



**member
Connections**

A publication for Surry-Yadkin EMC members

July 2018



SYEMC will be closed on the 4th of July.

Go beyond the card!

Download the all-new, and free, Co-op Connections app and save money.

You have benefits as a Surry-Yadkin EMC member. One of those member benefits is access to discounts locally, online or wherever you may roam. Every SYEMC member receives a Co-op Connections membership card when joining the co-op.

But, have you ever forgotten your Co-op Connections card and missed out on saving money?

Just login to the app or connections.coop website and click on “My Account” and then “My Savings” to see how much money you have saved. As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, SYEMC is able to offer this membership benefit to you, our member. You have access to more than 30,000 discount offers throughout the Yadkin Valley and the entire United States.

Our free app helps you save money locally, online or wherever you may roam.

Savings is always within reach with our free mobile app. Simply download the new Co-op Connections app to your phone and create an account to access thousands of deals instantly. When visiting a local business, the image of your card in the app replaces the actual card.

Also, check out the improved connections.coop/SYEMC site. This site showcases new deals such as discounts on entertainment, hotels, restaurants and more.

You’re now able to track how much money you are saving with the Co-op Connections program.

If you already have the Co-op Connections app on your phone or other mobile device, it will still work for now. The new app is now available through the Google Play and Apple app stores at no cost.



Download the new Co-op Connections® app today!

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Visit connections.coop to learn more!

MANAGER'S MESSAGE | GREG PUCKETT

Fireworks, family, food and safety

Celebrate the Fourth safely.

Dear Valued Member,

We all have our favorite traditions for the Fourth of July, but most have a few things in common: fireworks, time with family and loved ones, and lots of food. After all, we are celebrating the birth of America's independence.

Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other



sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your backyard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but we at



Shift your energy use and save money!

Receive a \$20 bill credit when you sign up for one of our time-of-use rates. Shifting your energy use to off-peak times of day helps save you and your electric co-op money. It also helps keep rates low.

Learn more about how you can Shift to Save at syemc.com/content/shift-save.



Surry-Yadkin EMC also want to make sure our members continue to focus on safety.

Remain aware of your surroundings at all times. Look for overhead power lines, transformers and that big green box in the yard, and stay away. Make sure children understand the danger in playing too close to electrical equipment. That includes flying kites and model airplanes in open areas where no overhead power lines exist. Remember the phrase: Look up and live.

And never enter a substation. This is an extremely dangerous area with very high voltage. If a ball or other object accidentally gets tossed into a substation, contact us. Allow our crews to retrieve the object for you.

If you plan to shoot off your own fireworks, please check again for overhead and ground equipment. Any contact with power lines or transformers can be fatal.

The last thing anyone wants is to spend the day in the emergency room. So, please take a few moments to locate potential dangers and have a fun and safe Fourth of July.

Cooperatively yours,

Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Win an iPad

Go paperless for a chance to win a new iPad.

Go paperless and help save your co-op some green. When we save, our members save. Your monthly member newsletter and *Carolina Country* magazine are available online in a convenient digital format.



go COOP GREEN

Sign up for any or all of our paperless options and be entered to win a new iPad Mini. Eligible members must be enrolled in at least one of our paperless options before July 20, 2018, to qualify. Learn more at syemc.com/GoCoopGreen.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

NO-COST TIPS



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.

LOW-COST TIPS



Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



ConnectWith: SYEMC Director Karoline Overby

She had Wednesdays open

A born leader answers the call to serve her fellow co-op members.

At age 12, she asked her dad for a horse. Her wish was granted, but slightly altered. Karoline Overby has preferred two wheels over four ever since her dad bought her that dirt bike.

Serving the members of Surry-Yadkin EMC as a director since 1997, Overby and her husband, Grant, have called her grandparents' family farm in rural Pilot Mountain home for more than 30 years. The couple have two sons who have blessed them with three



grandchildren. Nicholas, the eldest, is a local attorney, and Petty Officer Morgan Overby has served in the U.S. Navy for more than 11 years.

"For most of my adult life, I have strived to serve God and serve others as best I can," says Overby. She served as a Weight Watchers® leader for 24 years and for the last 21 years as secretary for Westfield Baptist Church.

In 1997, then a stay-at-home mom working as a medical transcriber, Overby received a phone call from SYEMC's general manager at the time. The co-op was seeking someone to finish the unexpired term of a director who had recently passed. Overby came highly recommended to fill the seat on the board.

