



Raymond Goodwin retires from SEMCO Board

Sumter EMC was fortunate to have Raymond Goodwin serve for more than 25 years on the Board of Directors. Goodwin, elected in 1994 to represent Webster and Randolph counties, stepped down on Jan. 28, 2021.

Goodwin's lifetime of experience as a farmer played a vital role in his service to our consumer-members. He spent many years working approximately 2,000 acres of farmland with his brother, Edward.

The connection of much-needed electric service to the family farm in 1949 remains a vivid memory for Goodwin. It helped make life easier and saved them labor costs. "This made it easier to water the cows, pigs and mules and to also meet the household's need for water," he recalls. Until then, the farm required a full-time person just to draw water for the animals.



Raymond Goodwin

In 2013, Goodwin Family Farm was honored with the Georgia Centennial Family Farm award, which recognizes farms owned by members of the same family for more than 100 years.

Goodwin has lived his life devoted to his faith, family and earning a living from the land he loves. All of these qualities helped mold him into the down-to-earth man he is. He is known for his Christian leadership and being a hard-working family man.

He and his wife, Myrna, have two daughters and have been blessed with four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their family and attending Weston Baptist Church, where they have been members for more than 55 years and he served as a deacon for more than 40 of those years.

Raymond Goodwin left a positive impact on Sumter EMC. Dr. Cecil Myers, Sumter EMC Board Chairman, says, "Raymond has served Sumter EMC and its consumer-members well over his tenure on the Board of Directors, and we greatly appreciate his years of service."



The offices of Sumter EMC will be closed Monday, May 31, 2021

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Every day, we rely on electricity to power our homes and offices. However, it is important to always be safe around electric appliances, equipment and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, so it's a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries and property loss. Here are some safety tips:

- Never touch downed power lines!
- Always call Sumter EMC or 911 if you see lines down.

- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs or trees or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Know what's below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the National One Call Center, to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
- Avoid planting trees under power lines or near utility equipment.

Source: Edison Electric Institute

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 member 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 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 2020			
%	<i>If your total bills were:</i>	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
6.745	Capital Credits assigned from Sumter EMC margins were:	\$ 33.73	\$ 67.45
1.894	Capital credits assigned by Oglethorpe Power Corp. were:	\$ 9.47	\$ 18.94

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 6.745% of 2020 revenue. Margins assigned from OPC* equal 1.894% of total revenue for 2020.

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 2020 power bills, excluding sales tax and other charges.

If you have any questions about your capital credit assignments, call Sumter EMC 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.

Always practice safety first on the farm

Each year, serious accidents involving electricity occur on farms. Agriculture is Georgia's oldest and largest industry. With one out of seven Georgians working in agriculture, forestry or a related sector, Sumter EMC urges you to keep the following safety tips in mind:

■ **Know the location of power lines** and map out ways to avoid them when moving equipment. Any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious, or even fatal, accident.

■ **Stay 10 feet from power lines.** The Georgia High Voltage Safety Act requires that you not encroach on that space. Avoid building fencing under power lines or storing equipment in the right-of-way.

■ **Never stack hay or pile grain near power lines.** Look above you for power lines before swinging hay bales onto a truck with a hay squeeze or boom.

■ **When picking fruit or pruning trees,** check for power lines running through or near trees. Branches may have grown too close to a power line, and you or your tools or ladder could come into contact.

■ **Numerous pieces of equipment on a farm, due to their height, can come in contact with overhead power lines.** If possible, have someone watch out for you as you drive equipment to ensure that you stay clear of the power lines.

■ **Be extra careful when moving large equipment, such as cotton pickers, dump trucks, irrigation pipes and grain augers.**

- **Cotton pickers:** Cotton pickers are tall pieces of equipment, and operators need to be mindful of any power lines near them. Do not park under power lines and never raise the basket near an overhead power line. Raising baskets into power lines can cause a fatal electric shock.
- **Dump trucks:** When raised, the bed of a dump truck or trailer



can touch overhead power lines. The person operating the dump truck should note the location of power lines before raising the bed and should not move the dump truck or trailer while the bed is in the raised position.

Typically, if a raised bed contacts a power line, the operator will not be at risk of electrocution if he or she remains inside the vehicle because the truck's tires provide insulation. **If, however, a person standing on the ground touches the dump truck or trailer while it is in contact with an overhead line, he or she could be electrocuted.**

- **Irrigation pipes:** Irrigation pipes should be at least 15 feet from power lines. The water jet streams should be positioned so there is no chance of them spraying onto power lines. If this happens, the entire system could become energized. Avoid moving irrigation equipment on windy days, when pipes could be blown into nearby power lines. If an irrigation pipe touches a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from it and call Sumter EMC for help at 1 (800) 342-6978.
- **Grain bin:** Electrocution incidents associated with grain bins occur with the use of **augers** and/or elevator equipment near overhead power lines.

■ **Shuffle or hop, don't step!**

- If the machinery you are operating contacts an energized line, move it away from the line to break contact. If this can't be done, stay on the machine.
- If there is an uncontrollable fire, jump off the machine while keeping your feet together. Never contact the machine and the ground at the same time.
- Once clear of the machine, shuffle away, never allowing the heel of one foot to move beyond the toe of the other, or hop with both feet together to a minimum distance of 30-35 feet.

■ **Stay back 30-35 feet from any downed power line or exposed underground cable.** Walking over the area can cause a fatal shock. If you feel a tingling sensation, stop immediately, place your feet together and shuffle or hop out of the area without touching anything with your hands.

■ **Rubber household or chemical gloves will not protect you** from the voltage carried by overhead lines.

■ **Don't become a victim.** Always call your local emergency services when someone is injured in an electrical accident. If they are still in contact with the electric source and you touch them, you could be seriously injured or killed. Keep everyone back a minimum distance of 30 feet, and have someone call for help immediately.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH WORD SEARCH

May is Electrical Safety Month!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle all the bolded words in the puzzle.



E	J	E	Q	L	V	T	S	O	K	F	A	B	T	T
L	S	R	Y	S	D	E	D	D	E	H	N	Y	X	J
E	D	A	M	A	G	E	D	B	I	J	L	G	E	V
C	N	V	J	L	H	W	M	E	B	U	R	I	T	O
T	S	C	N	K	R	W	C	D	M	S	Q	A	N	A
R	B	M	Z	D	G	D	S	R	R	N	R	I	Q	I
I	J	Z	O	F	Y	D	F	O	C	O	D	O	L	F
C	S	C	Y	K	R	Z	D	O	V	N	U	V	I	D
A	Z	U	T	O	E	F	Q	M	T	T	B	R	B	Q
L	K	Y	C	K	X	A	P	N	L	A	E	J	B	W
K	I	M	W	A	Q	A	L	E	Z	R	N	L	Y	E
E	Z	K	T	A	L	M	T	A	I	G	P	X	I	D
D	R	A	Z	A	H	S	Y	S	R	F	J	J	I	J
E	F	E	B	A	S	P	K	L	V	M	Z	H	L	M
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	S	N	W	T

WORD BANK:

- Do not use any electrical **cords** that feel warm to the touch or are **damaged** in any way.
- Remind parents or adults in your home to test **smoke alarms** every month. Alarms should be installed in every **bedroom**, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Do not overload electrical **outlets**. Overloading creates a potential fire **hazard**.
- Keep all **liquids** away from **electronics**, including TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- Do not run **electrical** cords under rugs or carpet. This creates a **fire risk**.