

CONNECT

VOLUME 15, No 8

Published for Member/Owners of ENERGYUNITED

August 2013

Have You Told Us How You Would Like to Receive *Carolina Country*?

Opt-In
—
25

For the past several months you have seen information regarding our new *Carolina Country* opt-in initiative. Please note that unless you have informed us via postcard, bill insert, telephone call or our website this is the last *Carolina Country* magazine and *CONNECT* newsletter you will receive in your mailbox.

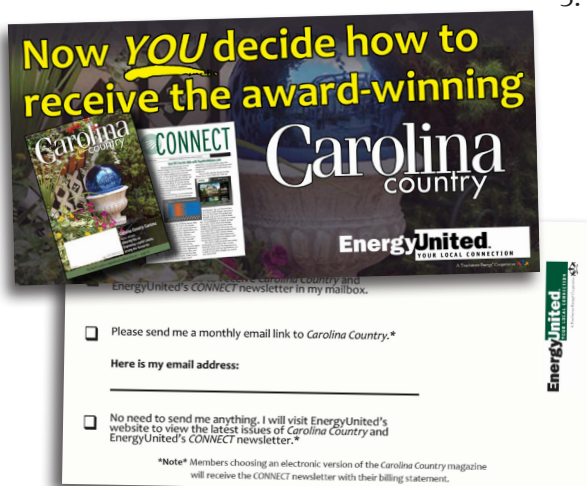
Beginning with the September issue, we are offering three different delivery options:

1. In print form via the U.S. Postal Service (our traditional method)
2. Through an email, which will include a link to the magazine online
3. Via the web; the magazine will be available for you to view via a link on the front page of our website

During the month of July, members will receive a special bill insert with their bill statements. If you have not already notified us of your choice, please take the time to fill out the form on the back of that insert and include it in the return envelope with your bill payment. You can also visit www.energyunited.com and click on the large revolving graphic near the top of the page to make your choice.

Don't miss out on future issues of the magazine. Please do not hesitate to give us a call at 800.522.3793 with questions.

Board
Candidates
—
26



CEO
Column
—
27

You'll See a New Look in September!

Beginning with the September issue of *Carolina Country*, our members will notice EnergyUnited's *CONNECT* newsletter has a new look! Although we've decided to give the newsletter a graphic facelift, we'll still give you great articles and important EnergyUnited information, just in a more modern and easier to read format. The newsletter will continue to be a four-page insert inside *Carolina Country* each month.

Members who have opted to receive an email link to *Carolina Country* magazine or to read the magazine via our website beginning in September will receive a copy of our *CONNECT* newsletter monthly with their bill statements. Let us know what you think when you see it. We love hearing from our members!

Auditing
Energy
—
28

January 2013

In this Issue

- New programs help members to manage their bills 22
- Rate adjustment anticipated in 2012 23
- Contributions from people 24
- Electric cooperative 24

Published for Member/Owners of EnergyUnited

connect

EnergyUnited Returns Money to Members in the Form of Capital Credits

It's time for you to get the credit - capital credits, that is - for helping build, sustain, and advance your local electric cooperative. The EnergyUnited Board of Directors has approved the retirement of 2012 capital credits to members like you across portions of the year served by the cooperative. That means you will receive a credit on their electric bills.

December: Capital credits are a major benefit of being an electric cooperative. They are the portion of the cooperative's net income that is allocated to its members. They are not a profit, but a return on the investment you made when you joined the cooperative. They are also a way for the cooperative to keep rates affordable, offset expenses for new construction or maintenance, storm repair, expansion of a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

For more information about capital credits, call (800) 522-3793 or visit www.energyunited.com/capital_credits.asp.

