

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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ALONG THE LINE

Apply for the 2012 Electric Youth Tour



How would you like to win an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour on June 16-22? Any high school junior whose parents or guardians are members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is eligible to apply for the 2012 Electric Youth Tour Contest.

The Youth Tour is an exciting opportunity for teenagers to learn how important electric cooperatives are to their communities and they will be able to tour many of D.C.'s historic monuments. The Youth Tour is also a great opportunity for high school juniors to learn about the legislative system and to meet their local representatives.

To apply for the 2012 Electric Youth Tour call 641-9513 or e-mail: winston.howell@ememc.com to request an application and essay form to be completed and submitted by March 23, 2012.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

TOGETHER WE SAVE

Small changes made to your home can add up to substantial energy savings. Visit www.togetherwesave.com and watch how-to videos that will provide you with the insight you need on how to make your home more energy efficient, participate in the Energy Saving Forum or take the Energy Savings Home Tour to add up your potential savings. From sealing your home to your ductwork, you'll find it all at...

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

The 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
A WEEK YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

Visit Historic Monuments, Museums & so Much More

See Our Nation's Government in Action

Join More Than a Thousand Students from Across the Country

North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



www.NCelectricCooperatives.com/YouthTour

Copper Theft Poses a Huge Risk!

North Carolina, like many states across the nation, is experiencing a surge in copper theft because of rising metal prices. Copper wire is a primary component of electrical distribution lines and substations, like those owned and maintained by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Removing copper wire from electrical systems causes power outages, creates the need for additional maintenance, increases expenses and diminishes service reliability. Although copper prices have increased drastically in the last 10 years, most thieves are only able to steal less than \$100 worth of the metal, a petty amount considering these thieves are risking their lives.

Copper is used to ground electrical equipment, protecting it from electrical surges and lightning by giving electricity a safe path to the ground. It is frequently used in electrical substations where high-voltage electricity traveling through the lines from power plants

is stepped down before it travels to neighborhoods. Thieves often climb utility poles, scale fences and break into buildings to steal the metal, which they then sell for scrap.

"To a thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make some cash," said Anthony Cannon, Safety/Environmental Coordinator at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. "But it's illegal, it's costly, and it's not worth anyone's life." In 2010 metal theft-related deaths occurred in North Carolina, West Virginia, Illinois and Ohio. A co-op in Oklahoma is facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In North Carolina, it is illegal for anyone without the proper paperwork to transport or possess more than 25 pounds of copper.

To protect the public, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's substations are secured with high fences, and warning signs are posted around the substations. Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, like an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire, please call our office

immediately at (252) 823-2171. If you see anyone other than utility personnel near substations or other electrical facilities, call the police.



Electric substations are no place to play, and risking your life to steal copper from one of these facilities is a not a good idea.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will close on Thursday, December 22, at 12 p.m. and will reopen for business on Tuesday, December 27, at 8 a.m. in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the bill payment terminal at the front of our office, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.ememc.com.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

Bright Ideas Grants Awarded

This year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will contribute \$7,000 to seven teachers in Edgecombe, Martin and Pitt counties. In total, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will collectively contribute nearly \$600,000 to fund more than 550 Bright Ideas projects this year.

Any certified K-12 North Carolina teacher may apply for a grant of up to \$1,500 to be used for creative projects in their classroom. The Bright Ideas program began 18 years ago to help teachers who were funding classroom-based projects out of their own pockets and has since provided funding for more than 6,500 projects.

Since the program's inception in 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have awarded more than \$7.1 million to N.C. teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached more than 1.2 million North Carolina students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, music and the arts. (See the following page for a list of the 2011 Bright Ideas grant winners)



LINES FROM THE C.E.O.

What is the Basic Facilities Charge?

Each month, every member is billed a basic facilities charge on their bill. For example, an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC postpaid residential member's account is currently charged \$15.90 for basic facilities. This charge varies by rate class and type of service due mainly to the underlying cost to serve different types of accounts.

