

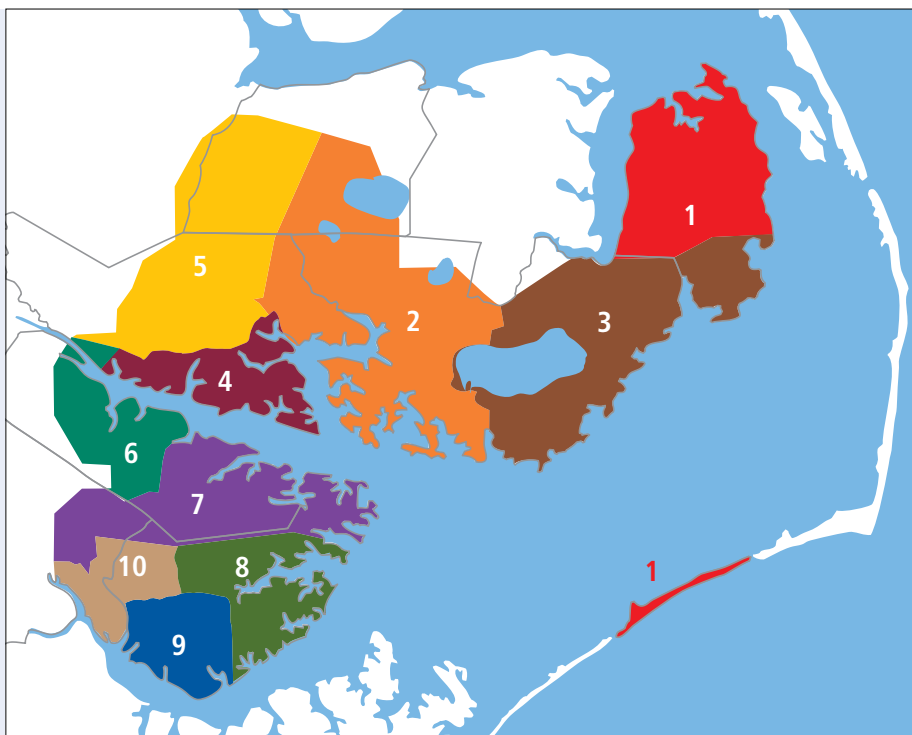
# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Member representation

Tideland EMC members are represented by directors from 10 geographical districts as depicted in the map to the right. Directors are democratically elected to a three-year term of service on a rotating basis.

Read more about director qualifications and the current year nominating process on page G.



## Beagle sails into retirement

Tideland's Engineering and Operations Manager Ben Beagle completed more than four decades of service in the electric utility industry with his retirement from the co-op on Dec. 30.

On page C, we take a look back on some projects he oversaw for the cooperative in his final 13 years of utility service.





## Winter Windstorm

# Late December back in '22



Grantsboro lineman Raymond “PeeWee” Wilson hung up his climbing hooks for the last time on Dec. 30, after 22 years of service to the co-op.

Prior to joining Tideland in November 2000, Wilson climbed communications towers for Coastal Electronics and work for the City of New Bern.

In recognizing Wilson’s retirement, Tideland CEO Paul Spruill made the following remarks:

“PeeWee earned a reputation for steady, consistent and productive work while most often working alone as he responded to member needs on the service truck. These assignments resulted in his frequent interaction with our membership, which often earned praise and appreciation due to his cordial interactions and responsiveness. We are all fortunate to have been associated with him as a coworker, but Tideland EMC is very fortunate to have benefitted from his steady and consistent work for more than two decades.”

We wish PeeWee all the best in the years ahead.

A strong cold front accompanied by high winds caused widespread power outages in Tideland territory on Friday, Dec. 23. In less than 24 hours, outdoor temperatures plummeted from a high of 57°F to 18°F.

There were a total 44 separate outages impacting 7,320 members in the Pantego and Grantsboro operationals districts. The first outage began at 8:44 a.m. in the Cayton Road area of Pamlico County impacting 224 members.

Entire circuit outages included the Arapahoe circuit out of Silver Hill substation (2235 members from 10:50 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., including the Minnesott Beach and Dawson Creek circuits out of the Arapahoe switching station); Fairfield Harbour circuit #2 out of the Fairfield Harbour substation (1659 members from 11:08 a.m. to 1:43 p.m.); the Howell’s Mill circuit out of the Five Points substation

(402 members from 9:16 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.); and the Office circuit out of the Silver Hill substation (224 members from 8:44 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.).

