



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2020



Strong today, stronger together



STEVE HAMLIN
President & CEO

As a member of an electric cooperative, you're not just one person in a sea of customers. Instead, you're part of the Piedmont Electric community.

This means, as members, we can work together to make a difference for all of us. For example, we all have the power to help keep rates low for our entire co-op.

Part of our power supply cost is determined by the energy we collectively use during peak times, which are the hottest afternoons in the summer and the coldest mornings in the winter.

This means that if we each make small efforts to change our energy habits during these narrow windows, we'll help keep rates low together.

Through a variety of programs and free online tools, Piedmont Electric makes it easier than ever for you to monitor your energy habits and make adjustments as needed. Try signing up for one of our time-of-day rates or smart thermostat savings program to lower your bill each month with very little changes on your behalf.

Not only will you save money, but you will help your fellow co-op members save too. When we make these impactful changes together, we continue building on a strong foundation for our future as a community.

When we all do our part, the whole cooperative wins.

For a full list of energy and money saving programs, visit pemc.coop/use-less-save-more.

IMPORTANT DATES

October

National Co-op Month

October 7

Free masks and hand sanitizers

(At office drive-thru while supplies last)

18 **The cooperative spirit**

19 **Capital credits**

20 **Our board of directors**

October right-of-way maintenance

CASWELL COUNTY

Gunn Poole Road
Highway 119
Pooltown Road
Hightowers Road
Corbett Ridge Road
Ridgeville Road



Request better internet service today!

Would you like to have better high-speed broadband service in your neighborhood? We're working with RiverStreet Networks to make that vision a reality. The more people that express an interest, the more likely we'll be able to bring this exciting broadband solution to your community.

Show your interest and encourage your family and friends to do so as well by visiting Join.BuildPiedmont.com or call us at **800.222.3107** if you do not have internet access and we will get your interest recorded.



Celebrating the cooperative spirit

Throughout National Co-op Month, we celebrate the aspects that make being a cooperative unique. One such quality is that as a cooperative, we're part of a larger network. Take a look at how your locally owned co-op is strengthened through the sixth cooperative principle, cooperation among cooperatives.



Storm support

Through mutual aid agreements formed with other electric cooperatives, we'll never have to face the aftermath of a dangerous storm alone. Whether our service area is hit by a hurricane or our lines are covered in ice, we can rely on unaffected electric co-ops to offer a helping hand.

They'll travel to us to help restore outages as quickly as possible and we'll do the same for them. Cooperatives are truly in this together.



Advocating for you

Cooperatives use their collective voice to ensure elected officials know how their policies will impact cooperative members.

Getting the job done together

North Carolina co-ops formed the Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA), a material supply cooperative, that ensures we get the best price on everything we need to keep the electricity running at your home.

Likewise, electric cooperatives do some administrative tasks together as another way to keep our costs down. This all goes back to wanting to provide the best services to our members while keeping rates affordable.



Power in numbers

Whether it is building power plants or negotiating contracts, co-ops work together to get the lowest cost on power so we can pass along those savings to our members.

At the end of the day, we are an independent electric cooperative. However, we're proud to be part of a larger cooperative community, which helps us better serve our members. Working together in these ways helps us deliver on our promise of reliable, affordable electric service to our members.

Help us celebrate cooperative month

Starting Oct. 7, we will be handing out safety bags that include reusable face masks and hand sanitizer in lieu of our annual community day. The bags will be available at each office throughout the month while supplies last. You can pick them up during business hours using our contact-less drive-thru. Limit one bag per member.

Someone you know could have money out there waiting for them!

Unclaimed capital credits

On the inside cover of this magazine, you may have seen our seven cooperative principles. This is the perfect example of the third principle, members' economic participation, in action!

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we return any margins to members each year as capital credits. However, sometimes members move out of the area and we are unable to locate them to return their credit.

If a credit remains unclaimed, we are required to send it to the state treasurer after four years. Piedmont Electric also must follow the same procedure for any other funds returned to members.

If you know someone who used to be a Piedmont Electric member but is not one any longer, help them out and search for their name at pemc.coop/capitalcredit. They might have money waiting for them!

You can also visit nccash.com to find any funds sent to the state treasurer from other sources.



Visit pemc.coop/capitalcredit to search for unclaimed credits.

Rider changes for 2020

At Piedmont Electric we work hard to keep rates low for our members and are pleased that our energy charge for residential members will not change; however a small increase to our facilities charge was necessary. This change was originally planned for May but was delayed because of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we plan for the future, we are in the process of conducting a rate study to ensure that the cooperative maintains its healthy financial position. As an at-cost power company, our goal will continue to be providing you with exceptional service at the lowest cost we can. Our staff works hard to keep costs under control including efforts to limit our peak energy consumption which impacts our largest expense - wholesale power costs.

Piedmont Electric's energy peak accounts for more than half of the costs we pay for electricity from our provider. In the summer, our peak occurs 1-7 p.m. when air conditioning units are typically running full blast. In the winter, our peak occurs between 6-10 a.m. when people are getting ready for their day.

This is the **sixth year in a row** that our residential energy charge component has remained the same. We are proud that our rates remain below the state and national average.

