bright ideas awarded!

Throughout November and December, Union Power contributed $20,000 to 17 teachers in our service area, impacting more than 6,100 students. In conjunction with North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives’ Bright Ideas educational grants program, the Co-op awarded grants to these deserving teachers for their innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

On November 25, the Union Power prize patrol, assisted by Carolina Panthers players and mascot Sir Purr, presented $1,116 in Bright Ideas grant funding at a surprise school-wide assembly at Western Union Elementary School in Waxhaw. Teacher Miranda Thomas won a Bright Ideas grant of $816 for her “Champions of Education” project and Angela Hill won a grant of $300 for her “Storybirds” project.

The Panthers and Sir Purr joined Union Power representatives on stage to congratulate the Bright Ideas grant winners and ramped up excitement in the audience. The players also spoke to students about working hard in school and answered their questions. The surprise event was part of a month-long celebration of grant-winning teachers, innovation in education and the 20th anniversary of the Bright Ideas program. The Co-op has funded more than $290,000 Bright Ideas grants since the program began in 1994.

(continued on page C)
We’ve just wrapped up a special year—the Co-op’s 75th anniversary. On the heels of celebrating at our 75th Annual Membership Meeting in October and another holiday season, we’d like to thank our members for your support in making 2014 another successful year! You are the reason the Cooperative exists and the reason our team will continue working to add value to all the services we provide during the year ahead.

Looking Back
Many times throughout the past year, we at Union Power have been reminded of the Co-op’s humble beginnings and of how far we’ve come in 75 years. I’d like to thank the board, employees and members for another successful year.

The cooperative business model remains a tried and true success story. Union Power’s business model distinguishes us from other organizations as the Co-op allocates and retires excess revenue, called capital credits, to our members. In 2014, Union Power retired $5.5 million in capital credits to eligible members. We’re proud to ensure that you receive a return on your investment and to put money back into our local economy. It’s just one of the ways we put members first.

Value for You
As a member of an electric co-op, you may not think about the value that co-op membership adds to your daily life. But here at Union Power, we think about it every day. We strive to keep you powered 24/7 while keeping electric rates affordable. While we cannot control things like the rising cost of wholesale power or government regulations, our team does its best to hold down operating costs, find ways to serve you more efficiently, and provide you with tools to be a conscious energy consumer.

We are innovative in adding value to you by helping you manage your energy use. Last year we introduced a new tool called “My Energy Report.” This free monthly report is emailed to all residential members with a current email address on file. It shows you where your energy dollars are going and provides an accurate analysis of your energy that you can view online at any time. Members like Katherine Cook are realizing the benefits. She says, “This information was very helpful, keeps me aware of my costs and will encourage me to find more ways to save if possible. Thanks for this email.”

In 2014, we also began offering a new billing option called Pay Your Way that allows you to prepay for electricity. This billing option encourages the monitoring of energy consumption by providing daily usage and alerts.

We offer a number of other ways to help you keep costs down—you’ll see some of them in the pages of this newsletter. In addition to flexible billing and payment options, our website, union-power.com, offers energy-saving tools and information that can help you decrease your monthly bills. From special purpose calculators to online home energy audits, our free tools add value to you and we encourage you to take advantage of them.

Our team will continue to do our part to provide you with the best value for the money you spend on your electric bill. As a member of Union Power Cooperative, you matter. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.
bright ideas...

Investing in Our Communities

“We are committed to the communities we serve, and we believe there’s no better investment in the future than in the education of our youth,” said Greg Andress, the Co-op’s executive vice president and general manager. “Through Bright Ideas grants, we are honored to support outstanding teachers whose creative ideas invigorate students and help them reach new levels of success.”

Both Bright Ideas projects at Western Union are designed to help students tap into their creativity and engage in the classroom. The “Champions of Education” project provides materials for students to create a math and science activity kit to share with other classes. Students harness their creativity and take ownership of their learning, and later share their work with their families at a Math and Science Fun Night. The “Storybirds” funding provides technology for students to record and add music to personal stories.

Impacting North Carolina Students

In November and December, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives awarded approximately $600,000 to educators statewide to fund nearly 500 projects. Since 1994, the Bright Ideas program has presented more than $9.1 million to Tar Heel educators. More than 8,800 projects in subjects ranging from mathematics to the arts have been funded by the Bright Ideas grant program, benefiting more than 1.6 million students throughout the state.

