



MEC Receives \$2.6 Million Tobacco Commission Grant, EMPOWER Broadband Is a Go!!!

On Thursday, March 8, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) met and approved Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's request for a \$2.6 million grant to deploy 135 miles of last-mile fiber broadband across Southside Virginia through a new subsidiary, EMPOWER Broadband.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) submitted the application for this grant in November 2017. Since then, a tremendous amount of time and work have gone into the application process, and MEC's board of directors and staff extend their sincere thanks to those who played critical roles in MEC receiving the grant. MEC's President and CEO John C. Lee, Jr., comments, "We are very pleased to receive these funds from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, and are eager to get EMPOWER Broadband up and running to bring value to Southside Virginia. South Boston Mayor Ed Owens' role in our success at the

Commission cannot be understated. He aggressively carried the banner for our request, and we are grateful for his effective leadership. Ed and a number of others including Senator Bill Stanley and Delegates James Edmunds and Tommy Wright stepped up for those they represent here in Southside Virginia and worked diligently on our behalf, and we very much appreciate their efforts." For the names of others who were critical to MEC's successful application, refer to the listing on the next page.

The grant will cover one-half of the \$5.2 million cost of the fiber-to-the-premises pilot project. In addition to approval for MEC's grant, TRRC awarded similar grants to Prince George and Central Virginia electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives continue

consistent, affordable and delivered with the best of the best technology. Ironically, in the month of March 80 years ago, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative became incorporated to provide electric service to areas that no other utility was willing to serve. It is interesting to note that in the same month ... 80 years later, MEC has received this grant enabling us to begin meeting yet another critical need in Southside Virginia ... the need for high-quality internet service to residents who, once again, have been left behind and not afforded that opportunity. It's déjà vu ... in 1938, it was electric power ... now 80 years later, it's high-speed internet service."

MEC's Vice President of Member and Energy Services David Lipscomb, along with Vice President of Information Technology Dwayne Long, have been aggressive and dedicated in researching funding opportunities and presenting the EMPOWER Broadband story to earn the support

of public officials and those responsible for distributing the funds required for this project to move forward. Lipscomb states, "Anyone who knows me ... knows how much I am fascinated by history, and I'm excited to think that we are actually seeing history being made here at MEC. This is an unforgettable time for Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and its members and I believe that many years down the road, future MEC members will look back at their Cooperative's effort to bring them high-speed internet with the same reverence as those who were around the first time a light bulb was illuminated in their home, farm or business ... and marvel both that they didn't have this service sooner, and their cooperative successfully addressed that need."

Long, who was previously employed at a Georgia electric cooperative that offers internet service to its members, has provided a wealth of knowledge and experience in fiber technology to planning this pilot project and the grant application process. He comments, "We are not breaking new ground from a concept perspective; more than 60 electric cooperatives across the country are providing broadband, through fiber-to-the-premises, to their members and are successfully bringing valuable



"Last-mile" is the terminology utilized to describe the final leg of a broadband connection from main line fiber to a home or business.

to be leaders in bringing solutions to problems that face rural Virginians, and it was determined that these three cooperatives are the best-positioned entities to bring broadband internet to their service territories.

Lee states, "The internet connectivity provided to our members by EMPOWER Broadband will be ultra-high-speed, highly reliable,

educational and economic advancements to their regions.”

For the past 80 years, MEC has been vigilant in identifying and addressing the needs of its members in Southside Virginia and portions of northern North Carolina. The fact is ... our members, those who own this organization, are asking us to bring them quality broadband internet service and we are responding. Just take a look at MEC's Facebook page and read the comments from MEC members and nonmembers alike who are highly supportive of the Cooperative's decision to address this need and are anxiously awaiting the day that fiber is deployed in their community.

“The justifications for undertaking this project are numerous, including it being simply unacceptable that in order to complete their homework assignments, students in many of the areas we serve must go to a library, a restaurant, or sit in the parking lot of a business that offers Wi-Fi. Our families deserve more ...”

