

## GELD is researching a new Residential Demand Response program that will benefit participants and ratepayers

*One of the programs we are working on is "distributed generation" which will allow GELD to turn on individual home generators during peak periods of high electric use.*

To understand why it is important to reduce energy at peak times, you must first understand how Groton Electric is charged for its power costs. GELD's cost for power is made up of three main components—generation, transmission and capacity. Generation is the cost for power purchased on the wholesale energy market. Transmission is the cost for delivery of electricity from the generating plants to our substation. Our annual transmission costs are over \$1 million per year and are based on our monthly contribution to the region's largest energy-hour each month. If we can reduce our demand during that monthly peak-hour each month we can save about \$1,000 for every 1% we are able to reduce that number. Groton Electric's annual capacity cost is currently about \$500,000 per year and is based on our contribution during the single largest energy hour (known as the peak-hour) in New England. For every percent we can reduce our load during that yearly peak-hour, we will be able to save approximately \$15,000 per year, beginning in 2017, depending on the capacity market.

In Groton, we are expecting our capacity payments to triple over the next three years. Due to many factors outside our control, that payment will be increasing to about \$1,500,000 per year in

the near future. The only way to decrease this cost is to reduce electric usage during the one peak hour in New England that the capacity payment is based on.

Since we already have a meter reading system that can measure each customer's contribution to this one peak hour, we are working on programs that will help reduce electric use at those peak times. This reduces capacity and transmission costs for GELD and lowers electric bills for those who participate in these programs.

Would you like to partner with GELD on this innovative program?

If you have a whole house generator and are interested in participating in a program that can reduce your electric bill give us a call at 978-448-1150.

If you have an electric bill over \$200 per month in the summer and would consider having a whole house generator installed so that you can participate in a program that can reduce your electric bill, give us a call at 978-448-1150 or fill out the form below and return it to GELD.



- ☐ Yes, I have a whole house generator and would be interested in hearing more about the potential benefits.
- ☐ I may be interested in purchasing (or leasing) a whole house generator if I qualify for the program and it could help to lower my electric bill. Please tell me more.

By completing the form below, you agree to receive a letter, phone call or email explaining the different options that will be available for this program. Please indicate the method of correspondence you prefer (circle one: phone email mail)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Congratulations to GELD's rodeo team for placing 2nd overall at the annual NEPPA Lineworkers Rodeo 2015**

The event was held on September 17, 2015 at the Northeast Public Power Association's headquarters in Littleton, Massachusetts. GELD's 2015 rodeo team consisted of GELD's three youngest lineworkers—Ryan Andrews, Bruce Dubey Jr. and Jon Patterson.

Andrews, Dubey and Patterson were one of 11 groups of three that participated in the rodeo in various events to showcase their lineworker skills. The teams are judged (and receive points) in six areas:

- URD Terminator Changeout—GELD placed 1st in this event
- 4kV Crossarm Changeout
- 4kV Isolation Event—GELD placed 3rd in this event
- Hurtman Rescue
- Obstacle Course
- Transformer Changeout

The GELD team finished only one point behind the first place Norwich, Connecticut team.

It was a great team building experience and the guys look forward to participating as a team again next year. It will be their third consecutive year as a team and they are hoping to do just a little bit better next year!

## Norm Robertson Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for his Service to GELD

GELD held an impromptu meeting to honor long-time West Groton resident Norm Robertson for the many years he served Groton residents as an employee and commissioner with the Groton Electric Light Department.

GELD Commissioners Easom, Hersh and Lindemer, Manager Kelly, Executive Assistant Lemire and Norm's son, Bud Robertson were all in attendance.

Norm is charming and witty and can recall some of his fondest memories working for the Light Department as if it were yesterday. He began working for the Light Department in 1953 as a "ground-man" (the same entry level position that apprentice lineman start their careers today). When asked, "How long did it take to become a lineman"? He answered "about one week"—and we all laughed, but he was serious. He told us as soon as you could climb a pole, you were considered a lineman. His training was 100% on the job and he learned "on the go".

We were trying to compare the differences between how things were done 60 years ago versus today. Many things were a lot harder back in Norm's era. They climbed poles more often because they didn't have bucket or digger trucks when he first started. They did their tree work with hand saws on 25 foot ladders—no chain saws. They also dug and installed poles by hand and raised them by hand with the help of pole pikes—he explained the very manual process in detail. On-call duty was stricter as well. He noted you were "on-call" one week per month and you stayed home and waited for the police to call you if there was an outage. You couldn't go anywhere. He recalls the department paid a portion of



the lineman's electric bill and they allowed the use of the small company truck for the week as payment for on-call duty. We were all happy to know that they did wear rubber gloves for protection but Norm was quick to say they always worked on live wires.

It was evident in Norm's responses that he had a rewarding career with the Light Department. When asked what his fondest memory was, he simply said "just working for the Light Department".

Norm's career with the Light Department spanned three plus decades and included many responsibilities. He was a ground-man, a lineman, a working foreman, a meter man and also served one three-year term as a commissioner.

The Commissioner's were pleased and honored to present Mr. Robertson with GELD's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award. The award read: "Making the Difference, Awarded to Norm Robertson in appreciation of your years of outstanding service and dedication. Thank you for truly making a difference. GELD LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT"

A well deserved award indeed!

Norm and his wife of 69 years, Gloria, reside on Townsend Road in West Groton in the home that Norm built.