



Robert Strickland



Ruth Oxendine



Herbert Clark



Maggie Hunt

McIntyre Announces \$244,150 for Robeson County Schools

Washington-D.C. - U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre announced today that the Robeson County Public Schools has received \$244,150 in federal funds for several areas of importance to our students. Congressman McIntyre stated "This is superb news for Robeson County students and schools! Federal funds will assist in improving student literacy skills and academic achievement. Congratulations to all who were involved in this grant application, and I am pleased to see our taxpaying dollars coming back home to our area!"

McIntyre explained that the congressionally appropriated funds from the U.S. Department of Education will: 1) help replace 6,000 outdated books with new volumes; 2) extend library hours; 3) purchase a standardized testing program to create reading programs for at-risk children; 4) provide professional development; and 5) provide collaboration activities for teachers, media specialists, parents, and students.

Congressman McIntyre is a member of the House Education Task Force on Capitol Hill.

Robert Strickland seeks re-election to EMC Board

Robert Strickland who has represented District 3 on the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors for the past twelve years announces his bid for re-election to that position. Strickland pledges to continue, if re-elected, to make sound fiscal decisions and to continue to be an advocate for the consumers. Mr. Strickland is proud to have served the consumer owned cooperative for the past twelve years and believes the success demonstrated by the board is an indication of strong leadership and commitment to the continued growth and progress of the cooperative.

Mr. Strickland released the following statement relative to his bid for re-election:

"It has been a privilege for me to be a part of the fastest growing cooperative in the nation. I have worked diligently to ensure our cooperative is operated as the

multi-million dollar business that it is. This requires sound fiscal decisions and knowledge of how a cooperative works and the ability to apply this knowledge to the day-to-day operation of the cooperative.

"LREMC continues to be one of the most progressive consumer owned companies which provides reliable products and services. This tremendous growth and progress does not happen without proper training and planning. I have worked hard and have completed my Board Leadership Training Course for Rural Electric Systems. It is my desire to continue to share my training and leadership with the member owners of our cooperative.

"I am especially proud of the fact that over the past five years there has been no rate increase and we have returned over \$4 million to the members in capital

credits. In addition, we have upgraded all the lines which ensures less power failure outages during extreme weather conditions. Our technology has also been upgraded and this results in our being able to predict bad weather and respond accordingly.

"Keeping abreast of the latest technological advancements is critical in running a successful business and especially so in the operation of an electrical cooperative.

"I strongly encourage members to attend the Annual meeting on October 8, 2002 and vote for continued progress and growth. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and the Annual Meeting will be held at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"I solicit your vote and support on October 8, 2002. Thank you for your support in the past and on October 8, 2002."

Ruth Oxendine seeks second term on LREMC Board of Directors

Ruth Oxendine announces her bid for re-election to the at-large position on the LREMC Board of Directors. Ms. Oxendine is seeking her second elected term, although she has served since 1997 when she was appointed to replace her husband, the late Mr. Conrad Oxendine. In 1999 she sought election for the first time and was elected by an overwhelming majority. Ms. Oxendine serves as Secretary of the Board, a position she has held for the past four years. In making her announcement, Ms. Oxendine released the following statement:

"Serving on the LREMC board has been a rewarding experience for me. I see it as an opportunity to serve. My civic and community activities in my community,

Wakulla, and my church, Cherokee Chapel Holiness Methodist, is indicative of my desire and ability to serve others. Serving on the LREMC Board is very challenging and is a challenge that I have demonstrated I enjoy and am up to the challenges. It is an opportunity to expand my knowledge and I have learned a great deal about the cooperative program. I wish to continue to be of service to the member consumers of our cooperative and am proud of the growth and progress we have made since I have been a board member.

"Four million dollars have been returned to the consumers in the form of capital credits and our rate for electricity has not increased during my tenure as a board member. The addition of Pope Air Force

Base and Fort Bragg to our service area is further expansion and growth. I am happy to have been a part of this important decision.

"There are several programs available to help our elderly and disabled. These programs are there for those who are on fixed incomes and may need extensions on their electric bills or with the assistance of our Help A Needy Friend Program, we can help those who need help paying their electric bill. I am happy that these programs are there to assist out consumers.

"I would greatly appreciate your vote and support at our Annual Meeting on October 8 at the Givens Performing Arts Center at UNCP, beginning at 6 p.m. A vote for Ruth Oxendine is a vote for continued commitment and concern for our cooperative."

Herbert Clark of Scotland County Seeks Re-election to EMC Board

Herbert Clark, representative from Scotland County, announces his bid for re-election to the LREMC Board of Directors, representing District 9. Mr. Clark has served for fifteen years on the board and has served as the president of the board for more than one term.

Mr. Clark issued the following statement: "I have served with pride and dignity for the past fifteen years. Knowledge and training are necessary ingredients for successfully operating a cooperative. It has been several years since I completed my Board Training Course for Electric Systems, however, I have continued to attend workshops and training courses to keep informed and abreast of the latest improvements in the delivery of electrical services.

"For more than eight years, I have had the privilege of representing LREMC on several state

boards. This has served to enhance my learning and knowledge and has resulted in the continued growth and progress of our local cooperative.