Other significant outages included the Florence Road reclosers (Merritt circuit - 708 members); the Pamlico Road reclosers (Merritt circuit - 509 members); the Straight Road reclosers (Merritt circuit - 372 members); and the Ephesus Church Road reclosers (Bonnerton circuit - 303 members).



Bonnerton circuit repairs near Ephesus Church Road (Wayne Brackin photo)

All of the outages were caused by trees or tree limbs falling on the line. Several broken poles were reported and replaced.

Tideland crews worked throughout the day and into the night assisted by a Lee Electrical crew and two Lucas Tree crews. Crews wrapped up individual service restoration work at 2:04 a.m. on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all for bearing with us during that event.



# Co-op Career Milestones

## Beagle oversaw visionary workplans



Ben Beagle's most challenging project was the 2020 Ocracoke submarine cable expansion at the south end of Hatteras Island.

As 2022 came to a close, so too did the electric utility career of Ben Beagle, Tideland's manager of engineering and operations.

During his tenure with the co-op, Beagle oversaw ambitious workplans that set the stage for a more efficient and reliable era of electric service to Tideland's growing membership.

The most tedious of those improvements was development of a modern, integrated mapping system with GPS coordinates and detailed data about all co-op infrastructure including poles, transformers, conductors and crossarm assemblies. That project kicked off a recurring inspection program that allows the co-op to anticipate and proactively address system maintenance, thus reducing outage frequency.

Beagle and his team implemented automated metering infrastructure (AMI) with the wholesale change out of all co-op meters. That ushered in the ability of the co-op to verify consumers impacted by power outages quickly. Automated outage identification also narrowed down the trouble area for crews to focus on when confirming the outage cause. That in and of itself has tremendously reduced out-

age time and also made possible the introduction of our outage text messaging service to keep members informed. AMI deployment also made it possible for members to access interval data about their own energy use via the member portal and various text and email alert options.

During his 13 years of service with Tideland, Beagle led co-op operations through 14 hurricane and tropical events including the most devastating storm in our 82-year history, Hurricane Florence.

Beagle said the most ambitious and challenging construction project of his tenure was the 2020 submarine cable extension on the south end of Hatteras Island. The logistics of completing the \$3.5 million project involved multiple agencies and contractors with Mother Nature being the most unpredictable part of the equation.

Tideland CEO Paul Spruill said, "Mr. Beagle is to be commended not only for running the race of a long and respected career, but he finished it with the determination to clear a path forward for Tideland EMC as we move through time together in the most productive way for our membership.

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

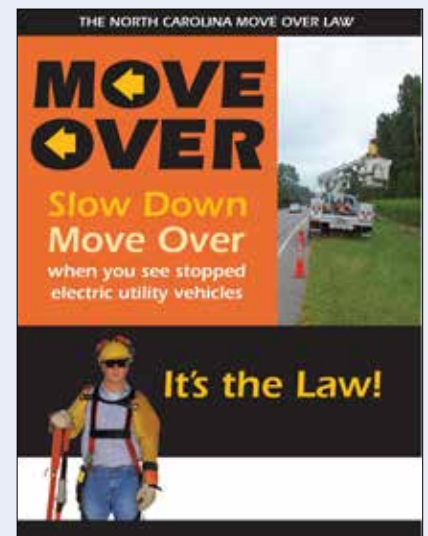
Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way.

During February Lucas crews will be working in the village of Ocracoke on the south circuit. They will then turn their attention to the Bonneron circuit in Beaufort County.

Lee Electric construction crews will be working on the Cayton Road circuit out of our Fairfield Harbour substation. Another Lee crew continues work on the Rose Bay circuit out of our Ponzer substation.

Remember to support these important system maintenance operations. Proper tree care leads to greater system reliability.

Please observe proper distances when planting trees and erecting fences and other structures. And always call 811 to have underground utilities located before beginning an excavation or construction project.





# Rebates extended

All Tideland EMC residential rebate programs for qualifying purchases of Energy Star manufactured homes, heat pumps and heat pump water heaters have been extended through Dec. 31, 2023.

If you made a qualifying purchase in the third quarter of 2022, you are asked to submit your rebate form by March 1, 2023.

