



# The LAMPLIGHTER

The Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

July 2007

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## Know what's below



Bill Durden

*Do you see the power lines in this photo?*

*Electrical wires, TV and telephone cables, gas lines and water pipes all are underground.*

*It's important to know where these utilities are before you dig.*

## Call 811 before you dig.

*Every day, underground digging and excavation results in far-reaching consequences from serious injury or death, to costly, large-scale service interruptions. To reduce such risks, 811 is the national telephone number to call to provide advanced notice of excavation activities. Remember, call 811 before you dig.*

**Washington Electric  
Membership Corporation**

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Frank Askew, President/CEO

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# The men and women who work for you

Frank Askew, President/CEO



## Dedicated ... determined ... dependable

It's been said, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." This is when the men and women who work for you come shining through, ready to do their best.

Stop and think about it for a moment—not many folks would consider going to work for a place that is apt to receive calls in the middle of the night, asking you to get out of your cozy bed and come to work. But that's what happens when you work for an electric utility on a regular basis during the summer thunderstorm season.

Washington EMC is not immune to the destructive forces of nature. Summer thunderstorms often fill the sky with lightning that can wreak havoc on an electric distribution system. The high winds that accompany strong storms can break tree limbs that collapse onto electric lines. These winds can also uproot trees that fall, breaking power lines and poles.

When weather conditions are at their worst, it is the time when the

folks who work for Washington EMC are at their best. Working through the night to keep the power on is no easy task. Many times, such as occurred in one recent storm that raged all night and into the next day, the electricity gets put back on in one location only to go out at another.

The Washington EMC service area covers 10 counties across 4,000 square miles of land stretching from above I-20 in the north to near I-16 in the south. There are a lot of things that can go wrong during the hot summer months. You can be sure the people who work for you do everything possible to keep the electric system working as it should. If the power does go out, they'll get it back on as soon as is safely practical.

The men and women at Washington EMC are proud to work for you. You can count on them to get going at full-speed when the going gets tough. Day or night, rain or shine, you can depend on them.

## Be prepared ...

Severe weather can occur any time. Be prepared. Have a Disaster Supply Kit on hand should you need it. A kit should include: A 3-day supply of water (one-gallon per person, per day) and food that won't spoil • one change of clothing and footwear per person • one blanket or sleeping bag per person • a first-aid kit, including prescription medicines • emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries • an extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash • special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.



# Operation Round Up

Small-change donations benefit locally



**Kathy Fahey (center), volunteer house parent and co-founder of The King's Cleft Inc., is presented with a Washington Electric Foundation Operation Round Up check for \$10,000 from Washington EMC President/CEO Frank Askew; Veal Moorman, Washington Electric Foundation board member; and Wendy Sellers, Washington EMC Vice President of Finance and Administration and Operation Round Up coordinator.**



**Chris Irwin, Washington Electric Foundation Chairman and Wendy Sellers, Washington EMC Operation Round Up coordinator, present Anne Brantley, Brentwood School Director of Development and Jackie Holton, Brentwood School Head of School a \$3,300 check for the Brentwood School Endowment Fund.**

Bill Durden Photos

**W**ashington Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its members. This is accomplished daily by providing affordable electric energy and service to its customers. In addition, the cooperative takes an unselfish involvement in many important community activities.

Operation Round Up is a way for Washington EMC customers to contribute to worthwhile causes throughout the cooperative's 10-county service area. Just as the name implies, each month Washington EMC rounds up the electric bills of participating consumers to the next dollar amount.

All Operation Round Up donations are placed with the Washington Electric Foundation, an independent organization administered by a separate board of directors made up of community leaders who serve on a vol-

untary basis. The board receives and evaluates all requests, and determines who receives funding and how all Operation Round Up monies are distributed.

"Operation Round Up is a great opportunity for Washington EMC members to help others," says Wendy Sellers, Washington EMC Vice President of Finance and Administration. Wendy serves as coordinator of the Operation Round Up program for Washington EMC and the Washington Electric Foundation. "It's important to know that the Operation Round Up funds are available to eligible recipients in all 10 counties served by Washington EMC. These include Washington, Johnson, Hancock, Wilkinson, Baldwin, Laurens, Emanuel, Warren, Glascock and Jefferson counties."

The program made its first donations in April 2007. These donations provided needed funding to the King's

Cleft, co-founded by David and Kathy Fahey of Wrightsville. The King's Cleft provides a family home environment for mentally and physically disabled children who have been neglected, abused, abandoned or displaced.

Another program, the Brentwood Endowment Program, received \$3,300. The endowment provides additional discretionary funds that could be directed toward many academic needs such as new textbooks, enhanced technology, enrichment programs and updated research resources.

"Think how great members feel knowing their small-change donations to Operation Round Up help change lives in local communities," says Sellers.

To learn more about Operation Round Up or to complete an application for funding, please visit the Operation Round Up section on our Web site at [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com).

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