

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PERIODICALS

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

SEP 28 1995  
MARY LIVERMORE LIBRARY  
PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 39

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

## Roger Oxendine announces bid for seat on LREMC Board of Directors



Roger Oxendine, a resident of the Gaddys Township, has announced his bid for election to the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. Oxendine has served on that board since his appointment in July. He was appointed to serve out the unexpired term of J.W. Hunt who represented District 2 since 1971 until his death in June, 1995. When he was appointed, the board of directors stated that the consumers in that district had requested Oxendine's appointment.

Oxendine is self-employed and operates Oxendine Farms. He is the son of Zeb and Margie Oxendine, well known farmer and businessman. Oxendine is married to the former Bobbie Ann Hunt and they have four children: Chasity, 20; Chad, 14; Bobbi Jo, 12; and Britany, 5.

Oxendine released the following statement relative to his election effort:

"I am the son of an agri-businessman which means that I have a great deal of experience and reverence for the land. I understand what it means to live in a rural area and have heard the elders talk about the needs of the farming communities

prior to the implementation of the EMC. Those were difficult days and the addition of electrical service to the rural areas was a blessing for the farmers.

"I was raised to respect the land, my neighbors and my community. My father was always active in civic and community affairs and taught me that we all ought to serve others. It is because of these values that I was taught as a child that I am willing to serve as a director at LREMC. I believe that I can be an asset to the consumers and was humbled by the requests made by my District that I finish out the unexpired term of the late J.W. Hunt. During my brief tenure on that board, I feel that I have much to contribute. I am knowledgeable of first of all the need for the cooperative, and secondly, with the technicalities that result in the distribution of electric power. Thirdly, I am a businessman and I understand that providing electricity to more than 20,000 households is big business. And big business requires business-minded directors who can make financially sound decisions. I feel that I can do this. While electricity is a necessity, the production and distribution of it is a business venture. We as directors must stay informed and make decisions that provide a needed service

while keeping it affordable. After all, it doesn't matter how needed a commodity is, if people can not afford it, it is not an asset to them.

"I simply offer my services and my expertise to the consumers out of an inbred commitment to serving others. It is my hope that when the consumers attend the annual meeting on October 3, 1995 at the PSU Performing Arts Center, that they will allow me the privilege of continuing to serve. It is important for me also to mention here that in order for a person's vote to count, they must vote for four persons, one in each district. It is my hope that the EMC consumers will make me one of their four."

Oxendine serves on several other boards and has a reputation of being honest, fair and committed to sound business decisions. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Pembroke State University; the Board of Directors of BB & T; serves as a director on the Corn Growers Association; and is Chairman of the Advisory Board to the North Carolina Department of Labor.

Oxendine continued, "I have been privileged to serve as a member of several boards. They have all been a learning experience for me. I believe that I have an obligation to learn as much as I can about a lot of things. It is a small world we live in and everything is relative to something else. My experience on other boards, in my opinion has only added to my business expertise. I wish to use my knowledge and expertise as an enhancement of the rural electrification program at LREMC. As many of you know already, there are economic opportunities associated with the electric program. I wish to help consumers in our service area to take advantage of these opportunities. It is important that consumers be informed about available services. I will make this one of my priorities, if I am elected. Other than that, I make no promise except that I will make decisions based on what I believe to be in the best interest of the consumers who own the cooperative. I don't believe that enough emphasis is placed on the actual owners of the cooperative. I will make the sharing of information a priority."

## Ronald Hammonds announces bid for seat on LREMC Board



Mr. Ronald Hammonds, candidate for the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC) Board of Directors, is an agri-businessman (poultry, beef cattle, row crops, hay) who has a long history of public service to the community. He is a former board member of Pembroke State University Board of Trustees, the Robeson County Board of Education, North Carolina State University Foundation Board, and the Saddletree Jaycees. He is presently an active member of the Saddletree Community Center and Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Mr. Hammonds has noted, "I was taught by my parents and grandparents to believe that community service is an extension of a person's values. When I was approached by various community members to run for the LREMC Board, it was through prayer, meditation and support from friends and family that convinced me to run for the LREMC board."

"The LREMC is a \$55 million dollar business a year. It is expanding in capital, buildings, equipment and employees. The LREMC employees are hard working people who are committed to quality. There

are some good people on the LREMC board, like Mr. Robert Strickland and Mr. Conrad Oxendine who bring a good name to public service because they are interested in doing what is best for the consumers.

There are some individuals who want to claim credit for LREMC growth. But common sense will show that people who are working together as a group account for the success of LREMC and not just a few individuals who are concerned with self interest. The primary ingredient for the growth of LREMC has been the lucrative service area of the four county system. As we enter the 21st Century, the LREMC board will need a vision for the future and a productive working relationship with community members, because there will continue to be a population growth in the LREMC service area which in turn will benefit our present consumers.

There are some individuals who have criticized me for encouraging diversity on the LREMC board, however, as a tri-racial community we must work together as a people to ensure that there is equality among all people of Robeson County. In recent weeks numerous letters to the editor of the Robesonian from African Americans, Anglo Americans and American

Indians have expressed concern regarding the connection between Lumbee Regional Development Association and LREMC. It appears from the evidence presented that there is a strong connection between particular LREMC board members and LRDA. This should not be the case! Many of us have been taught by our family and church that, "if you think something is wrong there probably is," however, to do nothing is to ensure the possibility that a wrong will continue to exist.

"As voters, you have the opportunity to make a positive change regarding the LREMC board and this could benefit all the people, not just a few with special interest for a particular organization such as LRDA.

"I accept the challenge to be a candidate for the board. Through prayer and encouragement, I will utilize my God given skills to work for the best interest of LREMC consumers."

Reared in the Saddletree community, Mr. Hammonds had this to say about his community, "My parents planted two qualities in my life as a child: religion and education.

"If you have questions about where any of the candidates stand on the real issues in this election, you should be able to ask those questions and receive a straight forward answer. Never let anyone tell you that we can meet our problems by surrendering to politics as usual.

"The people we elect on October 3 as Board members have an obligation to make sound policy decisions because their duty is to the people. There are differences, serious differences, between myself and my opponent. I want an LREMC board whose public acts are responsible to all and obligated to none. I want an LREMC board in which equal opportunity prevails and special privileges have no place. I am a candidate for the at-large seat to the Lumbee River EMC Board of Directors. My pledge to you, the customer, is to serve you, not for you to serve me."

## Allen Dial seeks seat on Pembroke Town Council



With an interest in the community and its citizens, Allen Griffin Dial has placed a bid to run for the Pembroke Town Council.

Numbers of individuals need leaders and representatives to serve them and help them to meet their needs. Mr. Dial feels that with his experience in business and town affairs, he realizes the needs and desires of the people and is capable of meeting them.

"For years I have attended town council meetings to observe and hear the public's expectations, concerns, and frustrations," quotes Dial, "and I want to be a council member to assist in improving and adding to the growth of the town."

From the youngest to the oldest or from the fortunate to the less fortunate, Mr. Dial has reached out in assisting and funding where needs and particular interests exist in many situations. "Being a life long resident of Pembroke, I have witnessed many changes and more and more people are in need. We must consider this situation with a great deal of analysis and take every effort to improve situations of the public."

Possessing a strong sense of assertiveness and strong will, Mr. Dial stresses his determination to work with diligence to improve the lives of everyone of the Pembroke township.

Mr. Dial is a former local store and restaurant businessman. He is presently owner and operator of a heavy equipment operation. Mr. Dial also attends Pembroke First United Methodist Church.

## Wheel Chair Basketball Tournament planned

A Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 30, beginning at 9 a.m. at the PSU Gym. Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

There will be four teams competing in the tournament: The Atlanta, Georgia Hawks, the Augusta, Georgia Rack and Roll; the Fayetteville TRC Flyers; and the Carolina Express teams.

At 9 a.m. the Carolina Express will meet the Atlanta, GA Rack and Roll. At 12 noon the Fayetteville TRC Flyers will face the Carolina Express; and at 3:30 p.m. the Carolina Express will meet the Atlanta, GA Hawks.

Local players on the Carolina Express team include Welton Locklear, Ronny Eddings, Chuckie Locklear, Randy Woodell; and Charles Lee.

Persons with physical disabilities or in a wheel chair are encouraged to become players with the Carolina Express.



This delegation of Lumbee beauties, who recently attended the recent Baltimore American Indian Powwow, can also be seen at the Lumbee Fall Powwow. The princesses include: (L-R) Natasha Waggoner, Miss Indian USA, Chyna Jade Locklear, Little Miss Lumbee, Kelly Wallace, Junior Miss Lumbee, and Beth Chavis, Miss Lumbee.

## Lumbee Fall Pow Wow to be held Oct. 13-15

The Annual Lumbee Fall Powwow will be held October 13-15 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center near Pembroke. The three day event will feature Indian arts, crafts, food, music and dance. The event is sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association.

According to James Hardin, Executive Director of LRDA, over \$7,000 in awards money will be given to the winners of the dance contest which will feature some of the best authentic American Indian arts, crafts, music and dance in the eastern United States.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Jim Chavis, Vice President in charge of Continuing Education at Richmond Community College in Rockingham, NC.

The Lumbee Fall Pow Wow will feature outstanding exhibitions and demonstrations of Indian arts, crafts, music, and dance. It will provide some of the best authentic American Indian arts, crafts, music and dance in the eastern United States.

Hardin said, "We expect to have some of the best dealers in Indian arts and crafts at this event. Traders will be selling authentic American Indian arts and crafts including Indian silver and turquoise jewelry, pottery, basketry, and paintings representing the arts and traditions of many tribes."

General admission for the event will be \$4.00. Contact Lumbee Regional Development Association 1 (910) 521-8602 for more information.

## April Locklear named Miss Robeson County



April Locklear, the daughter of Harry and Barbara Locklear of Pembroke has recently won the title of Miss Robeson County.

April is a senior at Pembroke State University, majoring in Social Work with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS. She has been taking ballet for seventeen years and points for twelve years. During the talent phase of competition, she performed classical ballet on points to the Swan by Camille Saint Saens. Her dance was choreographed by Louren Jolly at The School of Ballet in Lumberton, where she is a ballet, point and jazz student.

During her reign as Miss Robeson County, April will travel extensively being an ambassador for the county. If you would like for April to give an HIV/AIDS Education presentation, or to entertain, please contact her at (910) 521-8170.