

# Lumbee River

*Electric Membership Corporation*



OCTOBER 2010 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Board Approves Capital Credit Retirement

**Members receiving electric service from LREMC during calendar years 1984, 1985 and/or 2009 will get checks.**

**W**e are pleased to announce that after reviewing the operating revenues for 2009, your Board of Directors at Lumbee River EMC approved the retirement of more than \$3.2 million in Capital Credits.

Your cooperative was formed and still exists to make sure your need for electricity is always met. Unlike other electric utilities, your cooperative is not-for-profit based. That means all monies we have left after expenses each year belong to you, our member-owners. As a

member-owner, your share of the monies is allocated to you in the form of capital credits. On an annual basis, your Board of Directors reviews the financial soundness of the cooperative and its ability to return capital credits to the members.

The Board of Directors, staff and management team at Lumbee River EMC work hard every day to provide you with the best possible value for your energy dollars. This year we are proud to be in a position to be able to send a check to our member-owners, for a portion of capital credits for calendar years 1984, 1985 and 2009. What that means to you is that if you were a member receiving electric service from LREMC during calendar

years 1984, 1985 and/or 2009, keep your eye on your mailbox, because as they say, "The check is in the mail!"

As a reminder, capital credits are retained by LREMC to fund improvements in the electric system. The capital credit allocation and refunds are issued in accordance with the bylaws of the Cooperative. Whether you are currently a member or a past member, your capital credit ending balance is not available for redemption until approved on an annual basis by the Board of Directors or until approved as part of an estate settlement.

Member ownership...a true cooperative difference!

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## Join Us For LREMC's Annual Members Meeting

**This year there will be two grand prizes: a \$1,800 credit and a \$1,200 credit on two lucky winners' power bills.**

**L**umbee River EMC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNC Pembroke. The Annual Meeting is a day of customer appreciation and an opportunity to update cooperative members on important cooperative business.

Registered members will receive registration gifts as well as be entered into raffle ticket prize drawings. Names

of registered members will be drawn to receive prizes such as cash and electric service credits. This year there will be two grand prizes: a \$1,800 credit and a \$1,200 credit on two lucky winners' power bills.

Please make plans to join your fellow co-op members at Lumbee River EMC's Annual Meeting on October 14. Registration begins at 1 p.m. Entertainment begins at 6 p.m. and the general business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on your rights as a cooperative member or information regarding the Annual meeting of Members, please call (910) 843-4131.





## Energy Star Tax-Free Weekend In November!

Have you been putting off buying that appliance that you have needed all year? Energy Star Tax Free Weekend is coming up next month to encourage you to buy appliances and household items that are energy efficient.

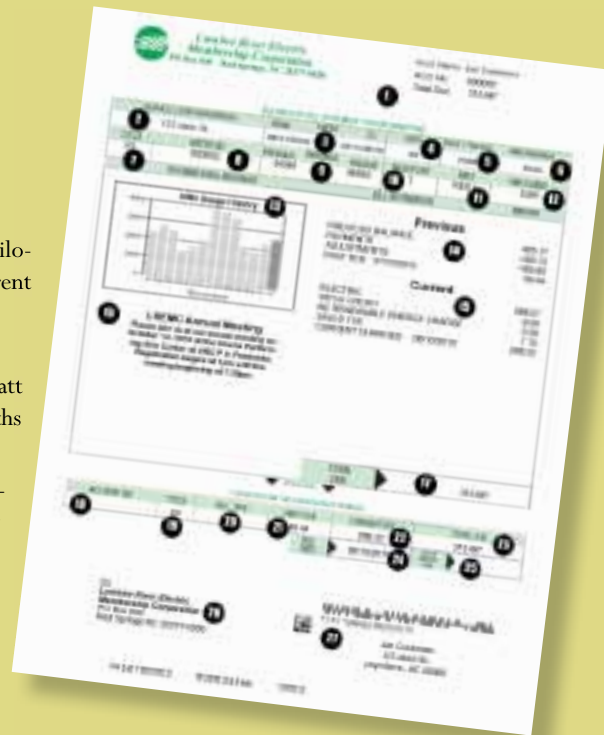
The Energy star Tax Free Weekend is an annual occurrence that will be held this year from Friday, November 5 through Sunday, November 7. A state law was passed in 2008 that Energy Star qualified products will be exempt from sales and use tax when purchased between 12:01 am on the first Friday in November and the following Sunday of each year.

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## Guide To Your Bill

LREMC has recently unveiled a new bill format to provide our members with more detailed information about their account. Use the sample bill below to match the numbers shown in the photo to the same number explanation.

- 1** Bill Summary—Includes name on the account, account number and total amount due
- 2** Service Location Address—This indicates the current address on file for this account. Call (910) 843-4131 to update if needed.
- 3** Dates—Indicates dates of service for this billing cycle showing a “from” and a “to” date
- 4** Days—Indicates number of days of service for this billing cycle
- 5** Usage One Year Ago—Electric usage history comparing this month’s usage to the same month last year
- 6** kWh Average—Indicates average kilowatt hour usage for the previous 12 months
- 7** Cycle—Indicates account billing cycle
- 8** Meter No.—This is the number of the meter recording your kilowatt hour usage.
- 9** Readings—The previous reading used for the previous month’s billing period and the present reading used for the current billing period
- 10** Multiplier—This is primarily used for commercial meters. Multiplier should read 1.0 for residential members
- 11** Rate—Indicates electric service rate being billed
- 12** kWh Usage—Total amount of kilowatt hours used during the current billing period
- 13** kWh Usage History—A graph depicting total amount of kilowatt hour usage for the past 12 months
- 14** Previous—Indicates previous balance on the account, any payments made to the account, any adjustments and any past due amounts along with the past due date
- 15** Current—Indicates current electric balance, any WPCA credits, NC Renewable Energy Charge, taxes charged and current charges due along with the due date
- 16** Member Message—Paragraph containing any new information from LREMC that pertains to members
- 17** Total Due—The total due may vary based on bill type. For budget billers, Total Due is the normal monthly budget amount.
- 18** Account No.—This is the number assigned to each meter location as listed on our files. Having this number handy in case of an outage will help speed up our response time.
- 19** Cycle—Indicates billing cycle
- 20** Bill Type—Indicates whether account is set up on automatic draft, budget billing or final bill
- 21** Past Due—Past due balances will always be due immediately.
- 22** Current Due—Balances for current billing cycle due on scheduled due date
- 23** Total Due—Total due for current balance plus any past balances to bring account up to date
- 24** Due Date—Indicates when bill is due in order to avoid late fees
- 25** Enter Amount Paid—Place to indicate amount of payment being made by member
- 26** Cooperative Address—Mail payments to this address
- 27** Member’s Billing Address—Self explanatory



