



Along the LINE

FEBRUARY 2021

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



2020 Annual Meeting Business Session

Join us for the 84th Annual Meeting of Members

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC invites everyone to our 84th Annual Meeting, Thursday, March 25, 2021, with an inclement weather date of Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at the Cooperative from 10 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.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold another drive-thru annual meeting. 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 ballot, pick up an attendance gift, pick up a to-go plate 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 drive. The drive-thru will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you may attend anytime during those hours.

The business session will begin at 4 p.m. Those who wish to attend the business session 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.



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**

Eastern North Carolina

You can make an impact at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina by donating items on the House's wish list at our Annual Meeting.

Please remember the House is just like your home and can use many of the same items you use each day.

For the health and safety of House guests and volunteers, items should be new. Due to stringent health codes, please do not forget to check expiration dates.

Listed below are the most needed items at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina.

- **Vinyl & Nitrile Gloves (L)**
- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **Easy Mac & Cheese**
- **Copy Paper**
- **Canned Pasta**
- **Antibacterial Wipes**



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.***

Martin Community College Line Technician Academy

Line technician jobs are in high demand nationwide. More than 50% of line technicians are estimated to retire by 2026.

Thankfully, in our area there are apprentice line technician programs like Nash Community College and now Martin Community College that help prepare students with specialized knowledge and training in the line technician field.

The new Apprentice Line Technician Academy program at Martin Community College was officially launched in August 2020. With more than 400 hours of combined classroom and construction training throughout the course, students graduate with a nationally recognized 3rd Class Line

Construction Technology Certificate that qualifies them to begin work as apprentices to power line technicians.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC partnered with the community college by donating a line truck and materials to help with the program. With the addition of this truck, current and future students have a chance to work with real-world equipment they will likely use in their trade.

The program at Martin Community



College provides the opportunity for students to complete a 14 week program, earn industry-related credentials and be prepared for employment. Martin and Nash Community Colleges are playing a critical role in helping train tomorrow's workforce, and we appreciate everything both colleges do to support our communities.

Concern and Commitment for the Community

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has a long history of giving back to the communities we serve and highly encourages all of our members to get involved wherever they can.

Our "commitment to community" has never been stronger than now during the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the calendar year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC participates in several events and charitable organizations.

This past December, we held our first "Christmas Canned Food Drive." We would like to thank all of our members who participated to make this food drive very successful. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was able to collect and donate over 200 canned goods to a worthy cause.

Although our food drive is over, there are many places throughout the communities with local food banks and programs that we encourage our members to donate to, such as: Tarboro Community Outreach in Tarboro, Deeper Life Ministries in Washington, Faith Community



Outreach in Hamilton and Robersonville, and St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Rocky Mount.

Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community. We are more than an energy provider. Because of our co-op business model, we are a catalyst for good that spurs prosperity for our community.

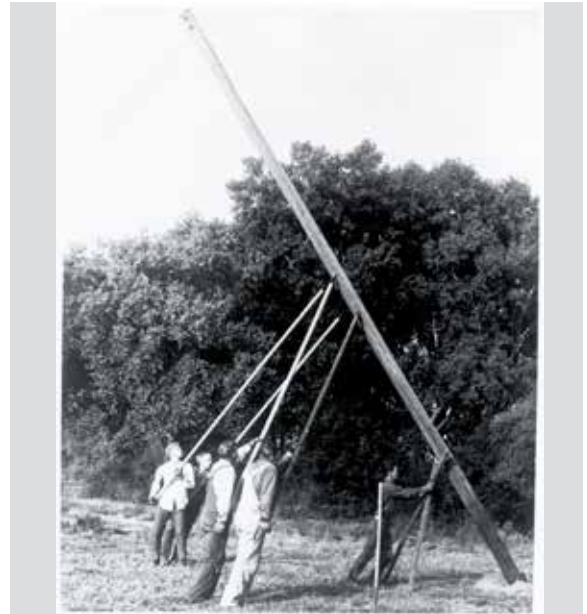
Electric cooperatives, including Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

Equal access for all

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op.



The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

Inclusion

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you—the members we proudly serve—is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

NC Youth Tour Going Virtual in Summer 2021

Each year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC joins with other electric cooperatives across the state and nation to sponsor the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an annual trip that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to experience the sites of Washington, D.C., meet with elected officials and learn more about how they can make a difference as young leaders.

The 2020 Youth Tour was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, and the 2021 tour will be held virtually this June to ensure the safety of all involved. Youth tourists will still be able to participate in a rewarding experience that brings them together with other young leaders from across the country to

learn more about their government and electric cooperatives, network with their peers and strengthen their leadership skills. As in years past, tourists will also be eligible to apply for several college scholarships.

While 2021 will look a little different, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to continue the long-



standing cooperative tradition of the Youth Tour, and we encourage high school juniors/seniors to apply by February 19, 2021 for this unique leadership opportunity.

2020 Years of Service and Safety Milestones

CONGRATULATIONS

Every year the co-op celebrates service and safety years in five-year increments. Congratulations to the following employees for years of service and safety milestones in 2020.

This year, there were 11 employees honored for years of service, with a combined total of 270 years of service to the membership.

We thank these employees for their commitment to our cooperative and area communities, and the role each person at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC plays in providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electric service:

Sammy Clark (25-Year Safety Award); Mike Cobb (20-Year Safety Award); Winston Howell (15-year Safety Award); Larry Rogers (25-Year Safety Award); Nina Draughn (35 Years of Service); Alan Johnson (30 Years of Service); Mike Johnson (30 Years of Service); Paula Klutz (5 Years of Service); Steve Lewis (25 Years of Service); Thomas Millwood (25 Years of Service); Alissa Cutler (5 Years of Service); Dale Riggs (35 Years of Service); Georgia Strickland (45 Years of Service); Ethan Thomas (5 Years of Service); and Lisa Tolson (30 Years of Service).

Along The LINE

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 ememc.com