### CURRENT REBATES:

**Energy Star Manufactured Home**  
\$1,250

**Heat Pump**  
16 SEER - \$75  
17 SEER and higher - \$150  
Geothermal - \$300

**Heat Pump Water Heater**  
\$300

All qualifying heat pump installations are eligible for a free Ecobee wifi thermostat while supplies last.

# Don't Become Electricity's PATH TO GROUND



When electric utility equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized.

If you are in a situation where there could be downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire or padmount transformer (green box), know what to do to save your life and the lives of others:

## CAR ACCIDENT



**Stay inside your vehicle** or cab since the ground or objects could be energized.

**Call 9-1-1** and report that there are downed or damaged power lines or a dislodged green box.

**Wait for the utility crew** to arrive to deenergize the power.

**Do not exit** until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

## ONLY EXIT IF THE VEHICLE IS ON FIRE

Cross your arms over your chest and **make a clean jump out.**

**Do not** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Make solid hops with your **feet together** as far away as you can.

**Do not** return to the vehicle.



## IF YOU ARE A BYSTANDER

**Do not approach the scene** to try and help.

**Stay at least 50 feet away** and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.







Timmy Ipock photo

## A harrowing chain of events

### Lowland circuit members step up to the plate

After battling day-long power outages until 2:00 a.m., the last thing Tideland crews expected was an automobile crash three hours later that left a joint use pole hanging midair. That's exactly what happened the morning of Dec. 24 near the intersection of Highway 306 and West Road in southern Beaufort County.

In several areas south of the Pamlico River, Duke Energy Progress and Tideland have joint use poles to reduce infrastructure redundancy. In this particular case, Tideland's conductor is built above Duke's own powerlines and Duke owns the pole. When the pole was clipped, both utilities' powerlines remained energized. It is important to note that first responders and those on scene prudently observed electric safety precautions to avoid contact with the energized lines. (See infographic on the previous page to learn more.)

Tideland line superintendent Timmy Ipock was dispatched to the scene. With temperatures in the teens and most residents dependent on electric heating systems, both utilities decided to keep the power flowing until Duke's contract construction crew was in

place and ready to complete pole replacement. Ipock remained stationed at the crash site and assisted as necessary. In preparing for the planned outage, Tideland sent a text message to members on the Lowland circuit advising them of the need to terminate power when work was underway. We advised members that once power was restored it was critical to minimize system demand to avoid overloading transformers on such a cold morning. We asked that they keep large loads off for at least 15 to 30 minutes after power restoration. It was our intention to send a follow up text message at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the planned outage but a text messaging system outage prevented the co-op from doing so until after the outage was underway.

The planned outage began at 11:15 a.m. and concluded at 2:35 p.m. Power restoration went smoothly thanks to Lowland circuit members heeding our call to keep demand low until the system heated back up. We also want to applaud first responders, and Duke Energy Progress, and River City Construction Company based in Washington. All participants responded with effective work on a very cold Christmas Eve morning.



## Give it your best shot

Tideland EMC is currently accepting applications for full scholarships to renowned basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer.

Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (June 17-21), and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (June 18-22). Please make sure you can attend those dates before applying!

To apply, students must be a rising sixth or seventh grade student residing in a Tideland EMC served home. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay.

Applications must be submitted online by March 31. To learn more or to complete the online application, visit [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com). You may also reach out to Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.



## Last call for college scholarship applications

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 3, 2023, to apply. An application may be downloaded at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com) or ask your high school guidance counselor for a copy of the form.

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com).

## Message to members

# 2022 credits to members totaled \$2.375 million

PAUL SPRUILL  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For the year ending Dec. 31, 2022, Tideland EMC issued credits to both current and former members of the cooperative totaling \$2,375,898. The source of those credits is threefold:

- Wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credits
- Capital credit refunds to the estates of deceased members
- General retirement of capital credits to members who had service with the cooperative in the years 1991 and/or 1993.

Tideland has been issuing a monthly WPCA credit since March 2020. In 2022, the average monthly credit was -0.2631¢ per kilowatt hour sold, ranging from a high of -0.527¢ in August to a low of -0.135¢ in June. The WPCA, which can also be a charge in times of higher-than-expected energy costs, appears as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

When combined with 2022 capital credit refunds to estates, totaling \$614,000, and the December general retirement of \$816,911, credits for 2022 totaled \$2.375 million.