These charges can also be quite different from one utility to the next and can cause some confusion among customers when they compare their bills. The main reason the basic facilities charge varies from one utility to the next is based on members or customers per mile of line served. For instance, utilities that serve large towns or cities usually have a lower basic facilities charge because they have more rate payers for which to spread these costs. However, utilities that serve rural areas with fewer members per mile of line normally have higher basic facilities charges because there are less members for which to spread these costs.

Many costs go into developing rate classes and they are commonly broken down into three different categories:

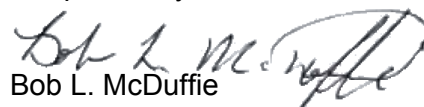
(1) energy related, (2) demand related, and (3) customer related. These three category cost are used when developing cost of service studies for each rate class, and our objective is to develop rate class structures that provide as close to an equal rate of return for each rate class as possible.

As you are aware from some of my most recent columns; we will be working to compile a new cost of service study over the next several months. This cost of service study will take into account the future increases in wholesale power costs and the increase in customer related costs. Although it is too early in the process to determine what the exact impact on basic facilities, energy and demand charges will be for each rate class; it is a good assumption that each rate class will be impacted due to the increased costs that are affecting our industry.

The best way to lessen the burden of these rising costs is to add new load and members, but as you are aware growth in our area is stagnant at best. However, we still continue our efforts to attract new business and industry that will help add jobs in the communities we serve and put citizens back to work.

As always, we will keep you updated as this process progresses and we are here to answer questions you may have regarding this topic.

Cooperatively Yours,


Bob L. McDuffie



2011 Bright Ideas Grant Recipients

Grant Winners	School	Name of Grant	Amount Funded
Karen Whitley	Jamesville Elementary	Reading and Beyond	\$849
Jo T. Peele	South Creek High School	When We All Get To Heaven	\$1,010
Charles Whitehurst	SW Edgecombe High School	Soaring With The Eagles	\$723
Tabitha Hodges	SW Edgecombe High School	"You Want Me To Do WHAT To This Bacteria"	\$1,500
Cliff Hudson	Riverside High School	"We are going to need a bigger boat" Exploring North Carolina's Coast	\$828
Kelli Peel	Bethel Elementary	Exploding Math: Getting Kids Ready	\$650
Leigh Ann Hudson	North Pitt High School	Hands-on=Minds on... Using Models to Teach Biology	\$1,440

Nominating Committee Selected for 2012

How to Nominate a Director

The Nominating Committee has been charged with the responsibility of nominating two members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to fill expiring terms on the Board of Directors for District E-1 and D-AL.

In addition, candidates may be nominated by petition. The petition must be signed by 15 or more members in the nominees respective district and received in the Tarboro office at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. This allows time to verify that the nominee is a qualified member interested in serving as a director, and it also allows time to include their name on the election ballot. All nominations are closed 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Should you desire to nominate a member other than the two members to be selected by the Nominating Committee, you must submit a petition to the Cooperative by February 6, 2012.

Any 15 or more members acting together may make additional nominations in writing by submitting a petition with their fifteen signatures affixed.

Petitions of nominees for directors shall be signed only by members who reside in the same directorate district as the nominee whose name appears on the petition.

If a valid petition is received by January 16, 2012, along with a usable photograph and a brief biographical statement, this information will be published in the March Annual Meeting Notice newsletter.

Although it is several months until our next annual meeting, our election process for the cooperative's board of directors is rather involved and must start early. We have eight directors who are elected for three-year terms on a staggered basis so that approximately one-third are elected each year. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, an eight member nominating committee is appointed.

The Board of Directors has selected a member from each of the eight directorate districts to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Members, to be held on Saturday, March 17.

The nominating committee is composed of members who are not cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or close relatives of the existing board or known candidate for director. The committee meets, nominates members to serve on the board, and then posts the results in the cooperative's office. The committee will be nominating members for the board from directorate district E-1 and D-AL.

The members of the Nominating Committee have been charged with the responsibility of selecting two Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members to represent the cooperative on the Board of Directors, and the names selected by this committee will be submitted and will be voted on at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Members.

Policy No. 201 (included in this newsletter) states the requirements and guidelines that the Nominating Committee must follow before nominating anyone for the Board of Directors of your cooperative.

