



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*December 2018*

*Member Newsletter*

## Winner of the Bright Ideas Grant Program

Congratulations to Danisha Williams of Creekside Elementary. She is the recipient of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2018-2019 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina’s twenty-seven Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K-12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2000.00.

Since 1984, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$11.5 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 2 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2019. In order to be considered for a Bright Idea Grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas Grant Program, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).



## Holiday cooking safety tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it’s also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what’s supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- \* Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- \* Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- \* Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- \* Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- \* Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- \* Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- \* To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- \* Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- \* Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- \* Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- \* Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- \* Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).



## *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

It is hard to imagine that another year is nearly behind us. We just held our 81st annual meeting and our sights are focused on the 2019 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with a full house of members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year.

Secretary Treasurer Kirby Bell reported on our audit which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion with regard to our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

Over 100 members walked out as winners with very nice door prizes, most of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

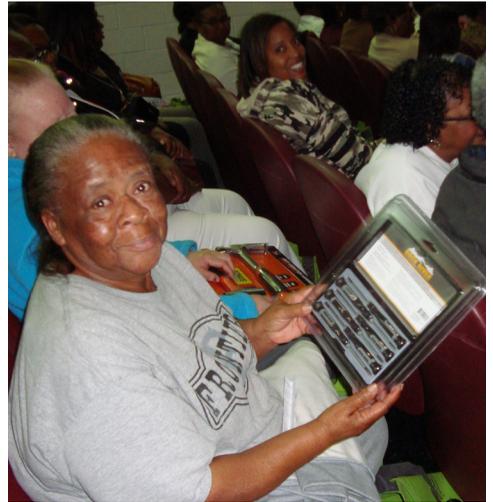
The following directors were re-elected to serve 3 year terms: District 3, Jeffrey Letchworth; District 4, Richard Harper and District 8, Glenn Smith.

I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of over 60 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost. Fortunately, 2017 did not have any major storms.

Looking forward, we will feel the financial impact of North Carolinas Coal Ash cleanup. The majority of the cost will no doubt fall on Duke Energy but all rate payers in the state who received power generated by coal will be impacted. Since a portion of our power was generated with coal, we to will be impacted until such time as the determination of complete clean up is finished. At the time of this message it appears that these cost will likely drag on for three or four years.

Crews continue rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. Clean right of ways and strong facilities is at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. With the storms this year, we can see first hand the benefits of both right of way and line maintenance. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

# Annual Meeting Pictures



*Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Tuesday, January 1st for  
New Years and Monday, January 21st  
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

## Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

### SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- **Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?** YES NO  
Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- **Are any outlets or switches discolored?** YES NO  
Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- **Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?** YES NO  
Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

### CORDS

- **Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?** YES NO  
Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?** YES NO  
Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?** YES NO  
Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

### ELECTRIC PANEL

- **Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?** YES NO  
If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- **Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?** YES NO  
AFCIs provide greater fire protection.  
Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

*Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist.  
Visit [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org) for more information.  
Source: ESFI*



De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

### CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del  
horario de oficina  
252-753-8778

### Co-op Office Hours

Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

### POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS

During weekends, holidays and  
after office hours  
252-753-8778