



Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Monday–Friday

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Co-op News Editor

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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

Electric Ed 101

Why we provide education, training and information to our members

BY READING THIS COLUMN, you're helping Marlboro Electric Cooperative fulfill the Fifth Cooperative Principle, "Education, Training, and Information," one of seven guidelines that govern cooperative operations.

In fact, right now you're holding one of your co-op's primary conduits of education and information, *South Carolina Living*. Through these pages, we communicate directly with you, our consumer-members, on important co-op business. We also share energy-saving tips to save you money, safety information that could save



your life, economic development news for growth and jobs, community activities and commitments, and much more.

But we don't stop there. We sponsor programs to educate youth in our service areas with local school classes, safety programs, etc.

We also support student education through our Give Us An A program, statewide WIRE scholarship of Women Returning to College, Solar School project, and we send rising high school seniors-to-be to Washington, D.C., for a week every summer as part of the nationally organized Rural Electric Youth Tour. Youth Tour students receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital to visit historic sites, see important governmental buildings, meet lawmakers, and learn how our system of government works. To apply for the June 2011 Washington Youth Tour program, applications will be available December 1, 2010–January 31, 2011, at MarlboroElectric.coop/YouthTour or contact Christy Overstreet at (843) 479-3855.

Our education efforts extend to our employees as well as you can read

about it on page 20C. We encourage and support them in taking courses to improve on-the-job skills through our state organization, the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., or the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based national service organization representing more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts, and public utility districts in the United States. We believe well-trained employees are more valuable to the co-op and can provide you, our members, with the high quality of service you've come to expect.

We also sponsor safety seminars for our linemen, field workers and office personnel. This education is vital to keeping our workforce safe and reduces costs involved with lost-time accidents.

Keeping you informed—so you can learn to manage your energy use or understand how your co-op employees are working to better serve you—is one of our most important responsibilities. That's the cooperative difference.

Janelle Sauls

Trustee, Secretary/Treasurer



MEC's lineworker Steve Ellerbe talks to students at McColl Elementary about safety.

Co-op cleans green

Momar, Inc. honors MEC



CHRISTY OVERSTREET

Momar salesman J.P. Dowd, center, presents the GreenAction award to co-op employees Jerry Murphy, left, John Powers and William Penn.

MARLBORO ELECTRIC was awarded a certificate from Momar, Incorporated for serving as a Greenaction Facility. This is one of the many ways your local co-op has demonstrated active environmental stewardship and dedication in going “green.”

By utilizing cleaning products that have minimized the effects on environmental and human health, the goal in selecting a green disinfectant or sanitizer is to move from a more hazardous product to a less hazardous alternative. A product can be defined as “green” when its impact on health and the environment is less than that of comparable products used for the same purpose.

Green-action

products, provided by Momar Incorporated, have been formulated in a national effort and partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use safer chemistry in effective product formulations.

Momar, Incorporated, a specialty manufacturer of general maintenance and sanitation chemicals, founded in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1947, continues to grow with industry-leading research and advanced product development of green products.

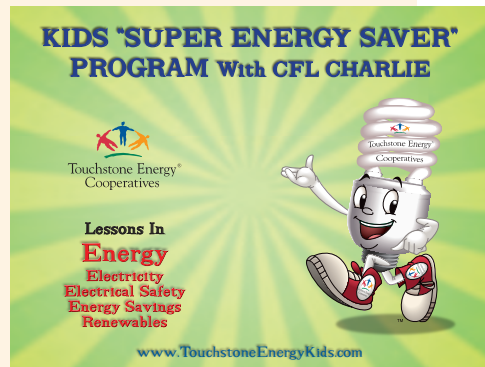
For more local co-op information, see the MEC News EXTRA on pages 20A–D.



Co-op, ‘CFL Charlie’ teach kids to save energy

October is Cooperative Month and Energy Efficiency Awareness Month, and Marlboro Electric Cooperative is celebrating both by distributing Super Energy Saver educational kits to elementary schools in our service area.

Featuring the Touchstone Energy mascot CFL Charlie, each kit includes “Lessons in Energy” focusing on electrical safety, energy savings and renewable energy resources. The kits’ lessons augment those of another education program co-sponsored by Marlboro Electric Cooperative earlier this



year—the website, PalmettoPower.com.

Marlboro Electric and its generation and transmission co-op, Central Electric Power Cooperative, created the website to offer unique curricula for educators teaching youth about the state of energy in South Carolina.

