



# Along the LINE

**DECEMBER 2023**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



## Co-op Holds Successful Member Appreciation Day

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosted our 2023 Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the co-op.

Our annual Member Appreciation Day is a special occasion where we express our gratitude to the exceptional members we have at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. The 2023 Member Appreciation Day was a success, with 174 members joining us.

Our cooperative team served members delicious hotdogs and chips, and members were treated to homemade ice cream from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Every attending member had the opportunity to win one of the five \$50 bill credits. We are pleased to announce this year's fortunate winners: Elizabeth Pollard, Donna Pettaway, Kaleatha Vines, Brenda Wooten and Dorothy Perkins.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC proudly hosts Member Appreciation Day each October, aligning with the celebration of national Co-op Month. 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.

Thank you to our members for your continued support of your local electric cooperative and attendance at our Member Appreciation Day. Your presence and support are truly valued.



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closing at 12 noon on Friday, Dec. 22, and closed on Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

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 into **ememc.com**. To report a emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

# Save the Date for Our 2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in a Drive-Thru format AND in-person format on Thursday, March 28.

For the past three years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Annual Meeting of Members has embraced a drive-through setup, initially necessitated by the COVID pandemic. This adjustment brought about a new type of annual meeting. Your feedback and robust participation have demonstrated your appreciation for this convenient method of expressing your views on the cooperative's operations.

This year, our annual meeting will once again be a drive-through format, running from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the business meeting scheduled at 6 p.m. This year, our



annual meeting is taking a different turn. Instead of the warehouse dock, we'll be gathering in the welcoming atmosphere of our main office lobby, starting at 6 p.m.



This format allows members to stay in their vehicles for drive-through registration and voting while still offering the option to attend the business session in person if desired.

For those who prefer the convenience of tuning in from home, we've got you covered with a Facebook Live option.

Listening to your preferences, wants, and needs is one of the ways we demonstrate that your membership matters. As a member-owned electric cooperative, your participation allows us to focus on your satisfaction. We hope to see you all there!

## Last Chance, Youth Tour Applications Due

The Youth Tour program offers high school students entering their junior or senior year a unique opportunity to explore the captivating beauty and rich history of our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

Current high school sophomores and juniors are encouraged to seize the chance to participate in the 2024 Youth Tour trip, scheduled for June 15-21, 2024. The deadline for submitting applications for this all-expense-paid adventure is Dec. 31, 2023, and they should be sent to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

During the Youth Tour, students will join a group of 1,500 high school students from all over the country. Together, they will delve into subjects such as electric cooperatives, American history, and the workings of the U.S. government. Additionally, participants will have the privilege of exploring the historical sites and iconic landmarks of the nation's capital while also engaging with their congressional representatives.

For those interested in applying for the Youth Tour, application forms can be obtained by reaching out to Monica Speight at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. You can contact her at 252-823-2171 or via email at [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com). Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!



# lines

FROM C.E.O.  
**WINSTON HOWELL**

Electricity and the fuels used to generate it have become a popular topic. Across the nation, there's a growing dependence on renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. The graphic at right shows the power diversity of the cooperatives of North Carolina. The largest portion of our electricity comes from emission-free nuclear generation. Natural gas generation is next because of its availability to be dispatched quickly when needed. Next is the purchased part of our portfolio, which is power we purchase through wholesale energy suppliers. Roughly 8% of our fuel mix is currently from renewable energy, along with an additional two percent from hydropower. Coal is at only 7%. We utilize a diverse mix of generating resources to meet the demand of our members.

However, the electric grid faces increasing reliability pressures due to heightened electricity demands driven by population growth, and the proliferation of electronic devices and electric vehicles.

We're all familiar with the saying, "Don't place all your eggs in one basket." This well-known proverb is typically invoked when someone is about to take a risky or unwise course of action. Adhering to this counsel implies that we are not putting all our resources into a single endeavor but rather diversifying our options. This approach mirrors what I consider a prudent strategy amid the ongoing energy transition, especially as interest in renewable energy gains momentum.

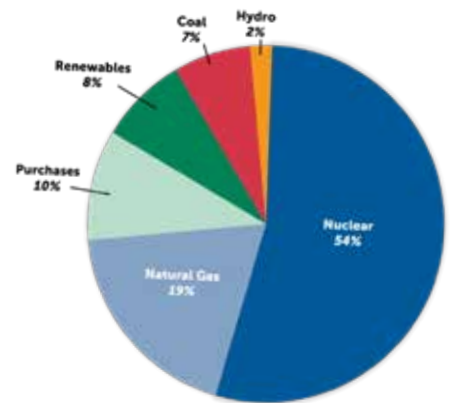
Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced regulations in Washington, D.C. This proposed bill could lead to the premature closure of consistently available fossil fuel power plants and impose stricter regulations on permitting, siting, and constructing new power facilities.

