

KEEPING CURRENT

NOVEC
The Powerful Choice



photo by Bill Sherrod

Governor Kaine chats with Doyle Christian, IBEW representative, and NOVEC Chairman J. Manley Garber.



NOVEC Directors Visit State Legislators in Richmond

By Inia Burginger

Members of the board of directors and management staff of NOVEC met with Virginia legislators in Richmond on January 22 to discuss proposed legislation being considered in the 2007 General Assembly session.

NOVEC President/CEO Stan Feuerberg, Chairman J. Manley Garber, and other directors and staff spent the afternoon visiting with Virginia's state senators, delegates and their legislative staffs in their Capitol Square offices. Legislation discussed included the need for additional transmission capacity to deliver electricity to Northern Virginia, re-regulation of electric utilities in the Commonwealth, and eminent domain.

They joined more than 300 other members of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), including directors and employees of Virginia's 13 member-owned electric cooperatives, government officials, legislative staff members and other guests, at the VMDAEC's annual Legislative Conference.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine and Attorney General Robert F. McDonnell attended one or more of the Legislative Day events, as did many members of the Virginia General Assembly, commissioners of the State Corporation Commission, members of the Governor's Cabinet, agency directors and other state officials.



NOVEC Director Cindy Gilbride talks with Senator Jay O'Brien, accompanied by Doyle Christian and Leslie Perry, IBEW representatives.



State Corporation Commissioner Mark Christie confers with NOVEC President/CEO Stan Feuerberg.



photos by Bill Sherrod

Delegate Jackson Miller (second from right) poses with the NOVEC delegation.



IBEW President Eric Stewart visits with Governor Kaine.



Governor Kaine says hello to Amy Feuerberg and her parents, Stan and Robyn.

Stay Safe Outdoors! Keep Kites and Balloons Where They Belong

Don't Let Mylar Balloons Float Away!



By Sarah Smarrelli

Most kids love those bright, shiny, mylar balloons, which are very popular at parties and amusement parks. However, those pretty balloons can cause severe problems if they come in contact with power lines.

Because most contain metal coatings, if a mylar balloon comes into contact with a power line, it can result in electric shock, power outages or even fire. Just one balloon touching one wire can cause a short circuit, resulting in a power outage. Of greater concern is the potential for injury to someone carrying a metallic balloon that comes in contact with a power line.

In California and other states, major outages have resulted from mylar balloons getting tangled in power lines. Some states even have laws requiring sellers of mylar-type balloons to attach them to a weight sufficient to hold the balloons down. "Mylar balloons should never be allowed to fly freely in the sky; be sure they are securely attached to something heavy, especially when they are outside," commented Allen Barbee, NOVEC vice president of electric system operations.

To reduce the risk of potentially dangerous incidents with mylar balloons, The Balloon Council, an organization of balloon retailers, distributors and manufacturers, provides the following safety tips:

- Follow industry guidelines for balloon releases – use only hand-tied latex balloons and no plastic attachments
- Never release a metallic balloon outdoors
- Never attach metallic ribbon to helium-filled balloons
- Always attach a weight to metallic balloons
- Keep metallic balloons away from power lines



*Kite flying can be great fun for all. Be safe and **never** fly a kite near power lines.*