There is perhaps no better illustration of the co-op's member owned business model than these financial transactions.

I do want to circle back around to the topic of capital credit refunds to the estates of deceased members. The loss of a loved one is a difficult time. Many are unlikely to even think about their loved

one's cooperative membership beyond transferring the electric service into another name. In fact, it often only comes to the attention of a surviving family member when we mail a general retirement capital credit check to the deceased member.

We have a process in place to settle the balance of the deceased member's ownership equity. That process begins with the submission of a capital credit claim form along with a copy of the deceased member's death certificate. If no executor exists, the check is made payable to the clerk of court who will handle the disbursement of funds.

The claim form can be found on our website: [tidelandemc.com/my-residence/billing/capital-credits](http://tidelandemc.com/my-residence/billing/capital-credits)

Likewise, I would encourage you to keep the co-op abreast of any future address changes should you move off our system. Capital credit refund checks are mailed to the last known address that we have on file. When checks are returned as undeliverable to the co-op, we must escheat those funds to the North Carolina State Treasurer's office where they can be found through that agency's unclaimed refunds website.

# Director nominations underway

## Annual meeting scheduled for May 11, 2023

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet in Pantego on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, to consider candidates for districts 2, 7 and 10, which are currently represented by Mark Carawan, Garry Jordan and David Ipock, respectively. Interested candidates should contact Myra Beasley at 252-943-3046, ext. 1125 to schedule a time to speak with a nominating committee representative. The committee's nominees will be posted at all Tideland offices on Feb. 10, 2023.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 50 co-op members no later than Feb. 20, 2023. The annual meeting of members will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at Beaufort County Community College auditorium. Member registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting start time is 7:00 p.m.

### DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The following guidelines are excerpted from Board Policy No. 302 and Bylaw 4.02 to ensure quality representation.

#### Legal & Personal Requirements

1. A Tideland member & bonafide resident of the directorial district.
2. A member no less than 2 years on the date of election.
3. Willing to promote & protect the co-op's interests.
4. Able to impartially represent the entire co-op membership.

5. Willing to regularly attend board meetings.
6. May not be a close relative of an existing director or employee.
7. Is not employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise.
8. Was not previously employed by TEMC, any other utility/energy company, or any entity which substantially rendered services to a utility/energy company.

#### Aspects of Service

1. Put forth the effort to understand the co-op and provide sound judgement to reach decisions.
2. Respect official decisions made by a majority of the board.
3. Objectively evaluate questions and problems facing TEMC.

#### Points to Consider

1. Has the member demonstrated sound business judgement?
2. Has the member shown a capacity for leadership & a reputation for honesty & integrity?
3. Has the member shown a capacity for working well with others?
4. What problems might hinder the nominee's success?

For more information regarding candidate nominations, director qualifications or to determine which district you reside in, call annual meeting coordinator Myra Beasley at 252-943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

