

ROANOKE ELECTRIC Flashes



Roanoke Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



Operation RoundUp contributes \$10,000 in support of community efforts



Pastor Joe McKnight accepts a check for Cool Spring Baptist Church from Roanoke Electric's Patrice Jordan.

Five local organizations were selected to receive funding following the Roanoke Electric Care Trust board meeting on July 19. Third quarter grants totaling \$10,111.25 were awarded to the following organizations:

Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire

Department: The Hertford County-based fire department was granted \$2,541.25 to purchase personal protective equipment fire hoods. The blocking fire hoods assist firefighters with performing their duties as safely as possible.

Helpful Hands and Hearts

(Littleton): The all-volunteer organization received \$2,000 to provide household repairs, access ramps and transportation services. These services

will assist seniors aged 60 and over and the permanently disabled in the five counties surrounding Lake Gaston.

Como Volunteer Fire

Department (Como): The volunteer fire department was awarded \$2,320 to replace their old supply of breathing air cylinders. The new SCBA cylinders will provide volunteer users with fresh air supply while fighting fires.

Eastside EMS (Rich Square):

The Northampton County emergency medical services provider was granted

\$1,250 for the purchase of three computers and updated computer software. The new equipment and software will allow employees to properly create budgets and patient reports.

Cool Spring Baptist Church

(Eure): The Gates County church was awarded \$2,000 to construct a play area for local youth, and create handicap accessible areas around the community pavilion.

“Making a positive impact in your local community is made easy with Operation RoundUp,” said Marshall Cherry, the co-op’s chief operating officer.

As part of the program, member-owners round up their bills to the next highest dollar each month. For example, if your bill is \$95.68, it will be rounded to \$96. The extra 32 cents will go towards the Operation RoundUp program. All contributions to Operation RoundUp are awarded as grants to benefit residents in the co-op’s seven-county service area.

“Member-owners can have a sense of pride in knowing that their contributions are used for the greater good in their communities,” Cherry said.

For information on how you can contribute to Operation RoundUp or how your organization can apply for a grant, visit roanokeelectric.com/roundup.



The Roanoke Center offers valuable community resources

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is committed to fulfilling its mission of improving the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. To that end, the co-op’s subsidiary, known as The Roanoke Center, offers assistance and a variety of resources for both individuals and businesses.

“We want our member-owners to know that we are more than just their electric provider,” said Curtis Wynn, the co-op’s president and chief executive officer. “Our commitment is to the overall well-being of our community.”

The Roanoke Center was established to allow the co-op to provide a broader range of services without incurring additional expenses. The services and resources it provides to the community include the following:

Space rental: The Roanoke Center offers office space and convenient meeting room accommodations. Rentals

come with a variety of benefits that include:

- Adequate parking
- Training partnerships
- Low-lease terms office space
- Fully furnished offices
- Fax and copying services
- High-speed Internet communications
- Fully equipped kitchen
- No utilities fees
- Housekeeping
- Receptionist to greet clients
- Low-cost administrative services

Public access room: The center offers free access to its public access room, too. The room is equipped with desktop computers available for public use.

Additional services and programs: The center also offers specialized services to address local

community needs. For example, the Sustainable Forestry Project supports landowners in their efforts to improve their forestland. Currently, 142 landowners are participating in the project. Visit roanokeelectric.com/forestry for more information.

“We are very appreciative of the support we receive from foundations, grants, and other sources to offer these services,” said Sondra Dickens, executive director of The Roanoke Center. “These funds have helped hundreds of member-owners participate in programs like Upgrade to \$ave, Roanoke Connect and Community Solar.”

In addition to those resources, The Roanoke Center also accepts individual donations. “Your contribution is essential to helping The Roanoke Center advance its mission and our community,” Dickens added.

Contributions can be made at roanokeelectric.com/donate.

Have questions for us?
Submit your questions to our blog and we'll answer you directly! Simply visit roanokeelectric.com/response to submit your questions today!

Shop online and earn credits on your electric bill with **Roanoke Rewards!**

Learn more at roanokeelectric.com

Ringling up savings with Roanoke Rewards

With each online purchase through the co-op's Roanoke Rewards program, member-owners earn cash back on their electric bill. On average, member-owners are reducing their electric bill by \$2.05 with each purchase.

"It's easy and convenient," said Carol Ward, a co-op member-owner and Gates County resident. "I purchase items online that I would normally go to the store to pick up. The items are shipped directly to my home, and I lower my bill based on purchases I was going to make anyway. The credits may not seem like much, but every little bit helps."

Roanoke Rewards provides member-owners access to more than 4,000 participating online retailers, where they can earn up to 40 percent cash back on their electric bill.

"The online shopping portal includes stores that I normally buy products from like Walmart, Target and Best Buy," Ward added.

Simply visit the co-op's online portal at roanokeelectric.com/rewards and start shopping.



Teachers: Apply for Bright Ideas grants by September 18



Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 from Roanoke Electric's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit their application by Monday, September 18.

"Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$10.9 million for 10,400 projects benefitting more than 2.1 million students across North Carolina," said Marshall Cherry, chief operating officer of the co-op. "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."

Roanoke Electric and North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have allocated nearly \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2017-2018 school year.

The grants will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, art, language, music and history. Last year, the co-op awarded more than \$8,000 to fund seven grants.

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.

Teachers can submit an application by visiting roanokeelectric.com/brightideas. Teachers can also find the application, grant-writing tips and more information at ncbrightideas.com.

Co-op issues more than \$500,000 in capital credits to member-owners

Roanoke Electric Cooperative recently distributed more than \$500,000 in capital credit checks to member-owners.

“Capital credits are a way for our member-owners to enjoy one of the tangible benefits of being a part of a cooperative,” said Marshall Cherry, the co-op’s chief operating officer.

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Based on the cooperative business model, any of the co-op’s revenues over and above the cost of doing business, referred to as “margins,” must be repaid to the membership in the form of capital credits.

Each year, the board of directors assesses the co-op’s

financial ability to pay out capital credits. “This year, the board determined that we were in a good financial position in which the co-op earned margins,” Cherry said. “Every member-owner who purchased electricity during the previous years in which we earned margins will receive capital credits.”

No special action is required for member-owners to start a capital credits account; it’s activated automatically with your co-op membership.

“If you have not received a check yet, we encourage you to please contact our office to update your mailing address. Also, verify that you don’t have any checks on file that have already been mailed out and have not been cashed,” Cherry said.

For more information about capital credits, please contact us at 252-209-2236 or visit roanokeelectric.com/capcredits.



Office closing: Labor Day

Roanoke Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on **Monday, Sept. 4**, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The co-op will resume normal operations on **Tuesday, Sept. 5**.

Feel free to use any of the following services during that time:

To report outages:

- Call 1-800-358-9437
- Text “OUTAGE” to 352667.

To make a payment:

- Use our automated system at 252-209-2236.
- Download our mobile app by texting “Roanoke” to 797979.
- Text “PAY” to 352667.

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P.O. Drawer 1326, Ahoskie, NC 27910

Office: (252) 209-2236 or 1-800-433-2236

For outages call: 1-800-358-9437

For online bill payment: roanokeelectric.com

Statement of Nondiscrimination: Roanoke Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Visit us at roanokeelectric.com

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