

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

MERRY MARGINS: Your capital credit refund is on the way

Tideland EMC's board of directors has approved a general refund of capital credits and cumulative gains for a total December refund of \$884,624. The capital credit portion of the refund applies to members served during the years 1985 and/or 2010. Active account holders will receive a check this month if their electric account was current at the time of the distribution and if their refund totaled at least \$50. All other active members will

receive a credit on their December electric bill if a credit is due. Gains are refunded to former members if the amount due is at least \$50.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, Tideland provides service at cost. Any funds remaining after expenses have been paid are eventually returned to members through a series of capital credit refunds. The amount returned to each member is based on the total amount they paid for electric service during the year for which the refund is made.

During the first 10 months of 2011, Tideland refunded capital credits totaling \$171,907 to the estates of deceased members. That brings the total refunded to members and former members during 2011 to \$1,056,531.



Tideland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors & employees wish you and your family warmest holiday wishes





Message to our Member-Owners: Cleaning up the remaining remnants of Irene

Right-of-Way Update

Early snow storms in the northeast have sent our tree-trimming crews out of state to assist with the clean up. We will resume tree trimming and right-of-way clearing operations once they return.

As this issue of Tideland Topics went to press in early November, we were beginning to see the light at the end of the Hurricane Irene tunnel.

During the hurricane 494 yard lights were damaged or destroyed. By the first week of November we had made repairs to all but 92 lights. We expect to have the remaining yard light repairs completed by the first of December. I want to express our sincere appreciation to those of you who have patiently waited for this work to be completed.

During the second week of November, Cape Hatteras Electric planned to make more permanent repairs to the transmission line that crosses

what has been referred to as the Pea Island inlet, which opened up during the endless assault by Hurricane Irene. Residents of both Hatteras and Ocracoke islands were expected to rely on generator service for 3 to 5 days. We appreciate the effort made by our Ocracoke members to conserve power during that work as well as during the initial hurricane response.

Auditors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concluded their work in our corporate office on Friday, November 4. We are pleased to report that Tideland will receive \$2.8 million from FEMA, which will largely cover our costs of responding to Hurricane Irene. That amount averages

Paul Spruill
General Manager &
CEO

\$122.81 per electric meter served by Tideland. Thanks to FEMA, we will not have to recoup hurricane costs through higher electric rates. I want to commend our employees for maintaining such good records during a crisis situation. As many of you surely know by now, documentation makes all the difference in the world when filing any type of damage claim.

As we close the book out on Irene and the year 2011, we count among our many holiday blessings the opportunity to serve you and the Tideland community. God bless.

Give a H.U.G. this holiday season

Want to brighten the Holiday Season for someone special?
Give a H.U.G. ... a Home Utility Gift!

We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift. Call 1.800.637.1079 for details.



Keep out the cold with weather stripping

Weather stripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors and windows. To check for leaks, shut the door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you're losing energy.

There are a variety of weather-stripping materials available, each good for fitting different types of door and window frames. Most are made of rubber, foam, metal, vinyl, or a combination of materials. To determine the right item for the job, check the area: if any old, worn material has been previously installed, take a sample to your local hardware store. If no material exists as a guide, make detailed notes about the type of gap and how the door or window is installed—someone at the hardware store should be able to make a recommendation for you.

Once you have the proper materials for the job, consult any instructions that may be on the weather-stripping package. Installation techniques range from simple to technical, depending on the type of material being used. If replacing old, worn weather stripping, be sure to note how it was installed as you remove it.

Here are a few basic guidelines:

- Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

When weather stripping doors:

- Choose the appropriate door sweeps and thresholds.
- Weather strip the entire door jamb.
- Apply one continuous strip along each side.
- Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners.
- Use a thickness that causes the weather stripping to tightly press between the door and the door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

When weather stripping windows:

- Apply weather stripping between the sash and frame.
- The weather stripping shouldn't interfere with the operation of the window.

68°

How much can you reduce heating bills this winter by keeping your thermostat at 68° F?

