

Along the LINE

DECEMBER 2020

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Bright Ideas Grants Awarded

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has awarded \$8,844.30 in Bright Ideas education grants to 8 local teachers to fund engaging projects for their students. More than 1,000 students at schools in Edgecombe and Martin Counties will benefit from these grants.

We're pleased to award these dedicated educators with Bright Ideas grants," said Eddie Stocks, Vice President of Member and Industrial Development. "Their creative projects will no doubt help students reach their full potential and spark higher interest in learning for years to come." Bright Ideas grants, sponsored by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives, provide resources to Tar Heel teachers for innovative, hands-on, classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded.

"Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is committed to bettering the

communities we serve, and we believe there is no better way than through the education of our youth," Stocks said.

Typically, these grants bring creative projects to life inside classrooms. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been flexible with the types of projects awarded to ensure that all students are able to benefit, whether they are in the classroom or learning remotely. Grants are awarded for projects in all subject areas, such as music, art, history, reading, science, math, and more.

Story continued on page B



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closing at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 23, and remain closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the co-op's 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 loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

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Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is one of 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina offering Bright Ideas grants to local teachers. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$12.9 million in Bright Ideas funding for nearly 12,359 projects supporting teachers and benefitting more than 2.5 million students.

Bright Ideas grant applications are accepted by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC each year from April through mid-September. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2021.

The Bright Ideas grant program is part of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's ongoing commitment to building a brighter future through community support of education.



2020 Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Bright Ideas Education Grant Winners:

Winner	School	Grant Name
Terin Chapman	GW Carver Elementary	Chapman's Drum Fit
Yolanda Jones	Princeville Montessori	Making Social and Emotional Learning Fun!
Melissa Harris, Brandon Woody, Elizabeth Barber, Taylor Moore & Cynthia Grimes	Riverside High School	Literacy: The Gateway to Building a Community
Natalie Shearin & Joseph Hayes	G W Carver Elementary	Mobile Planetarium: Discovering the Universe
Shanda Edwards	Stocks Elementary	No More Chores Engineer Challenge
Taryl D. Holden, Taya Walston & Laytoya Brown	G W Carver Elementary	Playground Turnaround!
Tammy Jones	Rodgers Elementary	Adding Texture to Art with Textiles
Alison Parker & Cliff Hudson	South Creek Elementary	Making Organized Chaos in the Media Center

Crews Assist With Storm Restoration

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC crews recently assisted EnergyUnited with storm restoration caused by Hurricane Zeta.

Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our guiding principles, and why we work together to help in a time of need.

At the peak of Hurricane Zeta, nearly 44,000 EnergyUnited members were without power across its service area. We would like to thank our crews for their time and effort in helping not only our members, but the members of our fellow cooperatives when widespread outages strike. We are always on standby to assist our members and our neighbors!



Bobby Wheeler, Will Scott, Chad Bryant, Austin Meadows and Tyler Perkins

lines

FROM C.E.O.
WINSTON HOWELL

2020 has been a year to remember in many ways. COVID-19 has either canceled or transformed virtually every meeting, event, and family gathering. It has changed the way we think, the way we act around each other, and much more.

Everywhere we go, we see the effects it has had on society. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members have grown accustomed, after 82 years, to attending an annual meeting in person the third Saturday of March every year. They enjoy the fellowship, the complimentary meal, the entertainment the prize drawings and even the business meeting.

As you all know, the Board of Directors made the decision in March to postpone the annual meeting to a later date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held as a drive-thru format on Thursday, October 22, at the headquarters facility in Tarboro, with 379 registered members participating.

Incumbent board of directors Wayne Harrell, Bert Pitt and Rejeanor Scott ran unopposed in the election for Districts E-3, E-4 and P-1 and retained their seats on the board.

We would like to thank our members for attending our 83rd Annual Meeting. This year's meeting added a new twist by holding the first-ever drive-thru meeting. While it was certainly different than previous meetings, some things remained the same. Our members were still able to vote, receive registration prizes, enter to win bill credits, and receive breakfast or lunch while remaining in the safety and comfort of their vehicle. This year's prize drawings were held following the annual meeting and with 10 winners of \$100: Walter Burgess Jr, Larry W. Moore, Juanita M. Phillips, Alfred J. Douglas, Pender Locke Jr., Janie Palmer, Maggie L. Long, William A. Whitley, McKinley Vines and Julia W. Banks.

During the business session of the meeting members were updated on the cooperative's current financial status and informed about state and national issues that could impact the cooperative. The business meeting was broadcast on the radio for members who wished to attend in person and listen from their cars, and on Facebook live for those who could not attend.

We would also like to thank our members who dropped off items for the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina. The Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina provides a warm and caring



home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized children 365 days a year. The items on its wish list are what keep the kitchens stocked, facilities cleaned and the House operating at full potential to keep up to 31 families stay as comfortable as possible.

While we aren't exactly sure what next year's meeting will look like, it's nice to know that we can count on our members in these uncertain times. Thank you to our awesome members for your involvement, and your continued support throughout what has turned out to be a challenging year!

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

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 nominees 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 member to be selected by the Nominating Committee, you must submit a petition to the Cooperative by February 8, 2021. Any 15 (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 13, 2021, along with a high-resolution photograph and a brief biographical statement, this information will be published in the March 2021 Annual Meeting Notice newsletter.

Nominating Committee Selected for 2021



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 2021 Annual Meeting of Members, tentatively scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 20 (this date could change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.)

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 2021 Annual Meeting of Members.

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

2021 Nominating Committee Members

E-1 Walter Hunter

E-5 Don Anderson

E-2 L.B. Simpson

M-1 Danny Stalls

E-3 Alton Skinner

P-1 Peggy Warren

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.