2012 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District P-1

Peggy Warren
724 NC Hwy. 30
Greenville, NC 27834

District E-3

Bobby R. Rose
Rte. 1, Box 192
Pinetops, NC 27864

District D-AL

Danny Butler
5259 NC Hwy. 142
Oak City, NC 27857

District E-1

Walter Hunter
P.O. Box 268
Whitakers, NC 27891

District E-4

Johnnie Naylor
P.O. Box 594
Pinetops, NC 27864

District M-1

Danny Stalls
3484 Claude Green Road
Robersonville, NC 27871

District E-2

L.B. Simpson, Jr.
2026 NC 111 N.
Tarboro, NC 27886

District E-5

Don Anderson
597 E. Logsboro Rd.
Tarboro, NC 27886

Considerations for Directors

This policy statement excerpt from Policy No. 201 of the Cooperative's Board Approved Policies is printed to provide and inform the membership on guidelines for those persons nominated and voted upon for service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative, and to provide the membership with a means of assuring themselves of the election of members to the Board of Directors who are qualified to carry out the ideals, formulate policy, develop plans and insure their execution. The Board of Directors of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation has resolved that the policy contained herein shall be used as a guide when considering the qualifications for directors.

That any committees, member, or members who nominate an individual to be voted upon for election to the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall be aware of and should carefully and seriously consider the following personal qualifications before such nomination is entered.

- Shall have the qualifications contained in Section 4.02 of the bylaws.
- Should be willing to promote and safeguard the interests of the Cooperative.
- Should be willing to attend regularly scheduled and special meetings of the Board of Directors; national, state, and other meetings of organizations with associated interests that furthers the Cooperative's mission; training programs which will aid in keeping the director well informed on the matters affecting the Cooperative.
- Should be aware that members of the Board of Directors serve without salary and on a fee basis only for time given regularly scheduled and approved affairs of the Cooperative plus reimbursement for all reasonable expenses in connection with such scheduled activities.
- Should be willing to serve the term of office for which elected until a successor has been appointed or elected and qualified except in cases of extreme circumstances.
- Shall not use or cause to be used, the position of director to further any personal ambitions.
- Shall not have been: convicted of a felony; the subject of a bankruptcy judgement; declared being of unsound mind by any order of court.
- That service as a director shall include

the following responsibilities for growth and development, for keeping them and others informed, and for participating in all functions of the Board.

- To expend the effort needed to understand the Cooperative's problems and to provide the judgement needed to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances.
- To conscientiously study the information contained in reports submitted to the Board.
- To make a meaningful contribution by participating in discussions on plans, programs, policies and other Board actions.
- To objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems with which the Cooperative is faced.
- To keep informed as to the ideals and objectives of the Cooperative and to further study and analyze the policies, plans, and problems which result from efforts to achieve such ideals and objectives.
- To keep informed on, alert to, and aware of the attitudes of the members, the employees, and the general public toward the Cooperative's objectives and policies.
- To inform all interested persons about the Cooperative's ideals, objectives, programs and services.
- That any of the below listed circumstances of any director are cause for immediate resignation or removal from the Board and related offices upon review:
 1. Is adjudged to be bankrupt or who is convicted of a felony.
 2. Is absent from two or more meetings per fiscal year.
 3. Declared of unsound mind by any order of court.
 4. In the case of any such circumstance, a majority of the remaining directors will review and deem necessary to excuse or vacate and fill said vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of the Director.

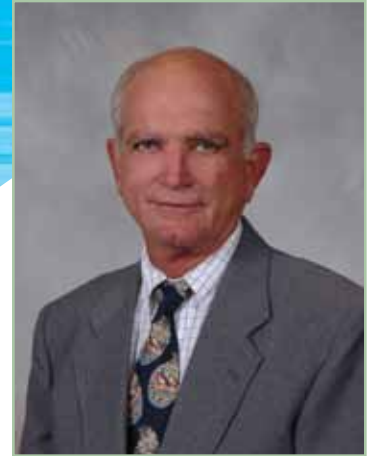
This policy is intended to serve as a guide for keeping nominating committees and members informed on their nominating and voting decisions and is not intended to conflict with the bylaws, or Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative. A complete copy of any policy will be made available for any member upon his or her request.

