

# Along the LINE

**DECEMBER 2021**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



## Customer Appreciation Day

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC celebrated October Cooperative Month by having its annual customer appreciation day on Thursday, October 7.

The annual Customer Appreciation Day is your co-op's way of saying "thank you" to the wonderful members we serve across our service area.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC held its annual Customer Appreciation Day at the office on Thursday, October 7, as a drive-thru event. Cooperative employees served members hotdogs and chips from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Approximately 96 members attended and registered for a chance to win one of the five \$50 bill credits that were up for grabs. The lucky winners this year were Mary Lucas, Maggie Long, Linda Gaddy, Frances Armwood and Mary Floyd.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosts Customer Appreciation Day each year during October to observe national Co-op Month and to show appreciation to the members of the cooperative. 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.



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 23, and stay closed on Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, 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 on to [ememc.com](http://ememc.com).

To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

## DC Fast Charging Station Ribbon Cutting

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC unveiled our DC fast charging station for electric vehicles at the Cooperative office last month by hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality awarded eight of North Carolina's electric cooperatives a total of more than \$700,000 in Volkswagen Settlement funding to install 10 high-speed EV charging stations in rural and suburban communities throughout the state. Funding for these projects comes from North Carolina's \$92 million share of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's settlement with Volkswagen for unlawfully cheating on vehicle emissions testing.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was awarded \$71,415.70 to fund the DC fast charger project as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency settlement with Volkswagen.

DC Fast Charge stations provide a very quick charge and are capable of charging a depleted electric vehicle's battery in under 30 minutes, depending on the electric vehicle's battery size and charging capabilities. DC Fast Charge stations are usually located in high-traffic public areas or along major highway corridors.

This station is part of a larger network of charging stations North Carolina's electric cooperatives are developing across the state that will not only support tourism and economic development, but also facilitate access to electric vehicle technologies in rural communities.



Driving electric offers cost savings, more convenience, less maintenance, a better driving experience and a more efficient electric grid. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members purchasing an electric vehicle have access to additional benefits and incentives, including an EV electric rate designed for electric vehicle charging and access to a special \$200 rebate.

The Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's fast charger is located at the co-op headquarters on Highway 33 East in Tarboro.

## Last Chance, Youth Tour Applications Due

Youth Tour offers students going into their junior or senior year of high school the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., for a week and experience all the beauty and history of the nation's capital.

Current high school sophomores or juniors have just a few weeks left to apply for the 2022 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., held June 18-24, 2022. Applications for the all-expense-paid trip are due to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC by December 31, 2021.

Applications for Youth Tour are available by contacting Monica Speight at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC at 252-641-9502 or [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com).



# lines

FROM C.E.O.  
WINSTON HOWELL

The way that power is produced and delivered to you, as a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, is changing. As we focus on the future, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is reshaping our electric grid and the network of resources and technologies that support it for increased reliability, cost savings, sustainability and services. Here's how:

- Our self-healing grid technology is part of brighter future initiatives to improve service and reliability. This technology essentially ties together sections of line from two different sources. If a fault occurs within that section of line, the recloser can isolate the area affected and back-feed the unaffected portions from another source, to bring the lights back on to some members that would otherwise be out of power until repairs are made. All this happens automatically within about a minute and can significantly reduce the number of members affected by an outage.

- SmartHub allows members to better manage their energy usage by viewing daily consumption history. Members can also sign up for paperless billing, and have better communication with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC by signing up for text message alerts.

- Edgecombe-Martin County EMC continues to support renewable energy and meet requirements set by the 2007 renewable energy portfolio standard. We currently have five commercial solar projects interconnected to our distribution system. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC also has specific rates structured for member interested in installing member-owned generation at their home. You can access more information on our website by visiting [ememc.com/renewable-energy-center/](http://ememc.com/renewable-energy-center/).

- Energy storage allows us to capture energy from a source, like solar, and store it in large batteries for use when needed, giving electric cooperatives new opportunities to provide better service and increased cost savings for cooperative members. North Carolina's electric cooperatives are implementing solar and battery storage technologies to make the electric grid more resilient, dynamic, flexible and efficient.

- Conservation voltage reduction (CVR) enables Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to achieve significant energy and peak demand reduction at little cost and

without member impact. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has CVR on most of the circuit feeders from our substations. When we receive a notification that the peak demand may occur on a certain day and time, the engineering department sends a command via Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) to all circuit devices involved and reduces the voltage (within industry standards) for the few hours of peak, and thus reduces our coincidental peak on our wholesale power bill. The coincidental peak is the demand charged to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC each month on our wholesale power bill, and by actively managing it we help save our members thousands of dollars throughout the year.

Through our power supplier, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is participating in a sophisticated energy management platform that carefully coordinates and dispatches resources to meet electricity demand, balance traffic on the grid and ensure that power is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. By coordinating energy resources like solar, battery storage, smart devices, microgrids and electric vehicles, we can offset the need to build traditional power generation, resulting in significant cost savings for our members.

As a local power provider, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is committed to meeting and exceeding the needs of our local members. Smartly implementing new resources and offering services to help our members better manage energy use and budgets is central to our mission of service and a key part of our vision for building a Brighter Future. Learn more at [ememc.com/brighterenergy/](http://ememc.com/brighterenergy/).

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 terms in District E-2, E5, and M-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 10, 2022. Any fifteen (15) 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, 2022, 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 2022

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 2022 Annual Meeting of Members, scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 24.

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-2, E-5 and M-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 2022 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.

