

Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

Union Power Awards

\$20,000 in Bright Ideas Grants

Nearly 7,200 students will benefit from the Bright Ideas grants that were awarded by Union Power Cooperative in November. Union Power Cooperative granted \$20,000 this year to area teachers for their "Bright Ideas."

Grants were awarded in surprise visits to the teachers' classrooms during Bright Ideas week. Teachers' reactions ranged from screaming and jumping up and down to being in total shock. At Crown Point Elementary in Mecklenburg County, a school-wide assembly was held in honor of Crown Point Music teacher Jomelle Key. Much to her surprise and the surprise of her students, Carolina Panthers Linebackers James Anderson and Adam Seward, along with Sir Purr, the mascot, helped Union Power present the check for her grant, "Sharing Our North Carolina Heritage."

The purpose of the Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, is to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K-12 that would not otherwise be funded. Since 1994, the grant program has awarded more than \$5.5 million to sponsor nearly 5,000 projects in schools across North Carolina, benefiting more than 850,000 students.

2007-2008 Bright Ideas Grant Winners

C. C. Griffin Middle

Francine Zywiec, Mary Leigh Johnston, Kristy Bullock, and Connie Russell

Northwest Cabarrus Middle

Beth Duncan

C. E. Boger Elementary

Nancy Sloop, Jodie Ramsey, Jake Gray, and Gaye Durham

Mt. Pleasant Elementary

Vicki B. Isenhour

Crown Point Elementary

Jomelle Key

E. E. Waddell High

Tamica Stubbs

Reedy Creek Elementary

Anne Atkins-Bostic, Sandra Hill and Cara Pickard

Shive Elementary

Lynn Plummer, II, Dana Dry, Frances Justus, and Heather Lankford

Norwood Elementary

Beverly McIntyre

Shiloh Elementary

Kate Milutin

Forest Hills High School

Suzette Bentley and Kathy Deese

Piedmont High School

Tracy Price and Susan Helms

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Jeff Weis and Larry Robinson



Carolina Panthers linebackers, Adam Seward and James Anderson, take part in the Bright Ideas celebration at Crown Point Elementary.



Lynn Plummer excitedly explains "Bright Ideas" to his kindergarten class at Shive Elementary. Mr. Plummer's grant, "Anchors Ahoy! Sink or Float," was funded \$2,000.



Tony E. Herrin
Executive Vice President
and General Manager

New Year, Same Focus

Committed to Providing Affordable, Reliable Power

Where did 2007 go? It came and went in a flash and more than 4,000 new members later, here we are. Union Power's electrical system has experienced an average annual energy growth of approximately 6.5 percent per year in kilowatt-hour sales over the last five years and projections indicate that the growth in kilowatt-hour sales during the next four years will continue to grow. Our Engineering staff anticipates an average system demand increase of approximately 8.5 percent per year over the next four years and expects to add more than 25,000 new consumers to our system.

With this rate of growth we are forced to build more infrastructure to support and meet those needs.

Looking Ahead to Meet Future Demand

To maintain the standard of living that we all expect, and to encourage the economic health of the communities in which we live and work, Union Power must build additional electric infrastructure and make necessary upgrades to our distribution system. We are currently in the process of building two new substations in western Union County.

Due to explosive residential growth in western Union County, Union Power is constructing a new substation in the Wesley Chapel area. During the past year, the Cooperative purchased land and began site preparation for construction of another new substation in the Hemby Bridge area of Union County. These new substations will enable the Cooperative to meet expected demands in this area and provide relief to the existing substations serving those areas.

We are also starting construction on a new transmission line in Cabarrus County. This conversion will require that the Cooperative build approximately 7 miles of new transmission line between Locust, in Stanly County, and our Flowes Store Substation in Cabarrus County. All of these projects are due to be completed this year.

Renewable Energy Sources

Last year you probably started hearing a lot of talk about the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. This is and will continue to be an important topic. Renewables include electricity produced from such sources as wind, solar, water, and animal waste.

State energy legislation was signed into law on August 20, 2007, that promotes development of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard requires electric cooperatives in North Carolina to generate or purchase 10 percent of their total sales from renewable energy sources or reduce

electricity consumption through energy conservation initiatives. At the federal level, the Energy Future Coalition's 25 x '25 plan would require 25 percent of energy to come from renewable resources by 2025.

While renewable technologies sound simple enough to implement and incorporate, there are many complicated and logistical questions that will need to be addressed to keep our electricity costs affordable. Renewables play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; however, each of these sources has its limitations. Technologies are still developing and obstacles arise when it comes to siting facilities. Also in most cases, the cost to produce energy through these technologies is high.

But we as consumers of electricity can begin right now by conserving electricity and being more energy efficient. It's the small steps that can make a big difference. Visit our web site, www.union-power.com, to learn more about making your home more energy efficient. There you will find an online home energy audit you can do on your home and a light bulb calculator that will show you how much energy can be saved by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs. You can also visit www.energystar.gov for some energy saving information.

