



SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

February 2022

Five reasons we love serving our members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial national days you've probably never heard of like National Tater Tot Day. But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy, and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers, and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Sumter EMC.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible,



and safe electricity. Simply put, Sumter EMC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through programs like Operation Round Up that help local organizations with special projects and worthy causes.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the Board of Directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and help make big decisions. Because our Board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community, and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections, and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Sumter EMC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball. Our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. You and other Sumter EMC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here, too, and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Sumter EMC donates to local charities, schools, and scholarship funds.

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We  our members!



As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, we want to see them continue to prosper.

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 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 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 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 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 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 two-thirds majority of 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 60 days before any meeting of the members, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee consisting of eight 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 11 members, two from Sumter County, one from Terrell and Dougherty counties, one from Webster and Randolph counties, one from Stewart and Quitman counties, one from Chattahoochee County, one from Lee County, one from Marion County, one from Schley County, and two 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 18 years old; (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 years following employment termination with the Cooperative; (e) Must be authorized by two-thirds 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; and (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 years immediately preceding his election to the Board.

Section 4.04. Manner of Voting. Each member shall be entitled to cast one 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 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 of their number shall be elected for three-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 but not more than two directors shall reside in each of the eight directorate districts. Directors from the following districts are to be elected in 2022:

- **1 Director—District No. 1**—Sumter County
- **1 Director—District No. 4**—Stewart/Quitman counties
- **1 Director—District No. 7**—Marion County

Section 4.08. Nominations. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Nominations consisting of 11 persons who are members of the Cooperative. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 100 days before the Annual Meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. Any 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 80 days before 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.

2022 Nominating Committee information available on website March 1

The Board of Directors will formally appoint the members of the 2022 Nominating Committee at its February 2022 Board meeting. The names and addresses of the members appointed to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee will be

posted on Sumter EMC's website, www.sumteremc.com, no later than March 1.

The committee will meet at the Sumter EMC office in Americus at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12, to propose a slate of directors for election at the

2022 Annual Meeting of Members.

Directors whose terms expire in August 2022 are Dr. Cecil O. Myers, District 1, Sumter County; David A. Barrett, District 4, Stewart and Quitman counties; and Bob Jernigan, District 7, Marion County.

Prevent frozen pipes by keeping a warm home

A midwinter getaway seems like a dream. If your family has found a safe destination and is heading out of town, leave the heat on at home.

It might seem like a waste of energy and money to heat an empty home, but the cost of cleaning up after a water pipe that has frozen and burst will be far more than leaving the thermostat set high enough to prevent the problem.

When the water inside a pipe freezes, it expands and puts pressure on the pipe. That causes the pipe to crack or break, and water can gush out, causing a nonstop flood of water, thus causing massive damage to your property.

Here are some precautions to take before you leave:

- Shut off the water at the cutoff valve.
- Remove garden hoses from outdoor faucets. Then, drain those faucets and leave them in the "on" position.
- Leave the heat set at around 50 F.



- Open cabinet doors under sinks so the heat can circulate around the water pipes.
- If your washing machine is in an unheated garage, shut off the water to the appliance.
- Insulate pipes in the attic and in crawl spaces using a product designed specifically for pipes.
- Give your house key to a trusted neighbor who can check for frozen pipes while you're away.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

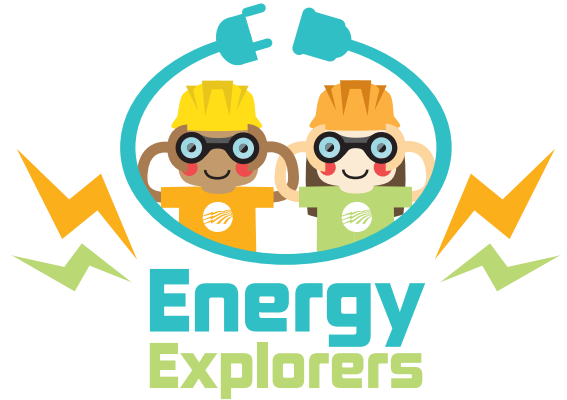
About 30% of a home's heating energy can be lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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

ENERGY CONSERVATION BINGO



Cross off a square for each energy conservation task you complete. Share this with your friends and family to see who can get a BINGO first!

B	I	N	G	O
Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Use a reusable bag	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car
Unplug unused phone chargers	Collect items to recycle	Use a smart power strip	Carpool with friends	Reuse a water bottle
Take a five-minute shower	Use solar lights outdoors	FREE	Unplug unused phone chargers	Use a reusable bag
Carpool with friends	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Take a five-minute shower	Collect items to recycle
Reuse a water bottle	Use a smart power strip	Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car	Use solar lights outdoors

