

Hometown CONNECTION

February 2010

A Newsletter for and about the Members of *ElectriCities*

NC Public Power
City Owned Electric Service



Power Lines:

News from Louisburg and Statesville

'It's Cold, Be Smart' Campaign Launched

ElectriCities COO to Retire



Chief Operating Officer Art Hubert will retire after 30 years with *ElectriCities*.

NC Public Power PHEV Available for Your Display

New Board of Directors Sworn In



Newly elected Board Members are sworn into office by the Honorable Jane Gray, Wake County District Court Judge. From left to right: Jim Greene, Concord Deputy City Manager; Scott Stevens, Kinston City Manager; and Adam Mitchell, Ayden Town Manager.

Three of the five newly elected and re-elected *ElectriCities* Board Members were sworn into office during the Board's first meeting of the year on January 22. Jim Greene, Adam Mitchell and Scott Stevens were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Jane Gray, Wake County District Court Judge. Strib Boynton and Ron Hovis were unable to attend the ceremony. During the meeting, the Board also elected 2010 officers.

The 14-member Board of Directors advises and directs the activities and policies for North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 (NCMPA1), North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA), and *ElectriCities*, a municipal electric system trade association.

The following members began their terms on January 22:

Ron Hovis is a member of the Cherryville City Council and is serving his first term on the Board.

Adam Mitchell is the Town Manager of Ayden and is serving his first term on the Board.

Scott Stevens is the City Manager of

Kinston and is serving his first term on the Board.

Strib Boynton is the City Manager of High Point and is serving his second term on the Board. Boynton served as the *ElectriCities* Board Chairman in 2009.

Jim Greene is the Deputy City Manager of Concord and is serving his first term on the Board.

The Board members were elected after an extensive nomination process. All will serve three-year terms.

During the Board's January meeting, the 2010 officers were elected, including Bruce Rose of Wilson, Chairman; Jennifer Stultz of Gastonia, Vice Chairman; and John Craft of La Grange, Secretary.

The *ElectriCities* Board of Directors consists of six members representing NCMPA1, six members representing NCEMPA and two members representing non-power agency cities.

Boynton and Hovis will be administered the oath of office during the February Board of Directors meeting. Please see the March *Hometown Connection* for photos of the ceremony.

For a full listing of *ElectriCities* Board members, log onto www.electricities.com.



Statesville Mayor is Citizen of the Year

Mayor Costi Kutteh received the Statesville Citizen of the Year award for 2009, an honor bestowed for his unceasing dedication to the city.



Mayor Kutteh

"This award belongs to each and every one of you," a surprised Mayor Kutteh said during last month's annual awards banquet at the Statesville Civic Center hosted by The Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce.

Along with its 2009 All-America City award, the City of Statesville and Iredell County landed several major economic development projects over the last several months.

In December, Brazilian-based fabrics manufacturer Providencia re-announced its intention to make Statesville's largest economic development investment in 14 years, with the beginning of a \$75 to \$80 million project in West Industrial Park.

Piedmont Rubber Recycling recently announced it will relocate and expand its manufacturing facility in Statesville, adding 45 new jobs in the process.

And just this month, Statesville-based laboratory furniture manufacturer Kewanee Scientific Corporation announced its plans to invest \$13 million in a major renovation and expansion project.

"I'm proud and humbled that the community recognized my love for Statesville," he said. "To realize my life is entangled with the people on that plaque. They all love Statesville."

Kutteh said he used to take an iPod on his daily walks between his law office on North Center Street and City Hall. But Mayor Kutteh said he stopped doing that when he realized he should instead be listening to voices of concerned citizens.

Patti and Gary West called Kutteh a listener, a servant and a friend.

The Wests, who run Fifth Street Shelter Ministries, said Mayor Kutteh could be

seen with his family after big dinners at the shelter washing pots and pans.

"He is one who makes things happen, and not a one-man band," Gary West said.

"His goal is for the good of all, no matter the project," Patti West added.

Mayor Kutteh wrapped up his acceptance speech by encouraging people to enjoy the city and what it has to offer while they are here.

"Service is its own reward, if there is passion and spirit with it," Mayor Kutteh said.

Special thanks to The Record & Landmark for providing information for this article.

Louisburg New Digs Long Time Coming



Louisburg Utility Director Ray Patterson in front of antique diesel generators housed at the town's old utility department.

When flooding from Hurricanes Fran and Floyd nearly encompassed the Town of Louisburg's utility department, Utility Director Ray Patterson already knew it was time to move from the antiquated facility on Sunset Avenue.