— MEC Board Chairman David Jones

Lee says, “Access to fast, high-capacity broadband is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity, and becomes more so every day; and from that perspective, it's really unacceptable that rural Virginia has been left behind to fend for itself. Extending fiber-optic cable to our substations, to establish strong and secure communications channels for our electric system, has presented a unique opportunity for MEC to utilize those resources to the greater benefit of those we serve and, through a new subsidiary, EMPOWER Broadband, we will deliver the best in internet service to both unserved and underserved students, residents and businesses throughout our service territory. Receiving the Tobacco Commission grant funding allows us to begin the substantial task of addressing the digital divide between Southside Virginia and urban areas, and provide our members with a service that's a difference maker, and has a proven impact on a region's social and financial health.”

Lee continues, “Your Cooperative has been down this path before, providing electric service in the 1930s and beyond when no one else would. Now, we are addressing a new and modern technology injustice by leveraging a vast network of existing infrastructure including easements, poles and wires that connect every home and business in our service territories. Electric cooperatives are, far and away, the best-positioned entities to bring ultra-high-speed broadband to rural areas of the commonwealth and are currently doing so successfully in other parts of our state.”

He closes by stating, “While the story of rural ‘internetification’ is still being written, it is clear that the electric cooperatives will have a significant effect on provisioning last-mile broadband services. We are committed to bringing economic and educational opportunities back to our region and believe this effort is another strong step towards meeting that objective.”

Getting Started!

MEC will soon begin deploying fiber-optic cable to connect its substations from Gretna to Emporia and to points in-between; and material procurements for portions of the fiber backbone are complete. Through a joint-use agreement executed with Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC), MEC will utilize existing MBC fiber and install new fiber where needed to complete its fiber backbone ring.

The pilot project will offer high-speed, high-capacity broadband service to residential, commercial and industrial members within

1,000 feet of the fiber backbone through EMPOWER Broadband. The first sections of fiber-optic cable will be deployed from the Cooperative's headquarters in Chase City to Highway 360 along Route 92, from Beechwood to the Bracey area in Mecklenburg County, and from Highway 360 to Crystal Hill in Charlotte and Halifax counties. The retail pilot will be open to MEC members along the route, and a deployment schedule will be released within the coming weeks as planning continues. Looking forward, MEC sees the opportunity to open service to both members and nonmembers in nearby communities with the attainment of future grants.

Entry-level services at 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 50 Mbps upload will be offered at a monthly cost of \$65-\$75, which will include a Wi-Fi-enabled fiber-optic router. This speed and bandwidth will enable the use of video streaming to multiple phones, tablets and televisions. The speed and capacity of the internet service offered by EMPOWER Broadband will provide members access to a number of television package options through the internet, and as the pilot progresses, MEC will offer conventional home telephone service with unlimited long distance at a highly competitive rate.

The retail fiber-to-the-premises pilot will serve portions of Brunswick, Charlotte, Greenville, Halifax, Mecklenburg and

Thank You

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative would like to express its sincere appreciation to the following individuals and groups whose efforts were instrumental in the Cooperative's successful application for funds from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (VTRRC). We thank them for their persuasive support of our EMPOWER Broadband project, for their effective leadership, and for their strong commitment to those they represent. Their endorsement of our application will result in the Cooperative meeting yet another critical need ... high-speed internet service, as it did in the 1930s when it began stringing lines to bring electricity to those who had, to that point, been deprived of that life-changing commodity. Accordingly, we offer to them a very special Thank You!

Gayle Barts, VTRRC commissioner
Wayne Carter, Mecklenburg County administrator
Gretchen Clark, VTRRC commissioner
Delegate James Edmunds
Dr. Alexis Ehrhardt, VTRRC commissioner
Franklin Harris, VTRRC commissioner
Edward Owens, Mayor of South Boston
Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Buddy Shelton, VTRRC commissioner
Senator Bill Stanley
Delegate Roslyn Tyler
Delegate Tommy Wright
County and town elected officials and administrators
School superintendents and staff
Chambers of Commerce
Higher Learning Institutes
Economic Development Entities
And all those who responded to our calls for action
in the Social Media and other mediums

Pittsylvania counties; and construction is anticipated to be complete within 26 months, well before the 36-month period required by the Tobacco Commission grant. Upon the successful completion of the pilot, MEC and EMPOWER will evaluate the feasibility of expanding broadband service to the remaining portions of its electric service area and beyond.

