



## Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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P.O. Box 1057  
Bennettsville, SC 29512

### General Information

(843) 479-3855  
(800) 922-9174  
www.marlborelectric.coop

### Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Monday–Friday

### President/CEO

William L. Fleming

### Chairman of the Board

Melvin Carabo

### Board of Trustees

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### Attorney

Doug Jennings

### Co-op News Editor

Christy J. Overstreet  
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marlborelectric.coop

### Mission Statement

The aim of Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Thankful to give back

WIRE, Operation Round Up are shining examples of 'the co-op way'

EMPLOYEES OF MARLBORO ELECTRIC are grateful to be part of an organization that has Commitment to Community, one of the Cooperative Principles, built right into its foundation.

We're glad to be able to give back to the community year round, such as in October, when our employees



participated in the American Heart Association Heartwalk. We also host American Red Cross blood drives throughout the year.

The cooperative approach likewise encourages members to help their neighbors. Programs such

as WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) and Operation Round Up exemplify this approach.

The WIRE motto is People Helping People. The statewide co-op community outreach organization aids victims of tornadoes, hurricanes and house fires. Our chapter supports the Pee Dee Coalition, the Thanksgiving meal by the Presbyterian Church, nursing homes, lifelines through the Pilot Club, Clemson 4-H and other local efforts.

Women eligible to join WIRE include members, employees and wives, retirees formerly associated

with co-ops, directors and directors' wives. (And with the "honey do" list, the men-folk get drafted into helping WIRE, too! Note my friend and co-worker William Penn in the photo below with WIRE at BTU Nursing Home.) To get WIRE'd up to do good, contact Christy Overstreet at (843) 479-3855.

Our program, Operation Round Up (ORU), was set up in 1992 so members could authorize us to "round up" their bill to the next dollar to help neighbors in need. Since then, more than \$500,000 in local assistance has been distributed. Special thanks are due to the volunteers who serve on ORU Trust board. Call us if you'd like to sign up and round up.

We appreciate all the members who participate in Operation Round Up and WIRE. We, too, are grateful to be able to give back to our communities and serve you daily.

Here's wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**William L. "Bill" Fleming**  
President and CEO



On a WIRE visit to BTU Nursing Home last Christmas are, from left, Shirley C. Wearing, Francis Smith, Emma Huckabee, Evon Williams, William Penn and Gwen Moses. See page 20D for a story about two very special people the WIRE group met at BTU last year.

CHRISTY OVERSTREET

## Tour highlights value of utility supply co-op

**MARLBORO ELECTRIC RECENTLY TOURED** another cooperative in West Columbia that, while unknown to most co-op members, helps keep the lights on and the cost of service down for 1.4 million South Carolinians in all 46 counties.

Located near the Columbia Airport, that co-op is CEE-US, short for Cooperative Electric Energy Utility Supply. CEE-US was established in 1975 and is cooperatively owned by Marlboro Electric and 19 other co-ops around the state.

“We save money on purchasing poles and equipment through membership in CEE-US,” says Jerry Murphy, warehouse supervisor of Marlboro Electric. “CEE-US’s central location also enables them to get supplies to us quickly when storms or other emergencies occur.”

Each member co-op is represented on the CEE-US Board of Trustees, which,



WALTER ALLREAD

**Marlboro Electric's warehouse supervisor Jerry Murphy compliments CEE-US warehouseman Parker Hall on his team efforts of efficiency and the good working relationship established. Murphy said it's great to have confidence in knowing the co-op's need will be taken care of when he calls Hall.**

like Marlboro Electric's own member-elected board, sets organizational policies and oversees finances. Bill Fleming, Marlboro Electric's president & CEO, and Melvin Carabo, MEC's board chairman, serves on the CEE-US board. Carabo also serves on the CEE-US executive committee.

Day-to-day management is handled by Donald E. McCord, president and CEO

of CEE-US, and his staff. “By buying in bulk, we can help the cooperatives reduce the cost of maintaining and building power systems in their territories,” says McCord.

“Our motto is ‘Helping member co-ops serve,’” notes McCord, who recently welcomed co-op friends to CEE-US’s annual trade show with about 70 supply vendors represented.

