

# Along the LINE

**MARCH 2022**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## 2022 Annual Meeting Notice

### **Dear Member:**

The 85th Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, March 24, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold another drive-thru annual meeting. Use the concrete driveway to enter the drive-thru annual meeting registration. Registered members and their immediate families are invited to attend.

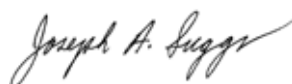
The purpose of this meeting is: (1) the presentation, consideration of, and action upon reports by officers, directors, and committees, (2) the election of directors and, (3) the transacting of any other business that comes before the meeting. The board president and CEO will make their annual reports to the membership on the state of the Cooperative. Please mail questions pertaining to your cooperative prior to March 8, 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 cover page and highlights on the nominations for directors are included on page 16. 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 previously mentioned.

Electric bill credits will be drawn the next business day. Registered members and their immediate families are invited to attend.

The business session will begin at 6:00 p.m. Those who wish to attend the business session will be allowed 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. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Yours Truly,*



### **Holiday Closing**

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, April 15, in observance of Good Friday.

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

# Nominee for Directors

## Billy Trevathan: (E-2) Nominated by Committee

Billy Trevathan has been a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC since February 1960. He currently represents directorate district E-2 and has served on the board since February 1984. During that time he has served as vice-president and president of the board.

Trevathan was raised in the Crisp Community and is a graduate of South Edgecombe High School.

Trevathan retired in 1999 as a prominent Edgecombe County businessman after owning and operating his own business for 34 years. Since retirement, he has spent time promoting his other business of Billy's BBQ and Cocktail sauces, and he also enjoys cooking his signature brunschwic stew for churches, clubs, and various fund-raising events.

Trevathan serves as a teacher and as a deacon of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro and serves on the Edgecombe County Board of Adjustments.

Trevathan enjoys helping and serving others and thanks the membership for their past and future support.



## Jimmie Jernigan: (E-5) Nominated by Committee

Jimmie Jernigan has been a board member since March 2001, and he currently represents directorate district E-5.

Jernigan was raised and has spent his adult life as a farmer/businessman in Edgecombe County. He graduated from West Edgecombe High School and attended Old Dominion College. Mr. Jernigan is a member of West Edgecombe Baptist Church and has two sons and five grandchildren.

In 1986, Mr. Jernigan and his wife, Jane, were selected to represent Edgecombe-Martin County EMC at the Cooperative's Leadership Conference and were named as North Carolina's Outstanding Young Couple, which afforded them the opportunity to attend the National Institute of Cooperative Education.

Jernigan is currently serving on the Law and Order Advisory and is a member of the Budget and Finance Committee of Edgecombe County Farm Bureau.

Jernigan has been a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC for over 30 years and has his Board Leadership Certification and Credential Cooperative Director.



## Norman Roberson: (M-1) Nominated by Committee

Norman Roberson currently serves as the director for district M-1 and has served as a director of the cooperative since March 2001. He continues to maintain his commitment in supporting the growth and strength of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

Roberson was raised in Martin County and graduated from Robersonville High School. His employment after graduation included law enforcement and that of a U. S. Postal employee as a rural carrier. He began farming in 1974 and retired in 2016 but is still presently involved in all aspects of farming and its associated organizations. He has been employed as a crop insurance adjuster for Pro Ag since 2009.

Roberson has served as a member of the Southern States Local Advisory Board and on the Southern States District Nominating Committee. His past memberships include the Robersonville Ruritan Club and he was a board member for Martin County Crime Stoppers Association.

Roberson is an active member of the Hassell PFWB Church since 2001 where he serves as Deacon Chairman, and Church Treasurer. He has been a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC for over 30 years.





Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is a cooperative, owned by the people we serve. They are more than customers. Here at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we call them “members.”

One way ownership is reflected is through capital credits. These are members’ share of what’s left over after we have paid the costs of delivering power, and set aside appropriate funds for emergency situations and regular growth projects. When we are financially able to do so, these capital credits are distributed to members. That means the member-owners financially share in the successful operation of the cooperative. Capital credits are one of the tangible benefits of being served by a co-op.

Unlike for-profit companies, member-owners receive capital credits based upon patronage capital paid to the Cooperative. Dividends are paid to for-profit customers only if they hold stock in the company and their main initiative is to increase shareholder wealth. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC’s sole purpose is to provide our members with safe, affordable, and reliable power. Increasing shareholder wealth is not a part of our business model.

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 treat our year-end equity different than a for profit business. 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 use the capital to fund general operations, improvements in service, and technology upgrades. Capital credits help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

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 and reduces all patronage accounts so the total retirements aren’t as large in the future. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC’s board of directors have authorized the general retirement of approximately \$760,000 in capital credits to the members of the Cooperative. This general retirement of capital credits was approved at the Board of Director’s meeting in January and will be retired as follows: 50% of the remaining patronage capital from 1999 and half of a percent of all remaining years’ patronage capital through the year ended December 31, 2020.

Checks and bill credits will be issued the second week of March to members that have been allocated patronage through December 2020. 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.

For more information concerning Capital Credits, or to update your mailing address, call our Member Services Department at 252-823-2171.

Cooperatively,

*Melinda Nimmo*

Melinda Nimmo

# Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives are built on a set of values we call the seven co-op principles. We talk about them quite a bit, but there are also times when we see them in action.

Long ago, cooperatives set standards on how power lines are built, and these standards allow crews to go to other co-ops and construct lines just as they would here at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. These standards allow for the execution of co-op principle number six: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have a mutual aid agreement to ensure that there is help when needed. This commitment to "cooperation among cooperatives" is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

In January, Edgecombe-Martin

County EMC sent a five-man crew to help restore power to those in need from Winter Storm Frida. The crew spent the first three days at EnergyUnited, based out of Statesville, assisting in restoration efforts to 13,000 EnergyUnited members. After restoration efforts were complete at EnergyUnited, they traveled to Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, based out of Virginia. They spent the next seven days where heavy snow, gusting winds, and freezing temperatures from Frida left more than 98,000 REC members without power.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is always on standby to assist our members and neighbors.



## 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)

## March Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management.

This requires pruning, removing, and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout March, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Mayo-Dunbar substation areas, which include: Hwy 97, Battleboro-Leggett road, New Hope Church Road, Dunbar Road, West Logsboro Road, Spivey Road, Speights Chapel Road, White Oak Swamp Road, and surrounding areas.

