

# Along the LINE

**MARCH 2025**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## 2025 Annual Meeting Notice

### Dear Member:

The 88th Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, March 27, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be a drive-thru format. The business session will begin at 6 p.m. in the main office lobby for those who wish to attend. For those who do not wish to stay for the business session, we will Facebook Live this event. 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 1, 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 wrap and highlights on the nomination for director is included on the next page. 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 noted above.

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

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Truly,

*Norman Roberson*

Norman Roberson  
Board Secretary

**Connect with Us!**

Keep your information Updated.



### Update Your Contact Information

Keep your contact information current to stay informed!

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC now offers text alerts for important updates, reminders, and event notifications. Don't let outdated details keep you in the dark.

Visit [ememc.com](http://ememc.com), go to Member Resources, and select Update Contact Information, or call a Member Service Specialist at 252-823-2171 to update your information today.

Stay connected with your co-op!

# Nominee for Directors

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

Billy Trevathan has been a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC since February 1960. Trevathan was raised in the Crisp Community and is a graduate of South Edgecombe High School.

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, president and treasurer of the board.

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 brunswick stew for churches, clubs and various fundraising events.

Trevathan serves as a Sunday School 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 and one granddaughter.

In 1986, 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 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 it's 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.



# lines

FROM V.P. of Finance  
**MELINDA NIMMO**

Every time you pay your utility bill to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, you're investing in your cooperative and contributing capital for essential system upgrades. As a not-for-profit organization, Edgecombe-Martin EMC returns margins, or capital credits, to its members—one of the many benefits of being a cooperative member-owner.

As a member, you are entitled to a share of the cooperative's excess margins. "Capital Credits" refer to the allocation of each member's share of these margins from the previous year—the difference between what members paid for electric service and the actual cost to provide it. These capital credits are retained by the cooperative as operating capital for several years, reducing the funds we need to borrow and keeping the cost of electric service affordable for members. Each year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC returns or "retires" a portion of these capital credits, usually in March.

These equity contributions, known as patronage, help us maintain safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Patronage represents each member's share of the cooperative's remaining funds after covering operational costs and setting aside reserves for general and emergency needs.

Like any business, we require capital to operate efficiently. Our primary source of capital is revenue from electricity sales to members. Unlike for-profit companies that pay dividends to shareholders, our cooperative allocates margins to members annually based on their

energy usage. This ensures equitable distribution of capital credits while maintaining our not-for-profit status.

The capital collected is used for general operations, system improvements, and technology upgrades, which reduces the amount we borrow and keeps rates affordable. When financial conditions allow, the board of directors approves a general retirement of capital credits, distributing these funds back to members. This allows members to share in the cooperative's success and receive a return on their investment.

We are pleased to announce that the board has authorized the retirement of over \$1 million in capital credits, clearing the remaining amounts from 2001, 2002, and half a percent of all allocations from 2003 through 2023. Starting the second week of March 2025, eligible members will receive checks for amounts over \$25, while amounts under \$25 will appear as bill credits.

To ensure you receive your capital credit retirement, please update your contact information. Many checks are returned due to outdated addresses, so notify us of any changes. For more details or to update your information, contact us at 252-823-2171. We also publish an annual report on our website listing unclaimed capital credit checks in March.

Cooperatively,  
*Melinda Nimmo*  
Melinda Nimmo

## Celebrating Our Team's Success

We proudly announce the recent promotions of several dedicated employees at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

These team members have demonstrated exceptional growth, commitment and hard work, which have earned them new roles within our cooperative. Alissa Cutler has been promoted to Accounting Specialist, Dylan Craft to First Class Line Technician, Matthew Bailey to Second Class Line Technician and finally, Cody Thompson, Ryan Revels and Austin Housand to Third Class Line Technicians.

Their achievements reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering talent and ensuring the highest level of service for our members. Congratulations to all on these well-deserved advancements!



***Ryan Revels, Cody Thompson, Alissa Cutler, Matthew Bailey, Dylan Craft and Austin Housand***

# Save the Date: High School Line Academy

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is hosting its annual High School Line Academy the week of April 7!

This hands-on camp is designed for students in grades 9–12 who want to explore the exciting world of line work. Whether you're seriously considering a career as a line technician or just curious to learn more, this free event is the perfect opportunity to dive in!

The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with each school having a designated day based on participation. Lunch is provided, and homeschool students or students from non-participating schools are welcome to join by coordinating with us.

Transportation is the responsibility of students or schools. Our goal is to provide an enriching experience that sparks interest in this vital and rewarding career field.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! For more information or to register, call Monica Speight at 252-823-2171. Let's explore the world of line work together!



## Along The LINE

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

### Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President  
Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.  
Wayne Harrell, Treasurer  
Norman A. Roberson, Secretary  
Billy Trevathan  
Rejeanor Scott  
Harold Thompson  
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 1-844-967-2463, 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, affordable and reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. Maintaining these rights-of-way is critical to prevent vegetation from interrupting service. Our vegetation management efforts include pruning, brush cutting and removing trees and other growth that could pose a risk to the system. These proactive measures help us minimize outages and improve overall reliability for our members.

In March Burford's Tree will be working in the Princeville areas, Highway 111 other hotspots across the system. Crews will utilize equipment such as the sky trim, bucket trucks, and bush hogs to effectively clear these areas.

### Examples of trimming methods

