



Along the LINE

DECEMBER 2024

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Successful Member Appreciation Day

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosted our 2024 Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the co-op.

This year, we were thrilled to welcome 127 members and their families to the event. For the convenience and safety of our members, we held the event inside the truck shed, ensuring a comfortable experience regardless of weather.

Our cooperative team served up delicious hot dogs, chips and homemade ice cream from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Members also had the chance to win one of five \$50 bill credits, with this year's lucky winners being: Cody Whitley, Dallas Bridgers, Alfred Douglas, Gloria Howell and Ruth Battle.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC proudly hosts Member Appreciation Day each October in conjunction with national Co-op Month. As a member-owned enterprise, we're guided by the people who live and work in our communities, giving us a unique perspective that sets us apart from businesses owned by distant investors.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our members for your continued support and participation in this special event. Your presence makes a difference, and we're honored to serve you.

Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will close at 12 noon on Monday, Dec. 23, and remain closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

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.

To report a emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

Important Notice

We've recently switched banks, so as of Dec. 15, our previous bank account will be closed. If you have any outstanding checks issued from our old account, please bring them in to be reissued under our new bank account. For any questions, feel free to call our accounting department at 252-823-2171. We appreciate your cooperation!

Save the Date for Our 2025 Annual Meeting

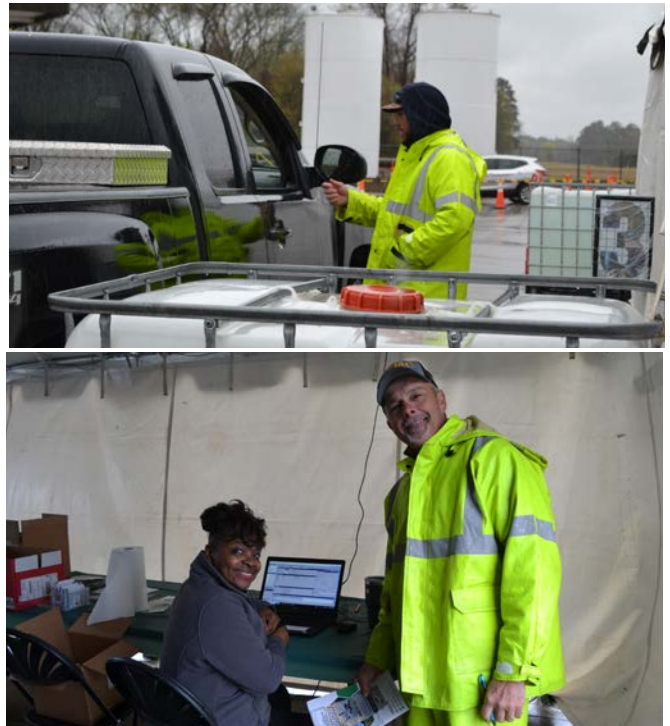
The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in a Drive-Thru format and in-person format, Thursday, March 27.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in both a drive-thru and in-person format on Thursday, March 27. This marks our 4th year using the drive-thru setup, and based on the strong attendance and feedback from previous years, it's clear this is the most preferred method for our members.

The drive-through event will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., allowing members to stay in their vehicles for quick and easy registration and voting. Each registered member will be treated to lunch and a giveaway, as well as entered into a drawing for a credit on their light bill.

For those interested in attending, we'll also hold an in-person business session at 6 p.m. in our main office lobby. As always, we're committed to offering options that work for our members.

We look forward to seeing you all there, whether you drive through or join us in person! Your participation as members truly matters.



Last Chance, Youth Tour Applications Due

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is Sending Students to the Youth Tour – June 15-21, 2025 Experience Washington, D.C., On Us!

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is committed to investing in the future of our community by supporting programs that benefit our youth. One such opportunity is the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, which offers high school students an unforgettable, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

This unique experience is open to current high school juniors. The 2025 Youth Tour will take place from June 15-21, 2025, giving students a chance to explore the nation's capital, learn about electric cooperatives, delve into U.S. history, and see the government in action. Participants will also meet their congressional representatives and join over 1,500 other students from across the country for this enriching adventure.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2024. To secure your spot or get more information, contact Monica Speight at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC by phone at 252-823-2171 or email at monicas@ememc.com.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover Washington, D.C., and make lifelong memories!



lines

FROM V.P. of Member Services and Industrial Development
EDDIE STOCKS

Across the state and country, people receive their electricity from one of three main types of utilities: investor-owned, municipal-owned or electric cooperatives. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is a member-owned electric cooperative, meaning that the people we serve, including you, are also our owners. This gives you a direct role in the governance and future direction of your electric utility.

