

Along the LINE

MARCH 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

2026 Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Member:

The 89th Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, March 26, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

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 this month's cover wrap and highlights on the nomination for director are included on the next page. Electric bill credits will be drawn the next business day.

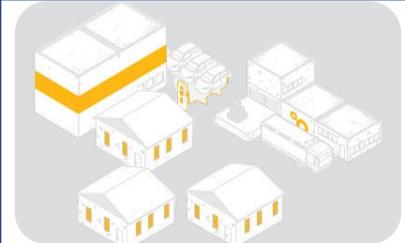
We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Truly,

Norman Roberson

Norman Roberson
Board Secretary

The 2026 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.



Factors Driving the Rising Demand for Electricity

Recent data shows U.S. power demand is expected to grow by 38 gigawatts by 2028—enough to power more than 30 million homes. The biggest driver includes industrial growth; rapidly expanding data centers supporting AI, cloud computing, cryptocurrency, and continued population and economic growth. Manufacturing expansion fueled by federal incentives is also adding significant demand. Meeting this surge will require grid upgrades, new power generation and energy storage investments. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC remains committed to planning ahead to ensure our members continue to receive safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

**89TH
ANNUAL
MEETING**

Thursday, March 26, 2026



Nominee for Directors

Wayne Harrell - (E-3) Nominated by Committee

Wayne Harrell has served as an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC director for 10 years. Harrell is a native of Edgecombe County and is the owner and manager of Harrell & Owens Farms. Harrell has over 40 years of agricultural experience in farm management and operations. Since joining the board, Harrell has earned his NRECA Director Gold Certificate, reflecting his strong commitment to cooperative leadership and continued education. His father, Floyd H. Harrell, served as a director from 1983 through 2014. Graduating from Tarboro High School in 1973, Harrell continued his education studying civil engineering at NC State University in Raleigh. Harrell has served and continues to serve our community and state. He is a past member of the board of directors for the NC Peanut Growers Association and currently serves on the board of deacons for Pender's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 20-year member of the Conetoe Ruritan Club and Conetoe Volunteer Fire Department. In his leisure time, Harrell enjoys spending time with his wife, Selena, their two children and five grandchildren.



Bert Pitt - (E-4) Nominated by Committee

Bert Pitt has served as an Edgecombe-Martin County EMC director since November 2003. This district encompasses the southwestern part of Edgecombe County in the cooperative's service territory. Since joining the EMC board, Pitt has earned his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) through the NRECA, demonstrating his dedication to cooperative governance and ongoing education. Pitt and his wife, Gwen, live in the St. Lewis community and have a daughter who also resides in the St. Lewis community with her husband and two children. Pitt received his business degree from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1973. In July 2003, Gov. Mike Easley, appointed Pitt to serve on the North Carolina State Board of Agriculture, which was confirmed by the State Senate. He is past president of the board of directors for the Edgecombe County Farm Bureau, is a member of the St. Lewis Ruritan Club and is a retired volunteer with the South Edgecombe Rural Fire Department. The Pitt Family was recognized as the 1989 state's Farm Family of the Year. Now farming over 1,000 acres, Pitt has a strong understanding of business management and cooperative values.



Rejeanor Scott - (P-1) Nominated by Committee

Rejeanor Hamilton Scott grew up in rural Edgecombe County and lives on a farm in Pitt County with her husband, Sidney Scott, for the past 53 years. They have three adult children and one grandchild. She is a graduate of South Edgecombe High School and East Carolina University (ECU). Scott learned about electric membership cooperatives through 4-H and has remained a lifelong advocate for cooperatives. Since joining the board, Scott has earned her NRECA Director Gold Certificate, demonstrating her commitment to cooperative leadership and continued education. Scott is a member of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. She also serves on the Friends of Joyner Library board of directors at ECU. Her varied career in education as a teacher and administrator provided her an opportunity to meet many people and develop lasting relationships in the community. As a retiree, Scott would like to continue using her skills to serve on the board of directors of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.



lines

FROM Manager of Accounting
KARREN BRASWELL

Every time you pay your electric bill to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC you're doing more than paying for power — you're helping invest in your cooperative. Because EMC is a not-for-profit, member-owned utility, any revenue left after covering operating costs belongs to the members. These funds are known as capital credits, one of the key benefits of cooperative membership.

Capital credits represent each member's share of the cooperative's margins — the difference between what members paid for electricity and what it actually cost to provide service. Instead of sending profits to shareholders, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC keeps these funds as working capital for a number of years to help pay for system improvements, equipment, and technology upgrades. This reduces the need to borrow money and helps keep rates as low as possible for members.

Each year, when financial conditions allow, the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Board of Directors approves a retirement of capital credits, which returns a portion of those funds to members. This process allows members to share directly in the cooperative's financial

success while ensuring Edgecombe-Martin County EMC remains financially strong and prepared for future needs.

This year, the Board has authorized the retirement of approximately \$1 million in capital credits. This retirement clears the remaining balances from 2003 and 0.5% of all allocations from 2004 through 2024. Beginning the second week of March 2026, eligible members will receive a check if their refund exceeds \$25. Amounts of \$25 or less will be applied as a bill credit.

To make sure you receive your capital credit refund, please keep your contact information current. Many checks are returned each year because of outdated addresses. If you've moved or changed your mailing information, contact us at 252-823-2171. Each March, we also publish a list of unclaimed capital credit checks on our website at ememc.com.

Cooperatively,

Karren Braswell
Karren Braswell

245 Years Strong: Honoring Our Team

In December, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC proudly recognized several employees and a board member for reaching milestone service anniversaries, celebrated in five-year increments. Together, these individuals represent an impressive 245 combined years of service to the Cooperative.

Recognized for 10 years of dedicated service were Alissa Cutler, Paula Klutz, Ethan Thomas and Wayne Harrell, who serves on the EMC Board of Directors. Reaching the 30-year milestone were Steve Lewis and Thomas Millwood. Celebrating 35 years of service were Alan Johnson, Mike Johnson and Lisa Tolson; while Nina Draughn was honored for an outstanding 40 years with the cooperative.

Each of these milestones reflects a strong commitment to our members and communities. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and look forward to many more years of service alongside them.



Save the Date: High School Line Academy

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is excited to welcome students to our annual High School Line Academy on April 27–29. This interactive, hands-on experience is open to students in grades 9–12 who are interested in learning more about the electric linework profession.

Whether students are exploring future career options or simply curious about what line technicians do, this no-cost camp offers a behind-the-scenes look at a challenging and rewarding field. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with participating schools assigned a specific day. Lunch will be provided.

Homeschool students and those attending schools not currently participating are encouraged to attend by coordinating with us in advance. Please note that transportation must be arranged by the student or their school.

Our goal is to spark interest, build awareness, and provide a meaningful introduction to the essential work that keeps the lights on in our communities.

For registration details or more information, contact Monica Speight at 252-823-2171. We look forward to sharing the world of line work with you!



Along The LINE

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Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President
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Wayne Harrell, Treasurer
Norman A. Roberson, Secretary
Billy Trevathan
Rejeanor Scott
Harold Thompson
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 1-844-967-2463, placed in the night deposit box, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

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 Lucas Tree Experts will be working in the Battleboro, Dunbar areas and 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