Congratulations to this year’s winners!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grant Winner</th>
<th>Name of Grant</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold E. Winkler Middle</td>
<td>Debra Gallagher</td>
<td>Air Quality Sensors</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky River Elementary</td>
<td>Mandy Davis</td>
<td>Brains and Bodies</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coltrane-Webb Elementary</td>
<td>Allison Smith</td>
<td>Bright Games for Brighter Kids</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coltrane-Webb Elementary</td>
<td>Sarah Collins</td>
<td>Home Literacy Book Box Kits</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord Middle</td>
<td>Jamie Mabry</td>
<td>K’NEX with MINERS</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Pleasant Elementary</td>
<td>Tiffany Eudy</td>
<td>Social Secrets</td>
<td>Cabarrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakboro Elementary</td>
<td>Teresa Bangle</td>
<td>EC Teachers Lending Library</td>
<td>Stanly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Bickett Education Center</td>
<td>Cheryl Nebel</td>
<td>Apraxia Therapy Materials</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Bickett Education Center</td>
<td>Donna Brown</td>
<td>Improving Social Communication Skills with Preschoolers</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont High</td>
<td>Susan Helms</td>
<td>Earth, Fire, Air, and Water...Raku Pottery</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont High</td>
<td>Tracy Price</td>
<td>Zany Zebras and Movie Makeup</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Town Elementary</td>
<td>Ann Jacob</td>
<td>Lights, Camera, Action - Tragedies and Comedies of Ancient Greece:</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe High</td>
<td>Kelly Lepsig</td>
<td>“Oh The Places You Will Go”</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Ridge Middle</td>
<td>Chris Roncone</td>
<td>Oh! What a relief it is</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkwood Middle</td>
<td>Darleen Morris</td>
<td>Seeing Beyond My Borders</td>
<td>Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Union Elementary</td>
<td>Angela Hill</td>
<td>Storybirds</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Union Elementary</td>
<td>Miranda Thomas</td>
<td>Champions for Education</td>
<td>Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read more about the Bright Ideas program on our website, union-power.com, under My Community, Bright Ideas Grants or visit ncbrightideas.com.
home heating fuel comparison
cost of electricity prices remain stable

Compared to other types of home heating fuel, electricity prices have remained the most stable over the past 10 years. This graph shows the average annual price increase from 2000 to 2010 for each fuel type.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) September 2011 data

appliance survey announcement

Union Power Cooperative will be conducting a residential consumer survey later this year. The purpose of this survey is to collect information needed to plan for the future. A sample of customers will be randomly selected for the survey. Your participation in the survey is very important to us, so please consider completing the survey if you receive a notice in the mail. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your effort to participate in the survey.
billing options: budget for the new year

Union Power offers a variety of billing options for your convenience:

- **Levelized Billing** - Members normally experience seasonal fluctuations in electrical use throughout the year. The levelized bill will be based on the average electrical use for the most recent 12 months. The bill is averaged so the amount does not stay the same, but increases or decreases slightly each month as consumption changes.

- **Budget Billing** - Based on the previous 12-month history, the Cooperative determines a fixed dollar average. The average is billed each month until November. A new average is calculated each November with any overpayments or underpayments and increases or decreases in energy use figured into the new average for the next 12 months.

- **Pay Your Way** - This billing option provides members with the tools to more closely monitor and adjust their daily energy use. The Pay Your Way program lets you pre-pay for your electricity and then track your daily usage with online tools and email/text alerts that show daily use and account balances.

To sign up for these billing options, visit us at union-power.com and click Billing Options or call our customer service department at 704-289-3145 or 1-800-922-6840.

welcome new businesses!

Union Power would like to welcome the newest local businesses that have recently joined our Co-op Connections Card program and remind members to save on national and local discounts with their Co-op Connections Card!

**Check out these new discounts:**

- **Compassion, Salon Services for Immobilized People Monroe** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 704-774-2204
  20% off any one salon service listed on our website compassionsalon.com

- **Generations United, Indian Trail** . . . . . . 704-909-9630
  10% discount on adult daycare and child daycare generationsunitededuc.wix.com/generationsunited

Union Power has 80+ local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections Card program and offering discounts to our members! It’s one more way Union Power adds value to our members’ everyday lives.

**Attention, Business Owners!**

Offer a discount and we’ll advertise your business for FREE! Visit the Co-op Connections for Participating Businesses page at union-power.com!

Union Power Cooperative January 2015
# JANUARY

**High school seniors:** Begin applying for one of six $1,000 college scholarships, three for a 4-year accredited NC university and three for a NC community college!

**Middle schoolers:** 6th - 8th graders begin applying for one of two summer basketball scholarships!

# FEBRUARY

**Teachers:** Now is a great time to book a safety demo for your students!

Application submissions being accepted for college scholarships, summer basketball camps and Youth Tour. Visit us at union-power.com and click on My Community.