CEE-US and its

subsidiary Line Equipment Sales Co., Inc., maintain a \$10 million inventory in their 196,000-square-foot facility. The company has a tool repair facility specializing in hoists and mechanical, hydraulic and battery-operated tools. It also offers services ranging from overhead and underground materials to tools and testing of lineworker safety equipment. The rubber goods testing facility is certified by the National Association of Independent Laboratories (NAIL).

“When even a tiny hole in a lineman’s glove could spell tragedy, it’s a relief to know that a friend in our extended co-op family is looking out for us,” says Murphy. “CEE-US is an example of how co-ops help one another every day, be it a routine day or an emergency. They really do help us serve our own local co-op members.”

### Teachers can apply to chaperone D.C. tour

Two South Carolina high school teachers will be chosen to serve as chaperones on the 2011 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 11–16.

Every June, the state’s electric co-ops send high school juniors on an expense-paid trip to our nation’s capital. Students meet South Carolina’s congressmen, visit monuments and historic sites, eat out at restaurants and participate in special Youth Tour programs with 1,500 other juniors from across America.

Employees of S.C. co-ops and their state association serve as chaperones on the five-day trip. Teachers are being given a chance to chaperone to help get the word out about the educational value of the Youth Tour, which fosters student leadership and teaches them about cooperatives and government. For more information, visit [YouthTour.coop](http://YouthTour.coop).

The state association pays each teacher-chaperone’s costs for transportation, hotel room, exhibit admissions and three meals a day. The deadline to apply is February 4.

Students may apply for the Youth Tour December 1, 2010–January 31, 2011.

Interested students and teachers should contact Christy Overstreet, Marlboro Electric Cooperative’s Youth Tour coordinator, at (843) 454-2872 or ask our customer service for an application. Applications are available at [www.MarlboroElectric.coop](http://www.MarlboroElectric.coop) or [www.ecsc.org](http://www.ecsc.org).



### Happy holidays from your co-op!

Closed November 25-26 for Thanksgiving, December 23-24 for Christmas and December 31 for New Year’s. Emergency crews will be on standby.

**For more local co-op information, see the MEC News EXTRA on pages 20A–D.**





## News EXTRA



Mohawk Industries expands their facility on the Bennettsville property served by Marlboro Electric.

# Mohawk continues growth in Marlboro County

### More jobs to be added at yarn plant

#### RENOWNED CARPET AND FLOORING

**MANUFACTURER** Mohawk Industries, Inc. continues to grow its presence in Marlboro County with a recent announcement of plans to construct 87,500 square feet of new manufacturing space on their property outside Bennettsville, part of which is served by Marlboro Electric Cooperative.

The latest expansion, a \$60-million capital investment, will be the third major addition at their location in the last five years. "We have been very pleased with the results of the Oak River North Extrusion and Yarn operations," said Larry Perugini, vice president of Yarn and Extrusion Manufacturing, Mohawk Industries, in a South Carolina Department of Commerce press release. "The people at the facility have been key contributors to our company's success, and we are grateful for their good work and dedication."

There are two Mohawk facilities on the Bennettsville property: The first mill opened in 1957 and the Oak River North facility opened in 2006 and expanded in 2008. Oak River North will also receive the latest space addition. At present, it employs more

than 400 workers converting polymers, nylon and polyester into yarn. The number of employees is projected to increase by 150 positions as the expansion progresses in upcoming years.

"Economic development, in addition to recruiting new business, is the sustaining of existing business," South Carolina Senator Gerald Malloy said. "I am very grateful for this expansion by Mohawk, as it is needed in our community."

The latest expansion announcement is a result of an effort of Mohawk officials, the Marlboro County Council, Partnership Board and state delegation, the state commerce department and the North Eastern Strategic Alliance. Marlboro

Electric Cooperative, the electric provider for Oak River North, also assisted in the location process by developing plans to deliver sufficient power to the expansion.

