



Where customers have a choice



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A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Mark A. Suggs
EVP and General Manager



Annual Meeting Recap

It is hard to imagine that another year is nearly behind us. We just held our 85th Annual Meeting and our sights are focused on the 2023 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year.

Secretary Treasurer Jeff Letchworth reported on our audit, which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion with regard to our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

Over 45 members won door prizes, all of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

The following directors were re-elected to serve three-year terms: District 2, Garland Mazingo; District 7, Jack Edmondson; and At Large, James T. Shackleford.

I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of over 60 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost.

Looking forward, we continue to feel the financial impact of North Carolina's Coal Ash cleanup. The majority of the cost will no doubt fall on Duke Energy, but all rate pay-



Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lewis from Macclesfield, who have been married 27 years. They attended their first Pitt & Greene EMC Annual Meeting last month on a date night, which became even more meaningful when they won a \$200 Lowe's gift card.

ers in the state who received power generated by coal will be impacted. Since a portion of our power was generated with coal, we too will be impacted until such time as the determination of complete clean up is finished. At the time of this message it appears that these cost will likely drag on for several years.

Crews continue rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. Clean rights-of-way and strong facilities is at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas; and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's.



Annual Meeting Door Prizes

\$25 Target Gift Card

Alice Loftin
Glenn E. Bunch
Janice D. Williams
Lloyd Horace Taylor

\$25 Lowe's Gift Card

Jesse Roger Tripp
Daryl Kelley
Lois Dean Dupree
Velma Spruill
Keomne Monte Ward
Tracy Bernell Warren

\$25 Food Lion Gift Card

Emma Streeter
James Norman Barfield
Melinda Clote Waters
Shelia Michele Anderson
Terry Worrell

\$50 Lowe's Gift Card

Greene Co Improvement Inc.
Stephen E. Webb
Martha Orellana
Sandra C. Jones

\$50 Food Lion Gift Card

Hattie Lee Anderson
Dildas Chapel FWB Church

\$50 Ace Hardware Gift Card

Kevin Grant Wright

\$50 Speedy Gift Card

Marshall W. Dupree

\$50 VISA Gift Card

Ray Bunn

\$50 America Express

Clara Mae Mumford

\$100 Amazon Gift Card

Angela Dupree



\$100 Lowe's Gift Card

Carolyn Sutton
Hubert M. Bowen
Tony Delane Lee
William Connor
Lilly Gray Edwards
Linwood Earl Edmondson
Nikki Barrett
Jimmy McLawhorn
Dawn Barrow McCoy

\$200 Lowe's Gift Card

Linnie J. Lewis

\$25 Bill Credit

Addie Waller
Mary Alice Shirley
Lula Adams Bynum
James A. Roberts
Ronald C. Whitley
Joyce Bundy
Novella S. Williams
Jimmy W. Battle
Don C. Lanier
Tony Hall
Angela Collette Worrell
Henry Pasour

Bright Ideas Winner for 2022–2023

Congratulations to Matthew Lococo of Greene County Middle School. He received a Bright Ideas grant for the 2022–2023 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina's 26 Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K–12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$14.3 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 2.8 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.



The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2023. In order to be considered for a Bright Idea grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas Grant Program, visit ncbrightideas.com.



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Tips for a safe and happy holiday season

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. Pitt & Greene EMC wants you to stay safe during the holidays, so here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

Inspect your seasonal items

Each year many of us bring out treasured holiday mementos from storage and proudly display them. The holidays are also a time when we dust off specialized cooking gadgets that allow us to prepare our favorite seasonal treats. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases and other tip-over hazards

Extension cords are temporary

When you asked your teacher for an extension on your term paper, it was a one-time thing, right? The same holds true for extension cords. They are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution.

Never defeat safety devices

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. Don't do it! If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together. Rather than tampering with a safety feature, find a safe solution.

Look up and live

When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines.

Beware of power lines through trees

Over time, tree branches can grow around power lines running along the street and to your home. If those branches come in contact with power lines, they can become energized, too. If your holiday plans call for stringing lights through trees, this can create a safety hazard.



Holiday Decorating Tips for an Energy Wise Home

Whether you have already decked your halls, or you are just getting started, there's still time to incorporate the following energy savings into your holiday decorating:

- ▶ If you have not strung your lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last for several holiday seasons. They are also safer because they are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking. They are cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers.
- ▶ If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 and \$25 and can be purchased from big

box stores, independent retailers, and online retailers. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off. This will save you time, money, and energy. If you are using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it is waterproof and intended for outdoor use.

- ▶ If Clark Griswold's decorating style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers who sale live Christmas trees, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. Twine, extra ornaments, and sparkly rib-

bon can be used to create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add an extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (free) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of two for about \$30. They run on natural energy from the sun preventing no additional cost to your electric bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are many ways to save energy throughout the season.