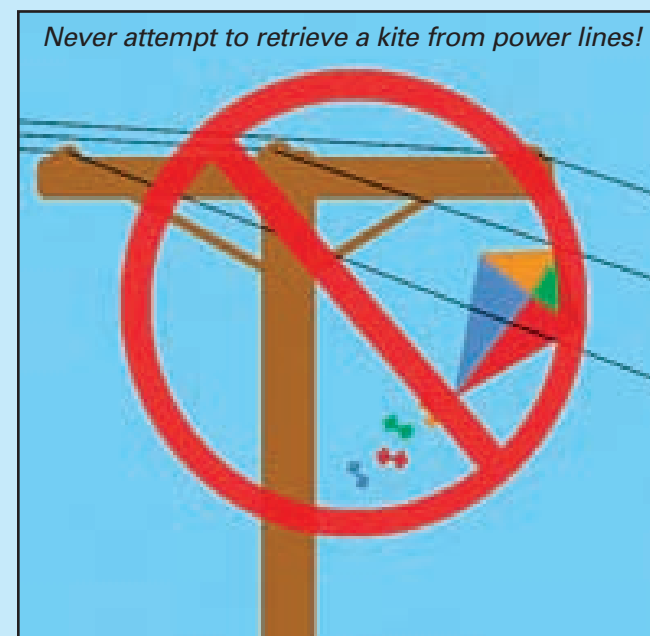
Kite flying can be a great activity for those breezy, warm spring days, but safety needs to come first to keep it a safe and joyful experience. "NOVEC would like to remind customers that there are certain safety precautions that should be taken concerning kites and power lines," noted NOVEC Public Relations Vice President Mike Curtis. "The most important rule is to keep kites away from power lines," he continued.

Electricity always takes the path of least resistance to the ground. It could travel through the kite string to the person flying the kite and cause life-threatening injuries.

To reinforce electrical safety for kids – including kites and balloons – log onto www.novec.com and click on Kids in the Residential Customers section.

Kite-Flying Safety Guidelines:

- Never fly a kite near power lines. However, if your kite does become caught in power lines, let it go. You could get a bad shock or be electrocuted.
- If you see a kite that is caught in a power line, LEAVE IT THERE. Call NOVEC for assistance at 1-888-335-0500 and properly trained personnel with safety equipment may be able to remove the kite.
- Never use a kite made with wire or metallic materials, including mylar.
- Never use metallic yarn, wire or tinsel for kite frames or kite string – they can conduct electricity.
- Do not fly kites on rainy days where there is a possibility of lightning.



Energy Audits on NOVEC.com Can Help You Save Energy

By Sarah Smarrelli

Saving money at home is typically a top priority for homeowners and renters alike. Taking measures to reduce energy consumption can lower household expenses, while still being comfortable in your home.

By consuming less energy, customers can also help protect the environment and decrease the consumption of non-renewable resources such as coal and natural gas.

To help customers save energy, NOVEC offers online resources to conduct energy audits for homes and offices. To use these energy audit tools, along with other energy-savings information, visit www.novec.com. Click on "Residential Customers" and then "Home Energy Conservation" to access the resources described below.

Home Energy Advisor

In just five minutes, you can find out how your home's energy use measures up using ENERGY STAR's Home Energy Yardstick. This energy audit calculates home energy usage based on the information you enter. This energy audit tool also provides a list of customized energy improvements as well as the estimated savings.

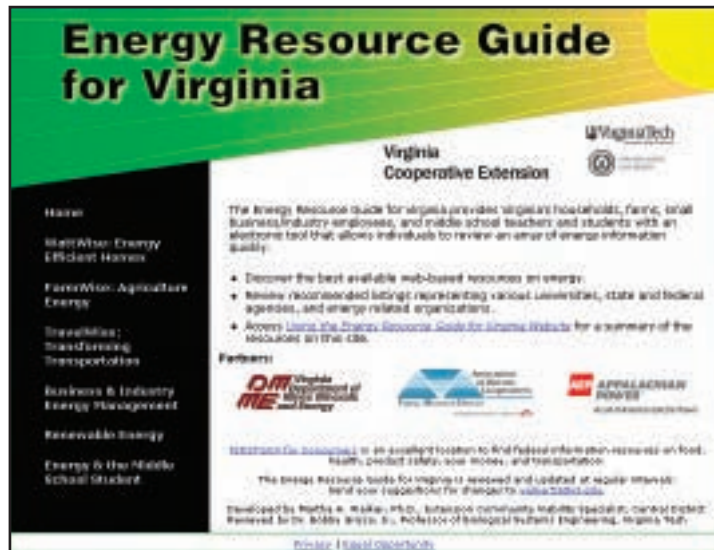


Simply enter some basic information about your home (zip code, age, square footage, etc.) along with your energy bill totals for a consecutive 12-month period. If you don't have your past bills, visit "My Account" on the NOVEC Web site to get this information. You will need your NOVEC account number the first time you access your account.