The EPA's proposed rule to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from coal and natural gas-fired power plants has raised concerns about its impact on electric cooperatives' ability to provide reliable, affordable electricity to our members. These regulations set ambitious goals that rely on emerging technologies like carbon capture and storage and hydrogen as a fuel source. This poses a potential risk to electric reliability and could increase costs for our members.

These new EPA regulations are expected to place additional strain on the electric grid, heightening the risk of rolling outages and potentially making reliable energy less affordable for many.

Nine states experienced rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded the available supply. Those situations will become even more frequent if the EPA continues without any apparent consideration of impacts on electric grid reliability.

American families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. The EPA needs to recognize the impact this proposal will have on the future of reliable energy before it's too late.



Now, how do we address the dual challenges of grid stress and transitioning our energy sources? While solar and wind energy are environmentally beneficial, they are intermittent and non-dispatchable resources since the sun doesn't shine continuously, and the wind isn't always blowing. For example, during our peak demand in January, solar energy couldn't contribute due to the timing of the peak occurred before sunrise, a critical period. In August, our peak demand coincided with full production time for solar, but the presence of clouds limited its output to 7.7 megawatts. Considering commercial solar system's full capacity is 10.5 megawatts, this highlights a challenge in harnessing solar energy during less-than-ideal weather conditions. Our primary duty is to deliver uninterrupted electricity to you and our community. To accomplish this, we rely on dependable power sources such as nuclear and natural gas generating facilities capable of meeting the varying demands of our interconnected world.

While the utilization of renewables is expanding, we must incorporate other energy forms into our mix to ensure uninterrupted service. This is why we diversify our energy sources. Maintaining a diverse range of fuel sources, including fossil fuels and renewables, is essential for ensuring reliability, resilience, and meeting the surging electricity demand. As we strive to reduce our overall carbon footprint and electrify more sectors of our economy, solar and wind power remain integral components of a broader energy portfolio. However, they aren't available round-the-clock. In today's interconnected world, a constant and reliable power supply is a necessity.

Cooperatively,

**Winston Howell**

# How To Nominate a Director

The Nominating Committee has been charged with the responsibility of nominating three members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to fill the expiring term in District E-1.

In addition, candidates may be nominated by petition. The petition must be signed by 15 or more members in the nominee's respective district and received in the Tarboro office by 5 p.m., at least 30 business days prior to the annual meeting. This allows time to verify that the nominee meets the qualifications to serve as a director, and it also allows time to include their name on the election ballot. All nominations are closed 30 business days prior to the annual meeting.

Should you desire to nominate a member other than the members to be selected by the Nominating Committee, you must submit a petition to the Cooperative by February 15, 2024. Any fifteen 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 31, 2024 along with a high resolution photograph and a brief biographical statement, this information will be published in the March Annual Meeting Notice newsletter.

# Nominating Committee Selected for 2024

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 seven directors who are elected for three-year terms on a staggered basis. In accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws, a seven member nominating committee is appointed.

The Board of Directors has selected a member from each of the seven directorate districts to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members, scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 28.

The Nominating Committee is composed of members who are not cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or close relatives of the existing board or a 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.

The members of the Nominating Committee have been charged with the responsibility of selecting one Edgecombe-Martin County EMC member to represent the Cooperative on the Board of Directors, and the names selected by this committee will be submitted and voted on at the 2024 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 the Cooperative.

## 2024 Nominating Committee Members

E-1 Walter Hunter

E-5 Don Anderson

E-2 L.B. Simpson

M-1 Danny Stalls

E-3 Gary Hyman

P-1 Charles Tucker

E-4 David Gardner



# 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 District E-1

The director to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members scheduled for March 28, 2024 must reside in and represent directorate district E-1. The following is a description of the boundaries of this directorate district.

### 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.



*Harold Thompson  
currently serves as the  
director for District E-1*

## Ronald McDonald House Donation

For years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have proudly supported the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern North Carolina and its mission to provide a temporary "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at local medical facilities.

In a recent collaborative effort, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, along with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tri-County EMC, Jones Onslow EMC, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Tideland EMC, and Roanoke Cooperative, came together to make a generous donation of \$12,000 to the utilities fund of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern North Carolina. With this donation, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives have pledged to donate an additional \$10,000 in 2024, bringing the total to \$22,000. This fund assists in covering all utility expenses for the house.