We will continue to make it our goal to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Thank you for allowing us to serve you over the years as we look ahead to a brand new year as your energy service provider.

Scholarships to Basketball Camps Available to Students in Grades 6-8



Coach Roy Williams



Coach Kay Yow

Across the state this year, more than 60 scholarships will be given out for the Roy Williams Basketball Camp for boys and the Kay Yow Basketball Camp for girls.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are pleased to provide the opportunity for young men to attend a camp conducted by Roy Williams, coach of the 2005 National Champion Tar Heels and for young women to attend a camp conducted by Kay Yow, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee.

Coach Williams, his staff, and members of the Tar Heel men's basketball team will instruct campers at the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, June 21–25. Coach Yow, her staff, and members of the women's Wolfpack basketball team will instruct the Kay Yow Basketball Camp in Raleigh, June 22–26. The staff of both camps will work closely with campers to develop the fundamentals of basketball, provide individual and team competition that challenges young athletes to excel on and off the court.

Scholarship applications for the Roy Williams and Kay Yow camps will be accepted beginning in January through March 31, and winners will be announced in May. Winners of the Touchstone Energy Camp scholarships will attend the overnight basketball camp, courtesy of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and Union Power Cooperative. Scholarship recipients must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the camp and provide their own transportation to and from camp.

Eligible students who are interested in the scholarship can visit our web site, www.union-power.com, or contact Carrie Cameron at (704) 220-0714 or carrie.cameron@union-power.com. Students can also download applications at www.ncelectriccooperatives.com, beginning in January. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities, and an essay that must accompany the application.

For more information on the Roy Williams Basketball Camp, call (919) 967-0663 and for the Kay Yow Basketball Camp visit www.kayyowcamps.com.

Play it safe

Childproofing Your Home for Electrical Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has reported that several hundred people die each year and 3,600 people experience permanently disabling injuries as a result of electric shock. Improper protection of electrical outlets and appliances is a direct cause of much of these hazards, as children commonly do not know proper electrical safety. Along with teaching your children about electrical safety, it is vital to childproof your home now to ensure your little loved ones are safe and protected. Follow these steps for a safer home:

- As the majority of electrical accidents occur in the kitchen, begin by installing safety covers on your oven dials. Remove the original dial and place a protective cover over the control system. Once it's snapped into place, put the original dial back on and snap the clear, plastic lid closed over top. This small step keeps little fingers off the stove dials and ensures only adults can adjust the temperature of the oven and stovetop.
- While in the kitchen, install a plastic oven lock. These little latches prevent children from opening the oven door to peek at goodies inside without a parent's guidance. To conserve energy, consider purchasing a plastic refrigerator lock as well. These work just like the oven lock and can prevent excess energy from escaping out of opened refrigerators.



- Go through your home and install protective plastic covers on all electrical outlets. There are several kid-friendly versions of outlet covers, including some that function as nightlights!
- Install snap-on power strip covers to prevent children from tampering with and unplugging cords.
- Dangling cords are a hazard for young, eager hands. Install an inexpensive cord shortener to reduce this danger.

While searching for potential electrical hazards, get down to your child's eye level to truly get a sense of the dangers and how best to prevent them. Talk to your children about electrical safety and set a good example for them by following safety precautions yourself. Follow these tips today to create a safer future for your home and loved ones. The majority of these safety tools are very inexpensive, but their value is priceless.

Right-of-Way Clearing



During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood. Carolina Tree Care and ABC Tree Professionals will be working in the following areas of Union and Stanly Counties:

Old Waxhaw Monroe Road
Adams Road
Bigham Road
McWhorter Road
Parkwood School Road
Nesbit Road
Mary Elizabeth Church Road

South Potter Road
Tom Starnes Road
Old Highway Road
Lancaster Highway
Harkey Road
Pharr Mill Road
Hilliard Lane

For more information about Union Power's right-of-way program or tree trimming practices, please call (704) 289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz (ext. 3291).



Did you know the average Plasma TV uses more energy per year than the modern refrigerator? The 40 plus inch screens can be real energy hogs even when turned off.

Here's some tips to save energy dollars:

- Look for the Energy Star label before you purchase a new TV
- Turn off the TV when not being used
- Turn down the LCD's backlight
- Turn on the Power Saver Mode
- Reduce light output with other settings
- Control the rooms lighting with thermal shades
- Consider a smaller screen size — they use less power

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NC One Call Center
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Providing electricity and energy services to over 63,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

SERVICE CHARGES:

Security Deposit-charges vary
\$0, \$175, \$375

Connection Fee
\$25

Late Payment Charge

1% of the amount of bill.

Returned Check Fee

\$25

Meter Test

\$75 (refunded if not accurate)

Dual Meter Comparison

\$50 (refunded if not accurate)

Field Collection Charge

\$25 (only checks or money orders accepted, no cash)

RECONNECT CHARGES: (collected in advance)

Normal Hours

\$50 (if called in *before* 4:00 p.m.)

After Hours

\$100 (if called in *after* 4:00 p.m.)

Weekends and Holidays

\$100