"We have had extensive expansion of our service area, including Wal-Marts in Lumberton and in Cumberland County; a new shopping center in Cumberland County and a new State Correction Facility in Scotland County. These are just a few of the newest expansions we have made.

"I am proud also of our programs that are geared to accommodate and assist those who are elderly, handicapped and on fixed incomes. We have programs available to assist them with their electric bills. We offer a program where the consumer can pay the same amount on their electric bill each month. This allows them to know how much they must budget for electrical service. We also have the Help A Needy Friend Program

which is a fund raising program we do each year to help the economically disadvantaged pay their electric bill. These are all valuable programs and are available to help those who are less fortunate than others. This is what the cooperative means to me, an opportunity to serve the people.

"While I am proud of my distinction as a member of the board of directors of LREMC, I am even more excited about my service at my church, Gray Pond Baptist Church, where I serve as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher of the Adult Class and I have been privileged to hold various other offices. I sincerely solicit your support and pledge to continue to represent you, the member consumers, with the same diligence and commitment I have demonstrated over the past fifteen years. Thank you for voting Herbert Clark in the past and please do so again on October 8th.

Hoke Representative Maggie Hunt Seeks Re-Election to LREMC Board

Ms. Maggie Hunt announces her bid for re-election to the LREMC Board of Directors. Ms. Hunt represents District 7 which comprises Hoke County. A life time resident of Hoke County, Ms. Hunt has served on the LREMC Board since 1997. She replaced her husband, the late James Albert Hunt. She ran unopposed in 1999 and was elected by acclamation. This is the first time Ms. Hunt has had opposition and is facing her opponent in the same manner she has faced other challenges, with determination, faith and straight forward campaigning.

Ms. Hunt is a dedicated member of her church, South Hoke Baptist Church, where she is extremely active in the affairs of the church. A well-known businesswoman in her community, Ms. Hunt pledges

to continue to apply her business acumen to the operation of the locally owned cooperative. Ms. Hunt released the following statement: "Operating an 80 million dollar cooperative must be done as a business. It is, after all, a business that is owned by the consumers and all decisions should be made with the idea of keeping the costs of delivery as low as possible while delivering top quality service. I am happy to have had the opportunity to apply sound business principles to an already flourishing business. It has been an exceptionally rewarding experience and gives me a great deal of pride to know that I have had the opportunity to be at least a small part of keeping our cooperative progressing, expanding and increasing our service area.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the present board. The board, the administration and employees have worked well together and this spirit of unity has resulted in keeping the rates as low as possible while providing the best service to the owners, the member consumers.

"If I am re-elected I promise to continue to make sound business decisions and keep the best interests of the consumers in mind. I wish to remind the members that you must vote for four, one in each district and one at-large, in order for your vote to be counted. I sincerely request that you make Maggie Hunt one of your four votes. Thank you in advance for voting Maggie Hunt on October 8th at the Annual Meeting of LREMC at the UNCP Performing Arts Center.



Pastor Appreciation Day held at Berea Baptist

Berea Baptist Church of Pembroke, NC observed Pastor and wife Appreciation Day, Sunday September 22, 2002.

Speaker for the occasion was Dr. Michael Brooks. Rev. Bruce Swett is pastor of Berea Baptist Church.

A covered dish followed the service in the Fellowship Hall.

COMtech groundbreaking Sept. 30

PEMBROKE-Monday was a red letter day in the county as some 500 business and community leaders gathered to take part in groundbreaking ceremonies to officially introduce the public to what is happening at the Carolina Commerce and Technology Center near Pembroke (COMtech).

The COMtech, a 612 acre industrial site, is located on NC 711 between Pembroke and Lumberton (4 miles from Pembroke, 7 miles from Lumberton) and will be home to many industries and enterprises that will in time produce jobs, including a technology high school by the Public Schools of Robeson County, and facilities by Robeson Community College and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Executive Director Tony Normand also announced during the ceremonies that two clients ("taxpaying businesses") have already announced plans to build on the site.

The official reason for the ceremony was to officially break the ground for a community facilities building to be built in the

near future. Ceremonies included the presentation of a check for \$434,500 from U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to help offset costs for the proposed 3,200 square-foot building.

Congressman Mike McIntyre was the guest speaker and praised the partners of the enterprise, including the county commissioners, local towns like Pembroke and Lumberton, and federal, state and local governments. He called it "standing together in unity." Congressman McIntyre praised

Pates Supply Company who sold the land to COMtech and the rich and diverse community of Robeson County that has seemingly banded together to make COMtech a reality. Congressman McIntyre called the project "Robeson County and her citizens working together for the greater good." One leader, who begged anonymity, said, "It is banding together in an almost unheard of way in our racial and multi-cultural county."

Remarks were also given by

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The entrance to COMtech or, more correctly, "Carolina Commerce and Technology Center"

Gospel Singing Planned at Pembroke First Baptist

Gospel Singing will be held at Pembroke First Baptist Church on Sat. October 5, 2002 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Featured singer will be The Pierce Family; The Jacobs Family; The Lumber River; Coharie Singers from Clinton NC. Pastor Kent Chavis and members invite you to come and be blessed.

