibly flow to the phone. Avoid using computers, too.
- If you get caught in a lightning storm while you are in a car, stay in the car with the windows rolled up.
- If you get caught outside, try to find a spot away from trees, metal fences, pipes and tall or long objects. Crouch down to the ground and try to make yourself shorter than other objects in the area.
- If you are on a golf course during a lightning storm, seek shelter if possible. Stay away from your golf clubs, and if your shoes have metal spikes, take them off.

Lightning storms are extremely dangerous and can often be very frightening. However, if you practice proper safety measures during a lightning storm, you can avoid becoming a statistic.

### Lumbee EMC Completes Rate Study, *continued from page 21*

of this study is going to impact different members in different ways, I am pleased that many of our members are going to be impacted in a positive way. At this same time however, we must start collecting the North Carolina Renewable Energy Charges that are mandated by the NC Legislature. The impact of these charges is currently \$.50 per meter per month for our residential members but is likely to rise over the next several years as we work to obtain 10 percent of our generation from renewable resources. We continue to work hard to bring the best value to our members while ensuring a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our area."

Lumbee River EMC continues to encourage their members to use energy as wisely as possible. They offer these suggestions to help everyone keep their electric costs down:

- Set the air conditioning system thermostat to the highest comfortable setting. In warm weather, each degree above 72 can save between 7 percent and 10 percent on electric bills.
- Make monthly inspections of air conditioning system filters and clean or replace them when needed.
- Reduce the temperature setting on the electric water heater to 120 degrees.
- Use ceiling and portable fans to keep air circulating, but turn them off in unoccupied rooms.

# EMC Announces Youth Education Program Winners

Lumbee River EMC is proud to announce the winners of our 2009 Youth Education programs. Four local high school seniors will each receive \$4,000 towards the college of their choice as winners of the four-year scholarship. Two seniors will each receive \$1,200 as winners of the two-year scholarship.

The selection process takes into consideration academic achievement, financial need, extracurricular activities, personal essays and academic recommendations. These students are shining examples of the spirit of cooperation and we proudly reward them with these scholarships!

## Four-year winners

- Amanda McNeill received the John S. O'Briant Scholarship. Amanda is a student at Hoke High School. She plans to attend UNC Pembroke and pursue a career in Physical Therapy. She is the daughter of Mike and Kathy McNeill.
- Andrew Niccum received the Thomas Wade Bethea Scholarship. Andrew is a student at Jack Britt High School. He plans to attend UNC Wilmington and pursue a degree in Marine Biology. He is the son of Peter and Melissa Niccum.
- Ernest Dial III received the Elias Rogers Scholarship. Ernest is a student at Purnell Swett High School.



These students are winners of Lumbee EMC's 2009 youth programs.

He plans to attend the University of North Carolina and major in Chemistry and Pre-Med. He is the son of Mary Linda Jacobs.

- Elise Pyo received the Lucy Smith Scholarship. Elise is a student at Jack Britt High School. She plans to attend the Art Institute of Charleston and pursue a degree in Web design and interactive media.

## Two-year winners

- Nicole Morgan received the J. W. Hunt Scholarship. Nicole is a student at Scotland High School. She plans to attend Richmond Community College and pursue a degree in Emergency Science. She is the daughter of Tim and Michele Grooms.

- Whitney Locklear received the J. McN. Gillis Scholarship. Whitney is a student at South Robeson High School. She plans to attend Robeson Community College and pursue a degree in Radiology. She is the daughter of Jerry and Mary Locklear.

## Youth tour winner

In addition Enka Bullard, a junior at Purnell Swett High School was selected as the 2009 Youth Tour winner. Enka is the daughter of Danny and Sybil Bullard. She attends Purnell Swett High School and hopes to attend the University of North Carolina to pursue a degree in middle school education.



## EARN CASH WITH A NEW ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE

Are you considering purchasing a new appliance such as a clothes washer, refrigerator or dishwasher? If so, now is the best time to consider purchasing an appliance with an ENERGY STAR® label.

Not only will you save on energy costs, but Lumbee River offers you cash back on the purchase price! LREMC now offers rebates to our residential members that purchase ENERGY STAR® clothes washers, dishwashers, and refrigerators/freezers.

Members are eligible for the rebates listed below:

Energy Star® Qualified Clothes Washer	\$35 Rebate
Energy Star® Qualified Dishwasher	\$20 Rebate
Energy Star® Qualified Refrigerator/Freezer	\$35 Rebate

# Summer Energy Use: Teach Kids to CONSERVE



Schools will be out for summer soon and kids will be spending a great deal of their time at home trying to stay cool. Summer vacation can mean higher summer electric bills. Now is the perfect time to teach your kids how to conserve energy (while you save money).

Just like adults, kids can save energy with a few minor changes to their daily habits. It can be as simple as a flick of a switch as they leave a room. Here are a few quick tips for kids and friends of all ages:

- **Take a shower in ten minutes or less.** Don't spend your life in the shower—shorter showers save the

energy to heat the water and reduce overall water usage. You should also turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

- **Turn off the TV, video games or the computer when you're done.** It's an easy thing for you to do that impresses both Mom and Dad. Plus, it can save more than 100 watts every hour.
- **Turn off the lights when you're not in a room.** Lighting accounts for up to 7 percent of a home's electric bill each year. If you turn off just a few unneeded bulbs for a few hours each day, the savings add up.

- **Leave your thermostat alone.** Let Mom and Dad set the thermostat, but you can remind them that setting the temperature a little higher means a lot of savings. In fact, it's even better to just cool off with a fan, and save the AC for when it's really needed.
- **Keep your refrigerator closed.** Figure out what snack you want before opening the fridge door, otherwise you're just wasting energy.
- **Keep windows closed to keep cold air in.** This also keeps the hot air out and makes the AC work less.
- **Keep it shady inside the house.** Sunlight adds heat to the inside of your home, so keep the curtains or blinds closed during hot days.
- **Close doors when going outside or coming inside when the heat or air conditioning is on.** By doing this you make it easier to cool or heat your home using less electricity.
- **Keep the oven door closed and pans covered while food is cooking.** In fact, use the microwave oven to cook or reheat small portions.

Source: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40° F for the main refrigerator compartment and 5° F for the freezer. If you have a stand-alone freezer, it should be kept at 0° F. Appliance settings may vary, so an easy way to check the temperature is to use a meat thermometer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



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