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# Big Turnout for 78th Annual Meeting of Members

# ALONG THE LINE

The 2014 Annual Meeting of Members drew a large crowd on Saturday, March 21, at the headquarters facility in Tarboro, NC. Registered members in attendance totaled 433, and 49 members registered by proxy. Incumbent board of director Joe Suggs ran unopposed in the election for District E-1 and retained his seat on the board. Bobby Rose and Wayne Harrell ran for the vacant seat in District E-3 and both were nominated by petition. Wayne Harrell was elected to serve as the director for District E-3.

During the business session of the meeting, members were updated on the Cooperative's current financial status, and they were also informed about state and national industry issues that could impact the Cooperative. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch by Abrams, registered to win prizes, and were entertained with music performed by the legendary "Golden Platter", Milton Bullock and Carolina Grass band. Children enjoyed inflatable rides, a rock climbing wall and cotton candy stations that were on site.

Booths were set-up that provided energy efficiency information to members, and a high-voltage demonstration was manned by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees to help educate members about the dangers associated with electricity.

The Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC provided homemade desserts for sale and they also held several raffles and a silent auction to help raise funds for the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 79th Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016. We hope to see you there!



*(l-r) Joe Suggs ran unopposed and retained his seat in District E-1, and Wayne Harrell was elected to serve as the director for District E-3.*

## HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

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

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

# Teachers... Send Us Your Bright Ideas!

Each year in May we encourage teachers in grades K-12 to send us their new and innovative ideas to be considered for the Bright Ideas grant program.

If you have been looking for money to fund your innovative classroom project then visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) and let us know about your Bright Idea. Bright Idea grants provide funding for a wide variety of innovative classroom projects that would not otherwise receive funding. Grants up to \$1,500 are awarded to a number of deserving teachers who can impress our panel of judges with their projects each year.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded \$9.6 million dollars to sponsor 9,200 projects benefiting 1.8 million students across North Carolina. Why not add your name to the list of innovative teachers across the state by implementing a project that your students can use to make learning fun! Teachers in grades K-12 are eligible to apply, and even if you have won before you can still apply every year. The application process is open through September 18, 2015. Simply visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) to find out more and complete your application online today!



## HVAC Service Reminder!

The air conditioner is always the hardest-working appliance during the summer months. For day-to-day comfort, we rely on our cooling system, be it at home or at the office. For that reason, it's imperative to have your HVAC system serviced before it starts getting too warm and humid.

Most members can expect to see their bills increase during the summer months as their air conditioners run longer and harder to cool the home to their desired temperature. Experts recommend that you keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees when your HVAC system is set to cool in order to keep energy consumption as low as possible.



*A qualified HVAC technician can clean your condenser and evaporator coils to help your system run more efficiently this summer.*

Contrary to popular belief, increasing and decreasing the setting on your thermostat daily usually does not save you money. It is best to keep your thermostat set at one temperature on a daily basis. Only increase the setting on your thermostat during the summer months if you plan on being away from your home for several days at a time.

You should also inspect and replace your return filters monthly if needed. Failing to change your air filters can cause your air conditioner to run longer and become less efficient. An efficient air conditioner means more money in your pocket due to lower electric bills.

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202)690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# LINES FROM V.P. OF OPERATIONS

## Rights-of-Way Maintenance in Your Area

Keeping our rights-of-way clear and free of dangerous trees is a never-ending process. Our on-going, three-year rights-of-way rotation schedule helps ensure that our entire service territory gets evaluated and trimmed where needed. A proactive rights-of-way program such as this is what helps us make sure your electricity is delivered in a very reliable and safe manner.

In 2015 we will be mowing our right-of-way to reduce chemical treatment. However, chemical treatment of rights-of-way will still be used at times to treat certain areas. This will help clean up dead underbrush and side trimmings in our rights-of-way so we can gain access to our infrastructure easier and get equipment to them without causing damage. The areas we will be mowing this year include our Davistown-Mercer, Kingsboro, Rocky Mount, and Mayo-Dunbar substation areas. Dean Jones Farms, Inc. out of Snow Hill, NC, will be doing the mowing and cutting around utility poles where trees and vines have taken over. Their trucks will display an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC contractor sign that will be easily visible.

