

Along the LINE

AUGUST 2022

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Director Joe Suggs remembered

Suggs, an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board member, passed away on Tuesday, June 21.

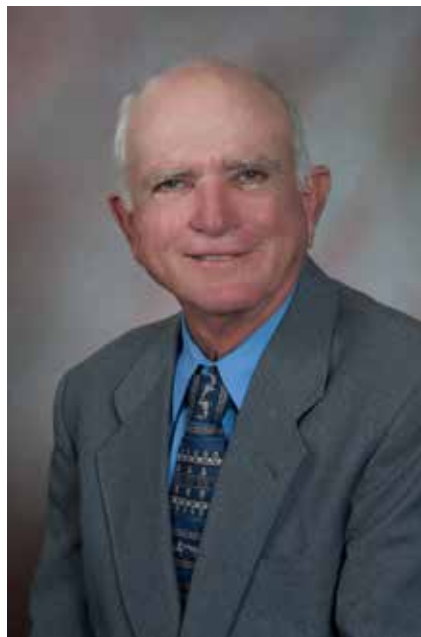
Joe Suggs served as board secretary of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation from June 24, 1992, until March 24, 2022, providing leadership and direction necessary to strategically position the Cooperative for future success.

Throughout his tenure on the board, Suggs participated in numerous committees for the cooperative. He was a graduate of NRECA's Electric Cooperative Directors Institute, obtaining his Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate in 1999.

He dedicated so much of his life to the service principles that we espouse as an electric cooperative. Suggs served on the board with great professionalism and distinction, striving continuously to meet the needs of members by providing a safe, affordable and reliable source of electricity.

Suggs continued to contribute to the cooperative until his passing and will always be remembered for his many contributions to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. His positivity and dedication will never be forgotten as he impacted many lives throughout his time on the board.

He will be greatly missed. We extend heartwarming condolences to his family and loved ones.



Save the Date for Customer Appreciation Day

Customer Appreciation Day will be held at the cooperative on Thursday, October 7, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Each registered member will be treated to a hot dog lunch with chips and a drink.

Members will also be entered into a drawing to win a credit on their electric bill.

We look forward to seeing you there!

2022 Sharing Success Grant

Two charitable organizations were each awarded a \$5,000 “Sharing Success” grant by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and CoBank.

The recipients of the 2022 grants are Wright Flight of Martin County and Home Health Hospice Care. “We believe that these grants will help support the mission of these organizations that are so vital in the communities we serve,” said Eddie Stocks, vice president of Member Services and Industrial Development. “It’s important to us to reach out and assist our neighbors in need. Concern for community is one of the cooperative’s seven principles, and we are so happy to partner with CoBank in this program.”

Through the “Sharing Success” grant program, CoBank matches contributions of their cooperative members, such as Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, to nonprofit organizations they nominate for the grant. The program offers a dollar-for-dollar match up to a maximum of \$10,000. This year, CoBank established a \$5 million fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members.

The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. CoBank states that partnering with their members to support worthy causes



Lance Davis, Norman Roberson, Mitch Manning, Billy Trevathan, Wayne Harrell, Rejeanor Scott, Bert Pitt, and Jimmie Jernigan.

they care about is a great way for them to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

Edgecombe-Martin is proud to have been a partner with CoBank through their Sharing Success matching grant program for the last 10 years.