“Knowledge is power and knowledge about wise energy use is powerful indeed,” says John Powers, manager of information systems/public relations. “That’s why we’re putting these Super Energy Saver kits into the hands of the educators who teach our future co-op members.”

The effort also ties into Cooperative Month, when Marlboro Electric joins cooperatively owned businesses worldwide to highlight “the cooperative difference,” Powers notes. “Co-ops are consumer-owned, not-for-profit businesses that operate by seven Cooperative Principles. For instance, we provide Education and Information for our member-owners about wise power use, and we show Commitment to Community every day,” he says. Learn more about the Cooperative Principles at CoopMonth.coop.

Marlboro Electric Cooperative is one of more than 700 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across America. Touchstone Energy co-ops serve members with an emphasis on core values including integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Local 4-H'ers make a difference

Planting energy efficiency to light the way



News EXTRA



Youth ages 8-16 enjoyed the 4-H Electric Workshop offered by Marlboro County Clemson Extension this summer.

PLAIN CLAY POTS were transformed into beautifully decorated lamps by local 4-H participants this summer, topped off with energy-efficient light bulbs donated by Marlboro Electric to make even more of a difference.

Marlboro County Clemson Extension offered a variety of 4-H summer workshops for youth ages 8-16. The hands-on activities introduced the youth to 4-H, provided activities to help them develop their own personal development skills, gave them a positive experience and, most importantly, they had fun.

The world of electricity was explored in the Electric Workshop and participants learned basic electrical concepts and safety techniques. Clay pots were painted and decorated with decals and artwork ranging from hearts and flowers to sports. Then, the lamps were properly assembled and wired. Compact fluorescent light

(CFL) bulbs were used to teach the importance of energy efficiency and safety to the 4-H group.

Staff and adult volunteers work together to offer 4-H educational programs to empower youth to become healthy, productive and contributing members of society and their community. A learn-by-doing approach of energetic activities may range from animals, natural resources, shooting sports, and foods and nutrition, to science and technology, photography, leadership and more.

South Carolina 4-H program is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills offered through Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service since 1908. ☺

To learn more about South Carolina 4-H programs, visit Clemson.edu/4h. For local information, call Marlboro County 4-H office, (843) 479-6851, or Dillon County 4-H, (843) 774-8218.

Makayla Karn, 9, puts a compact fluorescent light bulb in her new clay pot lamp she created. Makayla is the daughter of Marlboro Electric Co-op members Marvin and Carolyn Karn of Clio.



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Michael McManus, 4-H agent, worked with participants on learning basic electrical concepts and safety techniques when making clay pot lamps.



An awards banquet was held on August 31 at Bennettsville Community Center to recognize participating students, parents, grandparents, businesses, teachers and supporters of the local 4-H programs. Carolyn Crouse and Gloria Quick were recognized as retiring from Marlboro County's Clemson Extension Service with more than 20 years of service.



Co-op members Johnny and Gwen Newton, founders and leaders of MYOSA (Marlboro Youth Outdoor Shooting Association), were recognized for their dedication to the 4-H Shooting Sports.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY CHRISTY OVERSTREET

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOUCHES the lives of Americans of all ages, leaving a devastating impact on women, men, and children of every background and circumstance. A family's home becomes a place of fear, hopelessness and desperation when a woman is battered by her partner, a child witnesses the abuse of a loved one or a senior is victimized by family members.

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault is a non-profit organization dedicated to the reduction of rape, family violence and child abuse and to the needs of its victims.

"It's important that people be aware of the many different programs we offer, such as the Children's Durant Center," Director of Development Marie Long said. "Programs and services include community victim assistance, emergency safe shelters, Durant Children's Center, Prevent Child Abuse Pee Dee, alternatives to violence, reducing our assault risk, and training and education. Counseling, temporary accommodations, medical, legal and criminal justice advocacy and accompaniment are all available."

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Pee Dee Coalition asks everyone to recommit, speak out about this serious issue and raise awareness to end violence within homes,

our communities and our country. It is also a time to mourn those who have died due to domestic violence, celebrate with those who have survived and connect with those who work to end violence against women and children.

Marlboro County's coordinator Loretta Love is planning a "Candlelight Vigil" at the Bennettsville Community Center, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. for the public to attend.

