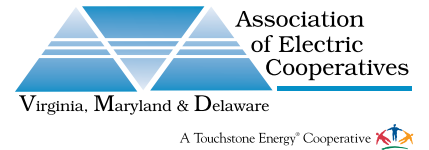


A regular update for leaders, members and friends of
the VA-MD-DE Association of Electric Cooperatives

from Richard G. Johnstone Jr. | President & CEO



CO-OPS QUICKLY RESPOND

Electric Cooperatives Restore Power in Wake of Isaias

Crews from electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware worked diligently to restore power to tens of thousands of co-op members in the wake of Tropical Storm Isaias.

Pounding the seaboard with as much as 6 inches of rain and gusts up to 75 mph, the storm knocked out power to nearly 79,000 members across the five eastern-most VMD electric cooperatives.

Lineworkers from other Virginia electric cooperatives assisted local co-op crews in restoring power under the VMD mutual aid plan. Some teams were working through the night on Aug. 4 to bring back power to affected members.

"This was a very significant storm, but our crews were well prepared and went to work as soon as it was safe to do so," said Alan Scruggs, vice president for safety and training services at the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. "They made excellent progress and worked hard until all members were back online."

Hard hit was Delaware Electric Cooperative, which lost power to more than 30,000 members as the storm passed through its territory. Lauren Irby, the co-op's manager of public relations and community outreach described it as "the worst storm we've seen in recent memory." Crews were dealing with at least 370 instances of broken poles and downed trees that fell on power lines. Restoration was hampered by several tornados that touched down in DEC's service territory.

Just to the south of DEC, Choptank Electric Cooperative in Maryland had more than 18,000 members in the dark at the height of the storm. Co-op officials said damage was so widespread that its outage map "looks a lot like a Candy Crush board." Some of the fallen trees, poles and wire were near water, complicating the restoration task.



Delaware Electric Cooperative crews extinguish flames atop a utility pole.



Numerous trees and limbs were down throughout the Choptank Electric Cooperative service area.

In Virginia, A&N Electric Cooperative had more than 16,000 members without power at peak. Crews from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative teamed up with A&N lineworkers to bring back power to the Tasley-based co-op by Aug. 5.

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative's service territory was beset by heavy rain and high winds, causing over 5,900 members to be without power at the peak of the storm. Mutual aid crews from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative and Central Virginia Electric Cooperative assisted NNEC crews and its right-of-way contractors with restoration efforts and had members back online Aug. 5.

Community Electric Cooperative in Windsor lost power to over 5,500 members — more than half of its total. CEC crews and a four-member construction crew from Central Virginia Electric Cooperative made tremendous progress in restoring power from tornado-related damage.



Community Electric Cooperative crews assess damage near a Southampton County delivery point from Dominion Energy.

Showing the true cooperative spirit, VMD teams went north to help out as Isaias hit New England. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative sent three two-man crews to New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, with CVEC also sending three two-man crews.

Congratulations to all our lineworkers in restoring power wherever members needed it.

— Report by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living.

Steve Harmon Elected to NCSC Board



Steve Harmon

Community Electric Cooperative President and CEO Steve Harmon has been elected to serve as the manager/director for District 1 on the National Cooperative Services Corporation’s board of directors. Steve succeeds John C. Lee, Jr., Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative president and CEO, who completed his final term after serving as board president.

“I am pleased by the vote of confidence placed in me by my cooperative colleagues,” Steve said. “I am looking forward to working alongside some of the best and brightest within the cooperative family.”

NCSC is a privately funded, member-owned cooperative that began operation in 1981. The organization provides specialized financing services to electric cooperatives and is an affiliate of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

NCSC directors serve three-year terms and provide knowledge, leadership and commitment essential to establishing policies and goals. The 10-member board represents five geographically defined districts and sets corporate policies, identifies strategic initiatives and approves financing services. NCSC District 1 includes 17 states from South Carolina west to Indiana and north to Maine. Congratulations to Steve and thanks to John for their service, leadership and commitment to the cooperative community.

— Report by Jim Robertson, VMD Association Creative Services Specialist.

CO-OP PROMOTIONS

Taylor Named EMPOWER VP of Business Development



Michele Taylor

EMPOWER Broadband Inc. is pleased to announce the advancement of Michele Taylor to the position of vice president of business development.

Michele will oversee the development and maintenance of business and commercial accounts for the broadband

provider and lead EMPOWER’s sales and service efforts to meet the growing needs of regional businesses. She’ll be focused on delivering the highest level of customer service and building and maintaining strong, long-term relationships with EMPOWER business subscribers, including schools and governmental entities. Michele will recommend and assist in the development and implementation of new services and offerings, including voice over IP telephony, high-speed data services and advanced cloud-based solutions.

She will also serve as the liaison and primary point of contact between EMPOWER and the entities providing grants, financing, and/or funding for EMPOWER’s deployment of fiber throughout Southside Virginia and northern North

Carolina. She’ll be responsible for all aspects of the organization’s grant research, applications, administration and grant management activities, and will seek out and secure grants and award funding to be utilized in support of the mission of the organization.

EMPOWER President and CEO John C. Lee, Jr., comments, “Michele has 25 years of extensive experience in the industry, from customer service to project management; and her passion to deliver the very best customer experience makes her the obvious choice for this position and its responsibilities. Her strong experience in the broadband and telecom industry will bring considerable value to EMPOWER and its subscribers in this new position.