As your local cooperative we've kept rates dependable and steady while also making improvements to our system to increase reliability, returning capital credits to our members and delivering exceptional service.

Detailed to the right are the annual changes to various riders and rates charged by the cooperative. Piedmont Electric must comply with state energy efficiency and renewable energy standards. Each year, your cooperative adjusts these riders up or down to reflect the cost of complying with these requirements.

Also detailed are changes to the cooperative's storm damage recovery rider, facilities charges, renewable generation net metering rider and what we pay to those who generate solar. A new rate for electric vehicle charging stations has been added. Visit pemc.coop/rates to see the complete listing of our rates.

OFFICIAL NOTICE			
ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER		RESIDENTIAL SERVICE FACILITIES CHARGE*	
	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES	PREVIOUS CHARGE
RESIDENTIAL	0.0438 ¢/kWh	0.0477 ¢/kWh	\$35.00/MONTH
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	0.1024 ¢/kWh	0.1069 ¢/kWh	NEW CHARGE
			\$36.00/MONTH
RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER		SMALL & MEDIUM RENEWABLE GENERATION NET METERING RIDER	
	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES	PREVIOUS CREDIT
RESIDENTIAL	\$0.11/month	\$0.48/month	4.00 ¢/kWh
COMMERCIAL	\$0.64/month	\$2.66/month	NEW CREDIT
INDUSTRIAL	\$4.24/month	\$17.75/month	3.47 ¢/kWh
STORM DAMAGE RECOVERY RIDER		SMALL QUALIFYING FACILITIES PURCHASED POWER	
PREVIOUS CHARGE	0.082 ¢/kWh	PREVIOUS CREDIT	NEW CREDIT
NEW CHARGE	0.080 ¢/kWh	4.00 ¢/kWh	3.47 ¢/kWh
		PUBLIC CHARGING STATION SERVICE	
		LEVEL 2	14.00 ¢/kWh
		LEVEL 3	27.00 ¢/kWh

*To see all facility charges changes, visit: pemc.coop/rates or call 800.222.3107.

Visit pemc.coop/use-less-save-more to see how you can help keep our rates low!

Serving on the Piedmont Electric board of directors

Piedmont Electric is your local electric cooperative and we are guided by a board of directors made up of 10 Piedmont Electric members from across our service area. These board members provide guidance, oversight and help craft the strategic direction of the cooperative along with cooperative staff. This process sets us apart from other types of utilities and helps ensure that the local needs of Piedmont Electric members are heard and met. Directors are elected on a three-year rotation and are nominated by a nominating committee and follow the requirements below.

The following is an excerpt from our bylaws pertaining to nominations.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(A) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of ten (10) persons who are members but are not directors or close relatives of directors, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts and the at large directorate shall have one representative thereon. The Committee shall meet and nominate candidates for each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts to be elected at the next annual meeting and the at large director if that directorate is to be elected at the next annual meeting. The Committee shall nominate at least one (1) nominee for each such District and may nominate more than one (1) nominee for each such District. The Committee shall show clearly each nominee(s) and the Directorate District for which they are nominated. In addition, the Committee shall nominate each three (3) years at least one (1) candidate and may nominate more than one (1) candidate for the "at large" position. The Committee shall ensure

that all members nominated meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02. The Committee shall meet as necessary in order to complete its nominations no later than thirty days preceding the deadline for nomination by petition as is set forth in the following subsection to provide the opportunity for any qualified member who desires to be placed on the ballot at the upcoming annual meeting but not nominated by the Committee, to seek nomination by petition as set forth in the following subsection.

(B) NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

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 January 14 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.

(C) PROVIDING NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The Secretary shall communicate to the members through any publication routinely used by the Cooperative for communication with the membership on a monthly basis or by electronic means at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, the names of all nominees for each such district, showing separately those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

(D) POSTING OF NOMINATIONS

Once the signatures of the members on any petition and the qualifications to serve of the nominees are verified, the names of all nominees for each directorate district and the names of each nominee for the at large directorate, if it is to be elected before the upcoming annual meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Posted Notice of all nominees shall show the directorate for which each nominee seeks election as director and may indicate those nominated by the nominations committee and those nominated by petition.

Revised 3/18/19

Interested in serving?

First, check the qualifications to serve as a director in Section 4.02 of the bylaws. Piedmont Electric's bylaws can be found at pemc.coop/bylaws. If you are qualified to serve, email Piedmont.Board@pemc.coop with your name, address and interest in a director position to determine your directorate district and whether it is up for election this year. If your district is up for election, you will be provided with contact information for your member of the Nominations Committee.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Report outages, make payments and access account information by phone 24-hours-a-day by calling 800.222.3107.
Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

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Stephen B. Hamlin
President and CEO

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chairman
Randy Kinley, Vice Chairman
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
Steven P. Bailey, Stephen C. Long, Andrew M. Oakley, David Poythress, Elizabeth Townsend & Cyrus Vernon

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL OR TEXT 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 or "#status" for an update on your outage.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the number connected to your account online through SmartHub, by completing the form on your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for our system to recognize new cell phone numbers in the text outage alert program.