



Along the LINE

MARCH 2024

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

2024 Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Member:

The 87th Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, March 28, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be a drive-thru format. Use the concrete driveway to enter the drive-thru annual meeting registration. Registered members and their immediate families are invited to attend. The business session will begin at 6 p.m. in the main office lobby for those who wish to attend. For those who do not wish to stay for the business session, we will Facebook Live this event.

The purpose of this meeting is: (1) the presentation, consideration of, and action upon reports by officers, directors, and committees, (2) the election of directors and, (3) the transacting of any other business that comes before the meeting. The board president and CEO will make their annual reports to the membership on the state of the Cooperative. Please mail questions pertaining to your cooperative prior to March 8, to Winston Howell, CEO, P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886, so



we may have time to compile any information or data your request may require.

The agenda for the meeting is located on the cover wrap and highlights on the nomination for director is included on the next page. If you do not plan to be present and wish to cast a vote, please complete, sign and return the proxy form on the inside front cover of this magazine by mail to the address noted above.

Electric bill credits will be drawn the next business day. Registered members and their immediate families are invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Truly,

Norman Roberson

Norman Roberson
Board Secretary



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
will be closed on
Friday, March 29,
in observance
of Good Friday.

Payments after office hours
and on holidays can be made
at the kiosk under the drive-thru
canopy, by calling our automated
telephone service at
1-855-356-6358, placed in
the night deposit box or you
may choose to utilize the
convenience of online bill-pay by
logging on to **ememc.com**.

To report a emergency after
hours, please call
1-800-690-0657.

Nominee for Director

Harold Thompson (E-1) Nominated by Committee

Thompson is an Edgecombe County native who grew up on a farm and is currently owner and operator of Air-Ag, Inc and H.B. Thompson Farms, Inc. He holds an Associate Degree in Agriculture from NC State University. Thompson is currently the Chairman of the Tarboro-Edgecombe Airport Authority. He has been a member of the cooperative for 30 years.

Thompson enjoys NASCAR and spending time on the farm growing popcorn and pumpkins. He and his wife, Debra, and have one daughter, Mikayla, who is also a NC State graduate and teaches Agriculture Education at NECP. Thompson is a member of Speights Chapel Methodist Church.



Bill Payment Resources Are Available

We get it – this time of year can put a strain on finances, especially after the holidays. The colder weather tends to crank up those utility bills, and we want you to know that we're here to help.

Here's a guide to the various resources and options available to you, ensuring that your energy needs are met without unnecessary strain on your budget.

Payment Extension

We all need a little extra breathing room sometimes. That's why we're offering to extend your due date by up to 10 days, two times in a 12-month period. Request this assistance through our SmartHub app, call us at 252-823-2171, or shoot us an email at memberservices@ememc.com. Just a heads up, though: it's not a permanent shift; your due date will bounce back to its original spot on your next bill.

Bill Assistance

There are programs like LIEAP and CIP funds provided by social services for those who qualify. Check in with your local office to see if you're eligible. Other community-based assistance programs, including those run by churches and organizations, are also available. Give us a ring and we'll hook you up with all the details.

Ways to Pay Your Bill

We've made paying your bill a breeze with these options:

Budget Billing: Smooth out the peaks and valleys by paying the same amount every month. Your

budget billing amount is tailored to your past 12 months' of energy use, providing predictability throughout the year. Curious if your account qualifies? Give us a shout.

Prepay: Take control of when and how much you pay by prepaying on your schedule, as long as your account stays in credit. No deposit required, and no late fees!

Automatic Bank Draft: Set it and forget it. Let your bill be paid automatically through bank, debit, or credit card draft. Sign up via our SmartHub app for an effortlessly smooth payment experience.

Remember, we're here for you. Unexpected hiccups happen, and we're committed to making sure your energy needs are met without added stress. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance.





Every time you pay your utility bill to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, you invest in your cooperative and provide capital to help carry out essential system improvements. Because Edgecombe Martin EMC is a not-for-profit organization, we return margins, also called capital credits, to the membership. The retirement of capital credits is one of the many benefits of being a cooperative member-owner.

Those equity investments, also called patronage, ensure we continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members. Patronage is members' share of what's left over after we have paid the costs of delivering power and set aside appropriate funds for general operations and emergency preparedness.

Every business needs a source of funding or capital to operate efficiently. Our most significant source of capital is the sale and distribution of electricity to you, our members. If a for-profit business is profitable, it may pay dividends to those who hold stock in the company, and a for-profit's main initiative is to increase shareholder wealth. Unlike for-profit companies, our member-owners are entitled to receive capital credits equitably based on their electric consumption. Increasing shareholder wealth is not a part of our business model. As a not-for-profit, we treat our year-end equity differently than a for-profit business. To maintain our tax status, we must allocate margins annually to all member accounts based on their energy consumption.

We then use the capital to fund general operations, improvements in service, and technology upgrades. Member-provided capital helps keep rates affordable by reducing the funds we must borrow to finance, repair and improve the systems of the cooperative.

When we are financially able to do so, a general retirement is approved by the board of directors to distribute patronage capital back to the members on a reasonable and systematic basis. Management and the board of directors evaluate the cooperative's financial stability and verify that we comply with applicable federal regulations before the board of directors approves a plan to retire capital credits. The general retirement ensures each member-owner shares in the successful operation of the cooperative and receives a "return on their investment."

Historically, we have retired patronage capital using a hybrid method so that our long-term members consistently receive a portion of the capital they invested many years ago while returning a small portion of newer members' investment. The hybrid approach reduces the total unretired patronage and will make retiring larger patronage allocations from future years more manageable.

We are happy to announce that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's board of directors authorized the general retirement of just over \$800,000 in capital credits to the members of the cooperative at their January meeting. This general retirement clears the remaining patronage capital from 2000 and retires 1% of the allocated patronage capital from 2001 through 2022.

Beginning the second week in March 2024, checks and bill credits will be distributed to eligible members based upon the board-approved general retirement specified above. To streamline the process, we will issue checks for amounts over \$25 and bill credits for amounts under \$25. Should your retirement be below \$25, you should see a credit on your bill if you're an eligible current member.

Edgecombe Martin County EMC has always placed a high priority on the retirement of capital credits. Ensuring we have your up-to-date mailing address is critical in getting these funds to you. Unfortunately, many checks are returned by the U.S. Post Office due to inaccurate mailing addresses. Therefore, please inform us of any change to your mailing address, telephone number, or email address. We also publish a report annually on our website to identify and address any "unclaimed" capital credit retirement checks.

For further details regarding capital credits or to update your mailing address, please contact us at 252-823-2171.

Cooperatively,

Melinda Nimmo

Melinda Nimmo

Empowering Paws: Food Drive for Local Animal Shelters

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to announce its upcoming food drive dedicated to supporting our four-legged friends in need.

With a mission to make a positive impact on the local community, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC invites you to join us in this endeavor to provide food for the animals in our service area. Participating in the food drive is easy!

Simply drop off your contributions of cat or dog food at our main lobby during the month of March and April. Whether you can spare a small bag or contribute a larger quantity, every donation makes a significant difference.

Let's make this initiative a success and demonstrate the incredible impact we can make when we come together for a cause that truly matters. Thank you for your support!



Along The LINE

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Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

March Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, affordable and reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout March, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment on Highway 33 East and River Road, near Belvoir, and various hotspots on the system.

