

# CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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## Roger Oxendine seeks re-election to EMC Board



Roger Oxendine, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, announces his bid for re-election to the District 1 seat. A native of the Fairmont area, Oxendine is well known as an agri-businessman. In making his announcement, Oxendine released the following statement:

"As a businessman, I understand big business. I am humbled by the opportunity I have had to be a part of one of the fastest growing, most progressive cooperatives in the United States. I have worked tirelessly and made sound fiscal decisions while serving as the representative of District 1 on our local cooperative board. We have made giant strides in industry, employment opportunities and updating equipment and lines. We have progressed and grown while at the same time keeping the electric rates at their lowest. I am extremely pleased to announce that we have not had a rate increase since 1997. While we have maintained rates, we have expanded our industry, including Fort Bragg, North Carolina where we have a contract to do construction and pro-

vide services. This endeavor alone brings vast amounts of revenue to our cooperative.

"During a two year time frame, 2002-2004, we have accomplished great things for our cooperative. During that time we have returned \$6,067,444 in Capital Credits to our membership. We have added \$1,410,000 in Credits to consumer's electric bills. In addition we have given \$22,000.00 in scholarship monies to children of consumers. We have also awarded \$67,000.00 in Bright Ideas Grants.

"In the past two years the cooperative has seen astronomical economic growth, including Scotland Maximum Security Prison which resulted in 345 new jobs in the area; ElKay Southern which provides 100 additional jobs; Muller Stream, 55 jobs; Nash Finch with 200 new positions; and two new Super Wal marts in Lumberton and Fayetteville which provides 401 jobs in the area. With the economic situation being as slow as it is, these additional jobs have been a tremendous help to our overall economy.

"When we think of the economy, we know that more jobs, lower electric bills, and continued growth and progress are necessary for a sound economy. My tenure on the local cooperative board has given me an opportunity to be a part of strengthening the overall economy. I am proud of this fact. It is a known fact that when our economy is prosperous, we all get along better. This is why economic development has always been one of my top priorities. Our cooperative has had a tremendous impact on our local economy. Our cooperative's contribution to economic development has been astounding. We have helped create nearly 1200 jobs in our local area since 1989; added more than \$30 million to our local tax base. LREMC's direct contribution to the economic development in the area includes employing 120 skilled workers with a \$4 million payroll. In addition we pay \$3

million annually in state and local taxes. We also return more than \$1 million in capital credits annually to our consumers.

"The operation of our cooperative is a tremendous undertaking. We have employed some of the finest people and they do a tremendous job for us. Growth and progress does not happen without leadership that is experienced and familiar with multi million dollar business. I do not brag when I say that I am experienced and knowledgeable of our overall operation. That is one reason I have chosen to seek re-election. I wish to be a part of the continuation of the progressive trend we have set.

"I appreciate so much the opportunity the membership has extended to me in allowing me to serve. During my tenure as a representative of District 1 and the entire membership, I have made decisions based on keeping our cooperative on a solid financial foundation. I have based my decisions on what was best for the membership. I am proud of my record. I humbly ask for your vote and support October 14th."

Oxendine is the son of Zeb and Margie Oxendine. He is married to the former Bobbie Hunt of Fairmont and they own and operate Oxendine Farms.

The Annual Meeting of Members of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, October 14, at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Performing Arts Center from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. This is the first Annual Meeting where the voting procedure has changed to allow extended voting hours.

Oxendine continued, "Hopefully, the extended voting hours at our Annual Meeting will allow more members to attend and participate in the election. I humbly ask for your vote and support. Thank you."

## Dr. Harris-Hicks joins staff of Scotland Health Care System

Scotland Health Care System and the staff of Carolinas Womens Center are pleased to welcome Dr. Janet Harris-Hicks, Ob/Gyn physician. Dr. Harris-Hicks began practice on September 9.

Dr. Harris-Hicks is no stranger to Laurinburg as both her parents grew up here and she lived here as a toddler. With family members and friends in Scotland and Robeson Counties, she feels she is coming home to practice medicine.

"My father is a retired officer of US Public Health Service and we moved quite a bit when I was growing up," commented Dr. Harris-Hicks. "I love this part of North Carolina and, with my parents living so close in Dunn, I am really pleased to be in Laurinburg."

