

# Member News

For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## ANNUAL MEETING TO BE FAMILY AFFAIR

Carteret-Craven is gearing up for its Annual Meeting of Members and we want you to know all about it. As mentioned before, the meeting has been moved to the Spring – Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to be exact. It will once again be held at the Crystal Coast Civic Center.

This year, however, your Annual Meeting will have a new look and feel. Our emphasis will be on the family. We wanted to make the meeting more accessible to all of our members especially those with children. This year you can bring the family, have a light meal on us, leave school-age kids in our safe area and enjoy the meeting.

The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and food

At 6:30 p.m. our entertainment will begin. You will be able to enjoy the Croatan High School and the Broad Creek Middle School Jazz Bands perform. These groups will perform until 7:00 p.m. when the Official Business Meeting will open. During this meeting you will see a video concerning the Cooperative and find out who won the election for Board of Directors. In addition, the five Carteret-Craven scholarship winners will be announced and you will be entertained by the Havelock High School Choir.

**You could win a truck like this!**

**Or maybe six months of FREE electricity!**

Door prizes will also be awarded during this time – a total of \$1600 in cash prizes! We also have a Cooperative truck to give away as a Grand Prize but that's not all. This year we are offering an additional Grand Prize – six months FREE electricity! (\$1000 maximum) You must be present to win. The only stipulations on this prize are that it must be used July through December of 2002 with a maximum benefit of \$1000.

Why not make plans now to be there for the Annual Meeting of Members. Come for dinner, bring the kids, enjoy yourself and still be home by around 8:30 p.m. What could be better than that? Oh yeah, you could win a truck or six months FREE electricity!



(hot dogs, cookies, chips and drinks) will be served from then until 6:30 p.m. Health screenings will run during this time also.

In addition to the usual health screenings (blood sugar, blood pressure and glaucoma) we will have a safe children's area in the upstairs quads. One room will be designated a "quiet area" where the kids can do their homework or read. The second area will be set-up with children's videotapes for their enjoyment. The third room will have board games. All of these rooms will be chaperoned by Cooperative employees.

**Customer Service Telephone Hours:**

**24 Hours A Day/7Days A Week**

**1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107 For Account Balances: 1-877-677-4362**

APRIL 2002

CARTERET-CRAVEN

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
BOARD.....**

*Roger W. Jones*

For the past several months you've heard about our changes to the Annual Meeting for Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative. The biggest change obviously is the date from a fall meeting to a spring meeting. This will get us out of the hurricane season eliminating the potential to have to reschedule a meeting due to storms. In addition, a spring meeting will allow us to honor our scholarship students and to hear our school bands and choruses perform. All of these are good reasons for the change.

As we approach this, our 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Members, I would like to remind you of the real reason we have annual meetings. We are a member-owned cooperative which means you have a voice in the running of this, your coopera-

tive. How so? By electing qualified people to represent you on the Board of Directors you have a voice. This year is no exception.

We have three directorate districts whose slots are open to election this year. Currently, these districts are represented by Ms. Nellie Garner in District #5, Mr. David Chadwick in District #7 and Mr. Jerome Meadows in District #9. Neither Mr. Chadwick nor Mr. Meadows was challenged in their districts so no voting will take place. However, District #5 will have voting. The biographies of the two candidates are included on page 39.

As members, this is your opportunity to have a voice in running your cooperative. Enclosed in this edition of the *Member News* is a ballot for District #5. Please fill it out, enclose in the envelope provided and mail it back to us as soon as you can. Your voice does count. That's what cooperatives are all about.

Ultimately, the cooperative is ours – yours and mine. We do have a say and it is up to us to use the opportunity. Use it wisely but use it. Vote when you have the opportunity and as a Board member, I can honestly say that we truly want to hear what you have to say.

Thank you.



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Happen To Your  
Valuable Electronics!**

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**1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107**



**It might not be a pot of gold.....**

If you have underground electric service and are not absolutely sure where the cable is buried, please call us before you do any digging. Why? If you damage an underground cable, you run a grave risk of suffering an electrical shock. You are also likely to interrupt power to your own home and possibly to a whole area of homes. Finally, you will have to pay the cost of repairing the damage.

All requests for locating underground power cables in your Cooperative service area should be made to Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, not to any other cable locator service. We have our own locator equipment and trained personnel. We also have the work maps showing where the cable was buried, so we can best respond to your request.

There is no charge to you for this service. That makes it easy to avoid the expense, inconvenience, and possible danger of digging into an underground cable.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative and federal regulations specify that we be given 48 hours notice before you plan to dig. However, if you have an urgent need, call us and we will respond as fast as we can. And if you ever hit one of our underground cables, STOP DIGGING and call us immediately.

The number to call is:

**247-3107**  
or  
**1-800-682-2217**

## NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION DISTRICT #5

*These biographies were submitted by the candidates and are printed here verbatim. We begin with incumbent director, Nellie Garner.*

### Nellie Garner

"I began my tenure on the Carteret-Craven Board in 1989 and have held various positions including Assistant Secretary and for the last six years as Vice President. I completed the course work for a Director's Certificate including training and study courses in cooperative operation.