In addition to the TRRC grant, MEC and EMPOWER Broadband are evaluating a number of additional opportunities for grants, including Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Connect America Funds (CAF), to assist in deploying fiber-to-the-premises throughout Southside Virginia.

David Jones, chairman of the MEC board of directors, comments, "Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's highest priority continues to be providing the best in electric service; and EMPOWER Broadband will allow our Cooperative to serve its members at the intersection of two needs. Our electric cooperative's need for enhanced data communications has created an opportunity to deploy fiber resources for high-speed internet access to our members, who have sent the word loud and clear that they support our Broadband effort. The justifications for undertaking this project are numerous, including it being simply unacceptable that in order to complete their homework assignments, students in many of the areas we serve must go to a library, a restaurant, or sit in the parking lot of a business that offers Wi-Fi. Our families deserve more ... and when it is financially feasible ... MEC is compelled to provide it."

MECKLENBURG ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 2451
Chase City, VA 23924-2451

Chase City District
(434) 372-6200

Emporia District
(434) 634-6168

Gretna District
(434) 656-1288

Power Failure & Emergencies
(877) 632-5688

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Website: www.meckelec.org

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meet Your COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEE

Ray DeJarnette is arborist and manager of vegetation services in our engineering and operations department. In his area of expertise he enhances Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's (MEC) service reliability through overseeing programs for line clearance, pole inspection and maintenance, new right-of-way clearance and also fleet management. He ensures the safety of the general public and MEC employees and protects the MEC system from adverse impacts due to trees and related vegetation.

In 2011 Ray was a welcome addition to the MEC team particularly because he had gained familiarity with MEC's service territory previously when he was co-owner of Southside Utility Maintenance, a contracting firm that performed pole and line inspections for the Cooperative. He had also obtained a wealth of knowledge and 20 years of experience in his field at Lewis Tree Service where he served as division manager.

Ray obtained his arborist certification many years ago after meeting the required years of full-time experience in the professional tree-care industry and passing an extensive examination covering all facets of arboriculture. He is knowledgeable in landscaping techniques that protect property from winter wind and summer sun, as well as planting guidelines to avoid trees growing into power lines. From time to time Ray shares articles on these subjects in this magazine, and he says, "I'm always happy to assist MEC members who need advice on landscaping for energy efficiency. Just give me a call."

With a jovial personality and excellent public relations skills, he represents MEC well in his daily contacts with members, contractors, other utilities, government entities and the general public. He captivates young audiences each Arbor Day as he provides an interesting and informative



Ray DeJarnette
Arborist and
Manager of Vegetation Services
6 Years of Service

program to elementary school students about the value of trees in our environment. Following his presentation, the students and teachers meet with him outdoors and watch as a tree is planted on school grounds.

For the past four years, MEC has received the notable recognition of being named a Tree Line USA® utility, and Ray has been significantly instrumental in guiding the Cooperative toward meeting the requirements set forth by The Arbor Day Foundation.

He and his wife Mitzi live in the Red Oak community of Charlotte County where she is a real estate agent. They have three adult children — Melissa, Matt and Mitch. Ray says his favorite hobby is spending time with the grandchildren — Addison (age 9), Bryce (age 7), Aubrey (age 3) and Hudson (age 3).

Ray and a group of his friends are well known for preparing fundraising BBQ meals with all the "fixin's" for nonprofits like the American Cancer Society and other worthwhile causes in the neighborhood.

We thank Ray for his dedication to MEC and the contributions he makes to the community on and off the job.



WHAT IS A PROXY?