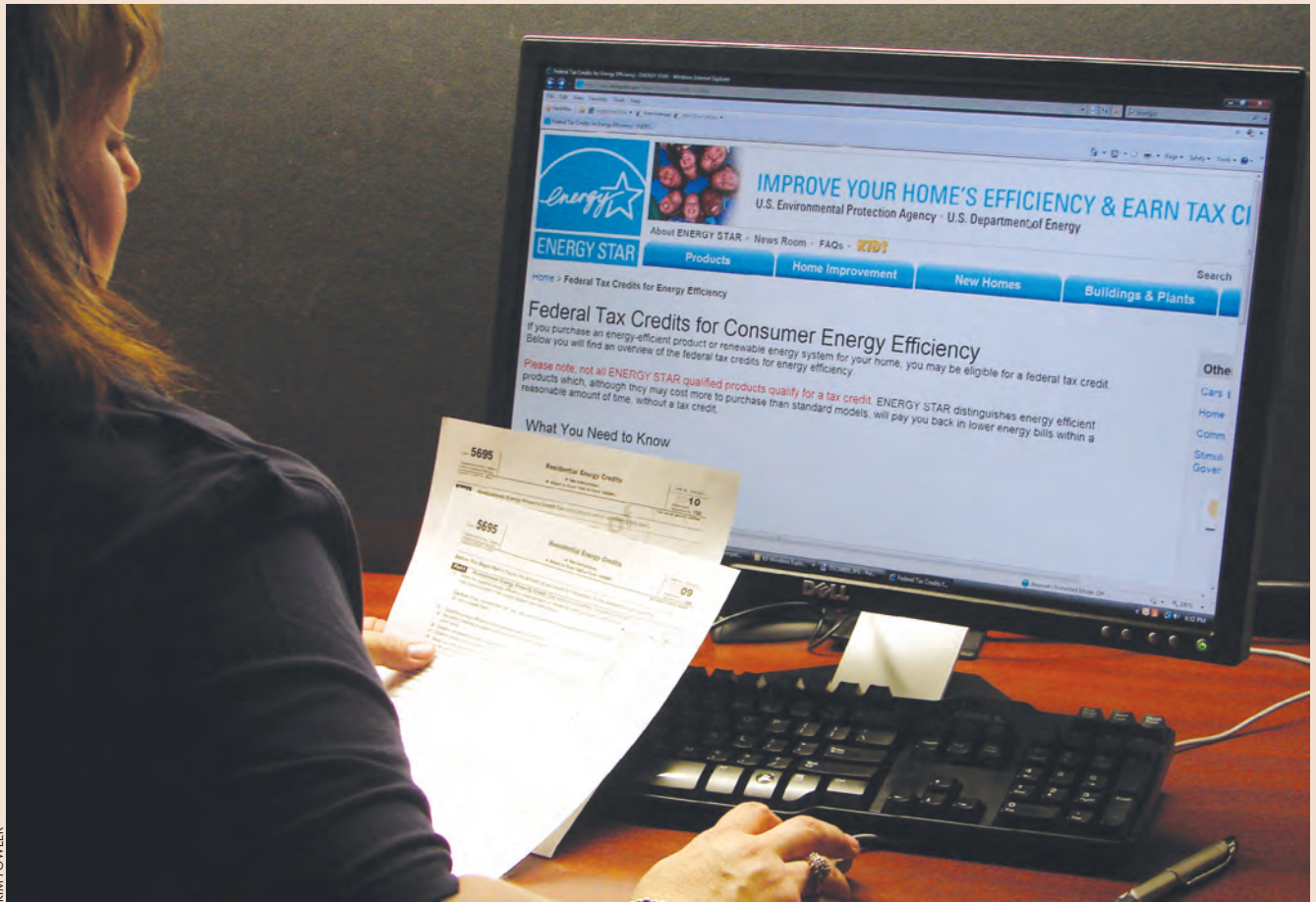
Co-op President & CEO William L. (Bill) Fleming said, "Larry Perugini and the Mohawk team are outstanding to work with, and I thank them for giving us the chance to show how we could help them grow here and for their final decision to expand their operations here."

Fleming added, "Mohawk has been in Marlboro County for many years, and we will do all we can to support their continued growth and success." ☺

Source: Palmetto Power and WMBF News



CHRISTY OVERSTREET



Marlboro Electric's Marketing & Communications Representative Christy Overstreet reminds members to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits that expire December 31, 2010.

# Time running out on efficiency tax credits

Co-op members save on energy bills

**ONLY TWO MONTHS REMAIN** to tackle home improvement projects if you want to take advantage of energy-efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill. Measures that qualify include replacing windows, doors, or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain; adding insulation; replacing certain air conditioners; and installing air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers, and biomass stoves.

