

A bright spot

because you are a member-owner of Blue Ridge Electric



Your Blue Ridge Electric capital credits are here!

You own part of Blue Ridge Electric, along with the other members who receive electric services. Capital credits represent each member's ownership of the cooperative. Our members are receiving capital credits refunds in May and these funds represent your share of the 2008 margins recently retired by your board of directors.

Members who are due a capital credits refund of \$25 or more will receive a check in the mail. Those due less than \$25 will receive a credit on their May bill. Your ongoing use of the cooperative's electric services and the efficient management of Blue Ridge Electric continue to build your capital credits account.

We are happy to be able to provide this bright spot to our member-owners in these challenging economic times.

Members whose capital credits refunds are \$25 or more receive a check in the mail.



Members whose capital credits refunds are less than \$25 will receive a credit on their May electric bill.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Carolina country



Your Touchstone Energy Partner

2009 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Ashe County High School – Saturday, June 13, 2009

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

Capital Credits

Board Elections

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



2009 NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Greene



Director-at-Large
Gambill-Gwyn



Kenneth Greene
Ashe District

Joy Coffey
Watauga District

Charity Gambill-Gwyn
Director-at-Large

Jimmy D. Hemphill
Caldwell District



Coffey



Hemphill

www.BlueRidgeEMC.com

2009 Annual Membership Meeting

The 2009 Annual Membership Meeting of your cooperative will be held Saturday, June 13, at Ashe County High School. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The Business Session starts at 10 a.m. where the nominees listed above will be voted on to fill four available Board seats for this year's election. Plan to join us for the most important member meeting of the year!

Caldwell District

Monteen German
Kelly Melton
Caroline Woody

Watauga District

Margaret Pierce
Colleen Murray
Marcella Proffit

Ashe District

Brent Graybeal
Marty Norris
Robin Marlow

Alleghany District

Mary Joines
Peggy Choate
Patsy Hodge



WATAUGA DISTRICT
JOY COFFEY

- Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Directors, Blue Ridge Electric
- Blue Ridge Electric Board since 1996
- Retired, Vice President and Watauga Market Executive, Bank of Granite, Boone
- Blue Ridge Electric: Corporate Officers Group, Chair, Compensation Committee
- Charter member, Rhododendron Chapter of American Business Women's Association
- Member, Oak Grove Baptist Church; Chair, Budget and Finance Committee; Treasurer of Baptist Women, Past Trustee
- Member, Three Forks Baptist Association, Budget and Finance Committee
- Former Fund Raiser: American Heart Association American Cancer Society, and Watauga Medical Foundation
- Former Director, Boone Chamber
- Former Director/Treasurer, Watauga Hunger Coalition
- Watauga Team, CCC&TI Foundation Fundraising Committee, 2005-2009



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
CHARITY GAMBILL-GWYN

- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Directors, Blue Ridge Electric
- Blue Ridge Electric Board since 1976
- Retired, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, International Pipes & Accessories, LLC
- Credentialed Cooperative Director
- Awarded Board Leadership Training Certificate
- Associate, Grandview Memorial Funeral Home
- Compensation Committee, Blue Ridge Electric
- Member, White Plains Baptist Church, Sunday School teacher, Church Clerk
- Member, Ashe/Alleghany Gamma Delta Chapter
- Former Member, Alleghany County Board of Commissioners
- Former Member, Alleghany County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Former Member, Alleghany Board of Education



ASHE DISTRICT
KENNETH GREENE

- President, Board of Directors, Blue Ridge Electric
- Blue Ridge Electric Board since 1988
- Member, Board of Directors, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation
- Ex-officio member of all Blue Ridge Electric Board Committees: Corporate Officers, Policy and Member Relations, Finance and Rates, Compensation, Ashe Facilities
- Chairman, Compensation Committee, AF Financial Group
- Manager, Tarheel Lumber Company, Jefferson
- Board member, AF Financial Group
- Partner, Laurel Custom Homes
- Former trustee, Oasis Temple, Charlotte, NC
- Member, Orion Baptist Church
- Adult Men's Sunday School Teacher, 20 years



CALDWELL DISTRICT
JIMMY D. HEMPHILL

- Blue Ridge Electric Board since 2006
- Credentialed Cooperative Director
- Retired Executive Vice President, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI)
- Commissioner, Town of Hudson
- Board member, Bank of Granite, Hudson Branch
- Board member and volunteer, Caldwell County Hospice
- Member, Cooperative Advisory Committee, Caldwell County Schools/CCC&TI
- Policy Board member, Western Piedmont Council of Governments
- Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Hudson Man of the Year, Hudson Community Development Association
- Member, First United Methodist Church, Granite Falls

Nominating Committee Report

Members of Blue Ridge Electric have the opportunity each year to elect directors from the membership during the cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting. As part of that process, a Nominating Committee, which is made up of 12 cooperative members, is appointed by the Board of Directors and charged with recommending a slate of strong, qualified candidates to present to the membership to fill available Board seats.

After thorough review and consideration, the 2009 Nominating Committee recommends the candidates listed here to fill four available Board seats for this year's election. All four nominees are incumbent directors who provide strong, consistent leadership and input to the Board.

The nominees were determined through a process that includes a review of incumbent candidates and a nomination by petition process. The nomination by petition process, which is communicated each year in the January issue of the member newsletter, requires a petition to be signed by 15 or more members who are in good standing and submitted at least 95 days prior to the annual meeting. No nominations by petition were received this year by the March 10, 2009 deadline.

A pool of strong, qualified potential board candidates is created through the Nominating Committee and nomination by petition processes. The committee's selection criteria includes

business experience, financial expertise, prior board experience, strategic planning, leadership skills, and alignment with the cooperative culture and values. Candidates must also meet

basic qualifications to serve as a director according to the cooperative's bylaws which can be obtained at any Blue Ridge Electric office or at www.BlueRidgeEMC.com.

Could you afford a...

40% INCREASE in your electric bill?

This year, Congress is expected to vote on legislation that will increase energy costs for families and businesses.

Proposals being considered would require the nation's electric utilities to increase renewable energy resources and pay a tax on carbon emissions. If these measures pass as currently written, **your electric rates could increase by 40 percent or more.**

Your cooperative is committed to a cleaner environment, but with the current state of our economy, we don't think the federal government should strain your budget even more. The plans being considered in Congress not only will impact your personal finances, they could also seriously hurt our community's ability to attract new business and industry at a time when so many people are out of work.

"This is the kind of connection we need."



Your electric cooperative supports the goals of energy independence, a cleaner environment, and increased energy efficiency. But not at the expense of affordable electric service that is essential to a sound economy. We can move our nation's energy policies forward without leaving consumers struggling with the fallout from hastily conceived legislation.

Your cooperative is working with members of Congress to help ensure they get this right, but it's important for you—the consumer—to tell your Congressional representatives to remember the folks back home as they vote on energy-related legislation.

It's time for you to join us in telling Congress... **Cost does matter!**

Find A
Balanced Solution
www.FindABalancedSolution.com



We've made it easy for you to contact Congress. Simply log onto www.FindABalancedSolution.com. The Web site gives you simple ways to contact your Representative.

Or, if you prefer to use your phone, dial toll-free: **1-877-40BALANCE**. A recorded voice will tell you how to be connected to your Representative's office.

Don't delay! Your words will make a huge difference to your household budget now and for years to come.