We are very appreciative to have a program and organization like the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern NC in our community, as it impacts all of the co-ops and our members.

The House is an essential resource in eastern North Carolina, providing families with quality care and a place to rest and recharge while their children receive medical treatment. This "home away from home" can make all the difference for families during their times of need, as they are provided with basic necessities and emotional support. Since 1987, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern NC has had over 32,000 admissions to their facilities.

Meghan Woolard, Executive Director at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern North Carolina,



mentioned, in 2023, "We cherish our partnership with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, their support for our mission enables us to provide a home like environment for families so they can have access to medical care and the resources they need.

In 2022, RMHC-ENC provided 5,900 nights for families all over Eastern North Carolina. This support for our families would not be possible without our community partners. Thank you to North Carolina's Electric cooperatives and their members for the dedication, generosity and care they give to the communities here in Eastern North Carolina."

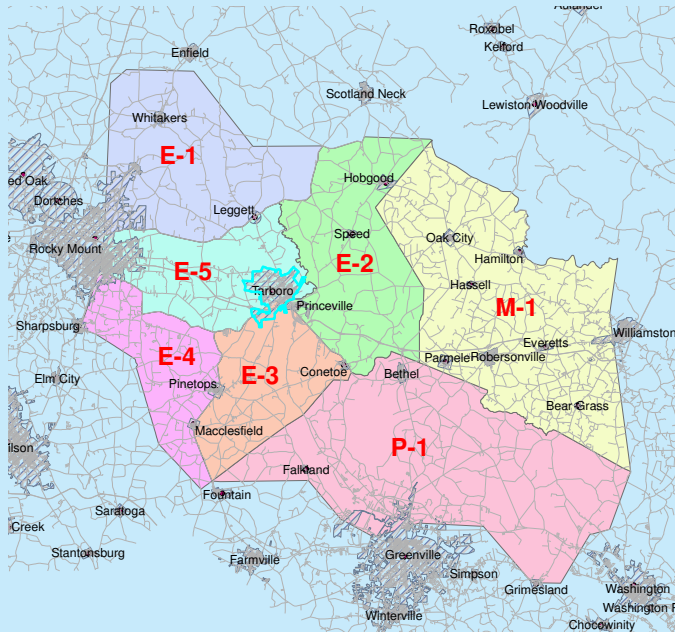
# Considerations for Directors

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 seven 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

## 2024 Credentials and Election Committee

E-1	Peggy Weatherford
E-2	Christy Naccarato
E-3	Gary Hyman
E-4	Hugh Council
E-5	William Jenkins
M-1	Danny Stalls
P-1	Charles Tucker



# Apply Now for Co-op Leadership Camp

Co-op Leadership Camp is a great opportunity for students from across the state to get together and learn about the Cooperative Business Model and have a blast at an overnight camp.

Applications for this summer's Cooperative Leadership Camp are now being accepted from high school students. This year's week-long overnight camp will be held in June.

Hosted annually by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina at the North Carolina FFA Center at White Lake, Cooperative Leadership Camp aims to give rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors a better understanding and appreciation of the cooperative business model and foster leadership qualities, financial responsibility and team building skills.

Co-op leadership campers are also eligible for the \$1,000 Jim Graham college scholarship, which they can apply for during their senior year of high school. To apply contact Monica Speight at [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com) or 252-823-2171.



## Along The LINE

[ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

### Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President  
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Wayne Harrell, Treasurer  
Norman A. Roberson, Secretary  
Billy Trevathan  
Rejeanor Scott  
Harold Thompson  
Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

### CEO

Winston T. Howell

### Editor

Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486  
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

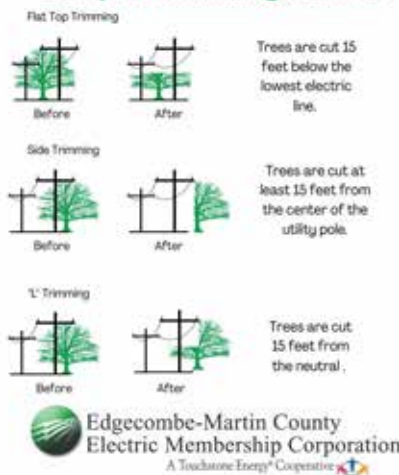
### After Hours Outage Reporting 1-800-690-0657

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## December Rights-of-Way Schedule

### Examples of trimming methods



In order to provide safe, 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.

During December, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Robersonville, Oak city, Hobgood areas, as well as addressing various hotspots on the system.