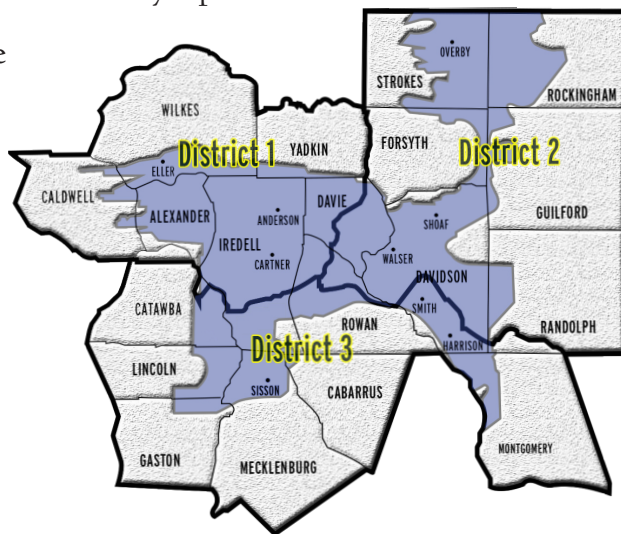
EnergyUnited JANUARY 2013

Candidates for the Board of Directors

The committee on nominations at EnergyUnited has named the two incumbent directors pictured below for re-election to the Cooperative's board of directors. They represent Directorate District 2, one of three directorate districts which are geographical areas throughout EnergyUnited's service area. A member may be nominated for a seat on the board by either the committee on nomination or by petition. No petitions were received this year.

The EnergyUnited board of directors evaluates the policies and governance of the Cooperative. Each director is an EnergyUnited member and is elected by cooperative members as part of the democratic form of governance followed by cooperatives.

Once again this year, EnergyUnited members will vote for directors by mail-in ballot, found inside this magazine. Results will be announced at the Cooperative's annual meeting, which takes place on Saturday, September 21.



Directorate District No. 2 • 4-year term



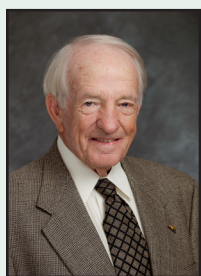
Jeannette Overby has served on the EnergyUnited board of directors since its inception in 1998. Overby began her board tenure at Crescent EMC in 1989.

Overby is a retired educator who taught for 27 years in the Stokes County School system. After graduating from Waynesville High School in Waynesville, N.C., she attended Meredith College and the University of North Carolina.

She also serves on the board of directors for East Stokes outreach ministry for the needy and has been in that capacity since 1991. Married to Willis, she is a member of the Lawsonville Ruritan club and has served as president on two occasions.

Overby currently serves as secretary of the EnergyUnited board of directors and grows hybrid tea roses as a hobby. She also enjoys cooking.

Directorate District No. 2 • 3-year term



N. Mack Shoaf is a member of the audit committee and compensation committee on EnergyUnited's board of directors. Shoaf began his tenure with Crescent EMC in 1975.

Shoaf is owner and manager of Three Creeks Farm, LLC and Nor-Mac-Tod Farm, LLC. After graduating from North Davidson High School, Shoaf attended North Carolina State University and High Point University. He is a retired executive from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and Carswell Distributing Co., where he served on the board of directors. He's a member of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives board, Davidson Cattleman's Association, North Carolina Cattleman's Association and North Carolina Tobacco Association.

Member Advisory Committees Need Members!

We value the opinions of our owner-members and we're looking for volunteers for our Member Advisory Committees (MACs).

MAC members act as sounding boards for changes in service processes and the development of new programs as they learn more about the activities of EnergyUnited. MAC members provide feedback to EnergyUnited about needs and concerns of the cooperative membership. These interactions serve as a communication link between members and the leadership of EnergyUnited.

Groups meet every four months, usually in February, June and October on weekday evenings. MAC members also have the opportunity to volunteer for important EnergyUnited events.

As a standard, MAC members serve three-year terms on a rotating basis. To encourage member participation and ensure a true cross-section of membership representation, members rotate off the committee for at least three years before being considered for another seat.

Interested in becoming a MAC member?

Applications can be found on our website at <https://www.energyunited.com/pdf/mac.pdf>.

Mark Your Calendar for EnergyUnited's 2013 Annual Meeting

On Saturday, September 21, EnergyUnited will host its 2013 annual meeting of members. This is truly one of the most important events for our cooperative each year, and we hope you will consider joining us for this informative, yet fun event. Members have the chance to hear a review of last year's operations and the current plans and progress of EnergyUnited, as well as enjoy food and fellowship with one another.