# MARCH

6 – Deadline for Youth Tour applications

20 – Deadline for college scholarship applications

31 – Deadline for Roy Williams Basketball Camp and Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp scholarship applications

# APRIL

1—**Teachers:** begin applying for Bright Ideas educational grants!

**Youth Tour winners and Basketball Camp scholarship winners will be notified this month!**

# MAY

**College scholarship winners will be notified this month!**

Book an energy efficiency presentation for your summer program!

# JUNE

13–19 – **Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.** Three students will represent Union Power on this trip!

Roy Williams Basketball Camp held at UNC-Chapel Hill and Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp held at NC State. Dates to be announced.

# JULY

**Teachers:** Put your thinking caps on and use the summer wisely. Write up a creative project and apply early for a Bright Ideas grant! Early Bird deadline is in August and deadline for all applications is in September!

# AUGUST

**Teachers:** It could pay to apply early! All teachers who submit their applications by the Bright Ideas early bird deadline this month will be entered into a drawing for an awesome prize! Be watching future issues and our website for the exact date!

# SEPTEMBER

**Teachers:** Get those Bright Ideas grant applications in by the September 18 deadline! You can apply for a grant up to $2,000!

# OCTOBER

**Truck Day at your school!** Call our office to set up a Truck Day – includes education on electrical safety and linemen show their truck and equipment!

# NOVEMBER

**Bright Ideas Prize Patrol** surprises winners in service area schools!

# DECEMBER

**High school juniors:** Begin applying for one of three spots for our Rural Electric Youth Tour, held in our nation’s capital for a week each summer! Applications accepted through the first week of March!

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Find applications and information about college scholarships, summer basketball camps and Youth Tour at union-power.com, My Community!
don't be left in the dark…

**dial 1-800-794-4423**

Our Outage Reporting System recognizes the phone number you are calling from. However, if that phone number does not match the phone number listed for your account, you will be instructed to enter additional information to help us identify the outage location. Please follow the steps below based on whether we have the correct phone number for your account in our system:

**Outage location’s phone number IS NOT recognized:**
1. **DIAL 1-800-794-4423** to report an outage.
2. **PRESS 1.**
3. **ENTER phone number** including the area code or the account number (located on the top left of your bill) for the outage location.
4. **PRESS 1** to confirm your outage address.
5. **PRESS 1** to give more details about the outage or hang up.

**Outage location’s phone number IS recognized:**
1. **DIAL 1-800-794-4423** to report an outage.
2. **PRESS 1.**
3. **PRESS 1** to confirm your outage address.
4. **PRESS 1** to give more details regarding the outage or hang up.

*During major outages, remember to visit union-power.com for up-to-date outage news, information and our Outage Map!*

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**IN JUST TWO YEARS, UNION POWER MEMBERS HAVE RACKED UP NEARLY $39,000 IN PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS! NOW THAT’S VALUE!**

**EVERYDAY SAVINGS**

**THAT’S THE POWER OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP**

Savings on everyday items. Like up to 85% off prescription drugs at participating pharmacies nationwide.

**FIND ALL THE WAYS TO SAVE AT**

CONNECTIONS.COOP
right-of-way clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood. ABC Professional Tree Services and Carolina Tree Care will be working in Union County:

Union: Airport Rd, Arbor Ln, Armfield Mill Rd, Aviation Dr, Baucom Deese Rd, Baucom Rd, Birmingham Ln, Briarcliff Dr, Burgess Helms Rd, Concord Ave, Dudley Rd, Effie Whitley Rd, Fisher Ridge Dr, Goldmine Rd, Gum Ln, Hopewood Ln, Hunter Oak Ln, Jack Davis Rd, Jug Broome Rd, Majestic Forest Ln, Mangum Dairy Rd, Medlin Rd, Mine Shaft Dr, Mt Pleasant Church Rd, Mullis Rd, Neal Boyce Rd, New Town Rd, Patton Ave, Pepperidge Lane, Pigg Mattox Rd, Pine Ln, Price Shortcut Rd, Prospector’s Ct, Public Works Dr, Raccoon Run, Rape Rd, Ridge Rd, Rocky River Rd, Rogers Rd, S Potter Rd, Salem Church Rd, Sara Hinson Rd, Sells St, Sikes Mill Rd, Skyway Dr, Stack Rd, Stevens Rd, Temple St, Thornhill Dr, Timbercrest Circle, Trull Pl, Walters Mill Rd, Watkins Rd, Willoughby Rd, Wolfe Rd

For more information about Union Power’s vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call (704) 289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit our website, union-power.com, for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.