"I promptly declined, as I had quite the full plate at the time," Overby recalls. That wasn't enough to convince them. She received another phone call the next day from an acquaintance asking her to reconsider.

"I told her my one free day each week was Wednesday," says Overby. "She informed me that the board met on the fourth Wednesday of each month." Overby took this as a sign and agreed to an interview.

The new co-op director admits she knew absolutely nothing about serving

on an electric cooperative board of directors. She quickly learned her commitment, with training and other workshops, was more than just Wednesdays. "I truly believe it was God's plan," she says. "As a wife and mother, I bring a different perspective to the board room and decision-making process." She does not take for granted the privilege of representing the SYEMC membership.

"Rates and increased purchased power costs are ongoing challenges for an electric co-op," says Overby, "especially one with relatively slow growth and an average of seven members per mile of line." Overby and her fellow board members focus first and foremost on what is best for the membership as a whole.

Overby is grateful for the co-op employees and their level of commitment. "We wouldn't be who we are without their hard work and dedication," she says.

The decisions and actions that come from the board room are not always popular. "Rest assured," says Overby, "this co-op has the safety and best interests of all our members at the very heart of all we do."

Similar to her plans of riding on two wheels, Karoline Overby intends to serve the members of SYEMC as long as she is able.

Reminder: SYEMC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 6.

At the June meeting of the SYEMC Board of Directors, a nominating committee was appointed to make nominations of director candidates for districts five, six, seven and nine. These seats are currently held by Alvin Reid Jr. (Dist. 5), Stephen Joyce (Dist. 6), Toby Speaks (Dist. 7) and David Pendry (Dist. 9).

The Nominating Committee and the Credentials and Elections Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, at SYEMC office at 510 S. Main St. in Dobson to make nominations. Other nominations can be made by member petition, as described in Section 5.05 of the SYEMC bylaws below. Please note that the member petitions deadline is 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2018.

SECTION 5.05 - Nominations.

2. Member Petition Nominations:

Without regard to the actions of the Nominating Committee, Cooperative Members are also entitled to nominate additional individual Members to run for election for any Director position for which Members are scheduled to vote at any Annual Member Meeting ("Member Petition Nominations"). The deadline for filing Member Petition Nominations shall be 12:00 o'clock noon on the second Tuesday in August (August 14, 2018) preceding the Annual Member Meeting. Members make such Member Petition Nominations by delivering a writing for each Member Petition Nomination ("Member Petition"):

- a.) Listing the name of the Member Petition Nominee;
- b.) Indicating the Directorate District from which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and
- c.) Containing the printed names, main addresses, telephone numbers and original dated signatures of at least fifty (50) Members, each of whom maintains his primary residential abode within the boundaries of the applicable Directorate District. Each Member's signature must be presented in the same name as he is billed by the Cooperative. The signature must be dated within 90 days of the election.

The Member's main address must be stated as it appears on said Member's account, without regard to any other address used for billing purposes.

After the Elections and Credentials Committee verifies that a Member Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall post the Member Petition Nominations in approximately the same location as the Nominating Committee Nominations on or before 12:00 o'clock noon on the third Friday in August.

Nominations for Directors shall be made only by the Nominating Committee or by written Member nominations as set forth herein. All nominations, however made, shall specify the nominee's district. Write in candidates are not eligible for election to the Board.

The Secretary shall mail to the Members, either with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of all nominees. The statement shall separately list nominations made by the Committee from any nominations made by petition.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Section shall not affect the validity of any action taken by the Board after its election.

Member Connections is a monthly publication intended for the members and friends of Surry-Yadkin EMC.



Board of Directors

Lee Von (Toby) Speaks, *President*
Willard Swift, *Vice President*
Karoline Overby, *Secretary*
David Miller, *Treasurer*

Board Members

Brenda Hardy
Stephen Hutson
David Pendry
Alvin Reid, Jr.
Eddie Campbell
Stephen Joyce

Greg Puckett,
Executive Vice President and General Manager

Jim Robertson, *Editor*

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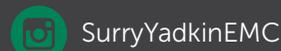
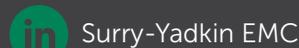
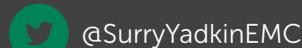
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Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Early Bird applications due by August 15.

NCBrightIdeas.com

