

# Along the LINE

**MARCH 2020**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## 2020 Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Member:

The 83rd Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on March 21, 2020, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro. The meeting will be held in the truck warehouse for safety and convenience. Use the concrete driveway to enter the parking areas.

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 2 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 attached cover wrap and highlights on the nominations for directors are included on page 22.

If you do not plan to be present and wish to cast a vote, please complete, sign and return the proxy

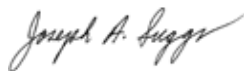
form on the inside front cover of this magazine by mail to the address noted above. (Only an adult member of your household is eligible to vote your proxy.)

Members who are entitled to and desire reasonable accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or other laws should contact the Member Services Department prior to Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Electric bill credits will be drawn at the end of the business session and you must be present to win. Registered members and their immediate families are invited for lunch. There will be activities for children ages 4-12.

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 21, 2020. The business session will begin promptly at 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Truly,



### Reminder for our Members

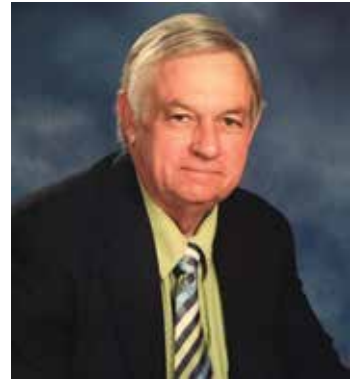
On April 1, 2020, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will no longer leave door hangers as a way to notify members that their electricity will be disconnected for non-payment. Instead, they'll be notified by an automated text message or email. Please make sure your phone number and email address are up-to-date by calling 1-800-445-6486 or on the SmarHub app.

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.

# Nominees for Directors

## Wayne Harrell (E-3) Nominated by Committee

Wayne Harrell has served as an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC director for five years. Mr. Harrell is a native of Edgecombe County and is the owner and manager of Harrell & Owens Farms. Mr. Harrell has over 40 years of agricultural experience in farm management and operations. His father, Floyd H. Harrell, served as a director from 1983 through 2014. Graduating from Tarboro High School in 1973, Mr. Harrell continued his education studying civil engineering at NC State University in Raleigh, NC. Mr. Harrell has served and continues to serve our community and state. He is a past member of the board of directors for the NC Peanut Growers Association and currently serves on of the board of deacons for Pender's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 20-year member of the Conetoe Ruritan Club and Conetoe Volunteer Fire Department. In his leisure time, Mr. Harrell enjoys spending time with his wife, Selena, their two children and four grandchildren.



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## Rejeanor Scott (P-1) Nominated by Committee

Rejeanor Hamilton Scott grew up in a rural area of Edgecombe County and has lived on a farm in Pitt County with her husband, Sidney Scott, for the past 50 years. They have three adult children and one grandchild. She is a graduate of South Edgecombe High School and East Carolina University. An active member of 4-H in her teens, Mrs. Scott learned about electric membership cooperatives and competed in both 4-H speaking contests and demonstrations as an advocate for electric membership cooperatives. Mrs. Scott is a member of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. She also serves on the Friends of Joyner Library board of directors at ECU. Her varied career in education as a teacher and administrator provided her an opportunity to meet many people and develop lasting relationships in the community. As a retiree, Mrs. Scott would like to continue using her skills to serve on the board of directors of Edgecombe-Martin EMC.



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## Bert Pitt ( E-4) Nominated by Committee

Mr. Bert Pitt has served as an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC director since November 2003. This district encompasses the southwestern part of Edgecombe County in the cooperative's service territory. Mr. Pitt and his wife, Gwen, live in the St. Lewis community and have a daughter who also resides in the St. Lewis with her husband and two children. Mr. Pitt received his business degree from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1973. In July 2003, Gov. Mike Easley, appointed Pitt to serve on the North Carolina State Board of Agriculture, which was confirmed by the State Senate. He is past president of the board of directors for the Edgecombe County Farm Bureau, is a member of the St. Lewis Ruritan Club and is a retired volunteer with the South Edgecombe Rural Fire Department. In The Pitt Family was recognized as the 1989 state's Farm Family of the Year. Now farming over 1000 acres, Pitt has a strong understanding of business management and cooperative values.



