

Nelson Burgess

Brandon Howard



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

JOEMC Member Newsletter

February 2017



Two selected fill vacant board seats

Nelson Burgess fills the unexpired term of Mack Whitney while Brandon Howard fills the unexpired term of Hugh Batts.

Two community leaders and local business owners with extensive business experience, were recently selected to fill unexpired terms of previous board members.

Nelson Burgess, of Jacksonville, was selected to fill the remaining term in District Two of Reverend Mac Whitney III, who passed away in late September 2016. Mr. Burgess, who is a native of Richlands, attended Richlands High School and East Carolina University and is a small business owner in Onslow County. Mr. Burgess is active in the community, serving as a board member of BB&T and the Onslow Caring Communities Foundation. He is also on the Board of Trustees of Coastal Carolina Community College and is a past board member of the New River Rotary and the Onslow Economic Development Commission. Mr. Burgess and his wife, Regine, have two children, Tiffany and Jessica.

Brandon Howard, of the

Half Moon Community, was selected to fill the remaining term in District One of board member and one time chairman Hugh Batts. Mr. Batts retired from the board at the end of July 2016. Mr. Howard, who was born and raised in Onslow County and attended Richlands High School and later North Carolina State University, is self employed

as a farmer, general contractor, and home inspector. A current board member of the Onslow County Farm Bureau, Mr. Howard is also a member of the Jacksonville Board of Realtors. He previously served on the Farm Bureau of North Carolina's Young Farmer & Ranch Committee. Mr. Howard has two children, Anna and Zachary. ▼

Seven cooperative principles

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DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Last month, we discussed the cooperative-form of business and the seven cooperative principles.

Each month we'll highlight one of the seven principles and explain what that means to a member-owned, not-for-profit organization like JOEMC. In January, we discussed Voluntary and Open Membership—this month we'll talk about Democratic Member Control. ►



Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



UNC and Wolfpack basketball camp scholarships: Middle school students apply today!

JOEMC is accepting applications from middle-school students for all-expense paid scholarships to summer basketball camps at the University of North Carolina and N.C. State University.

Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, and young women can compete for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh.

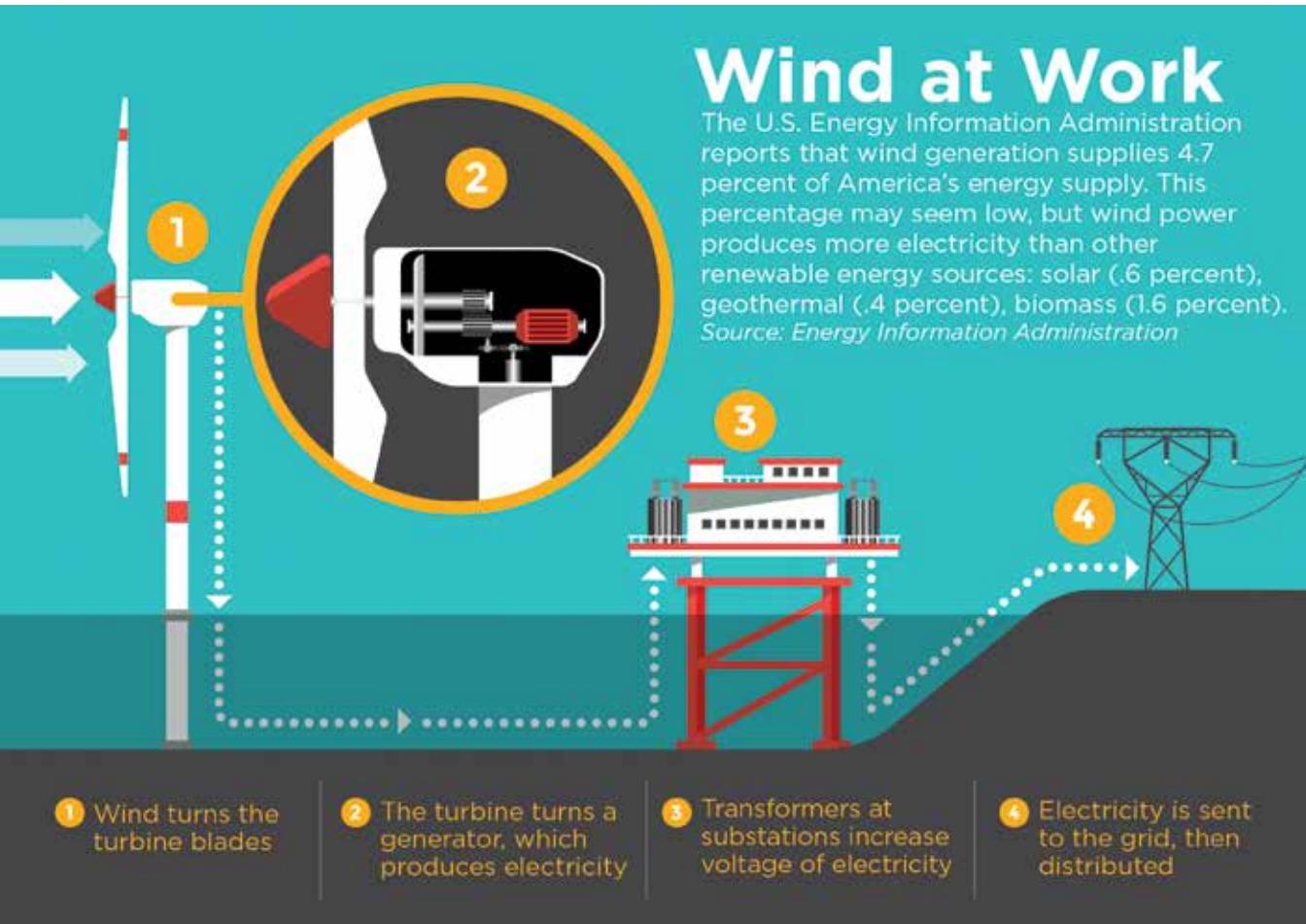
Applications and more information have been sent to area middle schools. Students can also download an application by visiting joemc.com and going to "The Cooperative" menu, "Community" tab, and then "Sports Camps". JOEMC will select

