

MEMBER

*From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between*

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

February 2006

Bank Draft: No late fees, no stamps

You can forget about paying your electric bill if you sign up for Automatic Bank Draft. It's safe and convenient. You don't need a stamp and don't have to make a trip to the post office.

We draft your monthly electric payment from your checking or savings account on a specified draft date. You'll never receive a late fee, and you'll never pay early. Your regular paper bill will continue to arrive so you can mark your checking account register.

Paying your electric bill is even more carefree if you combine bank draft with the cooperative's Equalizer Payment Plan. Your monthly electric bills are totaled for the year and then divided into 12 equal payments. You know exactly what your electric bill will be each month. For new accounts, we estimate monthly usage.

To sign up, go to www.carteretcravenelectric.coop or call one of our customer service representatives at (252) 247-3107.

Bill paying doesn't get much easier than that.



Scholarship application deadline approaching

on the web

We have payment options to fit your lifestyle.

Go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



CCEC is still accepting scholarship applications from college-bound high school seniors.

The deadline for submission is Feb. 28.

Five high school seniors, at least one each from East Carteret, West Carteret, Croatan and Havelock high schools, will be selected. Students who attend other

schools, such as Jones Senior or Grammercy, are pooled with the remaining applicants for the fifth scholarship.

The scholarships are for \$1,000 annually and are renewable for a total of four years.

More information and application forms are available on the web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop, from the counselors' offices at each school, and at Carteret-Craven's offices at 450 McCotter Blvd. in Havelock; and 1300 Highway 24 in Newport. Members may request applications be mailed by calling our office at (252) 727-2238.

Operation RoundUP[®] improves lives

By contributing just pennies over the past six years, cooperative members have donated well over \$1 million to help improve lives and empower their friends and neighbors in Carteret, Craven, Jones and Onslow counties.

The success comes from generosity of the members we serve, who participate in the cooperative's Operation RoundUP[®] program. Many of you volunteer to have your electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar each month to raise funds for a variety of community projects.

Money collected is managed by the non-profit Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation, whose directors volunteer to serve and represent all areas of the cooperative's service territory. These directors review applications once a month from groups and individuals requesting funding.

"On average, each member contributes about \$6 a year," said CCEC Vice President of Marketing and External Affairs Gary Zajac, who serves as foundation board liaison. "The maximum is \$11.88. That small amount, however, goes a long, long way toward helping others."

The cooperative adopted the program in February 1999. Members can opt out of the program, but very few do, in part because the amount is very small and because the collective power of cooperative members' donations has a profound impact on those less fortunate.

The goal of the foundation is to "assist and empower individuals with resources provided through the generosity of the

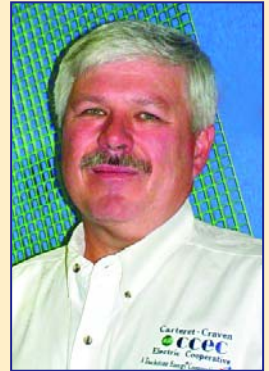
cooperative's members."

"The main focus of the foundation board is the importance of trying to connect member donations to the needs of individuals in the community," Zajac said. "The board members put an emphasis on that direct connection, whether it's through groups that impact individual lives or to individuals we can help directly."

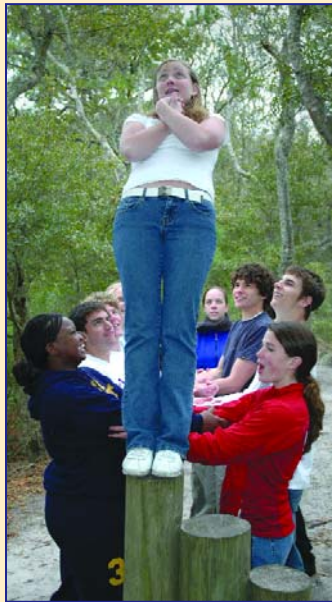
A couple of recent examples would be the approval of matching funds to help purchase a Braille computer system for a Broad Creek Middle School student who is blind and the rewarding of scholarships for two Carteret Community College nursing students.

Additionally, the foundation continues to help members with emergency heating and cooling needs, which has been especially important during the recent energy crunch.

Other projects include: Hope Mission Soup Kitchen; the Children's Miracle Network; the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; the March of Dimes; Bright Ideas grant funding for innovative teaching ideas in our public schools; scholarships; Youth Leadership Weekend; Carteret County Domestic Violence program; the Carteret County Department of Social Services and Havelock Ministerial Association for individuals' emergency heating and cooling needs; and more.