Energy Resource Guide for Virginia

The Energy Resource Guide for Virginia*, developed by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, provides households, farms, businesses, and middle school teachers and students with an electronic tool that provides quick access to an array of energy information.

In the *WattWise: Energy Efficient Homes* section, you'll find an energy audit program that will project your home energy-use costs and offers suggestions for reducing your home's energy consumption. There is also a formula to calculate the cost of operating appliances, and details about how switching to compact fluorescent bulbs can save money. The guide has numerous links to sites offering guidelines on how to purchase energy-efficient appliances, home office equipment, and heating and air-conditioning systems.



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The *Business & Industry Energy Management* section of the guide includes information and links to help businesses expand their thinking on energy options. This section also provides links to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

For energy savings beyond the home, click on *TravelWise: Transforming Transportation* to find information about hybrid cars, including dealers, fuel performance, and an explanation of vehicle tax credits.

In the *Renewable Energy* section, customers can find information about biodiesel fuel and ethanol as well as hydrogen, hydropower, methane, solar, and wind energy.

Middle school students and teachers can visit the *Energy & the Middle School Student* section for help in understanding the energy concepts that are part of the Virginia Standards of Learning.

**The Energy Resource Guide for Virginia is reviewed and updated at regular intervals. If you have recommendations for additional material, e-mail walker53@vt.edu.*

Youth Tour Students Travel to Richmond

By Donna Snellings

During the recent Virginia General Assembly session, state senators and delegates continued their duty of creating the laws that govern the Commonwealth. They only meet for a short time period once a year, but these lawmakers make many decisions that impact every Virginian.

To show the importance of the General Assembly session and teach the importance of being involved in the legislative process, NOVEC, in conjunction with Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, recently hosted its annual Richmond Youth Legislative Day.

On February 6, four local high school students traveled to Richmond to visit the General Assembly. Jessica Martin, Russell Walker, Jonathan Oliver, Jr., and Joe Sherman were this year's participants from NOVEC.

"It's very important to stay in touch with your legislators, letting them know what you think of the issues," said Jessica Martin. "That is how our government works – through the participation of its citizens. It's our input that allows them to make the best possible decisions."

Students toured the Executive Mansion and attended a Senate Committee hearing. A round-table discussion was held that included Susan Rubin, assistant vice president of governmental affairs for the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, legislative aides from the offices of various senators and delegates, and the Youth Tour students. During a question-and-answer session with the students, legislative aides to Senator Houck and Delegate Scott discussed their duties and responsibilities, and opportunities for the students to become involved in the legislative and political processes.

The students' visit to Richmond completed their Youth Tour experience, which began in early June 2006 when they attended the 2006 Washington, D.C., Rural Electric Youth Tour. During their visits to Washington and Richmond, the students spoke directly with legislators, learned from legislative aides and interns, visited historical landmarks and made lifelong friends. It was this experience that helped them to understand they can make a difference in their communities.

Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2007, for the 2007-'08 Youth Tour. For more information, please visit www.novec.com or call (703) 392-1511.



Andy Wright, legislative aide to Senator Houck, and Lisa Drummond, legislative aide to Delegate Scott, talk with the Youth Tour delegation over lunch.

March of Dimes WalkAmerica Coming in April

By Priscilla Knight

Premature birth endangers more than half-a-million tiny lives in the United States each year, and the rate is growing. One in eight babies is born premature. Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant death, and surviving babies often suffer lifelong disabilities. By walking in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, you'll help raise money for research to find out why premature birth and birth defects happen and what can be done to prevent them.

The tremendous emotional toll on families who have premature babies cannot be measured, but the financial cost can. One surviving premature baby costs group health plans, on average, \$42,000 in medical care in the first year of life. That's 15 times more than \$2,800 for a healthy full-term baby!