one student for each camp in a competitive process based on academics, extra-curricular activities and a short essay. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply, and the final application deadline is March 31.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, sponsored by JOEMC and the state's 26 electric cooperatives, sends more than 50 students statewide to learn from renowned collegiate coaches and athletes each year. Both camps

will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills like sportsmanship and leadership that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state and is yet another way the cooperatives are demonstrating their commitment to North Carolina communities. ▼



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Cold weather leads to increased electric use for JOEMC customers

Our area experienced plenty of cold weather during the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, and we received numerous inquiries from members about high bills.

Higher electric bills are usually caused by an increased use of electricity, and during winter-time, increased consumption can usually be attributed to the large difference between cold outdoor temperatures and heated indoor temperatures. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work overtime, and heating can account for as much as 50 percent of the typical all-electric home's energy use in winter.

Spikes in electric use are especially noticeable after a month or billing period that is significantly colder than the prior one, or when a month or billing period is significantly colder than historical averages. Something else to remember is that members' December 2016 electric bills had WPTA (Wholesale Power and TIER Adjustment) credits on them that ranged from \$30 upward (based on usage) thus reducing that month's bill and perhaps making increased electric use and higher bills in January and February even more noticeable.

How cold has it been?

During December 2016, 15 out of the 31 days saw temperatures dip below 40°F. And, it was extremely cold 8 of those days, with the lows reaching below freezing (32°F).

Keep in mind that the electricity needed to heat your home will vary depending on how efficient your heating, venting and air-conditioning (HVAC) unit is and how well-insulated your home is, among other factors. And unfortunately, when temperatures don't get out of the 20s, 30s or 40s all day, your HVAC system will probably have to run off and on—all day and all night—to heat your home, regardless of how efficient your system is. Even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68°F in the winter, when it is 30°F outside (for example), your system still has to work hard to make up that 38-degree difference. If you have an electric HVAC system, you'll be using a lot of electricity on days like these—even more so if you have a non-heat pump furnace system that uses straight electric heat (heat strips). ►



Tips to help reduce winter electricity use

- Set your thermostat to 68°F or as low as is comfortable for you. During cold weather, your system has to work harder to overcome big temperature differences between the outside and inside air, but not as much as if you had set your thermostat at a higher temperature.
- Going to be away from home? Program your thermostat to lower the temperature 10 degrees. If you turned the unit off, it will have to work overtime when turned back on, eating into any savings.
- Dress for the weather, even if you're inside. Wearing long sleeves and pants or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation to bump up the thermostat.
- Clean or replace HVAC filters monthly.
- Keep vents free from obstructions.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day also.
- Have your HVAC system serviced every year by a certified technician.
- Space heaters sound like a good idea but they can use a surprising amount of electricity.
- Close the fireplace damper when it's not in use.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth and caulk or weatherstrip around doors and windows. ▼

Concern for community

JOEMC's business is to provide electricity but, we also empower our members and help build the communities we serve. If you are wondering how we express our concern for community, consider the following.



Jeffery T. Clark | CEO

Our members:

You might wonder why a business that sells the service of electricity provides you with tips and tools to use less of what we sell. It's because of our business model. Cooperative businesses are not-for-profit and exist to provide exceptional service to members rather than making a profit. We think that means giving you the tools you need to make informed energy decisions that can lead to more manageable family budgets. We are not a Wall Street corporation; we are locally owned and operated and we know how important it is to stick to a budget.

Our community:

JOEMC and its employees have big hearts for service and giving back to others. Whether making monetary donations to the homeless shelters or the USO during the recent holiday season or volunteering their time to schools, clubs, or local sports leagues during the year, our employees understand the importance of giving back to their communities. They are committed to making the places they live, work, and raise their families better.

Corporately, the cooperative supports many activities, civic organizations, and causes that have lasting impacts on our community...and we want those folks to know that we support them and their efforts don't go unnoticed. Programs like Bright Ideas award local teachers funding for innovative projects to help students achieve success. Currently, we're accepting applications for Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships that will send students to basketball camps on college campuses. With these programs and others, not only are we showing concern for our community and members, but also to our children...who are our future.

Jones-Onslow was founded some 70 plus years ago when neighbors worked together to raise poles, string lines, and bring electricity to the folks in our area. Members were the core of our cooperative then, and they remain at the heart of our existence today. Much has changed since that time, but our cooperative mission stands unchanged: To power, and empower, the people and communities we serve. ▶



Chicken-n-Rice

Ingredients:

- 2 (6 oz.) packages uncooked long grain and wild rice
- 2 cups cooked, cubed chicken breast (seasoned to taste)
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (4 oz.) jar diced pimento peppers, drained
- 1 onion
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300°F. Prepare rice according to package directions. In a medium bowl, toss together the cooked chicken, prepared rice, soup, pimentos and onion. Transfer to a lightly greased 9" x 13" baking dish. Stir in ½ cup of the cheese, then sprinkle the other ½ cup of cheese on top. Place in preheated oven briefly, to melt.

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Jeffery T. Clark

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