



Sumter EMC issues capital credits to members

One benefit of cooperative membership at Sumter EMC that differentiates us from investor-owned electric service providers is capital credit refunds. Capital credits represent our members' investments in their electric provider, and in the aggregate, the Cooperative's equity. Because Sumter EMC operates as a not-for-profit organization, revenues remaining after all expenses are paid are returned to our member-owned accounts as capital credit refunds.

On November 24, 2020, the

Board of Directors of Sumter EMC approved a \$500,000 general refund of capital credits to members who received electric service during 2019 and/or 1984. With this authorization, these revenues were issued as a bill credit or check during December.

The Sumter EMC Board of Directors and employees are pleased to be your electric service provider. We are honored to serve our members and the rural communities where you live.



2021 Nominating Committee information available on website February 1, 2021

The Sumter EMC Board of Directors will formally appoint the members of the 2021 Nominating Committee at its January 2021 meeting. The names and addresses of the members appointed to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee will be posted on Sumter

EMC's website, sumteremc.com, no later than February 1, 2021.

The committee will meet at the Sumter EMC office in Americus at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, to propose a slate of directors for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members.

Directors whose terms expire in June 2021 are William E. Harris, District 1, Sumter County; Glenn E. Davis, District 2, Terrell/Dougherty counties; Raymond Goodwin, District 3, Webster/Randolph counties; and Lisa Davis, Director at-large.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with **advanced power strips** to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load). The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.



Bylaws summary: Election of directors

ARTICLE I—Membership

Section 1.01. Eligibility. Any natural person, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership, limited liability company, state, state agency or state political subdivision, foreign government, the United States of America, or any federal agency or federal political subdivision, or body politic (collectively “person”) as required or allowed by law, using, receiving, or purchasing any service, product, commodity, equipment or facility from or through Sumter Electric Membership Corporation (“Cooperative”) reasonably related to the Cooperative furnishing, or the person receiving: (1) electric power or (2) any other utility service, (collectively, “Cooperative Services”), is eligible to become a member. No Person may hold more than one (1) Cooperative membership.

Section 1.04. Joint Membership. A husband and wife may be accepted into joint membership. The presence at a meeting of either or both constitutes one (1) joint vote.

ARTICLE III—Meetings of Members

Section 3.01. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of members shall be held for the purposes of electing directors (or reporting on the election of directors), hearing reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Section 3.04. Quorum. Business may be transacted if there are present in person 150 members at the organization of the meeting. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting to another time and date not less than forty (40) days later.

Where member votes in contested director elections are permitted to be cast by mail, telephone, internet or in person, receipt in the time and manner prescribed by the Credentials and Elections Committee of at least one hundred fifty (150) authorized ballots in a given contest shall be considered sufficient to constitute a quorum for that contest (but for no other purpose). If a quorum for a contested election is not achieved on the date and time prescribed for the receipt of ballots, all ballots received shall be destroyed, and another vote shall be conducted as soon thereafter as reasonably feasible at the time, and in the method and manner determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

Section 3.05. Voting. Each member is entitled to only one (1) vote upon each matter submitted to a vote. (a) Voting by members other than natural persons shall be allowed upon presentation to the Cooperative of a signed affidavit entitling the person presenting the same to vote. (b) In contested director elections, members shall vote by secret ballot and the Credentials and Election Committee shall specify whether voting is in person, by mail, telephone or internet. (c) All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members voting, except that Bylaw amendments to be approved by the members require a 2/3 majority of the members voting. (d) Members may not accumulate their votes or vote by proxy. (e) Members may not vote by secret ballot other than for the election of directors.

Section 3.07. Credentials and Election Committee. The Board of Directors shall, at least sixty (60) days before any meeting of the members, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee consisting of eight (8) members who are not existing Cooperative officers, directors or known candidates for director, and who are not close relatives or members of the same household of Cooperative officers, existing directors or known candidates for director.

ARTICLE IV—Directors

Section 4.01. Number and General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eleven (11) members, two (2) from Sumter County; one (1) from Terrell/Dougherty Counties; one (1) from Webster/Randolph Counties; one (1) from Stewart/Quitman Counties; one (1) from Chattahoochee County; one (1) from Lee County; one (1) from Marion County, one (1) from Schley County; and two (2) from the membership at-large.

Section 4.02. Qualifications. Directors of the Cooperative (a) Must be a member and receive electric service at his/her principal residence from the Cooperative; (b) Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age; (c) Must not be employed by or hold financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; (d) Must wait five (5) years following employment termination with the Cooperative; (e) Must be authorized by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board if he/she is a convicted felon or has pleaded nolo contendere to a felony charge; (f) Must be a member in good standing and must not be a close relative of an employee or director of the Cooperative; (g) Must not be an adverse party to the Cooperative or its officers, directors or employees in a lawsuit related to Cooperative business matters at the time of, following, or during the five (5) years immediately preceding his election to the Board.

