



Sumter EMC plans for the future

Sumter EMC President/CEO Ted McMillan has announced plans to retire in 2020, and the Sumter EMC Board of Directors has named Rene Smith, Senior Vice President of Operations, the incoming President/CEO effective Jan. 6, 2020.

McMillan says he is confident the transition will be smooth for the cooperative. He will work alongside Smith during the coming months, providing support and feedback from insights gained through his 35-year tenure as President/CEO. McMillan's business skills make him a planner by nature, which is demonstrated by his desire to plan for the future of Sumter EMC even into the days of his retirement.

"I know firsthand from working with Rene for over 31 years that Sumter EMC's members will be served well with his leadership skills and knowledge guiding the cooperative," McMillan says. "The Board of Directors feels confident Rene has the talent and knowledge needed for the position as he has already exhibited this in his previous roles at Sumter EMC."

Smith grew up on a family farm in Dooly County and received his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology (with power generation and distribution option) from the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology in 1988. He subsequently earned a Master's of Business Administration from Auburn University and is licensed in Georgia as a Registered Professional Engineer.

During his 31 years at Sumter EMC, Smith has served



Ted McMillan

Rene Smith

in many capacities. Some of his experience includes the designing and construction of the utility distribution system, reviewing and analyzing the distribution line design standards to maximize reliability and minimize costs, and serving on statewide committees representing Georgia's electric cooperatives in matters related to the joint use of EMC poles. Smith's most recent position involved a

more administrative role, providing oversight, guidance and support across the cooperative.

Smith's first leadership roles were with campus organizations during his undergraduate years. Throughout his life and career, personal integrity has driven his decision-making and been paramount to his leadership style.

This, along with his extensive experience in the electric power industry and a proven track record of dedication, guidance and reliability validate his selection by the Board of Directors for the new role of President/CEO.

Along with his commitment to the cooperative, Smith also serves as President of the Americus Rotary Club,

board member of One Sumter Economic Development Foundation, board member of Ignite College and Career Academy, and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Smith and his wife, Angela, have five adult children and seven grandchildren and are members of Cornerstone Church in Americus.

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—Ted McMillan

Four tips for safety during the winter months

BY ABBY BERRY

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires each year in the U.S. are caused by electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in an annual average of 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.



1. Don't overload outlets. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections; they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.



2. Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed *at least* three feet from flammable items. Space heaters take a toll on your energy bills, so if you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.



3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional fire risks. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads; look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.



4. Use portable generators safely. Never connect a standby generator to your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator *before* you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area *outside* your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

Abby Berry is Consumer Content Manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Sumter EMC rebates

Water heaters

Sumter EMC members may be eligible to receive up to a \$250 rebate per water heater for installing an electric water heater, with a maximum rebate of \$500 per home.



Are you eligible for a water heater rebate?

Those who qualify for rebates include:

- (1) Members who build a new home in the Sumter EMC service territory and install an electric water heater; or
- (2) A current Sumter EMC electric member who wants to change out a gas water heater for an electric one; or,
- (3) All current electric members who need to change out an electric water heater.

What actions should I take to receive my water heater rebate?

Members must submit proof of purchase and installation to Sumter EMC within 60 days of the electric water heater installation in order to apply for the rebate. A site inspection will be performed by a Sumter EMC representative to determine if the member qualifies for the rebate.

Electric vehicle chargers

Sumter EMC members may be eligible to receive up to a \$250 rebate for installing a Level 2 charger in their home for their electric vehicle (EV). A Level 2 charger uses a 240-volt power source. Charging times are much faster with a Level 2 EV charging station.



What actions should I take to receive my EV charger install rebate?

Submit a copy of paid installation and charger invoice(s) to Sumter EMC within 60 days after the EV charger has been installed in your home or apartment within the Sumter EMC service territory. A Sumter EMC representative may perform a site visit before approval of rebate is complete.