To help states, municipalities, agencies and individuals with the goals of the Violence Against Women Act, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women has worked with Congress and the president and local, state and national civil society agencies to establish months designated to raise awareness about the four crimes included in the bill: January is Stalking Awareness Month; February is Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"We have been targeting adolescents this year with date rape facts, the importance of early reporting, encouraging victims to allow law enforcement to investigate and victim's rights," Dillon County's local coordinator Gwen Dotson said. "In addition, a 'Lunch & Learn' for military wives and female veterans is scheduled for October 19 at United Methodist, Main Street



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Marlboro Electric's employee Jean Evers, right, assists Pee Dee Coalition's Marie Long, left, and Loretta Love with phones donated by Marlboro Electric for victims to call 911 in emergency situations.

in Dillon."

Pee Dee Coalition is funded through local, state and federal dollars while relying heavily on both financial and in-kind contributions from the general public. Through Marlboro Electric's Operation Round Up program, the Trust Board has been able to help individuals in desperate need through Pee Dee Coalition.

During the upcoming holidays, the emergency safe shelters are used more. The organization appreciates donations such as household items, cleaning supplies, food, personal hygiene and

medical items. Donations to the organization may be received at any of the Satellite Centers.

Together, we all can make a difference in the lives of victims and their families. ☺

To learn more about the Pee Dee Coalition, visit PeeDeeCoalition.org or call (843) 669-4694. For Marlboro County's Satellite Center, located at 108 Parsonage Street, Bennettsville, call (843) 479-0882. For Dillon County's Satellite Center, located at 203 North Fifth Avenue, Dillon, call (843) 774-0898.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINES: (843) 669-4600 or (800) 273-1820

CHILD HELP PEE DEE 24-HOUR HELP LINE: (866) 867-9857

Staying alive

Co-op employees learn safe work habits



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Safety Director John Powers observes Jimmie Ridges during his CPR training.

MARLBORO ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES place safety as their top priority for themselves and others, especially during dangerous times. Each month, co-op employees participate in training sessions involving safety practices and take the time to inspect equipment and safety gear.

Lineworkers take precautions to make any necessary repairs safely. For example, when working on a line, they are required to wear rubber insulated gloves and sleeves. These rubber insulated gloves and sleeves are made of 'special' materials to work on power lines so employees will not be injured. Hard hats, goggles, first-aid kits, fire extinguishers and other items are used by lineworkers.

It is also important that co-op employees learn safety procedures. Marlboro Electric employees receive defensive driving training, pole-top rescue, first aid, CPR and many other safety classes.

The construction, operation and maintenance of our distribution system promote safety for electric cooperative employees and our member consumers. The safety practices of Marlboro Electric reflect the requirements and/or

recommended practices of the National Electrical Safety Code, the Rural Utilities Service, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. and the American National Standards Institute, and the Occupational, Safety and Health Administration.

The co-op is proud of their outstanding safety record and strives to keep danger in the distance as much as possible by educating and training employees so they can go



Lineworkers Roddy Bowers, left, Steve Ellerbe, top right, and Jimmie Ridges check their rubber insulated gloves and sleeves for any defects.

home to their families just as our members do. Protect the well-being and safety of your family and safeguard those who come to your aid, like co-op lineworkers.

When we work together for safety and the good for our communities, we all benefit. Marlboro Electric wants to keep lights on for members and for employees. ☺



Employees Robbie Kirk, left, and Earl Watson received their Supervisory Certificates from President and CEO Bill Fleming after completing coursework through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Marlboro Electric employees John Powers, left, and Terry Terry package old meters to be recycled and shipped to a third world country. Packages were then loaded into a truck provided by NRECA International Foundation as shown by co-op employee James Emanuel in the photo below.

Co-op donates old meters

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2010, Marlboro Electric has been changing out meters and replacing them with new digital meters capable of the latest advanced metering infrastructure functions to better serve members.

What happens to the old meters? Marlboro Electric has donated the old meters to the NRECA International Foundation to be recycled and sent to Guatemala, a third-world country.

“We wanted to do something smarter with the used units, like recycling, rather than disposing of them at a landfill,” Manager of Information Systems/Public Relations John Powers said. “Not only is this a green way, it is the co-op way by helping those living without power, in

a third-world country, receive electricity.”

The NRECA International Foundation partners with U.S. electric cooperatives and others to electrify rural villages and foster economic development, improving the lives of people in developing countries. The foundation was created in 1985 and has provided millions of dollars in funding, donated equipment, and volunteer personnel to electrify villages and share lessons from the U.S. electric cooperative experience with electric cooperatives in developing countries. ☺



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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 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 and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. The person responsible for coordinating this compliance effort is William L. Fleming, president and chief executive officer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD) or, toll-free, (866) 632-9992 (voice only). Both USDA and Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. are equal opportunity providers and employers.