What sets electric cooperatives apart from other providers is our commitment to exceeding expectations. While delivering safe, reliable and affordable service is at the core of what we do, we aim to go further. Our goal is to be your trusted energy partner, offering support and guidance for all of your energy needs and working to ensure your satisfaction every step of the way.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC recently completed our member satisfaction survey, gathering feedback from members via online platforms. The results from a section of survey were submitted to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a nationally recognized organization that measures customer satisfaction across various industries in the United States. The ACSI score provides valuable insight into the satisfaction levels of our member-owners, serving as a critical tool for assessing our performance and making strategic improvements.

The ACSI measures member satisfaction on a scale from 0 to 100, based on three key attributes: overall satisfaction, confirmation of expectations and comparison to an ideal utility company. This year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC received an ACSI score of 87 on a 100-point scale, surpassing the 2024 Cooperative Difference survey participant average of 82 and the syndicated ACSI cooperative energy utility national average of 78. In comparison, the average ACSI score for investor-owned utilities was 74.

In the other portions of the survey, 100% of the participating members rated Edgecombe-Martin County EMC with an 8.3 or higher on a 10-point overall satisfaction scale, reflecting excellent ratings across all 15 service categories. This outstanding feedback reinforces our commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

While our survey results are highly positive, we also recognize the need for continuous improvement. One area where we received lower satisfaction ratings was

helping members manage their electricity usage. To address this, we consistently share energy-saving tips through our monthly newsletter and social media pages. Additionally, brochures with cost-saving strategies are available in our office for members who visit in person.

Another important theme in the survey feedback was members' questions about solar energy. Many wondered why, despite having solar fields in our service area, these haven't resulted in lower rates for members. At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we regularly share valuable information about solar energy in our newsletter and are committed to supporting members interested in exploring solar options. As your trusted energy provider, we aim to keep you informed. Stay tuned for more solar-related content in upcoming issues of Carolina Country.

Ultimately, our strong ACSI score and other ratings demonstrate that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is dedicated to serving the needs of our members. We will continue to prioritize member satisfaction as we deliver the reliable service and support that our community depends on.

Eddie Stocks

Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC collected between July 1 – July 29, 2024. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit theacsi.org.



How To Nominate a Director

The Nominating Committee has been charged with the responsibility of nominating three members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to fill the expiring term in Districts E-2, E-5, and M-1.

In addition, candidates may be nominated by petition. The petition must be signed by 15 or more members in the nominee's respective district and received in the Tarboro office by 5 p.m., at least 30 business days prior to the annual meeting. This allows time to verify that the nominee meets the qualifications to serve as a director, and it also allows time to include their name on the election ballot. All nominations are closed 30 business days prior to the annual meeting.

Should you desire to nominate a member other than the members to be selected by the Nominating Committee, you must submit a petition to the Cooperative by Feb. 14, 2025. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make additional nominations in writing by submitting a petition with their fifteen signatures affixed.

Petitions of nominees for directors shall be signed only by members who reside in the same directorate district as the nominee whose name appears on the petition.

If a valid petition is received by Jan. 31, 2025, along with a high-resolution photograph and a brief biographical statement, this information will be published in the March 2025 Annual Meeting Notice newsletter.

Nominating Committee Selected for 2025

Although it is several months until our next annual meeting, our election process for the Cooperative's board of directors is rather involved and must start early. We have seven directors who are elected for three-year terms on a staggered basis. In accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws, a seven member nominating committee is appointed.

The Board of Directors has selected a member from each of the seven directorate districts to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members, scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 27.

The Nominating Committee is composed of members who are not cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or close relatives of the existing board or a known candidate for director. The committee meets, nominates members to serve on the board, and then posts the results in the cooperative's office. The committee will be nominating members for the board from directorate districts E-2, E-5, and M-1.

The members of the Nominating Committee have been charged with the responsibility of selecting three Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members to represent the Cooperative on the Board of Directors, and the names selected by this committee will be submitted and voted on at the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members.

Policy No. 201 (included in this newsletter) states the requirements and guidelines that the Nominating Committee must follow before nominating anyone for the Board of Directors of the Cooperative.

2025 Nominating Committee Members

E-1 Walter Hunter

E-5 Don Anderson

E-2 L.B. Simpson

M-1 Danny Stalls

E-3 Gary Hyman

P-1 Charles Tucker

E-4 David Gardner

Considerations for Directors

This policy statement excerpt from Policy No. 201 of the Cooperative's Board Approved Policies is printed to provide and inform the membership on guidelines for those persons nominated and voted upon for service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative, and to provide the membership with a means of assuring themselves of the election of members to the Board of Directors who are qualified to carry out the ideals, formulate policy, develop plans and insure their execution.

The Board of Directors of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation has resolved that the policy contained herein shall be used as a guide when considering the qualifications for directors.