"We want to make sure our members know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on December 31, 2010," stresses Christy Overstreet, Marlboro Electric's marketing & communications representative. "This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see

energy bill savings right away."

You can recover 30 percent—up to \$1,500—of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and biomass stoves. Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation.

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit EnergyStar.gov/TaxCredits. Tax credits are especially beneficial as they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

"These are tough times, and we know it's important for our members to keep their monthly electric bills as low as possible," explains Overstreet.

"Making home energy-efficiency upgrades offers a great way to save energy and money, and these tax credits can help make that a reality."

Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your 2010 taxes using IRS Form 5695. ☺

**MAGEN HOWARD** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

**MEGAN MCKOY-NOE** contributed to this article.



# Make smart connections this holiday season

BY JOHN POWERS  
CO-OP SAFETY DIRECTOR

**DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**, families often string together extension cords without a second thought. Unfortunately, all cords are not created equal.

Just because an extension cord can reach an outlet across a room doesn't mean it's the right one for the task at hand. If a tool, appliance, or holiday display draws more current than an extension cord can carry, it may cause the cord (and whatever is connected to it) to overheat and start a fire.

Cords come in many lengths and are marked with a size or gauge. The gauge is based on the American Wire Gauge (AWG) System, in which the larger the wire, the smaller the AWG number.

For example, a 12-gauge wire would be larger and power larger wattage appliances than a 14-gauge wire. A cord, based on its gauge, can power appliances of a certain wattage only at specific distances. As the cord gets longer, the current-carrying capacity of the cord drops.

Using the right cord for the job is only the first step in using extension cords safely. Follow these tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to ensure safe use and make smart connection decisions:

- ▶ Look for the UL symbol. It means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.
- ▶ Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors, as it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."
- ▶ Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture, tacked in place to a wall or taped down, or used while coiled or bent. Match the length of the cord to your needs.
- ▶ Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.
- ▶ Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.
- ▶ On cords with more than one outlet, use the covers provided for unused openings. Children and pets face serious injury if they chew on unused outlets or stick sharp metal objects into the openings.
- ▶ Do not use extension cords that are cut or damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand of wire can result in an electric shock or burn.
- ▶ Never file or cut the plug blades or grounding pin of an extension cord or appliance to plug it into an old outlet.
- ▶ As a safety feature, extension cords and most appliances boast polarized plugs (one blade wider than the other). These special plugs are designed to prevent electric shock by properly aligning circuit conductors. If a plug does not fit, have a qualified electrician install a new outlet. ⚡



Marlboro Electric's Safety Director John Powers shows how extension cords come in many lengths and are marked with a size or gauge. He emphasizes that you should use the right cords for your holiday loads.

CHRISTY OVERSTREET



# They remember

## ‘when the lights came on’



(PHOTO COURTESY WALTER ALLREAD)

WALTER ALLREAD

**THEY’VE BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH** but twins Charles and Andrew Bingham, 70, still recall “the day the lights came on.”

Born February 12, 1940, seven months before Marlboro Electric Cooperative began bringing electricity to rural Marlboro and Dillon counties, the brothers were boys when electric lines reached their parents’ home east of Bennettsville. They remember how Andrew Sr. and Annie Jackson Bingham rejoiced. “Yes, they sure did,” says Charles, left.

The brothers have very limited sight but they, too, sensed change had come. “Yes, we could see the light—and feel the heat from the bulb,” says Andrew. Soon, modern conveniences brought their family and others served by co-ops out of a far darker age.

The twins now live at BTU Nursing Home in Bennettsville, where the co-op is still reaching them. Last Christmas, Marlboro Electric’s chapter of WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) sponsored a Christmas party, donating blankets to residents.

Charles and Andrew, who are eager for the WIRE ladies to return this holiday season, share a room at BTU, where they enjoy singing and playing harmonica together. “We’ve never been apart,” Andrew notes. And the co-op, it would seem, has never been too far away. ☺

**70 YEARS  
OF SERVICE**



**WIRE  
Women Involved in Rural Electrification**

**MARLBORO  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE**

Serving our members  
since Sept. 3, 1940