We continue to place a high priority on yard tree maintenance due to damage that is caused to service drops, security lights, and member-owned equipment during storm events. We have already implemented a more proactive yard tree-trimming program in order to combat some of these problems. Our goal when trimming yard trees is to provide at least a 5-foot clearance around secondary overhead lines and at least a 10-foot clearance around primary overhead lines. Locations we plan to trim this year will be on the western part of our system in the Kingsboro, Rocky Mount, Benson-Battleboro, and Mayo-Dunbar substation areas. We are currently contracted with Xylem Tree Experts to perform the necessary rights-of-way trimming on our system. Their trucks display the Xylem Tree Experts name on the side, as well as an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC contractor sign. When trimming rights-of-way, the Cooperative removes debris at its expense from “clean and maintained” areas — an area that is regularly maintained free of logs and brush, but not removal of stumps.

The Cooperative maintains the right to cut, trim and control the growth of trees and vegetation located within the right-of-way that may interfere with or threaten to endanger the operation or maintenance of the Cooperative’s electric system. Please rest assured that we understand the importance of respecting your property, and we only seek to trim and maintain trees and vegetation that pose a risk to the electric system. If we locate a danger tree(s) outside of the right-of-way that we

feel could be a problem, we will contact the landowner to discuss removal of the tree. Although we would like to eliminate as many danger trees as possible, please understand that it is not our responsibility to remove trees that pose a risk to your personal property.

Another important rights-of-way and yard tree issue that we discuss frequently is being aware of where you plant trees. Planting trees directly under power lines or in close proximity to them is not a wise decision. As these trees mature they will most likely pose a safety and reliability issue for the Cooperative and its members.

If you notice a tree on your property that you feel could cause reliability issues in the near future, please contact the Cooperative at (252) 823-2171 to arrange for an on-site inspection.

Again, the objective of our rights-of-way maintenance program is to ensure we provide our members with electricity that is safe and reliable.

Cooperatively Yours,

*Rodney Bradley*



Xylem Tree Experts will continue performing rights-of-way trimming during 2015.

# May Is National Electric Safety Month

National Electrical Safety Month is a great time to look around our homes and workplaces and see what we can do to minimize the possibility of damage or injury from electrical problems or the misuse of electricity. That's especially important given that problems with electricity lead to more than 53,000 home fires, \$1.4 billion in property damage, and 450 lives on average each year. Electrical hazards in the workplace lead to an average of 4,000 injuries annually.

Protect your home and family by following these safety tips:

## Kitchen

### 1. CHECK ALL COUNTER TOP APPLIANCES

- ❑ Are all appliance cords placed away from hot surfaces? Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- ❑ Are all appliances located away from the sink? Electrical appliances can cause a shock if they come in contact with water. Plug kitchen appliances into GFCI protected outlets.
- ❑ Do appliance cords hang off counter or table tops? These cords are likely to catch on people passing by.

### 2. CHECK ALL LARGE APPLIANCES

- ❑ Have you ever received even a slight shock (other than one from static electricity) from any of these appliances? Do not touch the appliance until it has been checked by an electrician.
- ❑ Is the top and area above the cooking range free of combustibles (for example, potholders, plastic utensils)? Using range for storage of non-cooking equipment may result in fires or burns.
- ❑ Is there excessive vibration or movement when the washer or dryer is operating? Movement during operation can put undue stress on electrical connections.

## Bedroom

### 1. CHECK FOR TAMPER RESISTANT OUTLETS

### 2. CHECK PORTABLE HEATERS

- ❑ Is it placed away from things that can catch fire such as drapes and newspapers? Relocate heaters away from passageways and keep all flammable materials such as curtains, rugs, furniture or newspaper at least three feet away.
- ❑ Is the equipment stable and placed where it will not be tipped over? Fire hazard can result if a heater is tipped over. Animals and even blowing drapes can be factors.

### 3. CHECK FOR THE PRESENCE AND PROPER PLACEMENT OF SMOKE ALARMS AND TEST EACH ONE

- ❑ Smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

## Bathroom

### 1. CHECK FOR GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

- ❑ Are the bathroom outlets protected by GFCIs? GFCIs should be installed in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas where the risk of electric shock is high.
- ❑ If you have any GFCIs, do you test them regularly? GFCIs must be operating properly to protect against electrocution.

### 2. CHECK SMALL ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS HAIR DRYERS AND CURLING IRONS

- ❑ Are they plugged in when not in use? Plugged-in electrical appliances (even when switched off) may result in an electrocution hazard if they fall into water.
- ❑ Are they in good condition? Pay particular attention to erratic operation and damaged wiring or other parts.

## ALONG THE LINE

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