



Published for Member/Owners of EnergyUnited

# connect

**EnergyUnited offices will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day**

## in this issue

Annual meeting info. Registration card inside!	21
Bright Ideas deadline Apply today!	22
A message from the CEO - Member Days and Cooperative Month	23
Be safe during hurricane season	24

The 2013 EnergyUnited Annual Meeting of Members will be held September 21 - Don't forget to vote, return your lunch reservation and bring your registration card!

We are counting down the days and are thrilled about this year's Annual Meeting of Members! We hope you are too! Bring the entire family and join us in a fun-filled day as we come together in true cooperative spirit. After all, we are better together!

The 2013 Annual Meeting of Members will be held **Saturday, September 21 at Davie County High School in Mocksville**. In order for you to take full advantage of the day, please do not forget a few important matters prior to the event:

## Don't forget to **vote!**

Voting will take place by mail-in ballot again this year. The committee on nominations at EnergyUnited has named two incumbent directors for re-election to the cooperative's board of directors. **Ballots were included in the August issue of Connect, inside Carolina Country magazine. Ballots must be received via U.S. Mail no later than 12:00 midnight on August 30. Results of the voting will be announced at the annual meeting.**

## 2. Please fill out your lunch reservation form!

The form can be found as an insert to your August billing statement. The reservation form should be filled out and sent back to EnergyUnited or dropped off at any EnergyUnited office by Wednesday, September 18. Immediately following the business meeting we will be serving a Chick-fil-A lunch and this form will let us know to reserve complimentary lunches for you and your attending family members.



**WELCOME**  
to the 2013 **Annual Meeting**  
of Members

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Children's Activities
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Products and Services
	Electric Safety Demonstration
	Entertainment by Rich in Tradition
	Health and Services Fair
	Home Energy Efficiency Tips
11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Business Meeting</b>
11:45 a.m. - noon	Door Prizes
noon	Complimentary Chick-fil-A lunch

**EnergyUnited**  
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION



Reminder that registration and the health fair will open at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting will take place promptly at 11 a.m.

## 3. Find the registration card inside this issue of **Connect!**

Tear it out and bring it with you to the annual meeting and be entered to win great door prizes. When presenting this card, you'll also receive your crisp \$5 bill.

EnergyUnited looks forward to seeing all of our member-owners on September 21 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## Deadline approaching for teachers to apply for Bright Ideas grants

Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 from EnergyUnited's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit an application by September 20 to be eligible for consideration. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and more information on the Bright Ideas grant website at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

"Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$8.5 million for 8,300 projects benefiting more than 1.5 million students in North Carolina," said H. Wayne Wilkins, EnergyUnited CEO. "We are committed to local communities, and we believe there's no better way to contribute than by investing in the education of our youth."

EnergyUnited and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have allocated more than \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2013-2014 school year.

The grants will be awarded later this year for projects in all grade levels and disciplines, including math, science, art, language, english and history. Last year, EnergyUnited awarded more than \$40,000 to fund 28 bright ideas.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project, a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proofread carefully.



Don't miss out on a great opportunity! The deadline to submit applications is September 20, 2013. Visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) for more information.

## To facebook.com/EnergyUnited and @EnergyUnitedEMC - #HappyAnniversary



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EnergyUnited](http://www.facebook.com/EnergyUnited)



Follow us on Twitter @ EnergyUnitedEMC

EnergyUnited has been on Facebook and Twitter for a year now. Many of our members have become dedicated followers and are receiving important information regarding services EnergyUnited offers, energy efficiency tips and even outage restoration updates. Did you know that we are socially networked with multiple emergency services in the area too? Followers have found this especially helpful during outage situations.

Our concern for community affords many member-engaging opportunities and we especially like to reach out to our youth. Recently we posted and tweeted about our Bright Ideas education grants and asked that members spread the word on how to obtain funding for innovative classroom projects within our service areas. We are also very proud of our Youth Tour delegates and Sports Camp attendees and enjoy covering these events as they happen.

Come follow us on Twitter @EnergyUnitedEMC and "like" us at Facebook.com/EnergyUnited to stay involved with your electric cooperative. You never know what you might learn or how you too can be a part of helping our community.

From the desk of  
H. Wayne Wilkins,  
Chief Executive Officer



## Why we celebrate YOU in October

National Cooperative Month is a time to celebrate YOU, our members—  
the real POWER in the communities we serve!

We look forward to National Cooperative Month every October. It gives us, as your electric cooperative, the chance to remind our members and ourselves what is so special about being a part of a cooperative. Last year, the celebration lasted even longer with the United Nations-sanctioned International Year—a full year!—of Cooperatives. But what are we really celebrating? What makes EnergyUnited different, and why should that matter to YOU?