## 2022 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-2, E-5 and M-1

The three directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members on March 24, 2022 must reside in and represent directorate districts E-2, E-5 and M-1 respectively. The following is a description of the boundaries of these directorate districts.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-2

Beginning at point where US Hwy 64 Alternate West intersects with the Edgecombe-Pitt County line, the boundary follows the center line of US Hwy 64 Alternate West in a northwestern direction until reaching Princeville where US Hwy 64 Alternate West becomes NC 33 continuing northward to a point where NC 33 crosses the Tar River in Princeville and Tarboro. The boundary then follows the center line of the Tar River in a northeastern direction until it reaches a point where Fishing Creek merges with the Tar River. At this point the boundary follows the center line of Fishing Creek northwest until it reaches a point where Hwy 97 crosses Fishing Creek turning eastward, the boundary follows the centerline of Hwy 97 until intersecting with US Hwy 258 and then continuing northward on the centerline of US Hwy 258, creating the western boundary.

The southern boundary begins at a point where US Hwy 64 Alt. East intersects with the Edgecombe-Pitt County line and follows the Edgecombe-Pitt County line until reaching the Martin County line creating the southern boundary. Turning northward, the boundary follows the Edgecombe-Martin County line until reaching the Halifax County line, thus creating the eastern boundary. All portions of Edgecombe and Halifax Counties with this geographical area shall be considered E-2.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-5

Beginning at a point where the town limits of Tarboro and State Road 1006 intersect, and following the center line of State Road 1006, in a westward direction until reaching the intersection of State Highway 43, where the boundary turns northward on State Highway 43, and follows the center line, until reaching the Nash-Edgecombe County line, thus creating the southern boundary. Following the Edgecombe-Nash County line, in a northerly direction, until reaching a point where State Highway 97 crosses the County line, creates a western boundary. Turning eastward, and following the centerline of State Highway 97, until reaching a point where State Highway 97 crosses Fishing Creek, forms the northern boundary.

The boundary then turns southward, and follows the center of Fishing Creek until reaching the Tar River, where it continues to follow the center of Tar River, until reaching a point where U.S. 64 crosses the Tar River, continuing westward from that point, the boundary follows the town limits of Tarboro, until reaching the point of beginning at State Road 1205 and the town limits, thus creating the eastern boundary. This geographical area shall be considered Section E-5.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT M-1

All portions of land within Martin County shall be considered Section M-1.



*Billy Trevathan currently serves as the director for District E-2.*



*Jimmie Jernigan currently serves as the director for District E-5.*



*Norman Roberson currently serves as the director for District M-1.*

# Considerations for Directors

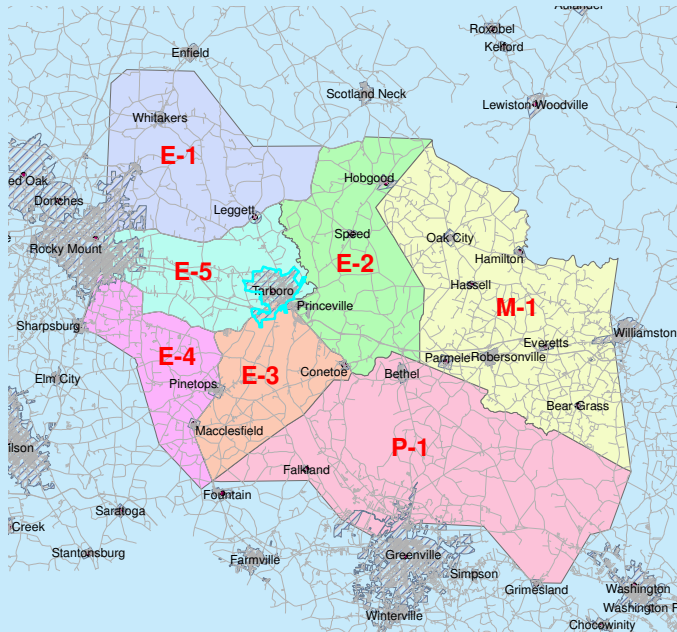
The Board of Directors appoints a Credentials and Election Committee each year to serve at the Annual Meeting of Members. There is one member from each of the seven directorate districts of the cooperative that serve on this committee to insure that proper rules and regulations are followed according 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 election.

## 2022 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



# Co-op Welcomes Baker and Johnson

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC would like to welcome Phillip Baker and Deven Johnson to our team.

Johnson joins Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as apprentice line technician. He graduated from the line technician program through Nash County Community College. Baker joins Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as a senior engineering technician.

Because they are your neighbors, they understand firsthand the unique needs of our communities. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees strive not only to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but to also make a difference in the communities we serve.



*Pictured: Deven Johnson (left) and Phillip Baker.*

## Download SmartHub

SmartHub allows members online access to account information and secure payment options.

Members can choose paperless billing, update address and phone information, and view their bill as well as billing and consumption history. Secure payment options include making online payments and enrolling for recurring bank and credit/debit card drafts.

Bank account and credit card information can be saved for future online payments and can be changed for recurring drafts through SmartHub. This will allow you to get set up for bank draft and automatically get notifications when your card is about to expire to avoid any late fees or charges.

An advertisement for SmartHub. It features a computer monitor and a smartphone, both displaying the SmartHub app interface. The monitor shows the SmartHub logo and a QR code. The smartphone shows a QR code. To the right of the devices, the text reads: "WHAT IS SMARTHUB? SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device." Below the devices, there are five icons representing different features: "Manage Your Account" (gears), "View and Pay Your Bill" (hand holding a bill), "Monitor Usage 24/7" (bar chart), "Report Service Issues" (hand holding a phone), and "Receive Important Updates" (laptop with checkmarks).

## 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

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