



DECEMBER ■ 2016

# Tideland Topics

## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND EMC

## MERRY MARGINS PLUS: Member credits to reach \$3 million in 2016

Tideland EMC's board of directors has approved a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$550,000. The refund applies to members served during the years 1989 and 2015. Active account holders will receive a check this month if their electric account is current at the time of the distribution and if their refund is at least \$50.00. All other active members will receive a credit on their December electric bill.

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.

In addition to the general retirement, approximately \$550,000 will be refunded to the estates of deceased members. So by year end, the co-op will have refunded \$1.1 million in capital credits.

Combined with this year's wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credits, expected to top \$1.9 million, we anticipate total year-end member credits to reach \$3 million. (See page 18 for a detailed discussion of WPCA credits.)

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you and to be good stewards of your member-owned resources.



### *Looking forward to the next 75*

Milestone anniversaries provide as much an opportunity to focus on the future as they do to reflect on the past. As we conclude the celebration of our 75th year of service, here are the common threads that will continue to weave our cooperative future going forward.

We care more. Always have. Always will. And because we do, technology will not alienate us from our membership. It will, in fact, help us forge more meaningful and solution driven relationships.

We still have a healthy dose of skepticism. That's the nature of rural people who know all that

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# Message to our Member-Owners: 2016 WPCA credits to reach \$1.9 million mark

**By Paul Spruill**  
Chief Executive Officer  
and General Manager

## Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During December they will be working along Possum Hill Rd, Springdale Village, Camp Leach Rd and all other sideroads in these areas.

Mowing crews will be working along Kelly Rd, Wheat-patch Rd and in Pamlico Beach.

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

## The per kilowatt-hour wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit continued its rebound through November.

While all rate classes benefit from the WPCA credit, we will focus on the majority rate class, which are residential accounts. On November 1 we began billing residential members at the lower winter rate schedule. When you subtract the November WPCA credit of  $-1.129\text{¢}$  per kWh from the published winter residential rate of  $10.58\text{¢}$  per kWh that means we billed residential energy at a rate of  $9.45\text{¢}$  per kWh in November.

That's the second-largest WPCA credit in Tideland's history. In fact, you have to go all the way back to

RESIDENTIAL RATE 1	Nov. 2013	Nov. 2016
Kilowatt hours	1,200	1,200
Basic facilities	\$25.00	\$25.00
kWh (winter rates)	132.32	\$126.96
Wholesale power cost adjustment	-\$5.97	-\$13.55
NC REPS (increased in July 2016)	\$0.09	\$0.30
NC sales tax (3% in 2013; 7% in 2016)	\$4.54	\$9.71
TOTAL	\$155.98	\$148.42
Net Billed Decrease		\$7.56

December 1996 when the WPCA was  $-1.862\text{¢}$  to find a higher per kWh credit.

As you can see in the chart above, a member billed for 1,200 kWh in November 2016 paid \$7.56 less than they would have in November 2013, even when adding in the NC sales tax and REPS rate increases.

Between January and October of this year we had already issued WPCA credits totaling \$1,785,892. Conservative

estimates suggest the year-end total will reach \$1.9 million based on kilowatt hour sales trends.

The per kWh WPCA credit for the first 11 months of 2016 has averaged  $-0.6544\text{¢}$ .

These consumer-friendly credits have largely been possible due to favorable natural gas prices. In North Carolina, power generators have increasingly embraced natural gas over coal due to cost.

## Give a H.U.G. this holiday season

Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special? Give a H.U.G. A home utility gift!

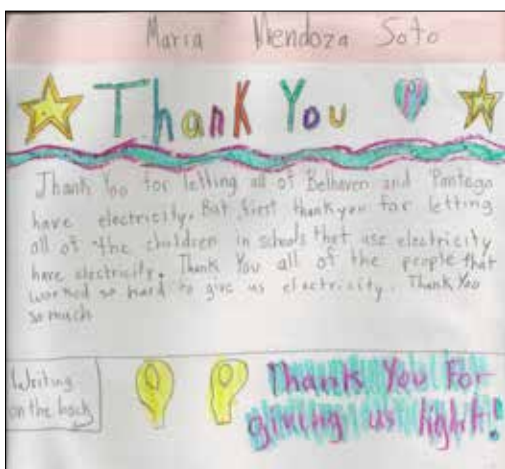
We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

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 or visit any Tideland office.



## SPECIAL DELIVERY:

# Students say “thank you” to linemen



Following Hurricane Matthew, a large envelope arrived at Tideland’s Pantego office. Inside were 17 thank you cards to our linemen from the second grade class of Anita Rayburn at Northeast Elementary in Pinetown. Thank you Ty, Shamaï, Maria, Kira, Jose, Aniyah, Chloe, Haylee, Piper, Johmeir, Shakayla, Malikou, Jethzabe, Austin, Shirley, Gage and Adan. You touched some grown men’s hearts. (Additional thank you cards from the students can be found on page ??)

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
  - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## This month in Tideland history

**December 12, 1899**  
Pamlico Power & Light founder P.D. Midgett was born in Wanchese.

**December 16, 1941**  
The first meeting of the Woodstock EMC board of directors was held at the high school in Belhaven. Due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor nine days earlier, Woodstock EMC would have to wait three years before beginning operations due to a nationwide shortage of materials.

**December 1944**  
Woodstock EMC purchased the Town of Pantego electric system for \$5,600 and purchased at auction 3.8 miles of rural line from the Town of Belhaven for \$6,000.

**December 14, 1944**  
At the stroke of midnight Woodstock energized its power system for the first time.

**December 11, 1952**  
Tri-County Telephone Membership Corp. was incorporated.

**December 22, 1971**  
The first officers of Tideland EMC were elected.

**December 20, 1972**  
Ocracoke EMC members vote to merge with Tideland.

glitters is not gold. Better to get it done right than right now.

That being said, we're not afraid of change. We started out as pioneers of change and we still don't shy away from a challenge. If a new technology is sensible and can improve the quality of life for our members, then we're willing to kick the tires and take it for a test drive. We've done just that with our community solar project, which is large enough to provide hands-on experience for our employees while being small enough to be fiscally responsible to our membership. We're gaining real world experience as the host of a micro-grid project at Ocracoke involving Tesla batteries, a small solar array and smart thermostat installations. Thanks to emerging technologies we don't have to be big to do big things. But we have to be flex-

ible, inquisitive, prudent and wedded to our core cooperative beliefs which have stood the test of time.

Honestly, none of us know what the energy landscape will look like 75 years into the future. What we do believe with great certainty is that your relationship with your energy service provider will become more important than ever. And that relationship will best serve you when it is rooted in trust. Trust that your best interests are front and center. Trust that your service provider has both the competency and capacity to meet your individualized needs. Trust that we will, in fact, continue to care more and to quote Margeret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 26  
FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE OR TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL 1.800.882.1001**

## 2016 NORTHEAST REGIONAL AG EXPO:

# Teens from 13 counties energized about the future

On November 3, the Electric Cooperatives of Eastern NC participated in the Northeast Regional Ag Expo, held annually at the Senator Bob Martin Center in Williamston. Students from 13 counties participated this year.



Tideland took along its always popular selfie station, which was created with the event in mind last year. Outdoors the co-ops conducted a poletop res-

cue demonstration. Linemen from Halifax EMC, Roanoke Electric Cooperative and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC conducted the demonstrations along with

Tideland. See our online video of the event by visiting our Vimeo channel which can be accessed at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).