Every business needs a source of funding, or capital, to operate efficiently. Our largest source of capital is generated from the sale and distribution of electricity to you, our members.

Since we operate on a non-profit basis, we do not have the same type of equity accounts as for-profit businesses. We are required to allocate our annual margins to members based on the patronage associated with their energy consumption.

Capital credits are allocated annually after our financial records are closed and audited. We then reinvest the capital to fund general operations, improvements in service, and technology upgrades. Using member capital to finance these types of projects also helps reduce the need for borrowing long-term funds.

Since each member is an owner and has an economic stake in the cooperative, they are also entitled to a return of their investment. To accomplish this, a general retirement is declared 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 financial stability of the cooperative and verify that the cooperative is complying with applicable federal regulations before the board of directors approves a plan to retire capital credits.

We have traditionally retired patronage capital on a 20-year cycle using a hybrid method so that our long-term members are consistently receiving a portion of the capital they invested many years ago. However, this method also returns a small portion of the more recent members' investment. This year, our board approved retiring the remaining portion of patronage capital from 1997 and half of a percent of all remaining years' patronage capital through the year ended December 31, 2018.

Checks and bill credits will be issued in the first week of March to members that have been allocated patronage through December 2018. Because of the costs associated with processing and mailing, we do not issue checks for less than \$10.00. If you are a current



member and your retirement is less than \$10.00, it will appear as a credit on your bill.

It's very important to keep your member profile up-to-date so that your patronage capital retirements can follow you if you move. Each year, hundreds of checks are returned because the addressee has moved and left no forwarding address. We produce a report that we post on our website each year, to help identify these "unclaimed" retirement checks.

Remember, the cooperative business model focuses on serving the needs of our member-owners. Unlike for-profit companies, we do not work to increase shareholder wealth for consumers not directly impacted by the company's operations. Our mission is to meet the needs of our members by providing a safe, affordable and reliable source of electricity and other services that improve our member's quality of life and promote economic growth in an efficient and professional manner.

Cooperatively,

*Melinda Nimmo*

Melinda Nimmo

## Palmer Selected for Youth Tour

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to sponsor one student on the 2020 North Carolina Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., this June. Approximately 45 young leaders from North Carolina will join 1,800 students from across the country for a week of learning about our nation's history and the importance of civic engagement.

Mary Samuel Palmer, a rising junior at South West Edgecombe High School, will represent Edgecombe-Martin County EMC on this year's tour.

Participants will explore some of the capital's most notable areas, including sightseeing at historic memorials and museums, and cruising on the Potomac River. Palmer and the other North Carolina delegates will also engage in discussions with members of North Carolina's congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has selected local high school students to participate in the annual Youth Tour for many years. More than



50,000 students have participated in the program nationally since it began in 1964.



## Meter Deployment Schedule

The ENERCO contractors will be in uniform and their company vehicles display the company logo and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC contractors logo.

When they arrive at your home, the installers will knock at the door to let you know they are there to replace your meter. The installers will not need to enter your home, nor will they request any personal information from you for the meter replacement.

During the process, your power will be out for just a few minutes. When the installation is complete, the contractor will leave a door

hanger at your location to let you know your meter has been replaced.

During the first quarter of 2020, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will change out meters in J. C. Hall, Davistown-Mercer, Kingsboro, Rocky Mount and Mayo-Dunbar substations. This will affect members on the west side of our system in the rural areas surrounding Crisp, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Davistown, Lancaster, Kingsboro, Penelo, Leggett, and Wrendale.

## Along The LINE

[ememc.com](http://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

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