**CONTACT SUMTER EMC CUSTOMER SERVICE AT
1 (800) 342-6978 TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE REBATES.**



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

—Source: *energy.gov*



Sumter EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Notice of last date to claim refund checks



In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-190 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Sumter EMC is attempting to locate former members whose refund checks were issued between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, for membership fees and deposits that were returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable” or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of these members is listed below and is also posted for your review on our website, www.sumteremc.com, and at the following office locations: Sumter EMC Headquarters, 1120 Felder Street, Americus, GA, the Southern District Office,

133 Century Road West, Leesburg, GA, and the Cusseta District Office, 300 A U.S. Highway 520, Cusseta, GA (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The last possible date to claim these funds is October 15, 2020. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be delivered to the Georgia Department of Revenue, as required by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-190. After this date, any attempts to reclaim your property will need to be directed to the Georgia Department of Revenue. To claim a refund or submit any questions about this notice or the list, call Carol Harvard at (800) 342-6978 or (229) 924-8041.

ABBOTT BP MRS
ANDERSON TYLER IAN
ARMOUR JOHN H C
AVERETT JACQULYN SUE
BAILEY J C
BARROW KIMBERLY
BRASWELL GAIL E
BROSNAN D W MRS ESTATE
BROWN W L
CAMERON SID H
CANTRELL MARVIN ESTATE
CARTER CATHY
CASON GLENDA
CLEMONS OBIE
CLYDE COREY BERNARD
COLEMAN BILL RIDDLER
COLEMAN ROBERT
CORDELL BESSIE T ESTATE
COSBY ASHLEY NICOLE
COXWELL VALERIE D
DANIEL ATRISHIA NEQUITA ESTATE
DAVIS JOHNNY HENRY ESTATE
DICE BERTHA MAE
EVANS RIVON
EVANS RUTHIE LEE ESTATE
FAIN THEODORE BRYANT JR ESTATE
FLICK JOHN D
GARZONE JOHN PAUL
GLASS PAIGE K
GONZALEZ-ITURIO ORLANDO
GOODE W W

GOOLSBY CHARLES L
GRANTHAM DELINDA LOUISE
GREENE SHERITA
GUSTAFSON AARON LEE
GUTIERREZ JESSICA LYNN
HARRIS ANDREW RICHARD ESTATE
HARRIS TOMMIE KATE
HASTY FLETCHER A
HEARON H S JR
HEATH LESSIE S
HINES GINA MARIE
HOGAN GABRIELL LANE
HOLMES DAVID WAYNE
HOOD GABRIELLE & T EDWARDS
HUDSON RANDALL JOSEPH
J DAVIS & ASSOCIATES
JACKS JEFFREY
JOHNSON DONALD ROY
JONES BRENDA DENISE
JONES CASSANDRA
JONES SAMMIE GREEN
JORDAN JEFFERY BRIAN
KELLY CHARLES
KIM POO
KWEKEL BRIANNA NICOLE
LEE PATRICIA ANN
LEVIE WALTER A
LEWIS WILLIE DARLENE
LIN YUN XIAN & HO TERRY C
LINGO C T
LOTT JUSTIN DEWAYNE

MADDOX MARY
MCNAIR EVA
MILLER CLAIRE LEAVY
MURRAY FRANK MARION
PAYNE ROBERT
PERRY ELLA
PETERS JOSHUA COLE
PHILEMA FARMS
POWERS SHIRLEY
PRICE JOE
PRYOR ROBERT FRAZIER
REDDICK GLORIA T
REEVES DAVID LEE ESTATE
REINHART CHENEY H
RICHLAND LITTLE LEAGUE
ROBINSON SHAWN DEE
SELLERS WILLIAM J
SHEPARD WILBAR ESTATE
SIMS BOOKERT
SINGLEY HEATHER MARIE
STEADHAM MARVIN LUTHER ESTATE
TABB JARON TERRY
THOMAS MICHAEL E
TOLBERT JOE S ESTATE
WARREN ROBERT H III ESTATE
WHEAT JOHN F
WHITE LEONARD J
WHITEHURST M H MRS
WILLIAMS KRISTIN C
WORN ROBIN MICHELE