



2017 Nominating Committee information available on website February 1, 2017

The Board of Directors will formally appoint the members of the 2017 Nominating Committee at its January 2017 Board meeting. The names and addresses of the members appointed to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee will be posted on Sumter EMC’s website, sumteremc.com, no later than February 1, 2017. The Committee will meet at the Sumter EMC office in Americus at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,

February 16, 2017 to propose a slate of directors for election at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members.

Directors whose terms expire in June 2017 are Michael D. Webb, District 5, Chattahoochee County; Christi E. Dockery, District 6, Lee County; Charles E. Hart, District 8, Schley County; and Lawrence Williams, At-large.

How much is too much?

Are your electrical outlets overloaded with power strips, extension cords and outlet splitters? That’s not just an unsightly tripping hazard; it’s a fire hazard. Plugging more appliances, lights and electronics into a single outlet than its circuit is meant to handle causes the receptacle or cords to overheat and potentially start an electrical fire. The Consumer Product Safety Commission attributes 3,500 fires each year to outlet issues.

How do you know if you’re pushing your outlet to the brink? Check for these common indicators of potential electrical hazards:

- Blown fuses: If fuses continue to blow after you replace them, or circuit breakers constantly trip, the wiring cannot handle the outlet’s load.

- Hot outlets: If you can’t touch a cord, plug or faceplate for more than five seconds without saying, “Ouch!” the outlet is overloaded.

- Shocks: Small shocks from touching appliances or outlets could point to danger.

- Flickering lights: Flickering or dimming lights could indicate an overloaded outlet.

- Wavering screens: Similarly, if your computer or TV screen wavers when a large appliance is plugged in, it could mean the outlet is overstressed.

Any of these symptoms could mean your home’s wiring can’t keep up with the growing energy demands of your large appliances and electronics. Call a licensed electrician for an estimate on wiring repairs or upgrades.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bylaws Summary.....p 2
Heat Pump Rebate Program.....p 3
Washington Youth Tour.....p 3

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 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 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 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; (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 run-off 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 2017:

1 Director - District No. 5 - Chattahoochee County 1 Director - District No. 8 - Schley County
1 Director - District No. 6 - Lee County 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.

Sumter EMC extends heat pump rebate program through 2017

The Board of Directors approved extending the 2016 heat pump rebate program through 2017. Members whose existing homes are heated by an electric furnace, baseboard heating or other permanently mounted resistance heating, a residential central gas furnace or one or more gas space heating units can take advantage of the rebate program.

Sumter EMC offers a \$400/ton rebate to qualifying members who replace the above cited sources of electric heating with a high-efficiency heat pump with a 14 or higher SEER rating. The rebate per home cannot exceed \$1,000 and is limited to a maximum of three rebates per member for multi-resident owners.

For qualifying members who replace the above cited sources of gas heating with a high-efficiency heat pump with a 14 or higher SEER rating, Sumter EMC offers a \$400/unit rebate. The rebate per home cannot exceed \$800 for central gas furnaces or \$400 for gas space heating units. Additionally, rebates are limited to a maximum of three rebates per member for multi-resident owners.

Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The heat pump rebate program will end on December 31, 2017 or

when the limitation of the program's budget is reached, whichever occurs first.

To see if you qualify for the heat pump rebate program, ***Sumter EMC will first need to inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done. Once all upgrades are completed, Sumter EMC will need to inspect your new heating system.***



An energy-efficient heat pump works year-round, heating your home in the winter, cooling it in the summer...saving you money in all seasons. Members contemplating participation in the program should contact Sumter EMC to determine if a rebate is indeed available before taking action to replace his/her existing heating system.

Call Sumter EMC today for additional details on qualifying for an electric heat pump rebate and to learn more about how an electric heat pump can work for you.

Sumter EMC to sponsor local students for the 2017 Washington Youth Tour



Each year Sumter EMC sponsors an educational, fun-filled trip to our nation's capital for a student from one of our area high schools. Electric co-ops sponsor the trip to help students develop leadership skills, get a firsthand look at our government at work and learn the history of rural electrification. The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens and is fully sponsored by 38 of the EMCs in Georgia. Sumter EMC awards the sponsorship on a

rotating basis among the high schools that receive electric service from the Cooperative.

Since 1964, nearly 50,000 students from rural areas have participated in the WYT. In 2016, Kahria Lenzie Hadley, a junior at Americus-Sumter County High School, represented Sumter EMC and her school on the weeklong WYT. To read about Kahria's experience, visit our website, sumteremc.com, and select WYT under the Community tab.