Our economy still has critical hurdles to overcome, so you may not feel like celebrating at all. But when our faith in big institutions has been shaken, it's the perfect time to remember what we've already accomplished locally—all with a little cooperation.

We've faced tough times before; 75 years ago our area didn't have electricity. Young folks were leaving en-masse to find a brighter future in urban areas, and rural America was left in the dark. But instead of waiting for someone else to fix our problem, we turned to each other. We built our own utility, and we powered our future.

By our very nature, not-for-profit, local, member-owned and -governed cooperatives like EnergyUnited empower members to improve their lives. And while bringing electricity to rural North Carolina was a big first step, we certainly didn't stop there. Just think about what we've accomplished together in the last year!

We recently received a loan and grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These funds will create a pass-through loan to be used to provide a more efficient heating and cooling system and upgrade lighting at West Iredell High School in Statesville, N.C. In addition, with your help, we funded over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants. Last year, these grants went to fund projects in local k-12 classrooms that may otherwise have gone unfunded. Thousands of local children will benefit from these projects.

By working with your cooperative you can make a big impact on the communities we serve. Ready to get involved? Attend our Annual Meeting of Members on September 21 at Davie County High School in Mocksville, N.C. to let us know what issues are important to you. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out when federal regulations might impact your electric bill, and help us stand up for our community's right to affordable, safe, and reliable electricity. Or join one of our Member Advisory Committees to learn more about your cooperative and to have the opportunity to give us valuable feedback and help spread the word about your cooperative and issues that affect you and your neighbors.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, we thank you for your efforts to strengthen our community and we want to celebrate with you, our member-owners. This year during the month of October we invite you to visit your local EnergyUnited office to take part in some of the special things we have planned for the month. Be sure to check the next issue of *Connect* for additional details.

We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together. The cooperative business model is a handy tool that lets us improve our quality of life. Find out more about YOUR cooperative at [www.energyunited.com](http://www.energyunited.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Wayne Wilkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.



## Be safe during an active hurricane season

Two keys to weather safety are to prepare for the risks and to act on those preparations when alerted by emergency officials.

Some highlights on how to prepare and take action are available below:

### GATHER INFORMATION

Know if you live in an evacuation area. Assess your risks and know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Understand National Weather Service forecast products and especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings.

### CONTACTS

Keep a list of contact information for reference.

- Local Emergency Management Office
- County Law Enforcement
- County Public Safety Fire/Rescue
- State, County and City/Town Government
- Local Hospitals
- Local Utilities
- Local TV Stations
- Local Radio Stations
- Your Property Insurance Agent

### RISK ANALYSIS

Online hazard and vulnerability assessment tools are available to gather information about your risks.

- Check your risks with FEMA's Map Portal.
- Rate your flood risk at FloodSmart.gov

### PLAN & TAKE ACTION

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off?

### SUPPLIES KIT

Put together a basic disaster supplies kit and consider storage locations for different situations.

### EMERGENCY PLANS

Develop and document plans for your specific risks.

- Protect yourself and family with a family emergency plan.
- Be sure to plan for locations away from home.
- Business owners should create workplace plans.
- Make sure schools and daycares have school emergency plans.
- Pet owners should have plans to care for their animals.
- Prepare your boat and be aware of marine safety if you are on or near the water.

### HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Follow guidelines to guard your community's health and protect the environment during and after the storm.

- Review the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) health considerations before, during, and after a storm.
- Remember to follow the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) food and water safety guidelines during disasters.
- Review the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggestions for health and environmental safety in disaster preparedness.

### EVACUATION

- Review the FEMA Evacuation Guidelines to allow for enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home. FOLLOW instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- Consider your protection options to decide whether to stay or evacuate your home if you are not ordered to evacuate.

When waiting out a storm be careful, the danger may not be over yet...

### BE ALERT FOR

- Tornadoes – they are often spawned by hurricanes.
- The calm “eye” of the storm – it may seem like the storm is over, but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.

### RECOVER

- Wait until an area is declared safe before returning home.
- Remember that recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process.

**connect** is published monthly for its members by EnergyUnited. Questions, comments and story ideas should be directed to:

#### Connect

P.O. Box 1831, Statesville, NC 28687-1831


H. Wayne Wilkins  
Chief Executive Officer

**EnergyUnited**  
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

1-800-522-3793

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

 [facebook.com/EnergyUnited](https://facebook.com/EnergyUnited)

 [@EnergyUnitedEMC](https://twitter.com/EnergyUnitedEMC)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 