



# Cooperative *review*

October 2007

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

## Be sure to be at Union Power's 68th Annual Meeting



Queen Charlotte Chorus

**Y**ou don't want to miss anything at this year's Annual Membership meeting, being held on October 13, 2007, at Wingate University. Along with the full-course complimentary breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m., there is so much to do and see. You certainly do not want to miss the sounds of the Queen Charlotte Chorus. They will be providing music

and entertainment in Austin Auditorium beginning at 9:30 a.m., so make sure you come out early.

The annual meeting is the first opportunity to claim your member dividend checks. This year, we are distributing more than 2 million dollars back to our members. If you are not able to attend the meeting, you will receive your check in the mail in

late October or early November. If you have been a member less than 20 years, you will see a credit on your bill.

The business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Austin Auditorium. During the meeting, we will share the business of the co-op over the last year and Board elections will be held. All of those attending the business meeting will be given a free compact fluorescent light bulb and have an opportunity to win a cash door prize.

Our Health and Safety Fair will be one of the largest and best ever. Stop by and get your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar checked for free. You can get a flu shot for only \$30. These are all very important screenings to have to ensure your health. Make sure you don't miss this year's annual meeting! **Don't forget your registration card** on the outside cover of this issue of *Carolina Country* magazine.

### Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 13, 2007—Wingate University

**NEW this year.**  
*Bring your registration card*

**7:00–10:00 a.m.** - Registration & Member Dividend Checks, Complimentary Breakfast, Health & Safety Fair, Marketing Exhibits, and Live Power Line Demo

**9:30–10:30 a.m.** - Musical Entertainment by Queen Charlotte Chorus in Austin Auditorium

**9:30–11:30 a.m.** - Kids Festival Featuring Fish the Magish, Balloon Bounce, and Pinky the Clown in Sanders-Sykes Physical Education Building

**10:30 a.m.** - Director Elections, Business Meeting, \$2,500 Cash Prize Giveaways

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# Pledge to Make a Difference, One Light at a Time

*Be part of Union Power's commitment to save energy and our environment.*



**T**his year, Union Power Cooperative is volunteering to help preserve our country's energy resources and join Americans nationwide in the fight against global warming by encouraging our members to change at least one light at home to one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR for energy efficiency. Union Power is doing this as part of the national ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign, a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and organizations across the country to encourage individuals to actively help save energy at home, starting with a switch to energy-efficient lighting.

We have set a goal to encourage 300 people to take the online ENERGY STAR Change A Light Pledge within the next year, which would mean a potential savings of \$23,385. To give you a sense of the impact that small actions can have on our energy resources and the environment, if every American home replaced just one light bulb or fixture with an ENERGY STAR labeled one, each year we would save more than \$600 million in energy costs. This is enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars!

Because lighting accounts for nearly 20% of the average home's electric bill, changing to more efficient options not only makes a dent in the amount of fossil fuels our local power plants must burn to generate electricity, but also helps reduce our electric bills at home. Over the life of a single compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), you can save an average of \$30 or more in electricity costs while preventing more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, every CFL uses 75% less energy than a standard incandescent and lasts as much as 10 times longer.

This October 3 will mark the third annual ENERGY STAR Change A Light Day, and hundreds of organizations like ours will announce their participation in the pledge at that time. Please join us in taking the pledge at our October 13 Annual Meeting, where each attending member will be given a free CFL bulb and hear the details of the Change A Light, Change The World program. It's a simple commitment that will go a long way to assure that the energy resources we rely on and the environment we live in are preserved for generations to come.



**TAKE THE PLEDGE!**

Visit [www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com) to sign up and take the pledge.



## We need your phone number!

Call us at 704-289-3145 or 1-800-922-6840 to speak to a customer service representative who can update your phone number. By having this information in our outage reporting system, it could speed up the power restoration process.

# Put Your Windows to Work

## *by saving You Money*

Although windows provide our homes with light and ventilation, they can negatively impact a home's energy efficiency. Air conditioning and heating units fight with poorly sealed and/or thin windows to keep your home at a comfortable temperature, which accounts for 10 to 25% of your monthly electric utility bill. Adding storm windows to your home can help improve the efficiency of your windows.

Storm windows improve the comfort of your home by slowing the heat movement and reducing air leakage. They can also help protect the primary windows of your home from weather damage, such as rain or snowmelt. Beyond saving energy, storm windows can lower the maintenance costs on your primary windows and reduce outside noise and pollutants from entering your home. Storm windows also make it more difficult for potential intruders to enter a home through a window.

Storm windows are relatively easy to apply to single-pane windows on single-family or multi-family buildings. They can be applied on the interior or exterior of your primary window. They range in price from inexpensive plastic sheets or films designed for one heating season to thick glass units. Interior storm windows are better suited for apartments and homes with more than one floor. They are also easier to install and remove and require less maintenance because they are not exposed to outdoor



elements. Exterior storm windows are energy efficient, but a bit pricey, and it may be more cost efficient to replace your current windows. When installing storm windows, it is important to remember that despite the type of storm window you install, the storm window frame must be hung square with the primary window. You should also consider how easy it is to move the storm window for cleaning and ventilation.



## *Jobs.*

Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community. So we keep jobs at home.

And co-ops employ a lot of Americans... more than half a million, in fact. Our payrolls exceed \$15 billion annually.

From Main Street storefronts to Fortune 500 companies, co-ops generate jobs and economic growth in our communities. Because that's where we come from.

## *Cooperatives.*

Owned by Our Members,  
Committed to Our Communities.

Figures published Dec. 2006



# 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:

#### Union County:

Lawyers Road  
Indian Trail-Fairview Road  
Surry Lane  
Simpson Road  
Highway 601  
Kate Road  
Highway 218

#### Stanly County:

Highway 24/27  
Endy Road  
Canton Road  
Bost Road  
Helms Road  
Burluson Road  
St. Martin Road  
Carriker Road  
Dry Road

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

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#### Business Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(704) 289-3145 or (800) 922-6840  
[www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com)

#### 24-Hour Outage Reporting Service and Account Information

(800) 794-4423

#### Call Before You Dig

NC One Call Center  
(800) 632-4949

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

**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



## Heating, Cooling, & Electrical Services

- Certified Trane Comfort Specialist
- Heat Pump Financing Available
- Generator Installation Available
- Free Estimates for Heating and Air
- Easy Payment Plans



**704-283-9047 or 800-922-6840**