Dr. Harris-Hicks attended The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. While a student at UNC Pembroke, she was a Chancellor's Scholar as well as the recipient of the MiSEAM Scholarship (Minorities in Science, Engineering and Mathematics) from NASA. "The MiSEAM Scholarship allowed me to do research in the summers and following my first year I was in Bermuda at the Biological Research Station. My second and third summers I worked on research projects at Duke University - biochemistry the second summer and pathology the third."

Dr. Harris-Hicks attended medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Merck/AAMC Scholar the summer following her first year, and a Cancer Research Fellow following her third year. Upon receiving her medical degree, she completed an internship at the University of Texas in Houston in 2001 and a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina this June.

"I enjoy my specialty of gynecology and obstetrics and the focus on women's health issues," she continued. "I love being able to see patients clinically as well as to provide surgical services, particularly laparoscopic surgery. I also enjoy working with young girls, educating them about the particular health issues they face."

Dr. Harris-Hicks is married to Tim Hicks. They are the proud parents of one-year-old Reece Elizabeth. Mr. Hicks is from Selma, North Carolina, and his mother and younger brother currently reside in Florence, South Carolina.

Dr. Harris-Hicks is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe. She is a descendant of the Prospect Harris family. She is the daughter of Horace and Inez Harris. Her paternal grandparents are Wardell and Fronie Dial Harris. Her maternal grandparents are Cyrus and Mary Locklear Reese.

For an appointment with Dr. Harris-Hicks or any of the providers at Carolinas Womens Center, call 910-277-3331.

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## Broughton Oxendine seeks another term on EMC Board



Broughton Oxendine of Rennett has announced his re-election bid to the LREMC Board of Directors. Oxendine represents District 3. In making his announcement, Oxendine released the following statement:

"Serving on the LREMC Board of Directors has been one of the most rewarding endeavors I have undertaken. I am pleased to have played a small part in the expansion and growth of our cooperative. I have had the opportunity to be in a posi-

tion to help make decisions that keeps our cooperative one of the most prosperous in the nation.

"When I was first elected to this position, it was one of my goals to see us recruit new industry. We have successfully accomplished that goal. I desire to see us continue to be a leader in economic development in our area. We have seen new industrial growth, but there is always room for more growth and expansion.

"The addition of new industry to our lines has a direct result on the economic development in our area. Every time a new industry comes into the area, it is a fact that new jobs are added. Along with new jobs comes an improvement in our overall economy. This is always encouraging.

"The fact that we have not had a rate increase in our electric rates since 1997 is an indication that our cooperative is moving in the right direction. In business, you always want to see growth and expansion with as

little increase in overhead as possible. We are accomplishing this at LREMC. I am happy to be a part of this progressive movement.

"I have made decisions while serving as your representative in District 3, that I felt were in the best interest of the membership. After all, I also am a member and am familiar with the necessity of paying electric bills. I promised to remember that our cooperative was owned by us when I was first elected. If I am re-elected I will continue to remember that any increase in rates, will affect the membership and the membership will always be by top priority.

"Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative in District 3. I humbly ask that you allow me the opportunity to continue in that position."

The Annual meeting will be held Thursday, October 14, at the UNCP Performing Arts Center from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. Oxendine encourages the members to attend and participate in the election.

## Joan Carol Locklear seeks District 1 seat on LREMC Board of Directors



Joan Carol Locklear, a teacher with 28 years experience, announces her bid for a seat on the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors. She is seeking election to the District 1 seat. Locklear is presently teaching at Pembroke Middle School and has taught with the public school system during her career. She and her husband, Denzel Ray Locklear, are active members of Prospect Holiness Methodist Church. They are the parents of four children. Locklear is the daughter of the late James and Annie Strickland and the late Walter Locklear and Vivian Locklear of Pembroke.

In making her announcement, Locklear released the following statement:

"As an educator, I am extremely interested in the scholarship program at LREMC.

Maybe there is a way to offer more scholarships to the children of our member consumers. This is an idea I will explore, if elected to the EMC board.

"I am also interested in services to the elderly. Because our senior citizens are on fixed incomes, it is very important that we maintain low electric rates. There should also be a way to help our elderly when their electric bill is higher than normal. I would like to see a program instituted that would grant a senior citizens discount on electric bills.