Directorate Districts E-1 and D-AL

The two directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members on March 17, 2012, must reside in and represent directorate districts E-1 and the Director-at-Large district, respectively. The following is a description of the boundaries of these three directorate districts.

DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-1

This section is bounded on the south side by the centerline of State Highway 97. This line begins at the intersection of State Highway 97 and Seaboard Coastline Railroad in Rocky Mount, (Nash-Edgecombe County line), and continues to follow State Highway 97 eastward until it reaches a point where State Highway 97 intersects with U.S. 258. Turning northward, the boundary follows the centerline of U.S. 258, creating the eastern boundary. All portions of Nash, Edgecombe and Halifax counties within this geographical area shall be considered in District E-1.



Joe Suggs currently serves as the director for District E-1.

DIRECTORATE DISTRICT-AT-LARGE

All portions of land encompassing Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation's service territory shall be considered District-AL.



Dennis Briley currently serves as the director for District-AL.



Credentials and Election Committee Appointed

The Board of Directors appoints a Credentials and Election Committee each year to serve at the Annual Meeting of Members. There is one member from each of the eight directorate districts of the cooperative that serve on this committee to insure that proper rules and regulations are followed according to the co-op's policies. Some of their duties include:

1. To ensure proper member registration and ballot voting.
2. To answer questions that may arise with respect to the registration of members in person or by proxy.
3. To count all ballots cast in any election or any other ballot voting.
4. To rule upon the effect of any ballots irregularly or indecisively marked.
5. To pass upon any protest or objection filed with respect to any election or the conduct affecting the results of any election.

2012 CREDENTIALS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

E-1 Peggy K. Weatherford
3952 Old Battleboro Road
Battleboro, NC 27809

E-2 Walter Dew, III
3129 NC 111 N
Tarboro, NC 27886

E-3 Alton R. Skinner
704 Ellis Road
Tarboro, NC 27886

E-4 Hugh E. Council
5155 NC 42W
Macclesfield, NC

E-5 Ernest E. Moore
Rte. 2, Box 48
Battleboro, NC 27809

D-AL Danny Butler
5259 NC Hwy. 142
Oak City, NC 27857

M-1 Danny Stalls
3484 Claude Green Road
Robersonville, NC 27871

P-1 Peggy Warren
724 NC Hwy. 30
Greenville, NC 27834

**JOIN US FOR THE 75TH ANNUAL
MEETING OF MEMBERS TO BE HELD
ON MARCH 17, 2012.**

Showing Appreciation To Our Members

A total 156 members and their families visited the co-op on October 6, for Customer Appreciation Day. Members registered for a chance to win one of the three \$100 bill credits that were up for grabs. The lucky winners this year were Roy Haislip, Thomas Rose and Michael Harrell.

Cooperative employees and the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC served members hotdogs and popcorn from 11 am until 2 pm. Members were also treated to soft-serve ice cream.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosts Customer Appreciation Day each year during October to observe national Co-op Month and to show appreciation to the members of the Cooperative. As member-owned enterprises, co-ops are owned largely by the people who live and work in the

communities they serve. That gives us a different perspective from businesses owned by distant investors.



EMC-EMC had 156 registered members and family members attend Customer Appreciation Day on October 6. They were treated to a hot dog lunch and soft-serve ice cream.

Safe Outdoor Decorating

For many of us, putting up holiday decorations can sometimes turn into a friendly competition among neighbors. Determined to have the best looking house in the neighborhood, some people are willing to hang miles of icicle lights and plug in scores of inflatable snowmen just to out-do the neighbors. However festive, these embellishments also add electrical strain to your home, and safety must be a priority when decorating. Follow these tips to ensure a safe, joyful holiday season:

- Only use outdoor lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Be sure to check to see if the lights you're using are certified for outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage.
- Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tracks when hanging lights.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights- they could unravel and inadvertently wrap around power lines.

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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Elbert Ray Pitt, Jr., Vice Pres.
Joseph Suggs, Secretary
Floyd H. Harrell, Treasurer
Billy Trevathan
Jimmie Jernigan
Norman A. Roberson
Dennis C. Briley
Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

CEO

Bob L. McDuffie

Editor

Winston T. Howell

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