

Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

Check Us Out Online Union Power's Web Site Gets a New Look



Are you taking advantage of Union Power's web site? If not, there's no better time than right now. Over the past several months, Union Power's web site, www.union-power.com, has gone through a major redesign. The site has an all new look that makes navigating through the site a breeze.

The new web site, which was unveiled on June 25, is organized with new features that will make your life easier when dealing with your power company.

The new web site still gives members the ability to view and pay their bill online. However, now a member can apply for service, request to disconnect service, transfer service, and update

their account information on our web site with our new online forms.

Members needing these services can fill out the form and submit it online. Once the form has been submitted, a customer service representative can obtain it from the web site and start processing the member's request.

Also available on the web site is a form to sign up for Electronic Draft Payment and forms to sign up for E Bill, Levelized Billing, and Budget Billing. All of these services can help you manage your electric bills effectively.

Please check us out online at www.union-power.com, to take advantage of these great features plus much more.

Don't Miss Union Power's Annual Meeting



2006 Grand
Prize Winner,
LaVaughn Little

You don't want to miss anything at this year's Annual Membership meeting, being held on Saturday, October 13, at Wingate University. Along with the full-course, complimentary breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m., there is so much to do and see. There will be musical entertainment by Queen Charlotte Chorus in Austin Auditorium beginning at 9:00 a.m., so make sure you come out early.

Our Health and Safety Fair will be one of the best ever. Stop by and get your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar checked for free. You can get a flu shot for \$30. These are all very important screenings to have.

At 10:30 a.m. in Austin Auditorium, the business meeting will begin where you can find out what's been happening at the Co-op over the past year. Also by coming to the meeting, you will have a chance to win \$2,500 in cash prizes. Make sure you don't miss this year's annual meeting! We want to see you there.

in this
issue

page 22
Bylaws

page 23
Annual Meeting

page 23
Health Fair

page 24
Power Points

Membership Involvement

The Bylaws of Your Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members shall be held on a Saturday in September or October of each year as may be determined by the board of directors, at such place in the County of Union, State of North Carolina, as shall be designated in the notice of the meeting for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

Notice of Meetings

Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting shall be delivered to members not less than seven days and not more than thirty days before the date of the meeting. The notice can be delivered by mail or in person. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative with postage thereon prepaid. If a member does not receive notice of an annual meeting, it will not invalidate any action of the members at that meeting.

Quorum

Not less than 1% of the total number of the members of the Cooperative, as determined to exist by the board of directors as of the August board meeting preceding the next scheduled annual membership meeting, must be present or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum for the purpose of voting in the election of directors. For all other transactions of business at all meetings of the members, a majority of the members (51%) in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

Voting

Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present all questions shall be decided by a vote of the majority of the members voting thereon in person or proxy, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative, or these bylaws. A jointly held membership shall constitute one member for all purposes including voting and all other matters presented to the board and/or members. The vote of either or both shall constitute one vote.

Proxies

At all meetings of members a member may vote by proxy executed in writing by the member. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary before or at the time of the meeting. No proxy shall be voted at any meeting of the members unless it shall designate the particular meeting at which it is to be voted, and no proxy shall be

voted at any meeting other than the one so designated or any adjournment of such meeting. No person shall vote as proxy for more than five (5) members at any meeting of the members and no proxy shall be valid after sixty (60) days from the date of its execution. A proxy shall designate one of the following to vote: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President & General Manager, or any board member or employee-member to be allotted and designated by the Board President. The presence of a member at a meeting of the members shall revoke a proxy theretofore executed by him and such member shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if he had not executed a proxy.

Tenure, Qualification, & Districts

At each annual meeting of the members, qualified members shall be elected by ballot to the board of directors to replace those directors whose terms are expiring. Directors shall serve for three (3) years or until their successors are duly elected and qualify, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the eligibility and removal of directors.

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not eighteen or more years of age, a bonafide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, or is any way employed by or has a substantial financial interest (more than 2%) in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or in a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, or who was employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiary within six (6) consecutive years before that person's candidacy for a directorship. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either, but not both, may serve as a director, provided, however, that neither shall be eligible to become or remain a director unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth.

To insure equitable representation of all members of the Cooperative on the board of directors, the service area is divided into six districts to have representation on the board as hereafter provided:

District I (which includes Rowan & Stanly Counties) shall be represented by three (3) directors;

District II (which includes that portion of Union County generally east of a line described as follows: beginning at the intersection of Highway 601 with the northern boundary of Union County, hence south along Highway 601

to the intersection with Highway 74, hence west with Highway 74 to the intersection with Secrest Short Cut Road, hence west along Secrest Short Cut Road to the intersection with Rocky River Road, hence south along Rocky River Road to the intersection with Highway 75, hence west along Highway 75 to the Union County line) shall be represented by two (2) directors;

District III (which includes that portion of Union County generally west of a line described as follows: beginning at the intersection of Highway 16 and the Union County line, hence south along Highway 16 to the intersection with Highway 84, hence east along Highway 84 to the intersection with Rocky River Road, hence south along Rocky River Road to the intersection with Highway 75, hence west along Highway 75 to the Union County line) shall be represented by one (1) director;