Section 4.04. Manner of Voting. Each member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote in each director election, but may not vote cumulatively. Directors shall be elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the valid votes cast.

Should no candidate receive the requisite majority vote, the winner shall be chosen by additional secret ballots between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the prior balloting.

The Credentials and Election Committee shall establish the time, method, and manner of elections for both the initial voting and for any runoff voting.

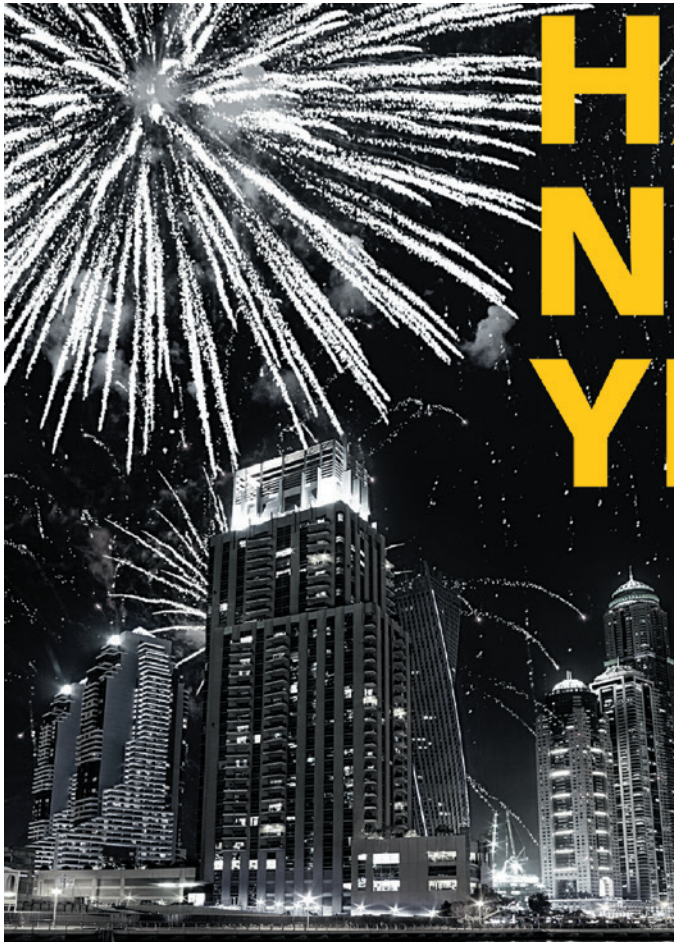
Section 4.06. Tenure. Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one-third (1/3) of their number shall be elected for three (3) year terms at each annual meeting.

Section 4.07. Directorate Districts. The cooperative’s directors shall be so nominated and elected that at least one (1) but not more than two (2) directors shall reside in each of the eight (8) directorate districts. Directors from the following districts are to be elected in 2021:

- 1 director: District No. 1 (Sumter County)
- 1 director: District No. 2 (Terrell/Dougherty counties)
- 1 director: District No. 3 (Webster/Randolph counties)
- 1 director: At-large

Section 4.08. Nominations. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Nominations consisting of eleven (11) persons who are members of the Cooperative. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred (100) days prior to the annual meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in the format required by the Bylaws, presenting them to the Secretary not less than eighty (80) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Only nominations made in accord with Section 4.08 of the Bylaws will be accepted.

1/1/2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The offices of Sumter EMC will be closed Friday, January 1, 2021.

For emergencies, call
(800) 342-6978.

Dispatcher on duty 24 hours.

Statement of nondiscrimination

Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the USDA which prohibit from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

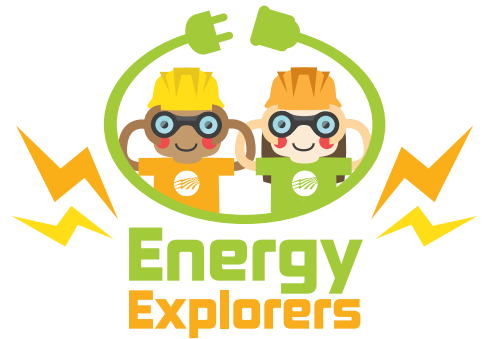
Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-

2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Andrea Walker, Vice President, Marketing and Administration. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the date you knew or should have known of the alleged discrimination. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR

There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills—and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



JANUARY

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.



FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

JUNE

Take short showers instead of baths.



JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days.

SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.