



Along the LINE

September 2020

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Make Plans to Join us for the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members and 2020 Customer Appreciation Day

Due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold a non-traditional, drive-thru Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, October 22, 2020, with an inclement weather date of Thursday, October 29, 2020, at the Cooperative from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of Members is designed to deliver information to the membership concerning state and national issues that affect the co-op, financial data from the previous year, and our financial outlook for the year ahead.

The business session will be at 4 p.m. For those who wish to be here during the business session, you will have the option to park your car and listen to the business session from the radio. For those who do not wish to stay for the business session, we will Facebook Live this event.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Annual Meeting generally draws well over 800 people. At this time, COVID-19 guidelines would not allow a gathering of this size. With no set timeline on a full lifting of executive orders by Governor Cooper available, the Board of Directors determined that a drive-thru method would be the best and safest option.

"This was not an easy decision for the board to make," CEO Winston Howell says. "Many ideas were discussed at length. Ultimately, it came down to keeping our members and employees safe and healthy."

Members will be directed to stations throughout the parking lot to conduct meeting business. They will be registered, receive a copy of the Annual Report and ballots, pick up an attendance gift, pick up a to-go

plate of food and turn in completed ballots.

All members attending will be entered in the prize drawing and you do not have to be present to win.

Please enter through the receiving entrance, the drive-thru meeting will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you may attend anytime during those hours.

So, mark your calendar for Thursday, October 22, and come join the fun. Please look for your annual meeting notice and member registration card on the front of the next issue of Carolina Country magazine, and remember to bring it with you.

We want to thank our members for their patronage and their understanding of the method of this year's Annual Meeting. We hope to see you in person at next year's annual meeting.

Holiday closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



Edgecombe-Martin County
Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

Ensuring a More Resilient Future

As we approach the peak of hurricane season, we've already seen above average storm activity during a year that is unusually challenging for our members.

While this hurricane season may seem especially daunting, as always, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is ready for any storms that come our way. And our ongoing efforts to make the electric grid more flexible, efficient and resilient will also help ensure your power is as reliable as possible, no matter the weather.

We can't completely prevent outages, but advancements in technology are making our systems more resilient and enabling us to respond to storm impacts and restore power more. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), provides two-way communication between your home or business and our cooperative and lets us know if your power is out. These meters can help you monitor and manage your energy use, and they help us better control demand for electricity across the grid, resulting in more reliable and affordable power for everyone.

Electric cooperatives across the state are also implementing microgrid innovation that provides

added power resiliency and reliability. These small, localized systems bring together various components, including renewable energy like solar power or biogas, battery storage, smart thermostats and water heater controls to produce electricity. North Carolina's electric cooperatives currently have five microgrid projects either in operation or under development, and as a statewide network, electric cooperatives are working together to continue using them in additional ways to better serve members.



2020 Noel Lee Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Cooke was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.



Hannah received a \$1,000 scholarship to assist her with school related costs, such as tuition, books and laboratory fees. Hannah is enrolled at Pitt Community College and will be working to obtain a degree in medical sonography.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC supports education of our youth through a variety of scholarships, grants and learning opportunities. To be eligible for the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, applicants must be a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC or live in a home served by the co-op. These scholarships are intended for students who plan to attend a North Carolina accredited one- or two-year vocational, technical or community college program.

Applications can be completed online at ememc.com. Funds for the scholarships are raised through various raffles and activities of the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. To receive more information, please call Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.

Don't Wait. Be Prepared Before the Storm

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything — food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation.

While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

With Advance Warning

If a severe storm such as a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Facebook or outage map for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs — including on your property.

Power in Planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings. Act today, because there is power in planning.

Cooperatively Yours,
Winston Howell
Winston Howell

Final Call For Bright Ideas Education Grants

It's the final call for Bright Ideas Education Grant applications! Educators with innovative ideas for hands-on projects can apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$1,500 from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC until September 15.

Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and other helpful information at ncbrightideas.com. Educators may apply for the grants as individuals or as a team.

Grants for the 2020-2021 school year will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and disciplines, including music, art, history, language, reading, science, mathematics and information technology, just to name a few. Last year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC awarded more than \$10,000 to local teachers to fund 16 projects.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$12.9 million in grants to teachers for 12,359 projects, benefiting 2.5 million students across the state.



Considering Driving Electric?

National Drive Electric Week 2020 is Sept. 26-Oct. 4, and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is joining a nationwide celebration to highlight the many benefits of driving electric.

Electric vehicles have a lot to offer. They are fun to drive, with faster acceleration and a more responsive, zippy feel behind the wheel. Powering a car with electricity is cheaper than powering it with gas, so they cost less to run. Electric vehicles are also convenient. Most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station, and they also tend to have fewer parts, which means less maintenance and no oil changes. They also contribute to a brighter environmental and economic future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and supporting local commerce and tourism.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has taken steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. We are partnering with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to easily travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities.

Our cooperative also offers special rebates and rates to EV drivers. If you're considering driving electric, please contact us at 252-823-2171 for more information or visit ncdriveelectric.com.



Along The LINE

www.ememc.com

Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President
Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.
Joseph Suggs, Secretary
Billy Trevathan, Treasurer
Rejeanor Scott
Norman A. Roberson
Wayne Harrell
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

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 www.ememc.com