District IV (which includes Mecklenburg County and that portion of Union County generally west of a line described as follows: beginning at the intersection of Highway 16 and the Union County line, hence south along Highway 16 to the intersection with Highway 84, hence east along Highway 84 to the intersection with Rocky River Road, hence north along Rocky River Road to the intersection with Secrest Short Cut Road, hence west along Secrest Short Cut Road to the intersection with Idlewild Road, hence west along Idlewild Road to the Union County line) shall be represented by two (2) directors;

District V (which includes that portion of Union County generally west of a line described as follows: beginning at the intersection of Highway 601 with the northern boundary of Union County, hence south along Highway 601 to the intersection with Highway 74, hence west with Highway 74 to the intersection with Secrest Short Cut Road, hence west along Secrest Short Cut Road to the intersection with Idlewild Road, hence west along Idlewild Road to the Union County line) shall be represented by one (1) director;

District VI (which includes Cabarrus County) shall be represented by two (2) directors.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

Nominations

It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than seventy (70) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as



Members enjoy receiving their member dividend checks

to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but any group of members consisting of no less than three percent (3%) of the total membership of the Cooperative, as determined to exist by the board of directors as of the August board meeting preceding the next scheduled annual membership meeting, may make other nominations in writing by petition over their signature not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such petition at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The nominations made by petition shall be in writing and include the following information:

- Petitioner's name and all persons signing such petition must be legibly printed; include a hand written signature; date; home address; and telephone number legibly printed.
- Account number with Union Power Cooperative for verification purposes.
- Candidate's name, district of candidate and director position sought.
- In accordance with the bylaws and the Cooperative's articles of incorporation, only one individual from a husband/wife joint membership may sign such petition.

Nominations shall not be considered from the floor at any meeting of the members. The members may at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

Union Power Cooperative's 68th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 13, 2007—Wingate University
7:00 a.m.—Noon

Proxies will come on the outside of your October *Carolina Country* magazine along with Official Notice of the Annual Meeting and your Annual Report.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 13, 2007—Wingate University

- 7:00–10:00 a.m.** - Registration & Member Dividend Checks, Free Breakfast, Health & Safety Fair, and Marketing Exhibits
- 9:00–10:30 a.m.** - Muscial Entertainment by Queen Charlotte Chorus in Austin Auditorium
- 9:30 until Noon** - Kids Festival
- 10:30 a.m.** - Director Elections, Business Session, \$2,500 Cash Prize Giveaways

Need your cholesterol or blood sugar level checked? Maybe get a flu shot or have your blood pressure taken? Plan to join us at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Our Health and Safety Fair will be held in Cuddy Arena at Wingate University from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.



Several local organizations have volunteered to provide you with the latest in health care information and screenings. Flu shots will be available again this year for \$30. Medicare patients must present their cards. Screenings also include free cholesterol and blood sugar checks, blood pressure, height and weight checks, and more.

A representative from the *Carolina Country* magazine and Touchstone Energy will be at our health fair this year. Below is a list of some of the Health Fair vendors that will be there this year.

2007 Health Fair Vendors

- Advanced Energy
- American Red Cross - Union County Chapter
- Brookdale Senior Living
- *Carolina Country* magazine
- Carolinas Medical Center (Blood Sugar and Cholesterol screenings, Endoscopy Information)
- Carolinas Rehabilitation
- Community Health Services of Union County—Flu Shots \$30
- Council on Aging
- Hospice of Union County
- Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center
- Monroe Chiropractic
- Pike Live Line Demo
- Project Star at Carolinas Rehabilitation
- Superior Home Medical, Inc.
- Union County Health Department
- Union County Emergency Medical Services
- United Family Services



Performing a Home Energy Audit

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average family in the United States spends approximately \$1,500 annually on utility bills. Combined, Americans spend more than \$160 billion a year to heat, cool, and light their homes. By performing home energy audits, you can determine how much energy your home consumes and then assess what measures you can take to make your home more efficient. You can visit Union Power's web site, www.union-power.com, to conduct an online home energy audit. All you have to do is enter in your zip code and some specific information pertaining to your house. It's simple to do!



Inspecting your own home:

- The first thing to do when performing your own home energy audit is to make a list of any existing problems such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. Next, look for air leaks throughout your home. The most common places for air leaks include: electrical outlets, switch plates, window frames, baseboards, weather stripping around doors, fireplace dampers, attic hatches, and wall or window-mounted air conditioners. You can usually tell if there is a leak around windows and doors if you can see daylight around the perimeter.
- When looking at the outside of your home, you should examine areas where two different building materials meet. This could include: all exterior corners where siding and chimneys meet and areas where the foundation and the bottom of the exterior brick or siding meet. Make sure to plug and caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. You should also look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding of your home. If you see cracks and holes, make sure to seal them with the appropriate material. Finally, check the exterior caulking around doors and windows and the sealing on exterior storm doors.
- When performing your own home audit, make sure to closely examine the ceilings and walls within your home. If these two areas are not properly insulated, your heat and cold air loss could be tremendous. You should check to see that the attic hatch is heavily insulated and closed tightly. In the attic, you should determine if openings for items such as pipes, ductwork, and chimneys are sealed. If you see any gaps, you should seal them with expanding foam caulk or another permanent sealant.

If you have any questions you can contact our Energy Services Department at 704-289-3145 or 1-800-922-6840.

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Providing electricity and energy services to over 62,000 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

Reconnect 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