



# Along the LINE

**DECEMBER 2025**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



## Successful Member Appreciation Day

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosted our 2025 Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 8, and it couldn't have been a better day to celebrate our members. The weather was perfect and the rain waited until after the event wrapped up — giving everyone a chance to enjoy good food, fun and fellowship.

We were excited to welcome 127 members and their families to this year's celebration. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., our employees served up hot dogs, chips and homemade ice cream, while members registered for a chance to win one of five \$50 bill credits. Congratulations to this year's lucky winners: Mable Knight, Lynn Boyette, Barbara Atkinson, Clarence Vick Jr., and Rodney Williams.

Member Appreciation Day is one of our favorite annual traditions, held each October in honor of National Co-op Month. It's our way of saying thank you to the people who make Edgecombe-Martin County EMC what it is — a cooperative built by and for the members we serve.

We truly appreciate everyone who came out to join us. Your support and participation remind us why we do what we do every day.



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will close at 12 noon on Tuesday, Dec. 23, and be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, 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.

# Save the Date for Our 2026 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's 2026 Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, March 26, and will once again include both a Drive-Thru and in-person option.

The Drive-Thru Annual Meeting will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., giving members the convenience of registering and voting without leaving their vehicles. Each registered member will receive lunch, a giveaway, and an entry into the drawing for a bill credit.

For those who wish to attend in person, we'll also hold a business session at 6 p.m. in the main office lobby.

We're proud to continue offering options that make participation easy and enjoyable for everyone. Whether you drive through or join us inside, we can't wait to see you there!



## Bringing Broadband to Rural Communities

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we're proud to power the rural communities of eastern North Carolina—not just with electricity, but with opportunities for growth and connection. Access to reliable, high-speed internet is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity for education, healthcare, business, and economic development. It's also essential for closing the gap between urban and rural communities.

Expanding broadband is about more than faster streaming or easier online shopping — it's about giving rural families the same opportunities as those in larger towns and cities. Students gain the tools they need for remote learning, small businesses can better compete in a digital economy, and families can connect with healthcare providers without leaving their homes. These improvements in daily life go hand in hand with the reliability of our electric service, creating stronger, more connected communities across eastern North Carolina.

That's why we're committed to supporting efforts that bring broadband to unserved and underserved areas.

As part of that commitment, we've partnered with broadband providers to expand internet access in a way that's both affordable and efficient. This investment will bring service to homes and businesses that have long gone without reliable internet—an important step in bridging the digital divide.

These efforts don't just benefit members through faster internet—they also strengthen our electric system.



By building out a fiber network, we're creating a strong communications backbone that connects our substations and downline devices, ultimately reaching every meter. This improves service by enhancing grid operations, providing more reliable communication with members, and speeding up restoration during outages. Better connectivity means better service.

# lines

FROM Manager of Communications  
**MONICA SPEIGHT**

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to announce the winners of this year's Bright Ideas education grants, funding 16 innovative classroom projects across 11 schools in Edgecombe, Nash, Pitt and Martin counties. These creative projects will give students hands-on opportunities to explore, invent and learn.

The Bright Ideas program empowers local teachers to bring unique ideas to life — projects that go beyond traditional classroom activities. From designing podcasts and prototypes to exploring ecosystems and engineering, this year's recipients are sparking curiosity and encouraging students to think creatively.

## 2025 Bright Ideas Grant Recipients

- James Guy Jr. — Ready, Set, Launch! Desktop Catapult Challenge, Edgecombe Early College
- Brittany White — Living Bottles: Building Aquatic Ecosystems with Vernier Sensors, Edgecombe Early College
- Ashley Davis — Chain Reaction Expo: A Rube Goldberg Design Challenge, Edgecombe Early College
- Kimberly Long — Tiny House Math: Blueprints to Bottom Lines, Edgecombe Early College
- Emma Rogers — Echoes of Edgecombe: Local History Podcast Lab, Edgecombe Early College
- Morgan Hardison — Bridging the Literacy Gap — Meeting the Needs of Our Struggling Readers, North East Carolina Prep
- Thea Mills — Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do, or Do Without, South West High School
- Phillip Lampron — Engineering Our Dragons, South Edgecombe Middle School
- Kayla Norville — Bins of Potential: A Bright Future Powered by STEM, GW Carver Elementary
- Cliff Hudson — From Dirt to Delight, South Creek Middle School
- Kaleigh Jones — From Play to Prototype: Developing Thinkers with Indi, Bethel Elementary School
- Tammy Hedgepeth — Young Engineers and Coders Transforming the World!, Princeville Montessori
- Omar Nedal — Math in Motion: Real-World Applications Through Interactive Learning, North Edgecombe High School
- Delmonika Vick — Financial Literacy Lab — Dollars & Sense in Action, North Edgecombe High School

- William Fien — Beyond the Classroom Walls, Martin County High School
- Tiffany Fowler — From Traits to Tots: Visualizing Heredity Through Mr. Potato Head, Edge Academy of Health Sciences

These projects cover a wide range of subjects, including STEM, literacy, history and financial education, reflecting the creativity and dedication of teachers in our region.

