

Lumbee River

Electric Membership Corporation

DECEMBER 2010 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Co-op Receives \$19.9 Million Dollar Check From USDA



Randall Jones, the CEO of Lumbee River EMC (left), and Congressman Mike McIntyre (right) hold the check for \$19,947,739 at the recent ceremony. The funding will provide advanced broadband services to rural residents in our service area.

Randall Jones, President and CEO of Lumbee River EMC was presented a check in the amount of \$19,947,739 from Congressman Mike McIntyre and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at a check presentation ceremony, held Oct. 19 at the J.R. Jones grain company in Red Springs.

The broadband project will provide advance Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) broadband services via a high speed fiber optic network designed for speed up to 100 megabytes per second to rural end users in our proposed funded service area. Lumbee River Electric's project stands to benefit approximately 27,000 people, 1,600 businesses, and 100 other community institutions.

In addition to the jobs this project will create upfront, it will help drive economic development and create jobs for decades to come.

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Co-op Board OKs December Credit For Lumbee Members

During this season of giving, we hope you noticed something special about your electric bill this month. Because of the continued favorable position we have concerning our fuel cost, the Board of Directors approved giving everyone a credit this year on their December light bill.

"We know that everyone can use a little bit of help, particularly this time of year," says Broughton Oxendine, who is the board chairman. "We are glad to be able to provide this help to our members through an additional credit on their December bills," he says.

In addition to this credit in December, your Board of Directors has provided wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA)

credits every month this year. Those credits have totaled \$3,650,000 this year. Also, in October, Lumbee River EMC issued \$3,277,000 in Capital Credit retirements. As a result of this and the December credit you recently received, your cooperative has returned more than \$8,000,000 in credits during 2010.

"As a non-profit organization, we know how important it is that we get our members' money back to them in a timely manner," says Randall Jones, President and CEO of Lumbee River EMC. "And as Mr. Oxendine stated, we are very glad to be in a financial position to provide these credits at this time of the year."



Reverse Your Ceiling Fan Blades (And Other Heating Tips)

Following these tips can help keep your money in your pocket:

- Keep the thermostat on your heating system at the lowest comfortable setting. We recommend 68-70 degrees. Every degree above 70 increases your cost by 7 percent to 10 percent.
- Check filters in heating and cooling equipment every month and clean or change as needed. Dirty filters may increase operating costs up to 20 percent or more and may damage equipment.
- Have your heating system and ductwork inspected annually by a professional to ensure your equipment is operating safely and at peak efficiency.
- Close the fireplace damper tightly when you are not using it. A good chimney can draw up to 20 percent of the air out of the house every hour. Heat from the heating system goes up the chimney even when you have a fire burning.
- Ceiling fans are not only good for cooling your home in the summer. In winter, the direction of the blades can be reversed (to counterclockwise) to push warmer air on the ceiling down to the living space.
- Caulk, seal and weather strip all openings from your home to the outside. Install plastic sheeting or storm windows over old or leaking windows. Eliminating air leaks in your home can save you up to 10 percent in energy costs.
- Unless you have a gas or oil furnace, which needs air for combustion – keep crawl space vents closed in the winter.
- If you plan to be away for several days, turn the thermostat down to the lowest setting (often 55 degrees), but not off (to help limit the possibility of freezing pipes).



Co-op Line Worker Competes In Statewide Competition

Mike Jones, an underground maintenance foreman with Lumbee River EMC, finished in 4th place while competing with 24 other electric cooperatives at the annual Poletop Rescue Competition in Raleigh.

Mike Jones, an underground maintenance foreman with Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) in Red Springs, had the honor of competing in the 12th Pole Top Rescue Competition for North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Jones has been with Lumbee River EMC for 20 years. He and his wife, Wanda, live in Fairmont with their two children.

Jones competed against 24 other electric cooperative line workers from North Carolina at the state competition, held Oct. 13 on the lawn of North Carolina's electric cooperatives' headquarters building in Raleigh.

Pole Top Rescue competitors participate in a scenario where they must complete a series of events, including placing an emergency radio call, donning climbing gear, scaling 20 feet up a utility pole, rigging a rope, lowering a 105-pound mannequin and beginning CPR. Jones finished the drill in 2 minutes and 29 seconds, earning him a 4th-place finish.