That any committees, member, or members who nominate an individual to be voted upon for election to the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall be aware of and should carefully and seriously consider the following personal qualifications before such nomination is entered.

- Shall have the qualifications contained in Section 4.02 of the bylaws.
- Should be willing to promote and safeguard the interests of the Cooperative.
- Should be willing to attend regularly scheduled and special meetings of the Board of Directors; national, state, and other meetings of organizations with associated interests that furthers the Cooperative's mission; training programs which will aid in keeping the director well informed on the matters affecting the Cooperative.
- Should be aware that members of the Board of Directors serve without salary and on a fee basis only for time given regularly scheduled and approved affairs of the Cooperative plus reimbursement for all reasonable expenses in connection with such scheduled activities.
- Should be willing to serve the term of office for which elected until a successor has been appointed or elected and qualified except in cases of extreme circumstances.
- Shall not use or cause to be used, the position of director to further any personal ambitions.
- Shall not have been: convicted of a felony; the subject of a bankruptcy judgement; declared being of unsound mind by any order of court.
- That service as a director shall include the following responsibilities for growth and development, for keeping them and others

informed, and for participating in all functions of the Board.

- To expend the effort needed to understand the Cooperative's problems and to provide the judgement needed to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances.
- To conscientiously study the information contained in reports submitted to the Board.
- To make a meaningful contribution by participating in discussions on plans, programs, policies and other Board actions.
- To objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems with which the Cooperative is faced.
- To keep informed as to the ideals and objectives of the Cooperative and to further study and analyze the policies, plans, and problems which result from efforts to achieve such ideals and objectives.
- To keep informed on, alert to, and aware of the attitudes of the members, the employees, and the general public toward the Cooperative's objectives and policies.
- To inform all interested persons about the Cooperative's ideals, objectives, programs and services.
- That any of the below listed circumstances of any director are cause for immediate resignation or removal from the Board and related offices upon review:
 1. Is adjudged to be bankrupt or who is convicted of a felony.
 2. Is absent from two or more meetings per fiscal year.
 3. Declared of unsound mind by any order of court.
 4. In the case of any such circumstance, a majority of the remaining directors will review and deem necessary to excuse or vacate and fill said vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of the Director.

This policy is intended to serve as a guide for keeping nominating committees and members informed on their nominating and voting decisions and is not intended to conflict with the bylaws, or Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative. A complete copy of any policy will be made available for any member upon his or her request.

Directorate Districts E-2, E-5 and M-1

The three directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members on March 27, 2025, must reside in and represent directorate districts E-2, E-5 and M-1 respectively. The following is a description of the boundaries of these directorate districts.

DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-2

Beginning at point where US Hwy 64 Alternate West intersects with the Edgecombe-Pitt County line, the boundary follows the center line of US Hwy 64 Alternate West in a northwestern direction until reaching Princeville where US Hwy 64 Alternate West becomes NC 33 continuing northward to a point where NC 33 crosses the Tar River in Princeville and Tarboro. The boundary then follows the center line of the Tar River in a northeastern direction until it reaches a point where Fishing Creek merges with the Tar River. At this point the boundary follows the center line of Fishing Creek northwest until it reaches a point where Hwy 97 crosses Fishing Creek turning eastward, the boundary follows the centerline of Hwy 97 until intersecting with US Hwy 258 and then continuing northward on the centerline of US Hwy 258, creating the western boundary.

The southern boundary begins at a point where US Hwy 64 Alt. East intersects with the Edgecombe-Pitt County line and follows the Edgecombe-Pitt County line until reaching the Martin County line creating the southern boundary. Turning northward, the boundary follows the Edgecombe-Martin County line until reaching the Halifax County line, thus creating the eastern boundary. All portions of Edgecombe and Halifax Counties with this geographical area shall be considered E-2.

DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-5

Beginning at a point where the town limits of Tarboro and State Road 1006 intersect, and following the center line of State Road 1006, in a westward direction until reaching the intersection of State Highway 43, where the boundary turns northward on State Highway 43, and follows the center line, until reaching the Nash-Edgecombe County line, thus creating the southern boundary. Following the Edgecombe-Nash County line, in a northerly direction, until reaching a point where State Highway 97 crosses the County line, creates a western boundary. Turning eastward, and following the centerline of State Highway 97, until reaching a point where State Highway 97 crosses Fishing Creek, forms the northern boundary.

The boundary then turns southward, and follows the center of Fishing Creek until reaching the Tar River, where it continues to follow the center of Tar River, until reaching a point where U.S. 64 crosses the Tar River, continuing westward from that point, the boundary follows the town limits of Tarboro, until reaching the point of beginning at State Road 1205 and the town limits, thus creating the eastern boundary. This geographical area shall be considered Section E-5.