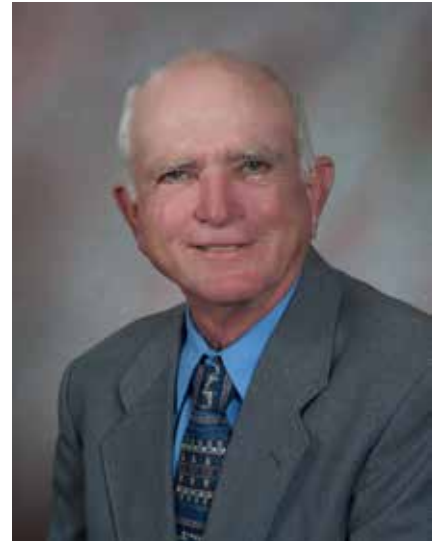
Directorate Districts E-1

The directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2021, must reside in and represent directorate district E-1, respectively. 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

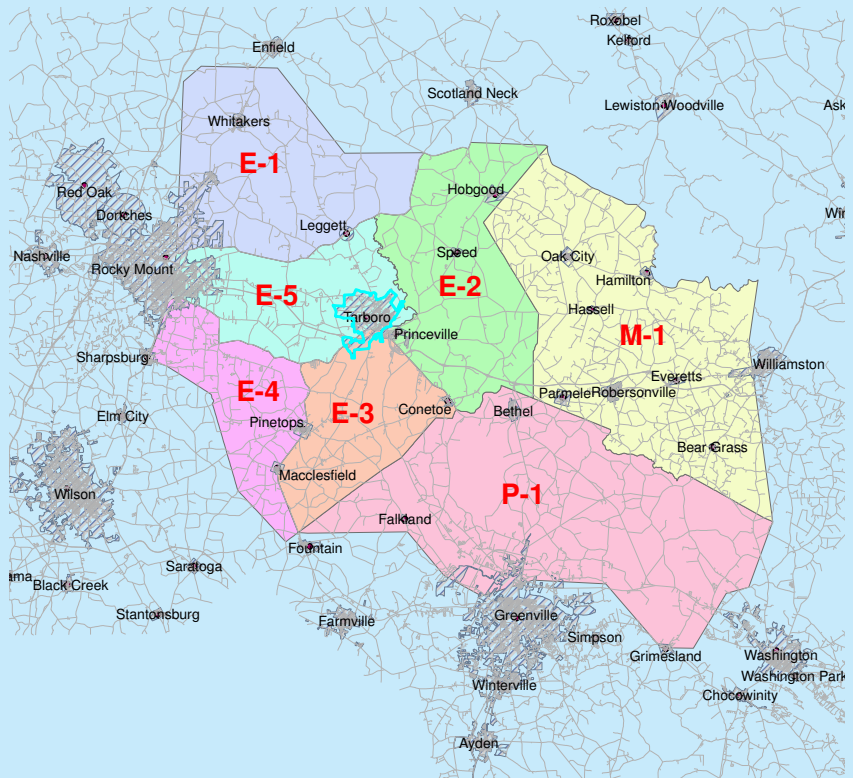
State Highway 97 intersects with U.S. 258. Turning northward, the boundary follows the centerline of U.S. 258, creating the eastern boundary. All portions of Nash, Edgecombe, and Halifax Counties within this geographical area shall be considered in District E-1.



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

2021 Credentials and Election Committee

- E-1 Peggy Weatherford
- E-2 Walter Dew
- E-3 Alton Skinner
- E-4 Hugh Council
- E-5 William Jenkins
- M-1 Danny Stalls
- P-1 Peggy Warren



Credentials and Election Committee

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 who 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.

Non-Pay Disconnection Reminder

A reminder to our members, as of April 1, 2020, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC no longer leaves door hangers as a way to notify members that their electricity will be disconnected for non-payment.

Members are notified by mail and as an additional reminder the Cooperative sends our members an automated text message or email. Please make sure your phone number and email address are up-to-date by calling 1-800-445-6486.

Members will continue to get a final notice in the mail with a disconnect date. In the event you are unable to pay the bill, you may contact the cooperative's office prior to the disconnection date to discuss possible payment arrangements. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC allows two payment arrangements within a 12-month period. If accounts are not brought current by that date, the member is subject to be disconnected for non-payment with no further notice.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has a number of easy and convenient ways for you to pay whether you want to pay online, like to call in, need to drop it in the mail or want to stop by our office and say hello! We also have great options like paperless billing, prepay, auto draft



and budget billing. You can establish an online account today through the SmartHub app and enroll in automatic bank draft and never worry about a late payment again. You can also change your mailing address, update your phone number and report an outage through your SmartHub account. Once enrolled in SmartHub, you will receive an electronic bill notification each month. Another way to make a payment is through our automated telephone line by calling 1-855-356-6358. For cash payments, members can also use the kiosk at the



Just Ask Alexa or Google

You can pay your Edgecombe-Martin County EMC bill without having to lift a finger.

The Smarthub app is now integrated with smart home devices like Amazon's Alexa and Google home to give Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members a hands-free experience.

SmartHub users can access their provider through their smart home device and perform several functions including retrieving your bill balance, checking on outages, getting timely news alerts from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and paying a bill through a stored payment option.

After setting up your device, all you have to say is: "Alexa (or Google) pay my bill."

It's just one of the many ways Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is using technology to improve your experience and make it easier to do business with us.

Co-op Welcomes Flythe and Craft

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC would like to welcome Samuel Flythe and Dylan Craft to our team.

Flythe joins Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as a Second Class Line Technician. Craft joins Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as an Apprentice Line Technician.

In their spare time, each enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends. Both Line Technicians are looking forward to serving our members in the community they call home.



We welcome Flythe and Craft to the Cooperative family!

Along The LINE

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