12%

If usual setting is 70°

24%

If usual setting is 72°

36%

If usual setting is 76°

54%

If usual setting is 78°

Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

Every year more than 2,400 children under the age of 10 are treated in U.S. emergency rooms for electrical shock or burns caused by tampering with a household wall outlet. That is seven children a day. Nearly one-third of these injuries occur when a small child attempts to insert household objects such as hairpins, keys, or paperclips into the receptacle. New tamper resistant receptacle (TRR) technology provides a simple,

permanent solution to help prevent these types of childhood shock and burn injuries.

TRRs may appear identical to standard wall outlets, but they are actually designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots. When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle coverplates open, allowing a standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without this simultaneous pressure, the coverplates remain closed to prevent children

from inserting objects into receptacles in and around the home. TRRs have proven to be so effective that the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) now requires installation of TRRs in all new homes. The cost of installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is about \$0.50 more than a traditional receptacle. In existing homes, standard receptacles can be replaced with TRRs for as little as two dollars per outlet.

TRRs should be installed by a licensed, qualified electrician, using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles.

SCHOLAR DOLLARS: Apply now for Tideland EMC scholarships

Tideland EMC is accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties.

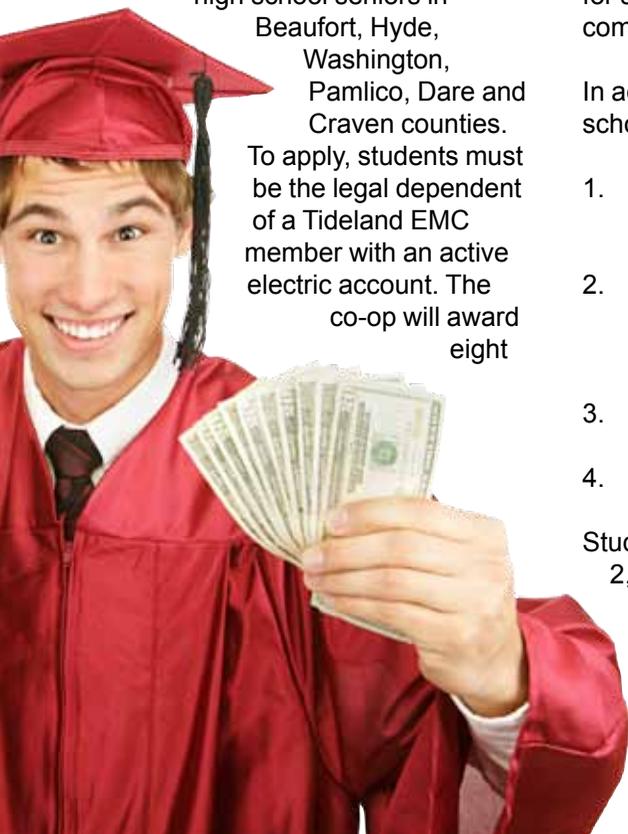
To apply, students must be the legal dependent of a Tideland EMC member with an active electric account. The co-op will award eight

\$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

In addition to the official application, scholarship candidates must submit:

1. a letter detailing his/her reasons for applying for the scholarship and their future plans;
2. a letter of recommendation from the high school's principal, guidance counselor or academic advisor;
3. a complete transcript of high school courses and grades; and
4. SAT or ACT scores if applicable.

Students have until Friday, March 2, 2012, to apply. An application may be downloaded at www.tidelandemc.com or see your high school guidance counselor. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.



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www.tidelandemc.com

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Weekday Member Service
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
252.943.3046
800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting
& Automated Services
252.944.2400
800.882.1001

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: FRIDAY, DEC. 23, AND MONDAY, DEC. 26.
TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE CALL 1-800-882-1001**

Statement of non-discrimination

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission

or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Myra Beasley, Manager of Corporate Services. Any individual or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities

Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Paul Spruill
General Manager and CEO
Tideland EMC
Pantego, NC