The aged brick structure built in 1906 housed not only the electric department, but the town's street and public works divisions as well. Over 20 employees went to work every day to a dilapidated building, with just one office and one bathroom amidst a meager 3,800 sq. ft.

"The hole in the roof was a bonus," said Patterson, a 30-year Louisburg civil servant.

Now the building is mostly empty warehouse space, and the one office serves as a police storage room. It still houses one of four antique diesel generators that powered the



The Town of Louisburg utility departments moved from a building circa 1906, to this newly renovated 55,000-sq. ft. facility.

town for much of the early 20th century.

"The last time the town used the generators was in 1954 when (Hurricane) Hazel came through here," said Patterson. "People brought their refrigerators and freezers in pickup trucks, and parked them here connected by drop cords."

Finally, last June, Patterson and his staff moved operations into a sparkling 55,000-sq. ft. facility on Industry Drive.

Twelve thousand sq. ft. indoor and encaged warehouse space serves each of the three departments. Shiny battleship gray floors, ceiling clearance to park multiple bucket trucks indoors, bright fluorescent lighting, a wash bay, plenty of modern furnished offices, a full service kitchen, work-out room and meeting room for up to 250, break room, conference room, wireless internet access and two bathrooms and showers each for men and women; make up a palace compared to the departments' previous digs.

"I didn't think the other place was that bad until we moved. We had gotten kind of used to it over there," said Electric Superintendent Mike Ayscue, now in his 20th year with the town.

"About 15 years ago we started talking to the Town Council about needing a new facility," Patterson said. "So they deposited to an escrow account each year and never touched it. We were very pleased."

Patterson and his staff played a major role in the design of the new building for the town's electric, public works and street departments serving about 2,100 customers. The town's public works department is also

'It's Cold, Be Smart' Launched

Amidst one of the coldest winters in decades, ElectriCities recently launched the "It's Cold, Be Smart" campaign to help public power communities educate customers about the severity of winter and its effect on energy usage.

Forecasters reported it was the longest stretch of frigid weather in more than 30 years, a cold snap not seen since 1977. Between December 30, 2009 and January 15, 2010, average daily low temperatures in Charlotte and Raleigh were 12 and 7 degrees below normal, respectively.

Extreme sustained cold brings high electric usage, which in turn results in higher electric bills. With customers across the state seeing electric bills two and three times their normal winter bills, several communities have requested customized bill inserts and newspaper advertisements to help educate customers about the extremely cold weather.

"During times like this, public power utilities can help their customers understand energy-wasting habits and how to control household electric use," said Ken Raber, SVP of NCEMPA and ElectriCities Services. "Many customers don't realize how extremely cold it has been and the effects of the cold on their electric usage – it's our responsibility to help educate customers so they understand how they can control their electric usage. I commend all of the cities and towns that have used this opportunity to help customers understand more about their household electric usage."

ElectriCities hosted a series of webinars for municipal staff to learn more about the cold weather and its effects on electric bills. The webinar included comprehensive data about this winter, a review of energy efficiency tips and an opportunity to ask questions about energy use.

Andy Yakim, with Greenville Utilities, and Phil Bisesi, Business Developer with ElectriCities, took questions from the group about energy habits.

"One of the most common misconceptions is that a house 'cares' if you're home or not, when it comes to energy usage," said Yakim, in response to a question from the group. "With the severe temperatures we've seen, it takes significantly more energy to keep a home at the usual temperature. For example, many heat pumps lose significant effi-

ciency when temperatures are below 35 degrees. Some days in January, the high temperature was barely in the 30s. These severe conditions mean your home heating system must work much harder, leading to higher usage and higher bills, even if your habits stayed the same."



Webinar participants also shared best practices and what they're doing to help locally. You can view the webinar presentation at www.electricities.com. Click on the Communications tab, then Communications Resources.

For more information on the "It's Cold, Be Smart" Campaign, contact Gregg Welch at (800) 768-7697, ext. 6353 or gwelch@electricities.org or Rebecca Agner at ext. 6334 or ragner@electricities.org.

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housed at the new facility.

Harold Annis, an architect from Raleigh, was brought in to counsel Patterson and assist with the blueprints.

The original cost estimate for the building came in at about \$7 million, Patterson said. But the piece of property the town owned and first earmarked for the new location had no power, water, sewer or road access.

"So we backed off," Patterson said.

Instead, town officials then set their sights on a tobacco warehouse up for sale, complete with road access and utilities. When all the modifications and up fitting was complete, Patterson and his crew walked into their new facility for a turnkey price tag of less than \$4 million.

"The thing I'm most proud of is that this was a joint effort," Patterson said. "I took my department heads and we sat down, drew a square and said, 'Now, what do we need?'"