## Nominating committee

#### District 1:

Vincent O'Neal  
PO Box 74  
Ocracoke, NC 27960

#### District 2:

Louie Hubers  
6959 NC Hwy 45  
Belhaven, NC 27810

#### District 3:

Josh Latham  
30046 Hwy 264  
Engelhard, NC 27824

#### District 4:

Barry Eborn  
4621 Sidney Rd  
Belhaven, NC 27810

#### District 5:

Horace Waters  
8098 Slatestone Rd  
Washington, NC 27889

#### District 6:

Travis Martin  
276 Whitehurst Rd.  
Blounts Creek, NC 27814

#### District 7:

Harry Nesbit  
409 Bergin Rd.  
Aurora, NC 27806

#### District 8:

Vincent Sevenski  
325 Harper Rd  
Bayboro, NC 28515

#### District 9:

Buck H. Jones  
35 Roland Rd  
Arapahoe, NC 28510

#### District 10:

Dennis Killete  
544 Mill Pond Rd  
New Bern, NC 28560

## Credentials & Elections Committee

#### District 2:

Johnny Joyner, Scranton

#### District 4:

Steven Poole, Belhaven

#### District 5:

Ernie Everett, Pinetown

#### District 6:

Gary Martin, Blounts Creek

#### District 7:

Donald Toler, Ernul

#### District 8:

Michael E. Spencer, Bayboro

#### District 9:

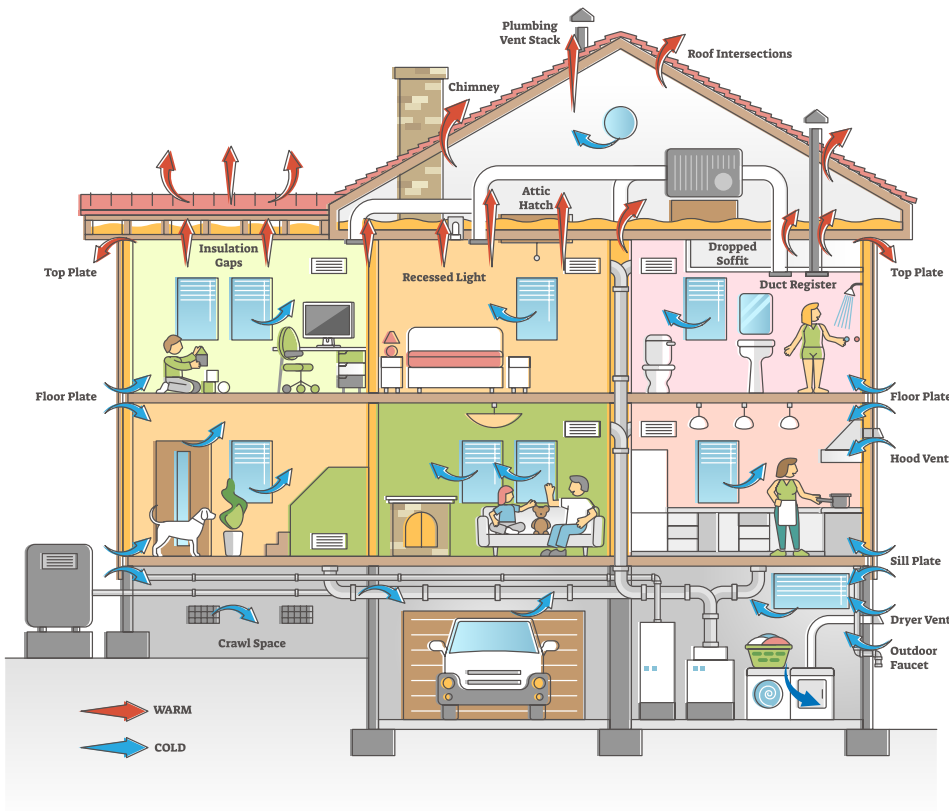
E. Douglas Cahoon, Arapahoe



BUTTON UP YOUR HOUSE THIS WINTER

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

# Common sources of air leaks



When it's cold outside you are likely to don a sweater or jacket when you go outside. Be sure to button up your house to keep outside air out and conditioned air in. The best day to identify air leaks is when the outdoor temperature is in sharp contrast to your indoor temperature. The average U.S. home has enough air leaks to equal one open window year round.

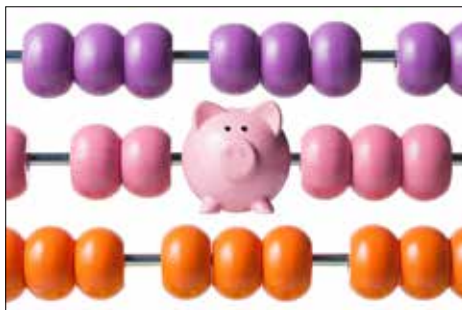
## HOME HEATING COSTS WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

# Sign up for levelized billing

Levelized billing provides you with a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bills. Program participants pay a rolling average of their previous 12 months electric use. While you can expect fluctuations in the amount due every month, the changes are minimal. If your usage is trending up the levelized amount will increase. If usage trends down the levelized amount will decrease. Levelized billing helps members with month to month budgeting while at the same time alerting members to increased kilowatt hour (kWh) consumption.

Levelized billing is a free service. Participants must keep their electric account current. Failure to pay by the due date will result in the loss of levelized billing privileges.

**To enroll or for more info:**  
**800.637.1079**



## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Douglas Brinson, President  
Clifton Paul, Vice President  
Mark Carawan, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Garry Jordan,  
Dawson Pugh, Paul Sasnett,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Member Service

252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



happy  
*Valentine's Day!*



Show your HVAC system  
some love. Change or  
clean your filters monthly.