DIRECTORATE DISTRICT M-1

All portions of land within Martin County shall be considered Section M-1.



Billy Trevathan currently serves as the director for District E-2.



Jimmie Jernigan currently serves as the director for District E-5.



Norman Roberson currently serves as the director for District M-1.

Considerations for Directors

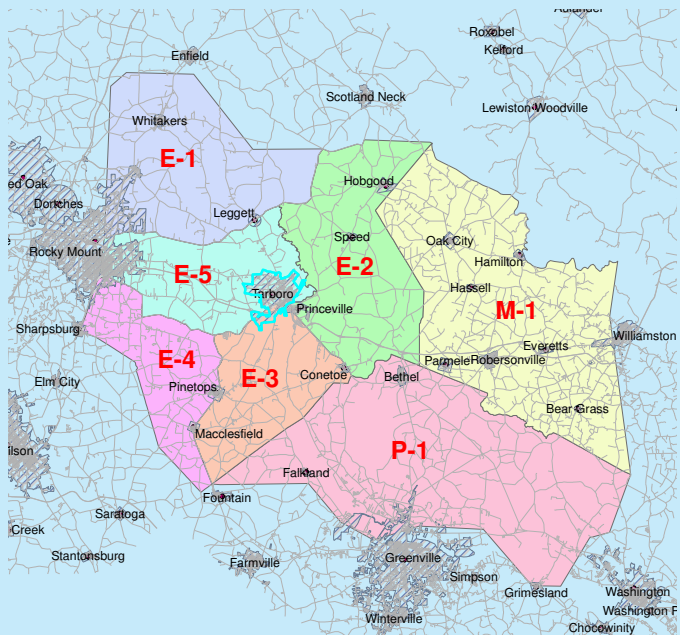
The Board of Directors appoints a Credentials and Election Committee each year to serve at the Annual Meeting of Members. There is one member from each of the seven directorate districts of the cooperative that serve on this committee to insure that proper rules and regulations are followed according to the co-op's policies.

Some of their duties include:

1. To ensure proper member registration and ballot voting.
2. To answer questions that may arise with respect to the registration of members in person or by proxy.
3. To count all ballots cast in any election or any other ballot voting.
4. To rule upon the effect of any ballots irregularly or indecisively marked.
5. To pass upon any protest or objection filed with respect to any election or the conduct affecting the results of any election.

2025 Credentials and Election Committee

E-1	Peggy Weatherford
E-2	Christy Naccarato
E-3	Gary Hyman
E-4	Hugh Council
E-5	William Jenkins
M-1	Danny Stalls
P-1	Charles Tucker



Give the Gift of Energy Efficiency

The holiday season is filled with joy, gatherings, and often, higher energy bills. This year, you can keep your home festive while saving money with a few simple tips.

Switch to LED lights for your decorations—these energy-efficient bulbs use less electricity and last longer than traditional incandescent ones. Plus, they come in a variety of colors, including a warm white for a classic holiday glow. To manage costs further, set your lights on a timer to ensure they're only on when you'll actually enjoy them. Consider turning off ambient lighting to let your holiday décor shine on its own, reducing overall energy use.

If you're traveling, remember to turn off all indoor and outdoor lights before you go. This not only saves energy but extends the lifespan of your decorations. And if you're hosting, lower your thermostat before guests arrive—the extra body heat will help keep things cozy. Consider an ugly sweater party to keep everyone warm while turning the heat down even more!

Wishing you a joyful and energy-efficient holiday season from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC!



Helping Western North Carolina

When the lights go out, so do our line technicians—not just for our members, but also for our sister cooperatives and surrounding communities.

Their commitment extends far beyond our service area, ensuring that wherever help is needed, they are ready to respond.

On Sept. 28, our team left Edgecombe-Martin County to assist with the devastation in Western Carolina, joining forces with our sister cooperative, Rutherford EMC. At the peak of the storm's impact, 62,500 members were left without power. For 16 days straight, our line technicians worked tirelessly to restore electricity and hope to thousands of homes and businesses.

Mutual aid is a vital part of how electric co-ops operate and serve members of our local communities. The goal of mutual aid is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible after a major outage event. By sharing resources, co-ops can significantly enhance our response capabilities. In essence, mutual aid embodies the sixth cooperative principle of “Cooperation Among

Cooperatives” and ensures our members receive reliable electricity even in the face of major challenges.

The dedication our technicians show, even when it means being away from their own families, is a testament to their heart and commitment to the job. Their willingness to step up during critical times speaks volumes, and we couldn't be prouder of them.



Bobby Wheeler, Clark Thornton, Cody Thompson, Matthew Bailey, Will Scott and Tyler Perkins

Along The LINE

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

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