Sumter EMC
Your Member-Owned Electric Cooperative

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SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

June 2023

We're Your Trusted Source for Power and Information

You pay your utility bill to Sumter EMC, and more than likely, you say to yourself, "That's done." But the truth is, we are more than just a utility provider. While we do provide the power you need, we do a lot more for you, our valued member-owners. Everyone at Sumter EMC is committed to building even stronger connections with you and the local communities we serve, and one of the ways we deliver on this goal is by providing you with information, resources, and services that are as reliable and helpful as the electricity we supply. We want you to view Sumter EMC as your trusted energy partner and your first stop whenever you have a question about energy efficiency, renewables, or other information about your co-op.

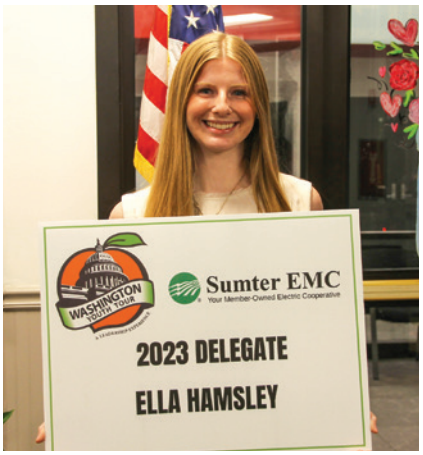
Recently, Sumter EMC has looked at ways to make our services more efficient and valuable. Here are a few ways we are sharing our energy expertise with you and leveraging the cooperative difference to benefit every member:

- We help you keep energy use in check by providing energy-efficiency tips through our social media channels, on the screens in our lobbies, and in monthly publications like the newsletter you are reading now.
- No one makes electrical safety more of a priority than Sumter EMC. We take this commitment a step further by providing electrical safety tools and tips to help keep you and your family safe in and around your home by visiting community and school events with safety demonstrations.
- Regarding renewable energy, we are here to answer your questions about options in our region. You can trust Sumter EMC to provide you with the latest information about renewable energy. We recently added a rooftop solar tool on our website as a first step for those considering such a significant investment.

Membership in Sumter EMC is a powerful thing. It means we are owned by you—our members. It means you have an energy partner you can trust to look out for your community's best interests, not its bottom line.

We are ready to work with you when you have energy-related questions or needs, or questions about your membership. Ultimately, that is the cooperative difference that allows us to be your community's trusted partner, provide you with the electricity you need to power your daily life, and be your source for power and information.

Sumter EMC Selects 2023 Washington Youth Tour Delegates



Ella Hamsley

Abby Henderson

Joshua McCain

Sumter EMC implemented a new application process this year to allow more students to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Students either wrote an essay or submitted a video explaining where they would like to visit most in Washington, D.C. Sumter EMC provided a study guide with information on the tour and history of the cooperative to read in preparation for a quiz they took over the materials.

Sumter EMC also conducted interviews with the top applicants, so they would have an opportunity to demonstrate the caliber and poise required to earn a spot on this year's trip. As a result, Ella Hamsley, Abby Henderson, and Joshua McCain will participate in the all-expenses-paid leadership experience by electric membership corporations in Georgia, including Sumter EMC.

Ella Hamsley is the daughter of Stacie and Keith Hamsley, and a junior at Lee County High School. She is active in her school and community. Ella is part of the National Honor Society and Beta Club, and an active dance team member. In addition, she served as a camp intern at Camp Invention, a STEM summer camp for kids. She also helps the staff at Easter Seals in her spare time.

Abby Henderson is the daughter of Dee Henderson and a junior at Lee County High School. She is active in her community and participates in cheerleading, and she loves history. Abby is involved in DECA Club and Beta Club at her school. She is also an active member of YoungLife and has been for the last three years.

Joshua McCain is the son of Michele and Dana McCain, and a sophomore at Chattahoochee County High School. He participates in Future Business Leaders of America, Drama Club, and Robotics Club at school. Joshua is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. In addition, he participates in many community activities, including youth STEM outreach, child-focused theatrical performances, and FBLA fundraisers. Joshua has also worked as a summer youth camp counselor.