The experience I have gained on the Board is very important in allowing me to help guide the company in the best interests of its members. Your cooperative is one of the most efficient in the State serving the needs of 32,000 members with only 85 employees. That is one employee for every 376 members. Our rates are among the lowest, and I am proud of the friendliness of our employees.

It has taken time and expense to get the know how to be an effective voice for the members of the co-op in order to keep rates as low as possible and to keep service to the members dependable. As the only woman on the Board of Directors, I bring a different view on issues. I can contribute an understanding of our homeowner's concerns and problems which might otherwise be overlooked. My business and accounting experience allow me to understand the complex financial questions which must be dealt with by the Board of Directors.

I am always available to hear from co-op members, and I hope to continue to serve you as a member of your Board."

Mrs. Garner owns and operates Nellie Garner's Tax Service and is the former owner of Newport Insurance.



### Douglas Fulcher

Thank God that electric deregulation came to California, before North Carolina and gave the wakeup call to all Americans that a quality energy supply, at reasonable rates, cannot be taken for granted. The old way of doing business will not keep your lights on; not, at a fair price.

This is why Doug Fulcher wants to serve the members of our co-op. As a state licensed electrical contractor, serving our members for over 30 years, Doug has heard your plea for quality service at reasonable rates. With his business experience and college training in the electrical industry, he will commit his energies to the success of our co-op.

Doug's community and professional service includes: president of the Carteret Electrical Contractors Association, since 1997; church youth fellowship president, Sunday school teacher; chairman of his church building and grounds; co-chairman of Crystal Coast Friends of NRA; board of directors of Core Sound Waterfowl Museum.

Doug feels that he would be an asset to your board of directors and would work hard to improve efficiency and to maintain costs at a reasonable level. He says that the members' views will always be considered in his decision making process, because "the members are the co-op."

Doug says, "Electricity is not just a light bill anymore, but a necessity of life. Deregulation of the power companies deeply concerns me and I want to ensure that our co-op remains strong, to provide reliable service to the members. To this end, I commit my service."





## Spring Means Planting Time

Spring is here, and that means it's time to get out in the garden. Before you select plants to beautify your home, consider another important benefit of good landscaping: energy efficiency.

Think about how much cooler it feels beneath the shade of a big tree on a hot day. That tree can provide several tons of cooling power, in air conditioning terms. If your property doesn't have big deciduous trees--the kind that lose their leaves in winter--give serious thought to planting some. Planted on the south and west to block the summer sun, trees can reduce the heat pouring into your home and provide cooling. Be sure and plant away from overhead power lines and avoid digging unless checking with us first. The Department of Energy estimates that just three trees positioned correctly around a house can cut the energy used for heating and cooling by one-fourth.

Trees and shrubs can also provide windbreaks, as farmers have known for years. Rows of evergreens bordering fields were planted to keep the wind from blowing away soil and damaging and drying out crops. The same principle applies to diverting winds that blow directly toward your home.

Even shading your air conditioner compressor can make a difference. Although you want to keep plants from lying directly on or interfering with the compressor, a unit that's shaded by a tree doesn't have to work as hard as one that's in the direct summer sun.

*As we approach the cooling season, preparation is all important.  
This tip concerns window air conditioner units.*

Portable room air conditioners are typically located in a window and cool one room in your home. Cleaning your portable air conditioner's filter and coils will help it perform better while using less electricity. Before cleaning, be sure and unplug unit.

Your air conditioner contains a filter that protects its cooling coils from dust and debris. These are both found behind a removable louvered cover on the room side of the unit. Remove this cover and the foam filter, and wash both in the kitchen sink with soap and water. At this stage, you'll also see the indoor coil and its aluminum fins. Clean this with an old hairbrush to remove surface dirt and lint. Brush in the same direction as the fins, being careful to avoid bending them. Dirt trapped deeper in the coil can be removed by spraying a strong household cleanser into the coil, waiting a few minutes, and rinsing with water. The excess water will run out the drain to the outdoors.

The condenser coil is accessible from the outdoor side of your room air conditioner. It's similar to the indoor coil, though more difficult to clean. Inspect the coil from outdoors through the louvered openings in its housing. If dirt is noticeable inside the unit, it's time to clean it. You'll have to remove the air conditioner from the window and perform this job outdoors. Once you have the unit out, remove the exterior housing by removing its screws. Use your brush and water again, and reach to the inside of the coil where the most dirt is usually found. Taping your brush to a small stick or dowel may help. Let your unit dry in the sun before replacing the housing and re-installing it. Your air conditioner's efficiency will benefit from this simple cleaning.

Source: Saturn Resource Management [www.residential-energy.com](http://www.residential-energy.com)

*John Krigger is a nationally recognized author of numerous energy efficiency books, including *Surviving The Seasons: A Practical Guide To Home Energy Efficiency and Cost Savings*; and *Comfort for Existing Buildings*. For more info on his publications, please visit his website [www.residential-energy.com](http://www.residential-energy.com).*