



# The Perspective

An Editorial by Chief Executive Officer Doug Johnson

I'm excited to announce a new initiative that will benefit all the communities served by Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation.

Through a partnership we've forged with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, we will be sharing a position and hiring an individual to fill the role of Community Development Manager.

Half of this individual's position will be funded through a portion of the profits of the cooperative's heating fuels subsidiary, Blue Ridge Energies. His or her primary goal for Blue Ridge will be to establish the Blue Ridge Community Foundation. The foundation is designed to generate funds for quality-of-life projects and programs in our local communities. The ultimate goal is to make northwest North Carolina an even better place to live and work.

In addition to utilizing some of the profits from the subsidiary for the foundation, this

individual will also be implementing a program called "Operation Round Up." This program is designed to expand the mission of our current BREMCare program. As you know, BREMCare is funded by our members who contribute a few cents each month by rounding up their bill to the next dollar amount. Local helping agencies select the most deserving individuals to receive BREMCare assistance to help pay heating bills.

Through broadening the mission of our community assistance program, not only will more people be able to receive heating assistance, we also envision other community needs being met. Worthy and much needed efforts such as getting more high-quality health care services to our outlying communities could be funded. Education and economic development efforts are other areas that need support in order to add to the quality of life for our communities.

By the time you receive this issue of *The Enlightener*, we may already be announcing the person who will fill the role as Community Development Manager. This individual will need to be based in Watauga County due the community college's goals for their Watauga campus. But their role for the cooperative and its subsidiary will span across our service territory. I hope you'll join me in excitement and support of our new Community Development Manager, and the opportunities we envision for our member-owners and local communities.

## Partnership to Benefit Communities

# "Meter Tampering"

(continued from page 1)

cooperative must disconnect the electric service without notice and add up to a \$300 fee as applicable, along with any power usage, fees, and other charges to the account. The party whose name appears on the account is responsible for these charges.

Power diversion is theft and therefore, unlawful. Utilities may seek criminal prosecution in the event of meter tampering. Again, the name which appears on the electric account is the person who is held responsible.

Please also understand that it is extremely dangerous for anyone other than a trained Blue Ridge Electric employee or authorized contractor of the cooperative to break a meter seal. Energy is flowing into the meter and when tampered with, can cause a fire, explosion or electrocution.

If you currently have renters whose electric account is in your name, please take this opportunity to contact your tenant. Have them call or visit their local Blue Ridge Electric office to have the account transferred into their name.

## How to Report An Outage

**Call 1-800-448-2383 to use PowerLine any time, day or night, for the quickest way to report an outage or get account information.**

**Or, call your local Blue Ridge Electric district office (phone numbers listed at right).**



# The Enlightener



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PowerLine® 1-800-448-2383

(PowerLine is an automated account information and outage reporting system.)

Toll Free 1-800-451-5474  
(for members outside the service area)

To report an outage at any time, call one of the numbers listed above.

### Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday  
Night deposit available

Visit us on the web:

[www.BlueRidgeEMC.com](http://www.BlueRidgeEMC.com)



February 2006

## Scholarships Available from Blue Ridge Electric

As part of our commitment to supporting local communities, Blue Ridge Electric offers scholarship and youth leadership opportunities which are now open for applications.

### Scholarships

Blue Ridge Electric will award \$15,600 in scholarships to high school seniors and adults within the cooperative's service territory who are seeking a higher education. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of financial need, community activity, school performance and activities, and personal interviews.

Scholarships available are:

#### 4-Year Degrees

For high school seniors seeking a bachelor's degree, \$10,000 is available in the form of five \$2,000 **Goodman-Hurt** scholarships.

#### 2-Year Degrees

Seven scholarships worth \$5,600 are available to anyone living in the cooperative's service territory seeking a two-year degree. Five \$800 **Goodman-Hurt** technical/vocational scholarships are available.

**Suddreth and Cockerham Memorial Scholarships**

Also for those seeking a two-year

degree, an \$800 **Tom Cockerham scholarship** is available for Ashe County residents and an \$800 **Charles Suddreth scholarship** is available to Caldwell County residents.

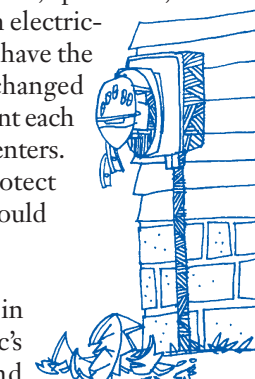
(See "Scholarships" on page 3)

## Landlords: Be Aware of Meter Tampering Costs Ensure Renters' Names are on Electric Accounts

If you rent a home, apartment, or other structure with electricity, be sure to have the electric account changed to the current tenant each time you change renters. This will help protect you against fees should meter tampering occur.

As explained in Blue Ridge Electric's Service Rules and Regulations, if a meter seal is cut or broken or power diversion is identified, the

(See "Meter Tampering" on page 6)





# The Trading Post

## FOR SALE

**1981 Chevy fifth wheel truck**, 4x4, 350 c.i. 4-sp, lock out hubs, new paint, steel flat bed, Reese hitch, ex. cond. Call 336-372-2817.

**Round table**, oak, lions feet, 2 leaves, 6 caned-seat chairs, \$500. Cherry hutch, mirrored back wall, 2 pieces. Paid \$1,000, asking \$500. Call 828-963-5410.