Gary Zajac
Vice President,
Marketing & External Affairs



High school students perform a trust exercise during CCEC's first youth Leadership Weekend at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores.

Annual Meeting 2006: Bylaws summary

The 66th Annual Meeting of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2006, at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City, N.C.

Additional information about this year's annual meeting, including ballots, if needed, for election of directors, will appear in the April issue of "Member News."

CCEC's service area is divided into nine (9) directorate districts. The terms for the directors from districts 1, 3, and 4 expire this year. Directors are elected for three-year terms

To be eligible to hold the office of director of the cooperative, a member must:

- *have been a member for not less than two years*
- *receive electrical service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence, which must be located in the directorate district which he or she is to represent*
- *not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the cooperative*
- *not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, service, or supplies to the cooperative*
- *not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude*
 - *be a citizen of the United States*
 - *be at least 18 years old*
 - *not have been declared mentally incompetent unless competency has been legally restored*
- *at the time of taking office, not be a close relative of a former member of the Board of Directors who died or resigned from the board within two years next preceding the time of taking office*
 - *not have been employed by CCEC or have previously been an officer or director of or employed in any policy-making position by an electric, telephone, natural gas or other utility company.*

Directors: district descriptions

The terms for the directors from districts 1, 3, and 4 expire this year.

Incumbent directors for the districts are:

Ralph Freeman, District 1, which includes all of Cape Carteret and Cedar Point and parts of Jones and Onslow counties, including Highway 58 north to Maysville.

Arland Bell, District 3, which includes CCEC service areas in Craven County, including Havelock, Highway 101 and Adams Creek Road; and Lake Road near the Carteret-Craven County line.

Fred Fulcher, District 4, which covers Bogue Banks, including Pine Knoll Shores, Salter Path, Indian Beach and Emerald Isle.

The Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of two (2) members each from districts 1, 3, and 4. The committee will nominate one or more members to run for election from each of these three districts.

Nominees may also be nominated by petition of any 50 or more members from their district. The petition must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 3, 2005. For more information about the nominating committee, contact CEO and General Manager Craig Conrad, at our Highway 24 office.

Voting for the above positions, in addition to any other business conducted at the annual meeting, shall be done by those who have been members at least 30 days before the meeting. Each member shall have one vote regardless of number of accounts.

Full sets of the bylaws can be viewed at our offices at 1300 Highway 24 in Newport (west of Morehead City) or 450 McCotter Boulevard in Havelock.

Light switches, outlets can wear over time

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 3,900 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with electrical receptacle outlets. Additionally, electric receptacles are involved in 5,300 fires annually, which claim 40 lives and injure 110 consumers.

Because electrical outlets are often hidden behind furnishings, you may not notice problems. However, you should take the time to inspect all the outlets in your home, as well as wall switches, to be sure they are in good shape. With time and use, outlet and switch connections can become loose, creating potential hazards.

Here are some inspection tips:

- Check to make sure outlet and switch



plates are not unusually hot to the touch.

If they are, immediately unplug cords from these outlets. Have a qualified, licensed electrician check the wiring as soon as possible. With outlet and switch cover plates, warm to the touch may be okay, but hot is not.

- Look for discoloration as another indication of potentially dangerous heat buildup at these connections.

Stand away from the outlet and look for a teardrop shaped darkening around

and above cover plates.

- Check that all outlet and switch cover plates are in good condition so that no wiring is exposed. Replace any missing, cracked or broken cover plates.
- Be sure to use safety caps with unused outlets.

Two nursing students earn community college scholarships

Tammy Kay Abercrombie of South River and Cheryl Jones of Newport were awarded the cooperative's first two community college scholarships.

The two women are both pursuing nursing degrees at Carteret Community College in Morehead City and were selected from eight applicants based on need and merit.

Each will receive up to \$250 per semester for up to four semesters. Along with information showing financial need, the students submitted letters describing their education and career goals, as well

as any special circumstances.

The scholarships were funded by the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation, which manages funds contributed by cooperative members through Operation RoundUP®.

The scholarship program will be offered again this fall and annually in the fall in subsequent years.

Application information will be made available at both Carteret and Craven community colleges, in area media, in *Member News* and on the web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



carteret-craven electric cooperative

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On the Web

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