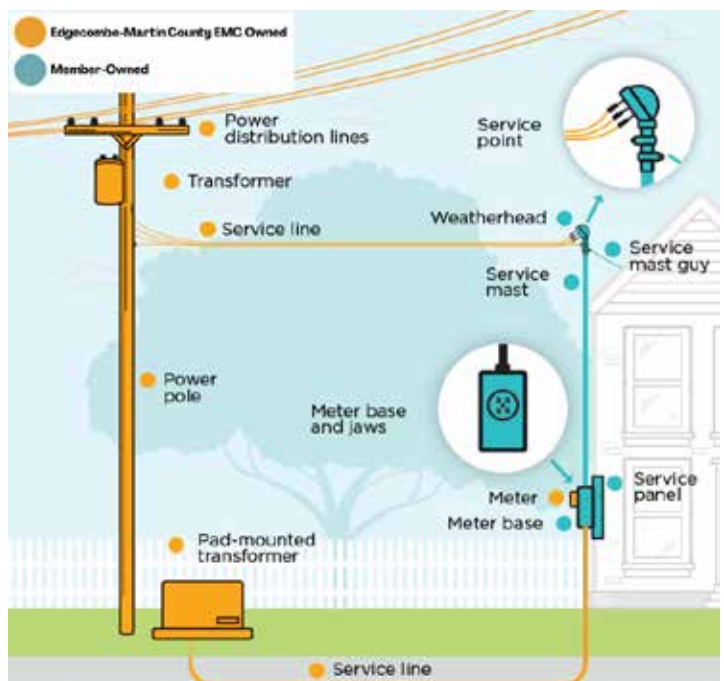
Members Own Their Meter Base

Members may be surprised to find out that they own the meter base on their house.

The reason meter seals are put on the meter base is for public safety as well as to prevent meter tampering. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC owns the transformer and power line going into the meter base as well as the meter itself. Removing the meter with current flowing through it can lead to an electrical hazard.

Only Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees should remove or relocate a meter. All co-op owned infrastructure is maintained by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

The meter base is the responsibility of the member. If it’s damaged by weather or by any kind of accident, repair is the member’s responsibility. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC cannot, by regulation, connect power to a damaged meter base.





Providing safe, affordable and reliable power is at the heart of everything we do. As your local electric cooperative, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is committed to providing the high-quality electric service and support you count on.

With all of the advancements in technology and connected devices in our world, reliable and affordable electricity is more important than ever, and that trend shows little sign of slowing. Our transportation sector is gradually transitioning to an electrically powered future; more and more members are choosing to generate a portion of their electricity using rooftop solar.

As our entire nation faces economic challenges from rising inflation, your cooperative and the energy market as a whole are also impacted by rising costs. Shortages of supplies and labor, global factors, strong consumer demand, and pandemic impacts are some of the critical reasons behind rising prices. We're seeing supply cost increases and shortages in all areas of operations.

Every few years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC uses a third-party consultant to review our rates in a process known as a cost-of-service study (COS). Over the last several months, your co-operative conducted a cost-of-service study and rate analysis. This process is very detailed and an abundance of data must be collected in order to provide an accurate analysis. Completing the cost-of-service study and rate analysis ensures that we continue to provide rates that are fair and equitable to all members while fulfilling our duty of keeping your cooperative financially sound.

In March, we completed the COS. Based on the findings, the rates that we have in place are generating the necessary revenue to meet the required financial metrics at this time. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's current rates are recovering costs consistent with the costs of serving each member category. When your cooperative designs rates, we pay special attention to make sure each rate class produces a rate of return that is equitable. We work to ensure one rate class does not subsidize another to the greatest extent possible.

Wholesale power cost accounts for 58 to 60 percent of our distribution revenue and has a huge impact on our rates. Wholesale power cost are increasing due to the volatility in the fuel market. Natural gas is a key fuel consumed by wholesale electric generating utilities. In recent years, natural gas demand has grown faster than available supplies can be delivered.



Your board of directors have chosen to table any rate adjustment discussions at this time. With the volatility in the market accompanied by governmental policy we will continue to monitor the impact of ever-increasing costs due to current market conditions.

Rising costs will affect your cooperative and our country for the foreseeable future, but our commitment to you, our members, will continue to be our top priority. We will continue to work efficiently to manage cost.

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

Senior “Beat The Heat Program”

With temperatures soaring, its critical senior residents and those with disabilities have adequate cooling. During our hot summer months, seniors living without air conditioning or circulating air are at higher risk of heat-related injuries.

This year the co-op donated \$500 to the Edgecombe County Office of Aging to help purchase box fans for the Seniors Heat Relief Program. The fans are available to individuals age 60 or older and they must be a resident of Edgecombe County. Fans can be obtained while supplies last by calling the Edgecombe County Office on Aging at 252-641-5831. A driver's license or other valid form of photo identification must be shown to verify age and proof of residence.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC also provides educational material free to the public in the form of booklets and pamphlets, on keeping cool and conserving energy during the summer months. If you are interested in obtaining any of this material, please call Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.



August 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 August, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Whitakers, Gethsemane and Rocky Mount areas.



Along The LINE

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