NOVEC encourages Co-op members, their families and friends to participate in the Prince William WalkAmerica on Saturday, April 22, or the Fauquier walk on Saturday, April 29. Event-day check-in begins at 8 a.m. at both locations. The walks begin at 9 a.m. and the March of Dimes will provide refreshments

before and after the walks. Volunteers are also needed to staff checkpoints.

WALK SITES, DATES & CAPTAINS

Fauquier County

Sunday, April 29, 2007
Airlie Center
6809 Airlie Road
Warrenton, VA 20187
Captain: Carol Cancelmi, (703) 392-6758

Prince William County

Sunday, April 22, 2007
Loy Harris Pavilion
Old Town Manassas
Sudley Road/Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
Captain: Priscilla Knight, (703) 392-1580



photo courtesy of Donna Snellings

NOVEC's 2006 Prince William WalkAmerica Team

NOVEC and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) are two of the top-10 corporate sponsors and fund raisers for WalkAmerica in the National Capital Area Chapter. NOVEC came in second place last year among some of the region's largest corporations. NOVEC wants to be number one in 2007!

NOVEC Board Chairman Manley Garber has led the way by collecting more money for the Prince William walk than anyone in the last 16 years, making him one of the top-10 walkers in the Washington, D.C., region. In 2006, he collected more than \$6,700. Garber said, "This is my main charity event. I feel that supporting WalkAmerica is a win-win for the community." Garber and the NOVEC teams raised more than \$16,400 in 2006 for the March of Dimes.

To join a NOVEC team, contact the team captain listed for each county. To register online, go to www.walkamerica.org or call 1-800-525-WALK.



Relive the '70s at the Red Cross Gala



Guests at the 2006 "Rockin' Sock Hop" gala.

Customers are invited to attend the NOVEC-sponsored "Sensational '70s Celebration" annual gala and silent auction benefitting the Prince William American Red Cross on Saturday, March 31. Details are as follows:

The Sensational '70s Celebration
8th Annual Fundraising Gala
Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club
6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, VA
6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Admission is only \$75 per person before March 9. For reservations, call (703) 368-4511 x 227 or e-mail deborahc@pwarc.org. Visit www.pwarc.org for more info.



Relay for Life Approaching

Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight activity that mobilizes communities across the country to celebrate cancer survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to the disease, and raise money for the fight against cancer.

Last year's event raised more than \$150,000 for the American Cancer Society. This year's event will be held May 11 and 12. To find out how to join NOVEC's team, contact Priscilla Knight at (703) 392-1580 or visit www.cancer.org for more information.



It's never too late to Round-Up.

Last year, customers participating in Operation Round-Up provided more than \$46,000 in aid to local low-income families in need of assistance with their winter heating bills.

Join today by visiting www.novec.com/oru1

• e-mail: oru@novec.com
• by phone:
(703) 335-0500 or
1-888-335-0500



Billing Address Change

Please note that NOVEC bills paid by mail should be sent to the following new address:

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 34795
Alexandria, VA 22334-0795

Continue to send all other business communications to P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108-0875



Chairman:
J. Manley Garber
District 7

Woodbridge/Dale City/Montclair



Vice-Chairman:
Wade C. House
District 5

Nokesville/Haymarket/Bull Run



Secretary:
Michael Ragan
District 6

Lake Jackson/Buckhall/
Manassas Park/Bristow



Treasurer:
Walter Grove
District 8

Fauquier/Stafford

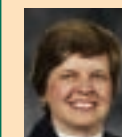


Malcolm Ames
At Large



James Chesley
District 3

Fairfax County, East of Rt. 66



Cynthia Gilbride
District 9

Fairfax County, West of Rt. 66
Loudoun County, South Riding



Don M. Middleton
District 2

Loudoun County, South of Rt. 7



Ann Wheeler
District 4

Manassas/Gainesville



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