Reference your monthly power bill for more detail

# The Power of Membership:

## LREMC Celebrates National Co-op Month

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative. Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs. While many North Carolina electricity consumers pay power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots at electric co-ops like ours.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, co-ops try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your co-op's directors (fellow members, by the way) have only one thing in mind: keeping lights on safely, reliably, and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. And that's what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively

as it delivered affordable power to rural Americans.

The seven principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and members' economic participation, among others—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

Leadership at Lumbee River EMC shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting on October 14, visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

That's the cooperative difference.



## Red Springs Named NCREDC "STEP Town"

The North Carolina Rural Development Center, Inc. has selected Red Springs as one of the eleven towns to participate in the 2010 NC Step Program. The NC Small Towns Economic Prosperity (STEP) Program is a two-year program with three primary goals:

- Support economic development in small towns adversely affected by structural changes in the economy or recent natural disasters
- Implement a comprehensive model of technical assistance and grant making to aid in revitalization efforts
- Provide information vital to the development of public policies that support long-term investment in the economic vitality of North Carolina's small towns

The STEP Program was launched in spring 2006 as the centerpiece of the Small

Towns Initiative. While the initiative addresses broad issues affecting the growth and development of small towns, NC STEP focuses on how to help individual small towns reinvigorate their economies. Eligibility for selection into the program is restricted to municipalities with fewer than 7,500 people, either within the state's 85 rural counties or within urban counties as defined as economically distressed by the N.C. Department of Commerce. The towns selected for participation represent a broad range of characteristics, including geographical distribution, population size and diversity and management structure, resource availability and degree of readiness.

Red Springs is the third town in Robeson County to be included in the STEP Program in the last four years. In the 2006–2009 phase, Maxton and Rowland participated in the small town initiative.

Many North Carolina small towns are dedicated to shaping a new future for the members of their community. As a participant in the STEP Program, Red Springs will have the opportunity to seek ways to overcome adversity by building on an existing foundation, setting a new course for years to come.

A kick-off meeting is being held on September 25th to get the process under way. There is still plenty of time to find an opportunity to participate if you are interested. This is not limited to business owners. The committee hopes to have citizens of all backgrounds who have an interest in the economic health of Red Springs to join in the effort. If you would like to help, contact Johnny Robertson ([Johnny@johnfuels.com](mailto:Johnny@johnfuels.com)) or Willie Goodyear ([wjgoodyear@yahoo.com](mailto:wjgoodyear@yahoo.com)) for additional information.

**Qualified products are:**

- (1) Clothes washers
- (2) Freezers and refrigerators
- (3) Central air conditioners and room air conditioners
- (4) Air-source heat pumps and geo-thermal heat pumps
- (5) Ceiling fans
- (6) Dehumidifiers
- (7) Programmable thermostats

**NOTE:** The Energy Star specification for programmable thermostats was suspended on December 31, 2009. Check with retailers to determine if their existing stock of Energy Star labeled programmable thermostats (manufactured

prior to 12/31/09) offered for sale are still eligible for the exemption.

LREMC encourages our members to utilize this tax holiday to save money, save energy and protect the environment. Many Energy star qualified appliances use 30 percent less energy than conventional models without sacrificing features, style or comfort.

**For more information about the tax holiday, visit:**

[www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=NC50F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=NC50F&re=1&ee=1)

[www.dorn.com/taxes/sales/energystar\\_holiday.html](http://www.dorn.com/taxes/sales/energystar_holiday.html)



It may be time to replace your refrigerator. A fridge made before 1993 could cost more than \$100 each year to operate. A new ENERGY STAR qualified model could cut your related energy costs in half. In addition, newer models keep food fresher longer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

**Time's Running Out...**

**DECEMBER 31**

**...to take advantage of Federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits!**

Incentives provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help you make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home expire **Dec. 31, 2010**. Don't miss your chance to save!

You can receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010.

For a full list of qualified improvements visit:  
[www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits)

**Saving with the STIMULUS**

# Co-op Directors Honored For Service



Left to right: Ambrose Locklear, Jr., Madie Rae Locklear and Proctor Locklear, Jr. with their years of service awards.

Three members of the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation have been recognized for their years of service to the electric cooperative. Madie Rae Locklear was honored for 20 years of service, Ambrose Locklear was recognized for 15 years of service and Proctor Locklear was recognized for 15 years of service.

The commendable service awards were presented at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives'

(NCAEC) annual meeting. NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Lumbee River EMC.

The cooperatives provide electric services that are reliable, safe and affordable to more than 950,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The co-ops are not-for-profit organizations that are member owned and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

**LUMBEE RIVER EMC**

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**Editor: Walter White**

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Ambrose Locklear	738-5556
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