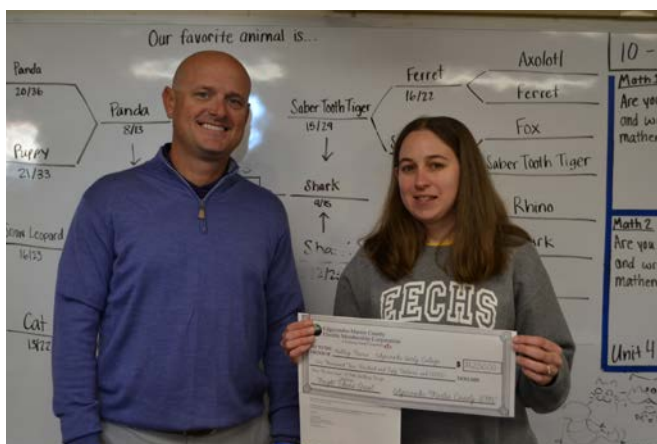
As one of 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina offering Bright Ideas grants, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to continue supporting educators who inspire learning and innovation. Since the program began 30 years ago, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded nearly \$16 million, supporting more than 14,700 projects and positively impacting over 3.65 million students statewide.

Teachers are encouraged to apply for next year's Bright Ideas grants between April and mid-September. Proposals are competitively reviewed, and selected projects bring lasting benefits to students and communities.

To see the impact of Bright Ideas grants in your area, visit [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com) or follow Edgecombe-Martin County EMC on Facebook and Instagram.

## Monica Speight

Monica Speight



**CEO Winston Howell with Edgecombe-Early College Bright Ideas Grant Recipient, Ashley Davis**



# 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-3, E-4 and P-1.

In addition, candidates may be nominated by petition. 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. 9, 2026. 1. List the name of the Member Petition Nominee; 2. Indicating the Directorate District from which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and 3. Containing the printed names, main service addresses (as they appear on the Members' account), telephone numbers, and original dated signatures, any fifteen (15) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts from which they are nominated. The signature must be dated within 90 days of the election.

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, 2026, along with a high-resolution photograph and a brief biographical statement, this information will be published in the March Annual Meeting Notice newsletter.

# Nominating Committee Selected for 2026

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, at least five (5) but no more than 15 Cooperative Membersnominating 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 2026 Annual Meeting of Members, scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 26.

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-3, E-4 and P-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 2026 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.

## 2026 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 Paula Morris

E-4 David Gardner

# Directorate Districts E-3, E-4 and P-1

The three directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members on March 26 must reside in and represent directorate districts E-3, E-4 and P-1 respectively. The following is a description of the boundaries of these directorate districts.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-3

Beginning at a point where US 64 Business crosses the Tar River, in Tarboro and Princeville, the eastern boundary follows the centerline of U.S. 64 alternate east, in a southeasterly direction, until reaching the Edgecombe-Pitt County line. Turning south, the boundary follows the Edgecombe-Pitt County line, until reaching a point where State road 1102 crosses the County line, thus creating the southern boundary. Following the center line of State Road 1102 northward until reaching the intersection of State Road 1106, where the boundary continues on to follow the center line of State Road 1106, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1109, and following the center line of State Road 1109, until reaching the intersection of State Highway 124 in Macclesfield. The boundary then follows State Highway 124 eastward, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1119, in Macclesfield where it turns northward and follows the center line of State Road 1119 into Pinetops, where it connects with State Road 1201, and continues in a northerly route on the center line of State Road 1201, until reaching State Road 1202, where it continues on the center line of State Road 1202, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1205. The boundary then follows the centerline of State Road 1205 until reaching the Tarboro town limits, thus creating the western boundary. Following the town limits of Tarboro, in an easterly direction, until reaching the point of beginning at the crossing of U.S. 64 Business and the Tar River, the northern boundary is created. This geographical area shall be considered District E-3.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT E-4