Power Lines is compiled from NC Public Power communities' news releases. To include news in Power Lines, contact Rebecca Agner at ragner@electricities.org.

Plant Status

NCMPA1

Catawba Unit 1 is operating at 100 percent power without any major problems.

Catawba Unit 2 is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 297th day of continuous operation.

McGuire Unit 1 is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 455th day of continuous operation.

McGuire Unit 2 is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 127th day of continuous operation.

All items reported as of February 10, 2010

NCEMPA

Brunswick Unit 1 is currently operating at 100 percent power and has provided 131 days of continuous service.

Brunswick Unit 2 entered a scheduled maintenance outage on February 3 and returned to service on February 8.

Harris Unit 1 is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 455th day of continuous operation.

Mayo Unit 1 is operating normally according to system load requirements.

Roxboro Unit 4 is operating normally according to system load requirements.

Billing Determinants

NCMPA1 Billing Determinants for participant usage in January 2010

Billing Demand (kW)	Billing Energy (kWh)	Billed Amount
747,628	460,730,367	\$26,829,383.92

NCEMPA Billing Determinants for participant usage in January 2010

	Billing Demand (kW)	Billing Energy (kWh)	Billed Amount
Progress Energy Carolinas	1,044,275	612,951	\$56,779,622.44
Dominion	132,288	79,796,677	\$7,445,729.55
Total	1,176,563	692,429,628	\$64,225,351.99

Note: All values are less SEPA. Dominion values include Edenton and Elizabeth City generating project output.

Load Management Info

In January, NCMPA1 recommended load management for Agency cities for four hours over a two-day period. Electric-Save operations occurred for four hours over a two-day period, including the monthly on-peak billing period, which occurred from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on January 11. For Non-Agency cities, NCMPA1 recommended load management for eight hours over a four-day period including the Duke Control Area Peak which occurred on January 11 at hour ending 8 a.m.

In January, NCEMPA provided advance telephone or pager recommendations for residential load management for three hours over a three-day period, including the day and hour of the Progress Energy Carolinas (PEC) monthly peak. Electric-Save (direct control) operations occurred for three hours over a three-day period, including the PEC monthly billing peak occurring on January 11 at hour ending 8 a.m.

For more information on how your city or town can benefit from load management, call Cecil Rhodes (NCEMPA) at ext. 6231 or Jim Deaton (NCMPA1) at ext. 6223.

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NC Public Power Plug-In Hybrid Available for Visit to Your Community

Since the NC Public Power plug in hybrid car was retrofitted and began making public appearances in September 2008, the vehicle has made 46 visits to cities and ElectriCities sponsored events, attended by 513,521 people.

Festivals and parades provide the best opportunity to expose the car to the public and educate customers about this technology.

To schedule the car in your community, contact Phil Bisesi at 800-768-7697 ext. 6295 or e-mail pbisesi@electricities.org.

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ElectriCities COO Art Hubert to Retire

After more than 30 years of service, long-time ElectriCities employee Art Hubert will retire on February 26. Hubert began his career at ElectriCities on August 1, 1979 as a site representative at the Catawba Nuclear Station. After representing NCMPA1 interests at the plant for two years, Hubert moved to Raleigh to initiate a site representation program for NCEMPA assets, including the Brunswick and Harris Nuclear Stations and the Mayo and Roxboro Coal Plants. He continued his career in the Raleigh office, serving in several senior leadership positions, most recently as Chief Operating Officer since 1996. During his tenure, he served as interim CEO twice – the first time from 1994-95 and the second time from November 2008 through June 2009. *Hometown Connection* staff sat down with Hubert to discuss his outstanding career at ElectriCities and his retirement plans.

What were the key issues facing public power and ElectriCities when you joined the organization in 1979?

The biggest issue was schedule delays at the nuclear plants and the increased cost of the plants due to design changes

imposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The incident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant happened shortly before I joined ElectriCities, and the increased scrutiny we saw on nuclear construction after that incident was immense. It affected both NCEMPA and NCMPA1 by delaying the projects and adding cost.

What is your best memory at ElectriCities?

The most fun I had at work was serving as interim CEO for 18 months from 1994 to 1995. During that time, we changed the governance structure of ElectriCities and the Power Agencies. Prior to 1995, we had three Board meetings each month (NCMPA1, NCEMPA and ElectriCities) and more than 20 committees. It was a team effort and an opportunity for many different people to come together to bring positive change.

What will you miss most about ElectriCities?

Definitely the people, including internal staff, all of the Board Members and Board of Commissioners and the city staff. I will really miss the relationships.

See www.electricities.com for the full interview with Art Hubert.