A proxy is a document authorizing someone to act for another person. It allows a person or committee to serve as a "stand-in" for someone else.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



As a member of this cooperative, you have a voice in setting the direction of MEC. By signing your proxy, you are allowing the Proxy Committee to vote in your absence.

HOW TO COMPLETE A PROXY?

Check the boxes beside the names of the candidates you support. Please vote for a candidate in each district. Fill in the date that you completed the card and sign your name EXACTLY as it is printed on your electric bill.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District 3

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



Each proxy that is completed on both sides, and according to the above guidelines, will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of two \$100 credits on your electric bill.

RETURN PROXY BY JUNE 13.

The election process for the Board of Directors is very important and is conducted with great integrity. For this reason, information on the proxy card must be accurate, legitimate and completed in entirety.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MECKLENBURG ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CHASE CITY, VIRGINIA

Pursuant to the Bylaws of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative adopted by the Board of Directors on Feb. 21, 2018, notice is hereby given of the Annual Membership Meeting to be held at the Cooperative headquarters in Chase City, Virginia, at 6:30 p.m. (registration begins at 5 p.m.) on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, to take action on the following matters:

1. Reports of officers, directors, and management;
2. Election of three directors for a three-year term and;
3. All other business, which may properly come before the meeting.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Board of Directors appointed a Nominating Committee to nominate members to be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting for election as Directors to fill three vacancies that will be created by terms expiring at the time of the meeting. This Committee met on March 22, 2018, and nominated the following members for a three-year term:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| District No. 4 | Larry W. Layman
2211 Clays Mill Road
Halifax, VA 24558 |
| District No. 6 | D. Stanley Duffer
891 Kings Cross Road
Red Oak, VA 23964 |
| District No. 8 | David J. Jones
6874 Highway One
Bracey, VA 23919 |

All of the above were nominated in accordance with Cooperative Bylaws. The Bylaws provide for further nominations by written petition of seventy-five (75) or more members in good standing from the District for which the seat is sought, which petition shall be filed with the Secretary at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

D. Stanley Duffer
Secretary

Emporia's Jellystone Park: Yogi Bear's Campground

Story and photos by Laura Emery, Field Editor

For John and Mary Wagenhoffer, a former police officer/detective and a nurse practitioner from central New Jersey, a typical retirement just wasn't an option.

"It wasn't for us. We like to stay busy, so our retirement was a sort of 'second career,' a way to do something more relaxing while also earning an income," explains Mary. The couple, who have been married for 35 years, purchased the Yogi Bear Camp-Resort franchise in Emporia about 10 years ago, in January of 2008.

As you enter the campground, a 12-foot-tall statue with a familiar friendly face greets visitors. "Everyone loves Yogi Bear," jokes John. Yogi Bear is a cartoon character who has appeared in numerous comic books, animated television shows and films. He made his debut in 1958 as a supporting character in *The Huckleberry Hound Show* and was the first breakout character created by Hanna-Barbera. In 1961, he was given his own show, *The Yogi Bear Show*.

"When deciding whether to buy the place, the fact that the familiar cartoon character was attached to the franchise was definitely a plus," says Mary. The couple

had no experience running a business, so they were definitely stepping into uncharted waters. "We found the campground online and then previewed the campground before purchasing. It needed a lot of work. But we weren't afraid of hard work," explains John. Thankfully, the couple owned a travel trailer and were familiar with camping. "We understood that part of the business; from the viewpoint of the consumer," Mary points out.

Once the couple became owners of the rural RV and camping retreat, the hard work began. They added a pavilion, a recreational field, a bigger playground, a 9-hole mini golf course, new gym equipment, a jump pad, and a kids' spray zone. But it didn't all happen at once. "We made small changes every year to upgrade the place," John says.

"Our goal is to make this a great place for families," explains Mary. "We try to also offer weekend crafts and activities as well." The couple has two adult children of their own. Their son currently resides in Florida (giving the couple an excuse for long vacations to the southernmost state), but their daughter, Kelly, lives with them on the property and helps out at the campground when needed.

The 26-acre campground is open year-round and sits conveniently off I-95 at Exit 17. "We're probably one of the smallest campgrounds in the Yogi Bear franchise, but we offer a lot of bang for the buck," says John. "We can't compare to the Yogi Bear Camp-Resorts in Pennsylvania, for example, but we think we have a lot to offer for the price."

The campground is big-rig friendly, offers free Wi-Fi, heated and air-conditioned rental cabins, wooded and open sites, long pull-through sites, rental trailer, RV storage, a clean heated and



air-conditioned bathhouse, playground, planned activities, LP gas, dump station, RV supplies, cable TV, a pavilion, miniature golf, jump pad, volleyball, souvenirs, and a game room that includes air hockey, video games and a pool table. Daily rates, weekly rates and monthly rates are available on the campground's website. "When visiting the website, just be sure and type b-e-a-r, as in Yogi Bear, so you don't get an uncomfortable surprise," John explains.

For locals, the campground also offers a seasonal pass to its pool (30-foot-by-50-foot) for families or individuals. For an added fee, locals can also purchase a pass for access to the campground's other child-oriented amenities. Call the office for more details.

The Wagenhoffers give a 10-percent discount for GoodSam, AAA, FMCA, police/fire/military, and for senior citizens over the age of 60. The establishment, owned and managed by the Wagenhoffers along with an office manager and a part-time maintenance man, welcomes pets (though, there are areas where pets are not allowed) and smokers. "We have about 80 sites on the property and we stay full during prime months with people coming from all over the place," says John.

The couple says they are thankful for repeat customers, and for the electric service they receive from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC). "We're very pleased to be members of MEC. They're Johnny-on-the-spot for us, and they always respond quickly when there is a problem. In fact, they came and put in a new transformer for us back when we were doing some updates," John says. "We couldn't be happier with them."

Yogi Bear's Camp-Resort

2940 Sussex Drive
Emporia, VA 23847
800-545-4248
www.campingbear.com



MEC members Mary and John Wagenhoffer operate Jellystone Park in Emporia.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY MECKLENBURG ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FOR APPROVAL OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR TARIFF CASE NO. PUR-2018-00021

- Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (“MEC”) has applied for approval of a companion rate schedule for a community solar pilot program that would be available, on a voluntary basis, to MEC members who are receiving electric service under a residential rate schedule.
- MEC members who enroll in the pilot program would be able to purchase 50 kilowatt-hour blocks of energy (“Solar Blocks”) from two solar facilities located in Virginia.
- Each member who enrolls in the pilot program would pay a flat and fixed rate of \$5.46 per Solar Block per month.
- Further information about this case is available on the State Corporation Commission’s website at: www.scc.virginia.gov/case.

On January 30, 2018, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (“MEC” or “Cooperative”) filed an application (“Application”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to § 56 585.1:3 C of the Code of Virginia for approval of a companion rate schedule for a community solar pilot program (“Community Solar Tariff”).

The Community Solar Tariff is a three-year pilot program for the development of a solar program that would be available, on a completely voluntary basis, to MEC members who are receiving electric service under a residential rate schedule (“Subscribers”). MEC’s wholesale power supplier, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, has entered into long-term contracts for the output of two solar generating facilities (“Solar Facilities”) located in Virginia and MEC plans to make units of energy from the Solar Facilities available to Subscribers in 50 kilowatt-hour blocks (“Solar Blocks”), until all of the available units are fully subscribed. A Subscriber may purchase energy by subscribing to one or more Solar Blocks up to a level that is not expected to exceed the Subscriber’s metered monthly kilowatt-hour usage. The Cooperative states that it will work with Subscribers to limit subscriptions to no more than the Subscriber’s expected monthly usage.

Under the Community Solar Tariff, each Subscriber would pay a flat and fixed rate of \$5.46 per Solar Block per month (“Fixed Block Charge”). The Fixed Block Charge is based on the Cooperative’s prevailing residential electricity supply service rate, including applicable riders plus a solar adder, and represents a premium to the rate available under the Subscriber’s standard tariff rate. A Subscriber would be responsible for the Fixed Block Charge under the Community Solar Tariff even in months in which actual usage is less than the size of the Solar Block(s) the Subscriber purchased. Subscribers would also remain subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable standard tariff, except as modified by the Community Solar Tariff, and would remain subject to the other basic terms, conditions, and membership agreements of the Cooperative. Subscribers would be able to cancel their subscriptions at any time after giving at least 30 days’ notice to the Cooperative.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for further details of the Cooperative’s proposals.

The Cooperative’s Application, as well as the Order for Notice and Comment that the Commission entered in this case, are available for public inspection during regular business hours at each of

the Cooperative’s business offices in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Copies also may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Cooperative, Timothy E. Biller, Esquire, Hunton & Williams LLP, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Cooperative may provide the documents by electronic means.

Copies of the Application and the public version of all documents filed in this case also are available for interested persons to review in the Commission’s Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: www.scc.virginia.gov/case.

On or before May 25, 2018, any interested person wishing to comment on the Cooperative’s Application shall file written comments on the Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, VA 23218-2118. Any interested person desiring to file comments electronically may do so on or before May 25, 2018, by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: www.scc.virginia.gov/case. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2018-00021.

On or before May 25, 2018, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Cooperative at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2018-00021. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before May 25, 2018, any interested person may file a written request for a hearing. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the hearing request shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above, and the interested person shall simultaneously serve a copy of the hearing request on counsel to the Cooperative at the address set forth above. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2018-00021.

All documents filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

The Commission’s Rules of Practice may be viewed at www.scc.virginia.gov/case. A printed copy of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment in this proceeding may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address above.



Amanda Huskey

Chicken Casserole

We thank Amanda Huskey of Emporia for sharing this recipe.

- 3 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 1 stick margarine
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 box Stove Top stuffing (chicken flavor)
- Medium cheddar cheese

Put chicken, onion and margarine in pot and add enough water to cover. Cook until done. After chicken has cooled, chop and put in 13-by-9-inch dish. Spread soup over top. Prepare stuffing as directed on the box except use broth chicken was cooked in. Spread stuffing mix over soup. Grate as much cheese as you want on top of stuffing. Cook at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

You can be MEC’s “Super Chef”!

Send your favorite recipe to:

Super Chef

P.O. Box 2451

Chase City, VA 23924

Or email: dblue@meckelec.org

If your recipe is published, you will receive MEC’s cookbook containing over 70 pages of recipes submitted by other members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.



Notice of Bylaws Amendment

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors voted at its February 2018 meeting to make amendments to Article IV, Section 4, of the Bylaws. Below is an excerpt of the Bylaws reflecting the changes. The complete Bylaws are available on MEC's website, www.meckelec.org. A printed copy of the Bylaws is available upon request.

1. Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.3(A).

Article IV, Section 4.3(A) of the Bylaws is hereby amended by deleting Section 4.3(A) in its entirety, and the following is substituted therefore:

"A. A person is eligible to become or remain a Director only if such person:

1. has been a Member for at least 730 days;
2. is a natural person, a member in good standing of the Cooperative and a bona fide, physical legal resident of the District the Member represents or will represent if elected to the Board;
3. is not a close relative, as defined in Section 4.11 ("Close Relative"), of an officer or employee of the Cooperative or any affiliate association of the Cooperative;
4. is not in any way employed by and does not have a substantial financial interest in a competing enterprise or business engaged in the sale of utility service or utility service supplies to the Cooperative;
5. has not been an employee of the Cooperative within the last 730 days;
6. attends at least ten (10) regular Board of Directors meetings in a calendar year absent special dispensation granted from a majority of the disinterested Directors in their discretion based on the individual facts and circumstances; and
7. reviews, adheres to, and signs the Cooperative's Code of Ethics at least annually."

2. Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.3(B).

The introduction to Article IV, Section 4.3(B) of the Bylaws is hereby amended in its entirety and the following is substituted therefore:

"A Director or Director candidate must not be:

1. A Close Relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year;

2. An existing, or a Close Relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative Officer, employee, agent, or representative;
3. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Director; or
4. Engaged in, employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity other than an entity in which the cooperative possessed an ownership interest:
 - a. Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative;
 - b. Selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to a substantial number of Members;
 - c. Possessing a substantial Conflict of Interest with the Cooperative; or
5. Absent disclosure and approval by the disinterested Members of the Board, engaged in an action that results in, or has the appearance of resulting in personal, organizational or professional gain related to the business of Governance including the receipt of gifts with a value in excess of \$500.00."

3. Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.11.

Article IV, Section 4.11 of the Bylaws is hereby amended by deleting Section 4.11 in its entirety, and the following is substituted therefore:

"Close Relative. As used in these Bylaws, the term 'Close Relative' means an individual who is wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, step parent, step child or any person residing in the employee's or Director's household."




Memorial Day 2018

On this Memorial Day, we humbly remember, with great reverence and appreciation, the American men and women of every generation, past and present, who GAVE ALL of themselves to defend the freedoms and way of life that make the United States of America the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

While we owe these fallen warriors, and their families, a debt that can never be repaid, we can honor their sacrifices by treating our country, our flag, and those who currently serve in our armed forces with the greatest respect and in a way that reflects their willingness to lay down their lives for all that we have.


God Bless America and all those who have protected her, protect her now, and will in the future.

**MEC offices will be closed on
Monday, May 28, in
observance of Memorial Day.**




MECKLENBURG ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
is committed to
keeping members and
employees SAFE.

May is National
Electrical Safety Month



plug into safety



May is Electrical Safety Month

Plug Into Safety

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members; and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Please visit www.meckelec.org and our Facebook page for electrical safety tips on how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Broadband, Renewables Top List of Items Discussed by Elected Officials, MEC Representatives

Staff and board members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative recently met with legislators as part of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' (VMDAEC) quarterly board meeting and annual Legislative Day. The event, held each year in January, presents the opportunity for elected officials and cooperative representatives to discuss items of importance to those they both serve and to review proposed legislation that may impact the cooperatives' ability to effectively provide electric service to their memberships.

Among those attending and representing your Cooperative were Director Bob Jones of Boydton, President & CEO John C. Lee, Jr., Vice President of Member & Energy Services David Lipscomb, and Vice President of Human Resources Leilani Todd. MEC officials joined more than 150 representatives from Virginia's 13 member-owned electric cooperatives who converged on the capital for VMDAEC's annual event.

Following a breakfast reception, attendees spent the morning visiting with legislators and their aides, outlining the position of Virginia's electric cooperatives on legislation being considered by the 2018 General



Delegate Roslyn Tyler listens intently as Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative representatives outline the electric cooperatives' position on Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission funding. From left are President & CEO John C. Lee, Jr., Delegate Tyler, V.P. of Member & Energy Services David Lipscomb, and Board Member Bob Jones.

Assembly. Topics of concern included cooperatives' commitment to clean and renewable energy sources, their ability to recover reasonable fees for pole attachments, and their role as an economic development partner in bringing broadband service to rural Virginia.

"With nearly half of the commonwealth's state senators and delegates having served fewer than five years, this annual

event is critical to educating our elected representatives about electric cooperatives and the role we play in serving rural areas," says Lee. "We appreciate our elected officials and the opportunity this event affords to meet with the delegates and senators who represent Southside Virginia and share information with them about issues that affect their rural constituents."



Left, from left: MEC Board Member Bob Jones and John Lee, president & CEO, discuss with Delegate Tommy Wright the issues of interest to rural residents in Southside Virginia. Right: MEC's Leilani Todd and John Lee meet with Senator Bill Stanley (center) at the General Assembly Office Building.

