



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2019

## New year, new ways to be a part of your co-op



**Steve Hamlin** President and CEO

Each year, we set aside one Friday night in April to host our annual meeting. We do this to gather members together to elect the co-op's board of directors, share the cooperative's plans and to enjoy cooperative fellowship.

For many years, this meeting was the only practical way to conduct the various aspects of the co-op's business. Now however, technology has allowed us to make the voting part of the annual meeting available to more members.

That's why this year we are offering members the opportunity to vote for the board of directors through either a mail-in ballot or online prior to the annual meeting. Be on the lookout for more information on how to vote in

your April edition of Carolina Country and your email inbox if your email address is on file.

The new technology provides all members with a simple, quick way to have their voice heard in the election of their fellow members to govern their local cooperative. Also, these changes will save money for the cooperative. A savings we will pass on to you, our members.

This year we will still have our traditional gathering, and with the exception of how voting is done, will be much the same as past years' annual meetings with information booths, entertainment, snacks, giveaways, door prizes and the reason you all come – my wonderful speech. Then in 2020, we will transition to a simple, no-frills business meeting with online and mail-in balloting.

Again, we feel these changes will give more of our members the opportunity to participate in their cooperative while also providing a financial savings.

We hope you will enjoy this new way to exercise your membership with your co-op.

Wishing you all a bright and prosperous New Year!

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### January 1

##### **New Year's Day**

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call.

#### March 31

##### **Basketball camp application due**

##### **College scholarship application due**

#### April 12

##### **Annual Meeting**

- 22 **New year, new energy-saving resolutions**
- 24 **Nominating Committee official notice**

### January right-of-way maintenance

#### DURHAM COUNTY

Saint Marys Road  
Mason Road  
Johnson Mill Road  
Windover Drive  
Ball Road

#### CASWELL COUNTY

Prospect Church Road  
Byrd Road

#### ORANGE COUNTY

NC Hwy 49  
Corbett Ridge Road





## New year, new energy-saving resolutions

It's that time of year again when we think about our resolutions for the new year. If one of your goals is to save money, Piedmont Electric can help. When you reduce energy use in your home, your bill reflects that savings, meaning this is one resolution you'll actually want to keep all year long!

Here are some of our favorite energy-saving tips for 2019:

### Tackle energy-saving projects

Visit [pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill](http://pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill) to get personalized energy suggestions for your house so you know that what you're doing will make a direct impact on your bill.

We also offer a free home energy analysis to all members. One of our energy specialists will visit your home and make suggestions for home energy-saving improvements. To schedule your free home energy analysis, call 800.222.3107.

For the largest impact, make changes based on what reduces the most energy use in your home.



## Skip the takeout

It's cheaper to cook at home than it is to stop by your favorite fast food place after work. As a bonus, food made at home is often healthier than what you pick up from a restaurant.

Visit [pemc.coop/appliance-calculator](https://pemc.coop/appliance-calculator) to see a breakdown of how much it costs to run your appliances. You might be surprised to see that it's cheaper than a value meal from the drive-thru!



## Set it and forget it

If you don't have a smart thermostat yet, now is the time to get one! It allows you to set a schedule for your heating and air conditioning system and even learns your behavior over time to make adjustments as needed. If you already have a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat, sign up for our smart thermostat savings program at [pemc.coop/thermostat](https://pemc.coop/thermostat) to save even more energy and receive a \$50 rebate.



## Remember that small changes add up

You don't have to make a big change to notice an improvement in your energy bill. Start small by replacing old lightbulbs in your home with energy-efficient LED bulbs, which use less electricity and can last years longer than incandescent bulbs.



## Keep energy use top of mind

When you're trying to achieve a goal (in this case, saving energy) it helps to be reminded of what you're working toward. Through your SmartHub account, you can sign up for daily usage alerts, so you'll know exactly how much energy you use each day. Then you can use that information to help you determine changes you should make in your energy habits.



## Official notice

### Nominating Committee meets January 5

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors are up for election at this year’s annual meeting of the members. These seats are currently held by Stephen Long (District 4), Talmadge Yancey (District 6) and Sam Woods (District 9).

#### The members serving on the nominating committee are:

**KAY FERGUSON**  
Hillsborough, At Large

**DIANNE MURPHY**  
Mebane, District 4

**MARTIN A. DAVIS**  
Timberlake, District 7

**JOE CURRIN**  
Chapel Hill, District 1

**ADAM SARVER**  
Roxboro, District 5

**ALVIS LONG**  
Hillsborough, District 8

**GREG MARTIN**  
Mebane, District 2

**CLEOTIS LAWSON JR.**  
Roxboro, District 6

**SUSAN GRAY**  
Timberlake, District 9

**GREGORY RUDD**  
Yanceyville, District 3

The cooperative’s bylaws provide an alternative to the nominating committee. Any fifty (50) 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, on or before February 14, 2019, preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected.

Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee’s name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.

### New voting process

Beginning in 2019, you will vote by either mail-in ballot or electronically prior to the annual meeting. **There will not be voting at the April 12, 2019 Annual Meeting which will be held at Orange High School in Hillsborough.** Please pay close attention to your April 2019 Carolina Country magazine for details on our new voting process.

### YOUTH PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES



#### Basketball camps

MARCH 31, 2019



#### College scholarships

MARCH 31, 2019

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
**PEMC.COOP/COMMUNITY**  
OR CALL  
800.222.3107

### PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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2500 NC Highway 86 South  
PO Drawer 1179  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an  
equal opportunity provider  
and employer.

Stephen B. Hamlin  
President and CEO

#### DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chairman  
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman  
Sam T. Woods, Secretary  
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer  
J. Randy Kinley, Stephen C.  
Long, David Poythress, Cyrus  
Vernon & Talmadge W. Yancey

#### IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US OR TEXT US AT 800.222.3107

Opt in for text alerts by texting “pemc” to 800.222.3107. Once you’ve opted in, report an outage by texting “#out” to 800.222.3107.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the number connected to your account by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day by calling 800.222.3107. Voice instructions will direct you through the system.