"I am also very interested in securing more jobs in our service area. This could be done through more recruitment of industry into our service area. The more industry we attract, the more jobs provided for our community. The more jobs provided, the better the economy becomes. If elected, I would work diligently to recruit more and more industry into our area.

"I realize that operating a multi million dollar corporation like our cooperative, is a tremendous undertaking. It is very important that we have business minded people in positions to make decisions which will result in more industry, more jobs, keeping electric rates at their lowest possible rate while at the same time, being compassionate and concerned about those on fixed incomes. I believe I can bring a new ap-

proach, a combination of education, good old fashioned common sense and a determination to make decisions in the best interest of the entire membership. Comtech is one of the best business decisions made recently in our community. I support Comtech and would work hard to see this industry reach its full potential.

"Capital Credits are issued to members at the death of a spouse. I would love to explore the idea of returning Capital Credits on a quarterly or a biannual basis. I do see why the membership should have to wait until the loss of a loved one to receive a financial return on their investment in their electric cooperative. If elected to the EMC Board, I will explore the idea of a new and better system for returning Capital Credits to the membership.

"These are only a few of the thoughts and ideas I have for making our cooperative stronger and more responsive to the membership. My desire is to see our cooperative continue on a strong financial foundation while at the same time not losing sight of the fact that the cooperative is owned by every consumer who pays an electric bill there every month. These owner/consumers should always be foremost in our minds as decisions are made to provide progressive growth to our cooperative. If elected, I will make all decisions with you the consumer at heart. I have been a consumer myself for many years and understand the frustration when decisions are made that are not in the best interest of the membership. If elected to represent you on the LREMC Board of Directors, District 1, I promise to stay in touch with the membership and make decisions based on what is best for you. My decisions will be fair and well thought out. I will not make rash decisions, nor will I support something I do not believe is right just because the majority is voting that way.

I humbly ask for your vote and support on October 14, 2004. Thank you."

The LREMC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2004 at the UNCP Performing Arts Center. Voting for four directors will be held from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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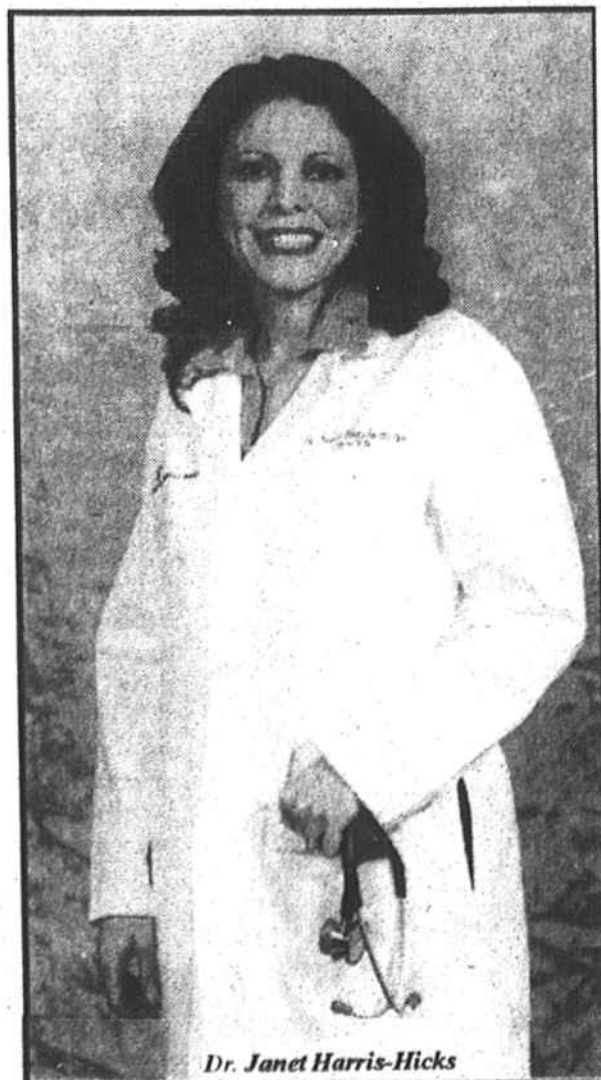


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Dr. Janet Harris-Hicks