This year's event will be held from 9:30 a.m. until noon at Davie County High School in Mocksville. It's a fun-filled morning for all ages, so bring the whole family! Attendees will again enjoy a live performance by Rich in Tradition, Appalachian Cultural Music Association's Instrumental Bluegrass band of the year and always a crowd favorite. Participants can also expect a "kid zone" where children can enjoy a magician, bounce house, carnival games and other activities. In addition, the whole family can enjoy pole-top rescue and safety demonstrations, products and services displays, door prizes and a complimentary Chick-fil-A lunch.

Adults can take advantage of our free health fair, conducted by Wake Forest Baptist Health. Energy efficiency tips will also be available for our members to learn how they can save money on their electric bills.

Registered members will receive \$5 for attending and will be entered into a drawing for many exciting prizes. Look for your registration card in the September edition of Carolina Country.

The annual meeting is not only an enjoyable event for the whole family, but it's also a chance for you, our member-owners, to have a voice in the way your electric cooperative is governed.

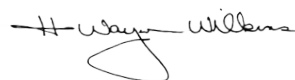
Through democratic control, members like you elect others from our co-op territory to serve on the board of directors. Two positions representing district 2 will be elected this year.

Because of the success of last year's mail-in ballot process, we will again be using this system to elect our board members.

The mail-in ballot process more than doubled membership voting involvement compared to prior years. This voting system ensures that all members can vote in an easy, convenient manner that complies with the cooperative's principle of promoting democratic control. Ballots are included in this issue of Carolina Country and must be returned by end of day Friday, August 30. A postage paid return envelope is also included. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting on September 21. Members that mail in their ballots on time will be eligible for one of three chances to win \$100 Visa gift cards.

You'll also be able to find information about the board candidates in this newsletter, as well as on our website at www.energyunited.com. Learn more about the candidates and the voting process so you can make an informed decision when casting your vote this year.

We hope to see you on September 21 at the 2013 annual meeting!



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

\$500 Gift Card Up for Grabs!

Early to bed, early to rise, but early to get your Bright Ideas applications in gives you a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card.

Annually, EnergyUnited awards up to \$2000 each to educators through its Bright Ideas education grant program. The 2013 application process began in April and teachers who submit applications on or before August 16, 2013, the early-bird deadline, will be eligible to win the \$500 VISA gift card.



**Educators,
don't miss
out on your
chance to
win!**

North Carolina educators from eligible K-12 public and private schools are encouraged to apply. Applications can be found on the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com and the deadline is end of day, September 20. Ideas will be selected through a competitive evaluation process conducted by EnergyUnited. In 2012, EnergyUnited awarded over \$40,000 to 27 educators from 26 different schools in its 19-county service area.

Grants are available to certified K-12 teachers for innovative projects in any subject. Teachers can apply individually or as a team and must apply online. To apply, educators must include a budget; explain the creative elements, implementation, goals and evaluation of the project; and have approval from the school principal.

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CONNECT

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

CONNECT

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www.energyunited.com

H. WAYNE WILKINS
Chief Executive Officer

Auditing Energy; Small Measures, Real Savings

No matter the age of your home, it could benefit from an energy audit. You could hire a professional, but you can also get started on your own in finding low-cost solutions that could save money on your monthly electric bill.

First, ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects—like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Next, peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation—how much you need depends on your climate. Check out the insulation calculator from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory at www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html. Keep in mind insulation won't do its job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

Finally, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design, and affordability. You can purchase CFLs in a variety of shapes and hues. They cost more upfront, but you'll make your money back in less than nine months and, after that, they start saving money.

Make sure to purchase a CFL that's rated by ENERGY STAR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program that denotes products meeting specific energy efficiency criteria. ENERGY STAR-rated CFLs will typically last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

LEDs—light-emitting diodes—are in the next wave of residential lighting. An ENERGY STAR-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for 25 years. As with many new technologies, the up-front cost for an LED bulb is still much more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

To learn more about ways to reduce your electric bill, visit TogetherWeSave.com or call EnergyUnited at 800.522.3793 for energysaving tips.



Traditional Bulb



Incandescent LED

The energy saving 60-watt incandescent replacement LED bulb is engineered to have the familiar size and shape of an incandescent bulb while providing a crisp white light that brings out more vibrant colors and patterns.

Source: GE

EnergyUnited

YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative