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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Ruth Oxendine Enters Her First Election--Vying for the At-Large Position on the LREMC Board of Directors



Ruth Oxendine is gearing up for her first election to the Board of Directors of Lumbee River EMC. But, then again, it isn't Ms. Oxendine's first election. Ms. Oxendine has been serving on LREMC's Board since January 1997 when she was appointed to finish the unexpired term of her late husband, Conrad Oxendine. Understanding the co-op and its operation is not new to Ms. Oxendine. Ms. Oxendine's late husband, Conrad Oxendine, served on the Board of Directors from October 1987 until his untimely demise in January 1997. Ms. Oxendine supported her husband during his 10-year tenure on the Board. She understands the business decisions that must be made and that the responsibilities of a board member cannot be taken lightly. Ms. Oxendine campaigned with her husband during those ten years, so the campaign trail is all too familiar to her. Since Ms. Oxendine's appointment to the Board of Directors she has been very instrumental in keeping Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation the aggressive and thriving member owned business it is today that is com-

mitted to providing electric as well as other value added services for the community it serves. As a board member, Ms. Oxendine is an advocate for the members and is dedicated to seeing that the co-op continues to deliver high quality, competitively priced products and service. Since Ms. Oxendine's appointment to the Board, the co-op offers additional services such as: Internet, Paging, Service Poles and Appliance Repair Insurance.

Over the last three years 1996, 1997, 1998-LREMC has returned to its members, through capital credit distribution and credit on electric bills in December of each year, over \$7 million. Also during this same period, electric rates were reduced approximately 15.75%.

Ms. Oxendine stated, "Lumbee River EMC being the aggressive cooperative by nature, the Board of Directors will continue to work to add new products and service and continue to reduce the cost of all services and products over the next three years. At the same time, Lumbee River is preparing for restructuring of the electrical industry as well as ensuring that the year 2000 computer problems are resolved."

Ms. Oxendine further has vowed to continue to work with the present Board to ensure that the Cooperative is and will continue to be one of the more progressive consumer owned companies providing the best reliable products and services of any comparable company. These factors are important to the growth of the co-op.

Ms. Oxendine resides in the Wakulla Community. She was married for forty-five years to the late Conrad Oxendine, who was also a member of the Lumbee River EMC Board of Directors. She is the mother of three children and seven grandchildren. Ms. Oxendine worked for thirteen years as a teacher assistant at Oxendine School. She is also co-

owner of Lakeside Seafood on Highway 211 North, as well as manager of LRDA day Care.

Ms. Oxendine has served and still does serve her community in many ways. She is currently a member and past treasurer of the Neighborhood Community Watch. She was a member of the Cherokee Home Demonstration Club for a number of years. She was active in craft classes with her work receiving awards from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, LRDA, and Sandhills Community College. She served as a judge for the Miss Lumbee pageant in its formative years. She has also served as a substitute teacher and a judge of science fairs at Oxendine School. Ms. Oxendine has served her church, Cherokee Chapel Holiness Methodist, as a Sunday School teacher for 25 years, lay leader, choir member, play director, and on a number of various committees.

Ms. Oxendine is now a member of the Lumbee River EMC Volunteer Women's Committee as well as serving on the LREMC Board of Directors as its secretary.

Ms. Oxendine has the time and dedication to the membership to continue to work for the betterment of the members and the co-op as a whole. Ms. Oxendine's goal as a board member is to serve the membership and increase the value of life for those that it serves.

The summary above more than indicates the need to keep experience, dedication and commitment to the membership on the LREMC Board of Directors. Ms. Oxendine concluded: "Vote Ruth Oxendine October 19. Registration and voting will take place at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, starting at 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Your vote and support is important."

Robert Strickland Seeks Re-Election to Lumbee River EMC Board, District 3



Robert Strickland, member of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, announces his bid for re-election. He has served as a Board Member, representing District 3, for the past nine years and pledges that, if re-elected, to continue to make sound fiscal decisions and serve diligently as an advocate for the members. In making his announcement, Strickland

released the following facts about the success of the LREMC:

"Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation is an aggressive, member owned business that is committed to providing electric and other value-added service for the communities we service.

"LREMC is dedicated to delivering high quality, competitive priced products and service to our customers. We have added such services as Internet, Paging, Service Poles and Appliance Repair Insurance.

"Over the last three years 1996, 1997, 1998-LREMC has returned to our members, through capital credit distribution and credit on bills in December of each year, over \$7 million dollars. Also, during this same period we reduced power rates approximately 15.75%.

"We will add new service and products and continue to reduce the cost of all service and products

over the next three years. At the same time, we are preparing for restructuring of the electrical industry as well as ensuring that the year 2000 computer problems are resolved for LREMC.

"LREMC will continue to be one of the most progressive consumer owned companies providing the best reliable products and services of any comparable company."

Mr. Strickland has been on the Board for nine years and has successfully completed his Board Leadership Training Course for Rural Electric Systems.

Four members of the Board of Directors will be elected on October 19, 1999 at the Annual Meeting of the LREMC to be held at the UNCP Givens Performing Arts Center, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Strickland asks the members of LREMC to let nine years experience keep working for them

Child Care Directions to sponsor a Forum

Parent Forum Child Care Directions will present information about choosing quality child care and the new rated license from 7 pm - 8:30 pm at Robeson Community College in room 1451. Representatives from local agencies and organizations in Robeson County such as: Parents As Teachers (Co-Sponsors), Department of Social Services (Child Care Subsidy), and The Church and Community Center (Early Childhood Literacy in Family Learning) will be present to assist parents and provide information about their services. For more information and to register please contact Adrian Sinclair, Parent Specialist at 671-8335/671-8336.

Pembroke Housing Authority given High Performer Status

Pembroke - The United States Department of Housing & Urban Development has designated the Pembroke Housing Authority with High Performer status for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 1998. This designation is awarded annually to those public housing authorities throughout the state that achieve above average, operational and financial management results.

According to staff reports, the Authority received a score of 95.31%. To qualify for this designation, an authority must have an average score of at least 90 percent for all of the measurement indicators. These indicators measure unit turnover, vacancy rates, rents collected, financial management, utility conservation, as well

as security and crime prevention measures. "We are pleased with the recognition that this designation provides us. It allows us to compete more competitively for modernization funding and exercise flexibility with regards to what, where, and how we address the needs of our residents", states Lenark Harris, the Executive Director of the Authority. "This marks the fifth consecutive year that the staff has earned this designation. We have an outstanding staff."

With the ever changing regulatory environment, the Authority is forced to deal with differing issues with ever increasingly scarce resources. "The flexibility granted with this designation allows the Board of Commissioners to address issues with less HUD oversight, thus, providing for an efficient delivery of services," says Harris.

LREMC Annual Meeting Planned for October

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation will hold its 59th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 1999 at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNC-Pembroke. Registration and voting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last until 8:00 p.m. The official business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the McNeill Choir.

This year the following people are running for election: District 3: Robert Strickland (incumbent) of 3084 Norment Road, Lumberton and Burnice Blanks of 6114 North Chicken Road, Lumberton

Director at Large: Ruth Oxendine (incumbent) of 4840 Oxendine Road, Maxton, Barbara Goins of 1467 Wagon Wheel Road, Shannon, and Pearl B. Betha of 4980 NC Hwy 83, Maxton.

(AT large candidates may live anywhere on the system) LREMC is a member owned Electric Co-op serving more than 40,000 consumers in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties



Tara Lynn Higginson, Crowned Miss Virginia American Jr. Teen.

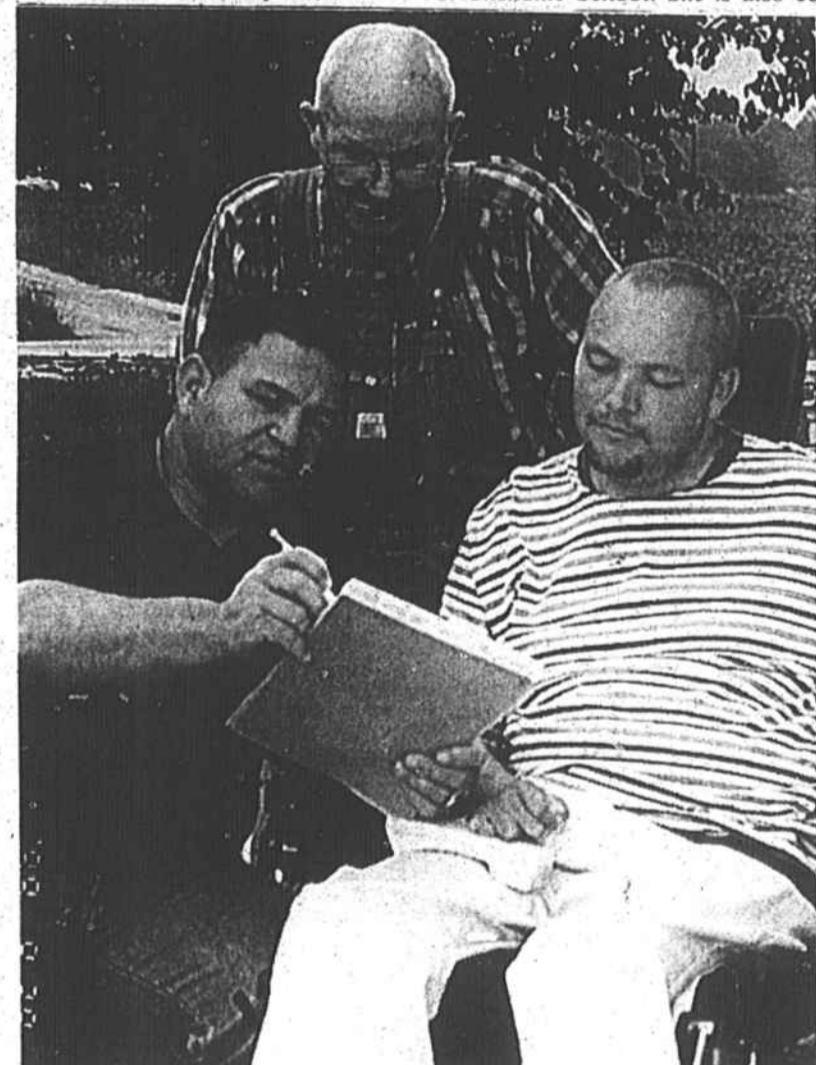
Miss Virginia American Jr. Teen makes Local Lumbee Family Proud

Tara Lynn Higginson, age 15, daughter of Ivan Larry and Ann Locklear Higginson was awarded the state title of Miss Virginia American Jr. Teen 1999. Tara Lynn won the title after competing against over ninety contestants. In addition to winning the state and photogenic titles, she also was 2nd runner-up in talent, and placed in the top three in academic achievement in her division. She won her title on her birthday, August 22nd, 1999.

During Thanksgiving week, Tara Lynn will represent Virginia in the national pageant at Disney World in Orlando, Florida where more than \$25,000 in cash scholarships and prizes will be presented to Award

Tara Lynn is currently a sophomore honor student at Hickory High School in Chesapeake, Virginia. She is Vice President of her class. She also participates on the soccer and tennis team, is in chamber orchestra, and is involved in many other activities. She enjoys working with the youth and missions programs at her church, Centerville Baptist Church.

She is the granddaughter of Herman Locklear of Chesapeake, Virginia and Mary Helen Maynor Locklear of Lumberton, the great granddaughter of Carlie and Straudie Locklear of Red Springs, and the great granddaughter of the late Carson Maynor and Zettie Mae Jacobs Maynor and the Niece of James Maynor owner of Jamestown Enterprises.



Edward Strickland and his Uncle, Alex Strickland, go over the scope of work to be done with the help of the N.C. Indian Housing Authority representative Billy Brooks.

N.C. Indian Housing Authority Renovation of Homes Has Begun

by Vinita Maynor Clark
Lumbee Housing

Several weeks ago I rode around with Billy Brooks who is in charge of the rehabilitation segment of Lumbee Housing for 1998. I was aware that the rehabilitation program, overseen by the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority, was underway. I wanted to hear what some of the people who were receiving services had to say.

We traveled out in the country to a house near Evans Crossing, which was in need of repairs. Living there was a young man named Edward who has been in a wheelchair for the past nine years. He has a caregiver in the day time, as his father works in a local plant. Since being confined to his wheelchair,

he has not been able to go out the door of his bedroom to the front yard. Edward essentially lives in his room on the front of the house which holds his hospital bed and several other pieces of furniture. This was Edward's world until Billy Brooks with the NC Indian Housing Authority, visited them one day. Bringing several contractors with him, they sized up what needed to be done to assist Edward and his family.

"For the first time in years I can roll over and look out my window to see who is coming into the yard. I don't have to holler 'who's there?'" Edward said with a smile on his face.

"One of the things that I like about Edward is the fact that he

does not let his disability get him down. Many times you see him trying to help the contractors and workers," Brooks stated. Now Edward feels good about himself, knowing that he won't have to be cold this winter and he can go out into the yard the same way that he did when he could walk.

"I want to go to Robeson Community College and finish my education. I do not have to worry about how the van driver is going to get me off the porch and onto the van anymore," he said with a wide smile.

My second visit was to the home of the Gayles family in the same area. There are two young at heart elderly Lumbee Indians who are confined by their disabilities but

not by their heart. Mr. Gayles can only see through his mind's eyes as he is blind and his wife has crippling arthritis and spends the majority of the day in her hospital bed. At their home there is a 24 hour care giver. If it is not their daughter caring for them it is another person.

"We are just blessed," Mrs. Gayles said with a smile.

Their daughter Emma who is also a caregiver said, "I was here when this trailer was bought 14 years ago and I can tell you that my mother and father have never had anything this nice. "For the first time in years I can't feel the air coming through the wall," Mr. Gayles told me. "The roof no longer leaks and we are going to get a new

heating system."

Mr. Gayles continued, "I was in a state of shock the day those 19 contractors came out here to see what needed to be done. Where are we going to put all of these people who want to look at this trailer, I thought to myself."

But, the contractors lined up in a line and went through the house. Mrs. Gayles said that she had prayed about what contractors should be used and when she contacted Mr. Brooks he had already awarded the contract to those two people she had requested to work on her home.

"I am very pleased with what has been done, even if I cannot see it for myself," stated Mr. Gayles.

According to the 1998 Housing Plan being administered by the NC

Indian Housing Authority, these homes are the beginning of approximately 165 homes to be renovated with HUD monies, more commonly called "Lumbee Housing" funds.

In addition to the renovation segment of the program, 13 units for housing for elderly will be constructed as well as 33 new homes. New dwellings will be built according to the down payment assistance program, 100 people will eventually be awarded assistance with a down payment for a new home. These down payment assistance awards can be as much as \$10,000 awarded to new home owners, depending on meeting the eligibility guidelines for receiving this assistance.