



Bennie Woodham retires from Sumter EMC

Bennie Woodham, a native of Desoto, Ga., is one of seven children born to Bobbie Woodham. He worked as a dispatcher in the Engineering Department after joining Sumter EMC in March 2014 and retired on March 27, 2020. Bennie previously worked at Weyerhaeuser for more than 30 years.

From communicating with crews and providing support during outages to processing service orders and requesting reconnection of services, Bennie was dedicated to serving each Sumter EMC member well. “My favorite part of working at Sumter EMC has been interacting with our consumers and my co-workers. It has been a real pleasure to work here,” says Bennie.

“Bennie’s genuine personality and eagerness to assist our consumers made him a perfect choice for Dispatcher, and we were fortunate to have him as an employee,” says Rene Smith, President/CEO of Sumter EMC.

Bennie and his wife, Janice, have one daughter, Kamera,



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—Bennie Woodham

and one granddaughter, Kaylani, all who live in Americus. In retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time working in his yard—one of his favorite hobbies. Bennie also plans to become actively involved in the community, invest additional time into his pressure-washing business and get back to two of his other pastimes—hunting and fishing.

Sumter EMC is grateful to have dedicated employees like Bennie who are committed to taking excellent care of Sumter EMC members. Congratulations on your retirement, Bennie! We wish you many years of happiness.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use. During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Safety is a serious issue, especially electrical safety. For Sumter EMC, it's the No. 1 priority. Sumter EMC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else.

The Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members. We always strive to do that, but most importantly, we want our workers to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Working with electricity is a dangerous job. Sumter EMC has a safety committee whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry.

Sumter EMC's line-workers are required to wear specialized equipment when working near or on power lines and must follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings to discuss projects from a safety perspective and review ways to improve safety.

Sumter EMC not only cares about the safety of our employees but also the safety of our members and communities we serve. May is National Electrical Safety Month, so it's a good time to remind you to be cautious when dealing with electricity. The Electrical

Safety Foundation reports thousands of Americans are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires or accidents in their homes.

Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity:



Don't overload your electrical circuits



Use appropriate lightbulbs. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards



Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way



Stay away from downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad-mounted transformers that look amiss and immediately report it to Sumter EMC at 1 (800) 342-6978 or (229) 924-8041

Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

Don't overload your electrical circuits

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom and test them once a month

Use appropriate lightbulbs. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards

Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. Contact a licensed electrician to install additional outlets

Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way

Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are clear warning signs of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician to do an inspection

Stay away from downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad-mounted transformers that look amiss and immediately report it to Sumter EMC at 1 (800) 342-6978 or (229) 924-8041

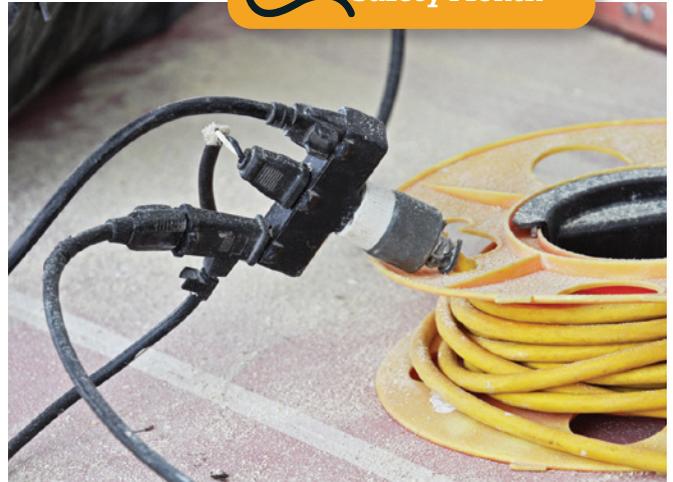
Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

Follow guidelines for using extension cords



Roughly 3,300 home fires each year are caused by extension cords, killing 50 people and injuring 270 more, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to protect your home and workplace:

- Don't plug extension cords into one another.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use (indoor or outdoor) and meet or exceed the power needs of the device being used.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords away from snow and standing water.
- Do *not* overload extension cords.
- If you rely heavily on extension cords, you probably have too few electrical outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Inspect cords for damage before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections.
- Do *not* nail or staple extension cords to walls or baseboards.
- Do *not* run extension cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If a cord is covered, heat cannot escape, creating a fire hazard.



ISTOCK.COM / WILLOWPIX

- Never use three-pronged plugs with outlets that have only two slots. Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.
- Buy only cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Do *not* substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do *not* use an extension cord or power strip with heaters or fans, which could cause cords to overheat and start a fire.

Stay safe before, during and after a storm

If a natural disaster occurs, there are a few things to remember to stay electrically safe. Follow these recommendations from The Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- Before the storm hits, charge all phones and other communication devices. Then unplug all electronics, and move them as high as possible to avoid water damage from flooding.
- Turn off the main power breaker feeding the home to prevent surges to the wiring and equipment.

- After the storm blows through and you begin to evaluate the aftermath, avoid flooded areas, which may be electrified.
- Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics that have been submerged.
- If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system checked out by a qualified electrical inspector.
- If you're using a generator, ensure that a qualified electrician installed it and make sure to use a listed and approved transfer switch and ground-fault circuit interrupter protection.
- Protect your home with carbon monoxide detectors.
- When venturing outside, be aware of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Do not touch any objects the line may be laying on—such as a fence, a car or a light pole—as the object could be energized. If others are around, alert them to stay away. Call 911 to report the downed line.



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The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety in the home, school and workplace. ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May and educates the public throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.

Sumter EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sumter EMC announces capital credit assignments

Sumter EMC operates as a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by the members it serves. Revenues remaining after all expenses are paid are called margins. Margins are calculated yearly for each consumer and assigned to member accounts as capital credits.

For several years before refunding capital credits to members, Sumter EMC uses such funds to expand distribution facilities and its general plant. Using the capital credits to construct distribution lines and substations reduces the Cooperative's need to borrow funds and lowers interest expense.

Margins assigned to Sumter EMC by associated organizations are assigned to members in the same way as operating margins. These organizations include Oglethorpe Power Corp. (OPC*), Georgia Rural Electric Service Corp., National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp., CoBank, Southeastern Data

CAPITAL CREDITS ASSIGNED FOR 2019			
%	<i>If your total bills were</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
9.17175	Capital credits assigned from Sumter EMC margins were	\$ 45.86	\$ 91.72
1.58872	Capital credits assigned by Oglethorpe Power Corp. were	\$ 7.94	\$ 15.89

Cooperative, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and the National Rural Telecommunications Corp.

Margins assigned to members from Sumter EMC operations and all associated organizations (excluding OPC*) equal 9.17175 percent of 2019 revenue. Margins assigned from OPC* equal 1.58872 percent of total revenue for 2019.

Examples of how your capital credit assignment is calculated are shown in

the table on this page. To compute individual assignments, just multiply the percentage figures times the sum of your 2019 power bills, excluding sales tax and other charges.

If you have any questions about your capital credit assignments, call us today at (229) 924-8041 or (800) 342-6978.

* OPC margins include those of OPC and all other sources of power supply and transmission services.

Memorial Day closing notice

The offices of Sumter EMC will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020, in observance of Memorial Day. For emergencies, call: (229) 924-8041 or (800) 342-6978. A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours per day.