More than 600 North Carolina electric cooperative line workers began the year competing for the 2010 title. Winners of local cooperative and regional competitions advanced to the state championship.

Protect Home While You Are Away, Check Flight Status

Glittering lights, fragrant firs, dangling mistletoe, flight delays and snow storms are all part of the holiday season. Whatever your reason for traveling this time of year, it is important to remember safety.

How To Secure Your Home Before A Trip

Although all of your holiday plans have been made and presents have been bought, there is still something important that needs to be done before you leave to visit loved ones – and that is securing your home. Following these tips will protect your home before a trip and make it less vulnerable:

- Even if a garage door is closed, burglars can still find ways to get into the garage and enter your home. Lock the garage door from the inside and make certain all other entrances and windows are locked.
- Don't tell too many people, that you're going away on vacation. Be sure not to post any information online about when you're away from your house. It's OK to tell a trusted neighbor or family member your plans so he or she can keep an eye on your house while you're gone.
- If you are going away for an extended amount of time, have the post office hold your mail. Accumulated letters and magazines are a sign of an unattended home. Have your newspaper carrier put a hold on your newspapers until you return, too.
- If you have a home security system, call the company to tell them you are going out of town. Also tell them where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- If you feel apprehensive about leaving your home unattended, have a friend or family member house sit while you are away.

If you are flying

Millions of Americans pack the nation's airports during the holiday season. To make your airport experience as stress-free as possible, follow these tips:

- Call the airlines or go online to check your flight status before you leave for the airport. Few things are more frustrating than arriving at the airport and discovering your flight has been delayed or canceled.
- Arrive at the airport early to avoid crowds at security and customs. If you have time afterward, you can eat at a restaurant or shop for last-minute holiday gifts.
- If your airline has the option to print your boarding pass online, do it to avoid long lines.
- Don't forget a photo I.D., which is required for domestic travel, and a passport, which is required for international flights. Keep your boarding pass and forms of identification within reach for security checkpoints.
- Make sure your luggage follows weight and quantity guidelines.

If you are driving

These winter driving tips can help you and your family stay safe on your travels:

- Have your car examined before you leave. The last thing you want is to be stranded on the side of the road in an unfamiliar area far away from home. Take your car to a local auto shop for a quick once over, and make sure your tires are "winter ready."



- Before you leave, know the route you anticipate driving, but be ready to change course due to construction, road closings or inclement weather conditions. Remember, the roads are the busiest on the days right before and after major holidays. Keep directions and state maps handy in case you have to reroute your trip.
- Pack emergency equipment in your vehicle such as a first-aid kit, car charger for your cell phone, blankets, jumper cables, tow rope, portable radio, drinking water and snacks.

Holiday closings

LREMC offices will be closed Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as on Monday, January 3, for the New Year. All LREMC offices will re-open on Tuesday, January 4.

70th Annual Members Meeting Was A Success

LREMC held the Annual Meeting of the Members on October 14 at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNC-Pembroke. President and CEO Randall Jones and Board of Directors Chairman Roger Oxendine spoke to the membership about the past year's events, such as the unprecedented heat that led to higher than normal power bills. Mr. Jones and Mr. Oxendine also spoke about the economy's struggles and unemployment programs the co-op is using to assist the LREMC Cares program.

LREMC'S outstanding safety performance was discussed, as well as the Fiber DukeNet project.

During the business meeting, James Hardin, Madie R. Locklear, Broughton Oxendine, and Roger Oxendine were voted to the Board of Directors by acclamation. A total of 1,404 members registered and 51 door prizes were given away. Ms. Gertrude Dial won the \$1,800 free electricity prize and Ms. Frances Locklear won the \$1,200 free electricity prize. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this year's annual meeting a success!



At the meeting, 1,404 people registered, staff discussed energy issues, and more than 50 door prizes were given away.



Lumber River EMC member Sylvia Pate holds a \$100 bill she won at the annual meeting.

Deadline is Dec. 31 for tune-up rebates

The Heating & Cooling Rebate Program for tune-ups will end this month. Applications to get rebates for heating and cooling tune-ups must be submitted within 60 days of the service completion date and must be received or postmarked by Friday, December 31.

For more information about the tuneup program's guidelines or to get an application, visit www.lumbeeriver.com, or any Lumbee River EMC office location.

The cooperative we will be offering new energy efficiency programs in early 2011, so stay tuned!



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