**Antique platform scales**, Fairbanks Morse, 1,000 lbs. capacity. Very good condition, \$175. Call 828-396-2510.

**Kimball Artist Spinet Piano**, \$650; Silvertone tenor guitar (rare), \$100; Kay tenor banjo, \$75 or both for \$125. Call 828-297-6720.

**Bobsled**, two-horse, \$750; buggy with top, \$800. Call 336-349-6910.

**Four M&W 4' x 2' crank-out windows** w/screens and brown exterior trim, \$175 each or will take \$600 for all. Call 336-385-1799.

**Ceiling fans**, ten Hunter fans with light fixtures, 45", 3-speed, 5 blades. \$50 each or best offer. Call 828-313-0153.

**Gas fireplace**, free-standing propane, Megamaster, 1-yr. old, perfect cond., adjustable heat output, 22,000-23,000 BTUs, \$300. Call 828-297-3555.

**Black Tube Step Rails** for Dodge Dakota pickup. New, \$100. Call 828-313-9676.

**1988 Toyota Corolla FX**. Call 828-297-5432.

**1896 Steinway Piano**, upright, excellent condition. Women's cluster diamond ring. For more information, call 828-754-1353.

**Floor trusses**, 3 wooden trusses made from 2 x 4s, 30' long, \$80 ea. 1995 Oldsmobile, 89K mi., \$2,000. Call after 8 p.m. or lv. msg. at 336-385-1738.

**1997 Ford F150 XLT**, V-8, 4x4, \$6,000. Texpa livestock trailer, 5'x 8', \$1,100. Four chrome wheels w/tires, 15", \$425. All excellent cond. Call 336-384-9057.

## WANTED

**Quart fruit jars**, standard brands, call between 7 and 8 p.m., 336-363-3095.

## "Scholarships" (continued from page 1)

### How to Apply

Applications are available from high school guidance counselors, your local community college or at [www.BlueRidgeEMC.com](http://www.BlueRidgeEMC.com).

**The deadline for all scholarship applications is March 31.**

### Youth Tour

Each June, Blue Ridge Electric awards up to four rising seniors from its service area

with an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they join other students from across the nation for an educational and fun learning experience. The week-long trip begins June 10 and combines visiting historic sights, learning about rural electrification, meeting North Carolina elected officials and witnessing our government in action. Youth Tour winners are also eligible to apply for several college scholarships. Individual short essays and interviews

determine Youth Tour winners. Applications are available through guidance counselors or at [www.BlueRidgeEMC.com](http://www.BlueRidgeEMC.com). **All applications must be submitted by March 15.**

### Broyhill Leadership Conference

Blue Ridge Electric annually sponsors up to seven students from its service area to attend the highly acclaimed Broyhill Leadership Conference at Belmont Abby College. The five-day conference held during the summer

is available to any student in grades 10 through 12 nominated by their guidance counselor. Young people from across the nation will participate in the Broyhill Leadership Conference, which is designed to lead students to an understanding and usage of goal setting, motivational techniques, group dynamics,

communication, and cooperation. Applications are available through high school guidance counselors who will make the selection of the Broyhill Leadership Conference winners.



## Members Only News Board to Appoint Nominating Committee

At their February board meeting, the Board of Directors will appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of 12 members who will select candidates to fill four available board seats this year.

Nominating Committee members may not be employees, agents, officers, directors, close relatives, or known candidates to become directors. The committee should have adequate representation reflecting the number of directors from each district, except one member representing the membership-at-large who must be of the minority membership and may be a resident of any district.

The committee will meet March 23 to develop the slate of board candidates for available seats. A list of the candidates will be posted in each Blue Ridge Electric office the week after the March 23 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Additionally, nominations by petition must be made at least 60 days prior to the June 10 Annual Membership Meeting. Petitions must be signed by 15 or more members, with each signing his or her name as it appears on their electric service bill. Deadline for petitions is Monday, April 10. Petitions will be posted in each Blue Ridge Electric office beside the list of nominees from the Nominating Committee.

Information about board nominees will be mailed during late May to every Blue Ridge Electric member.

The following are qualifications to serve as a director of Blue Ridge Electric:

- ▶ Must be receiving electric service from Blue Ridge Electric at their primary residence
- ▶ Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the cooperative
- ▶ Their membership must not have been suspended at any time during the 12 months preceding the annual meeting
- ▶ Must be at least 18 years old
- ▶ Must not be employed by or in a position to financially gain from a competing enterprise of the cooperative or its subsidiary, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.
- ▶ The Director-at-Large seat is reserved to represent the minority membership of the cooperative. Only African American, Native American, Asian, or Hispanic members are eligible for this seat.
- ▶ Must not have been employed with the cooperative for the previous six years if a nominee is a former cooperative employee

**NOTICE** - Members of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post. However, no real estate, business, or ads for animals will be accepted. We will place ads in the "Trading Post" on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ads due to space limitations or questionable content. **Ads will be limited to a maximum of four lines.** We do not accept ads for wood or coal-burning appliances, or electric thermal storage units. Prices should be included on all items. Ads should be mailed to: Cornelia Cornell, Production Supervisor, the Enlightener, Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, PO Box 112, Lenoir, NC 28645.