Beginning at a point where the center line of State Road 1102 and the Edgecombe-Pitt County line intersects, and following the center line of State Road 1102 northward, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1106, where the boundary continues on to follow the center line of State Road 1106, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1109, and following the center line of State Road 1109, until reaching the intersection of State Highway 124, in Macclesfield, where the boundary follows State Highway 124 eastward, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1119, in Macclesfield, where it turns northward and follows the center line of State Road 1119 into Pinetops, where it connects with State Road 1201, and continues in a northerly route on the center line of State Road 1201, until reaching State Road 1202, where it continues on the center line of State Road 1202, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1202, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1205, thus creating the eastern boundary. Turning westward, and following the center line of State Road 1205, until reaching the intersection of State Road 1222, and following the center line of State Road 1222, 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 northern boundary. All portions of Edgecombe, Nash, and Wilson counties, within this geographical area, shall be considered in District E-4.

## DIRECTORATE DISTRICT P-1

All cooperative service territory within Pitt County and Beaufort County shall be considered District P-1.



*Wayne Harrell currently serves as the director for District E-3*



*Bert Pitt currently serves as the director for District E-4*



*Rejeanor Scott currently serves as the director for District P-1*

# 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 5.02 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.

# Considerations for Directors

1. Within a reasonable period of time after becoming a Director, and unless excused by the Board for good cause, a Director is expected to receive a Director's Certificate or similar certification of education and training as specified by the Board;

2. Unless excused for good cause by the Board or Members, a Director shall attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Board Meetings during any calendar year;

3. Directors shall maintain the physical and mental capacity to perform the essential functions of the role of Director, with or without reasonable accommodation; and

4. Directors shall comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board.

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.

## 2026 Credentials and Election Committee

E-1 Peggy Weatherford

E-2 Christy Naccarato

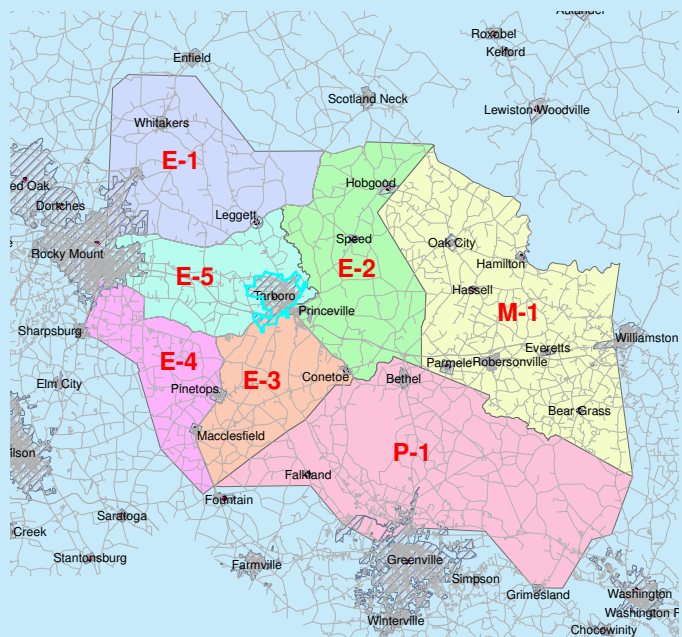
E-3 Lynn Hyman

E-4 Hugh Council

E-5 William Jenkins

M-1 Danny Stalls

P-1 Charles Tucker



# Last Chance! Youth Tour Applications Due Soon

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is once again giving local students the chance to experience Washington, D.C. — on us!

We're proud to support programs that help shape tomorrow's leaders, and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is one of the most exciting opportunities we offer. This all-expense-paid trip takes high school students to the nation's capital for a week filled with learning, adventure, and unforgettable memories.

The 2026 Youth Tour will be held in June, and is open to current high school juniors. Participants will tour historic landmarks, meet congressional representatives, learn about the cooperative difference, and connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country.

Applications are due by Dec. 31, 2025. For details or to apply, contact Monica Speight at 252-823-2171 or [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com).

Don't wait — this is your chance to explore Washington, D.C., make new friends, and be part of something extraordinary!



*2025 Youth Tourist, Seth Hartley*

## Along The LINE

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

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### Editor

Monica Speight

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## December 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.

Throughout December Tree's LLC Service will finish up utilizing sky trim, bucket trucks, and bush hogging equipment in the Whitakers areas and various hotspots throughout our system.

### Examples of trimming methods

Flat Top Trimming



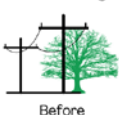
Trees are cut 15 feet below the lowest electric line.

Side Trimming



Trees are cut at least 15 feet from the center of the utility pole. As well as danger trees outside the 15 feet.

"L" Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet from the neutral.