Every year, Sumter EMC recognizes outstanding high school students who are leaders in their schools, communities, places of worship, or academic and community organizations by providing a valuable leadership development program for exceptional teens through the Washington Youth Tour, which was established by America's electric membership cooperatives to inspire and

educate our youth. The trip is June 15-22.

During the seven-day trip, Ella, Abby, and Joshua will visit some of the most exciting tourist spots in Washington, D.C., including Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian Institution, Mount Vernon, and more, all while being exposed to government on a local and national level.

"We're excited for these three students to represent Sumter EMC on the 2023 Washington Youth Tour," says Andrea Walker, Vice President of Marketing and Administration at Sumter EMC. "It's a wonderful opportunity that will allow them to network with fellow peers from across the state, explore our nation's educational museums and monuments, and enhance their knowledge of our government."

Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sumter EMC Foundation Turns 20

Happy birthday to the Sumter EMC Foundation! Founded in 2003, our foundation is partially funded by members who participate in Operation Round Up. Participation in this special program is voluntary, with 100% of the funds generated being returned to the communities within Sumter EMC's service area through grants to schools and local civic or charitable organizations.

Each month, Sumter EMC "rounds up" the electric bill of participating members to the next whole dollar and deposits the spare change in an interest-bearing account administered by a separate board of trustees. Individually, members contribute an average of $6 per year, but collectively, their pocket change adds up to thousands of dollars.

The Sumter EMC Foundation's sole purpose is to give back to the communities we serve. Since its inception, we have awarded more than 130 organizations with more than $1,220,000 in grants to assist them with their mission of improving lives in our community.

When you round up your monthly bill and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. Operation Round Up is an impactful initiative demonstrating one of the seven Cooperative Principles, Concern for Community.

If you do not participate in Operation Round Up, we encourage you to do so! After all, where else can you spend just $6 a year and positively impact so many lives?

Holiday Office Closing

The offices of Sumter EMC will be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in observance of the Fourth of July. Dispatcher on duty 24/7. Report emergencies to (800) 342-6978.

No Posting Zone: Keep Utility Poles Clean

A Sumter EMC utility pole may seem like a great place to post signs, posters, or other objects like flags, birdhouses, and more, but attaching these or other items to utility poles can be dangerous for our linemen.

All of these are commonly fastened with nails, screws, or staples and can injure a lineman's body, cause damage to their protective rubber gloves, or other safety gear, increasing their risk of falls or electrocution. Some other reasons that we do not allow them are that they can keep a pole's structural safety inspection from being performed properly, can distract drivers on the roadway, and can cause damage to the pole, resulting in decay or structural damage over time.

It is important to note that attaching a sign, poster, or other item to our utility poles is prohibited. Please know all signs, posters, and other items not allowed on our utility poles that we encounter will be removed. We thank you for your cooperation and help keeping our linemen safe!

What to Do if Your Laundry Room Floods

When water gets into your laundry room—whether it's from a broken washing machine hose or a late spring storm—your best bet is to treat it like an electrical emergency.

If you know a storm is coming, it's a good idea to unplug your washing machine, dryer and other major appliances. If a lightning strike causes a power surge, your appliances could get damaged or even ruined.

If you haven't unplugged your appliances and stormwater gets indoors, minimize your risk of electrocution by waiting for the water to recede, then shutting off the power supply. Do not do this while standing in water. Do not touch your power cords during a surge or if your appliances are sitting in water.

Also, shut off the hot and cold water supply lines. Don't touch anything until you do that; as you know, water and electricity do not mix.

Next, call an appliance repair professional, electrician, or plumber to assess the damage to your washer and dryer.

Don't turn on your washer and dryer after they get wet, even if they have air-dried. According to Consumer Reports, turning on appliances too soon could shock or electrocute you if their interior components are still wet. It can also ruin your appliances.

AUGUST 5, 2023

SEMCO'S 85TH

ANNUAL MEETING

SERVING OUR MEMBERS 85 years SINCE 1937