




A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SPOT LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter

June 2019



Building a Brighter Energy Future

Here at JOEMC, we are focused on providing you safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable power. As the electric grid evolves, we know that achieving this mission means that we have to develop forward-looking energy solutions that will help us continue to support you, both now and in the years to come.

Every day, we are working to build a brighter energy future for the people, businesses and communities we serve by investing in advancements such as:

- **SMARTER ENERGY USE.**

Thanks to new technologies that we are introducing today, like advanced metering, our members will have an unprecedented level of control over energy use in the near future. The advanced meters we are installing will provide real-time data regarding how much electricity you're consuming so

you can make informed decisions that help save both energy and money.

- **BETTER, MORE EFFICIENT POWER.**

Improved monitoring and control of electricity is also enabling us to use it in new and better ways, offering a smarter, cheaper and cleaner alternative to power generated by fossil fuels. Expanding the use of electricity in a variety of industries provides many benefits, including improved energy efficiency, cost savings, and lower carbon emissions. Electric vehicles, which are rapidly

growing in popularity, are a primary example of this conversion.

- **A MORE FLEXIBLE GRID.** The integration of technology is resulting in a more interconnected and flexible electric grid that enables two-way communication between co-ops and their members. In the future, it could also allow members to participate in demand response programs that utilize connected devices like smart thermostats and water heater controls to manage demand for electricity during peak times, which helps keep power more reliable and energy costs down for everyone.



As technology advances, we will continue to explore innovative solutions that will help JOEMC manage energy use, reduce costs and maintain a high level of service. Learn more about the tools and resources we have available at joemc.com. ▶

Last month, the co-op began its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project with representative installing advanced meters in our service area.

JOEMC Awards Basketball Camp Scholarships to Local Middle Schoolers

Jones-Onslow has awarded Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships that will send two local middle school students to basketball camps this month at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Gavin Lanier, who attends Dixon Middle School, has received a scholarship for the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC, and Ariyanna Rodriguez, a student at New Bridge Middle School, was selected for a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State.

At the camps, students stay overnight in campus dorms, learn fundamental basketball and life skills, and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches. Roy Williams, coach of the Carolina Tar Heel men's basketball team, and Wes Moore, coach of the Wolfpack women's basketball team, direct the camps with the help of staff and current and former players.

JOEMC is one of 26 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in North Carolina that collectively award more than 50 sports camp scholarships to students statewide each year. ►



Gavin Lanier



Ariyanna Rodriguez



Flippin' the Switch: An Audio Podcast from JOEMC

If you are one of the more than 48 million Americans that listen to podcasts weekly or monthly, well, you're in luck...you can now tune in and subscribe to a free podcast that JOEMC started producing last month.

Flippin' the Switch is the monthly podcast for co-op members who want to keep up with what's going on at JOEMC but don't have time to read the newsletter or visit our website.

Each month listeners can learn more about community programs and involvement, get quick and easy energy tips that will save them money around the home, and hear how the co-op is using the latest in technologies to assist in providing the best customer service experience possible.

To learn more including how to subscribe, go to joemc.com/audio-podcast. ▼

Board Chairman and CEO Recognized at Statewide Meeting

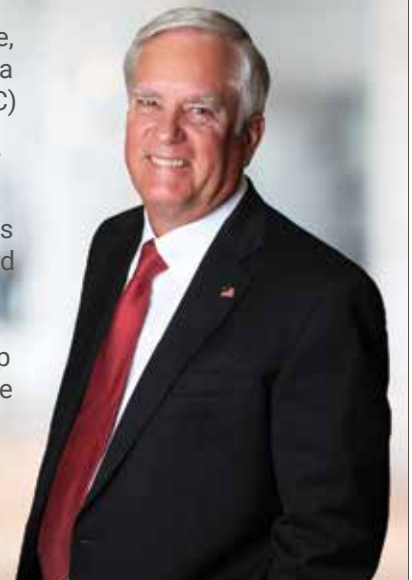


JOEMC's Chairman of the Board, John L. Pierce, was recognized recently at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperative's (NCAEC) annual meeting.

Mr. Pierce, from the Harris Creek community of Onslow County, who joined the Board of Directors in September 1998 was recognized for his 20 years of service. He has served as Chairman of the Board since March 2013.

In addition to Mr. Pierce's service award, the co-op's CEO, Jeff Clark, was elected to a leadership position with NCAEC. Mr. Clark will serve in the role of Board Vice President of the organization.

NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina and provides employee training, safety, education, and related services. ►



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Electric Use Doesn't Stop While You are on Vacation this Summer

During the summer months, when many of us are away on vacation, we often assume that our power bill will automatically be lower without taking a few things into consideration.



Even though you are on vacation or away from home for an extended period, certain appliances continue to operate and use kilowatt-hours unless they are turned off.

Refrigerators, freezers, and water heaters are large power users that continue to use electricity whether you're home or not. Computers, automatic lighting, air conditioning, and dehumidifiers will also use electricity when you are away.

Also, remember that many times before leaving on vacation, there is a lot of laundry to be done so the family can

have the clothes they will need. And, of course, when returning home, washing, drying, and ironing must be done again.

Here are some energy-saving tips to follow before leaving on vacation to help you conserve on your power bill:

1. Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it's a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.
2. Check the temperature settings of your water heater, and if you're going to be gone for a lengthy period, you may want to adjust it to a lower temperature or turn it off.

3. Use timers to operate lights each night.
4. Make sure all windows and doors are closed tightly so cool air is not escaping. Closing blinds and shades will keep sunlight out and help keep the house cooler.
5. Unplug computers, television, gaming systems, and other electronic devices before leaving.

So, when your electric bill isn't as low as you anticipated because you've been away for a week or two, remember, many of the appliances in your home didn't take a vacation. ▼

KEEPING YOU SAFE

Prepare Now for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season officially began on June 1, and JOEMC encourages all its members to be proactive and prepare now for storms and severe weather.

After the devastation left from Hurricane Florence last year, our community knows, even more, how important planning and preparation is during the coming months.

Take time to recognize the importance of hurricane planning and take steps to get ready. Here are some simple things you can do now to prepare:

- *Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family.* If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- *Create an emergency kit.* Go to joemc.com (Energy Center, Storm Center, Storm Checklist) to find some suggestions for your preparedness kit.



- *Connect with us online* at joemc.com or on social media (we're active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) to stay informed about weather, outages and other information. Keep our outage reporting number **(910-353-1940)** and email handy (joemc@joemc.com) just in case you need it.

- *Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings.* You can also visit ReadyNC.org or download the free ReadyNC app for tips for preparing for natural disasters, as well as real-time weather and traffic information.

For additional safety information and tips, visit joemc.com and look for the Storm Center tab under the Energy Center header. ►

Unplug to be More Connected

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world.



Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research shows that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge—even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

If your plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Stop by the local farmers’ market, visit a park, or spend the day at the beach. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (known as “vampire” energy loss). Televisions, gaming consoles, phone chargers, and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

Save energy by keeping warm air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. And use a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

In our connected world, we’ve forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While we can’t help recharge your relationships, we can help save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



Grilled Corn on the Cob

Ingredients:

6 ears corn
6 tablespoons butter, softened
seasonings of your choice

Directions:

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil grate. Peel back corn husks and remove silk. Place 1 tablespoon butter and seasonings on each piece of corn. Close husks. Wrap each ear of corn tightly in aluminum foil. Place on the prepared grill. Cook approximately 30 minutes, turning occasionally, until corn is tender.

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