“Michele’s effort in this new position will be critically important in EMPOWER’s efforts to continue the extension of broadband service to Southside Virginians and customers in portions of northern North Carolina. We are confident she’ll flourish in this position; she is dedicated and believes in our mission, is well-versed in solutions to accommodate the changing needs of business and commercial accounts and, most importantly, Michele has a passion to do the right thing by those at the end of the line...or fiber in this case.”

— Report by Debbie Blue-Winn, Member and Public Relations Specialist, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.

REC Names New Manager of Administrative Services



Tosh Bowe

Tosh Bowe has been promoted to manager of administrative services/controller. Joining REC’s management team, he will oversee key areas of the cooperative, including finance and accounting, procurement, warehousing, and facilities management.

Tosh is an accomplished professional with over 21 years of experience in finance and accounting, as well as business management. For the past 15 years, Tosh has demonstrated his strengths and abilities in finance management, project leadership and implementation, and integrating strategic initiatives into the departments he leads.

In his most recent position as director of procurement and facilities management, Tosh has successfully managed multimillion-dollar construction projects; implemented a 20-year strategic comprehensive facilities plan; and

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implemented new technology for procurement and warehousing.

Tosh holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration-accounting from Radford University, and is currently completing his MBA through Liberty University. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Tosh has completed the Certified Cooperative Financial Professional program and earned his Management Essentials Certificate.

Tosh is a member of the Institute for Supply Management, as well as the Institute of Management Accountants. He has served as the treasurer of the local Toastmasters International chapter and has led charitable programs benefitting the member-owners of REC. When not serving REC and its member-owners, Tosh actively participates in local fundraising efforts for the Wounded Warrior Project and the American Cancer Society. Tosh attends Ephesus Baptist Church and lives in Essex County with his wife, Beth, and their son, John.

REC Names Director of Economic Development

Felicia Ainsa has been selected as Rappahannock Electric Cooperative’s director of economic development. Felicia will focus on external and internal coalition building for the purpose of business retention and expansion; development and implementation of strategic business attraction efforts; and communication and outreach to, and participation with, local, regional and state economic development partners to achieve the goal of sustaining a healthy economy in the cooperative’s service area.

“This new, dedicated economic development position reflects REC’s enhanced commitment to community and economic development,” said David Koogler, REC’s vice president of member services and external affairs. “The cooperative looks forward to proactively working with our local, regional and state partners to grow local economies.”

Felicia is a business and economic development professional with over 15 years of experience serving in and around the metro-Richmond area. Since 2016, she served as the business development manager for the Henrico Economic Development Authority.

In this role, she developed and sustained important relationships with Henrico business owners and the community. In addition, she helped to identify potential business retention and expansion projects and managed the strategic and operational plans, budget and staff for these efforts.

Just a few of Felicia’s career accomplishments include:

- Winning projects totaling \$424 million in capital investment, 1.8 million square feet of real estate, 4,295 new and retained jobs, and \$269 million in annual wages.
- Serving as project manager for three of the Top 15 Economic Development projects in Virginia in 2019.
- Receiving the 2018 Virginia Economic Development Authority Community Economic Development Award.

Felicia earned a bachelor’s degree in international law and diplomacy from Brigham Young University. Her degree included minors in business management, Spanish language and Latin American area studies. Felicia is currently pursuing her MBA with an expected graduation in May 2021 from Old Dominion University.

— *Reports by Casey Hollins, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.*



Felicia Ainsa

LOCAL CO-OP ANNUAL MEETINGS

Community Electric Meets via Facebook Live

One week after devastating effects from Tropical Storm Isaias, Community Electric Cooperative hosted a virtual annual meeting. The co-op livestreamed the event on its Facebook page the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 11, from the co-op’s warehouse.

Board Chairman Jeannette Everett began the meeting with a brief introduction and invocation. A financial update was provided by Diana Beale, CEC secretary-treasurer. John Butler, retiring from the board of directors, and Josh “Pret” Pretlow, who recently retired as CEC’s attorney, were each presented with resolutions in appreciation of their years of service.

Jeannette introduced William L. Holt, who will succeed Josh Pretlow as the co-op’s general counsel, and also introduced new director Robert B. Jones Sr.

CEC retired more than \$342,000 in capital credits in 2019. The co-op also continues to see positive results from its subsidiary, RECORE; both entities earning net margins in excess of \$300,000.

“Although the meeting was brief and very direct, everyone attending seemed to enjoy the time together,” said CEC President and CEO Steve Harmon. “We have received positive feedback from members watching the meeting via Facebook.”

— *Report by Jim Robertson, VMD Association Creative Services Specialist.*



From left, CEC President and CEO Steve Harmon and Board Chairman Jeannette Everett present retiring General Counsel Josh Pretlow with a resolution for his many decades of service.



William L. Holt



Robert B. Jones Sr.

NNEC Annual Meeting Notes Greg White's Retirement as CEO

Like many others, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative went virtual in its annual meeting this year. A few people, including NNEC employees, attended the Aug. 6 session at Northumberland High School, obeying social distancing and mask guidelines. Many more viewed the 83rd Annual Meeting via a live computer stream, on long-time President and CEO Greg White's last day of work.

Vice Chairman Russell G. "Rusty" Brown delivered the invocation, and Board Chairman Hunter R. Greenlaw Jr. followed by commending the 60-odd lineworkers and additional staff workers who helped to put the power on for 5,900 people after Tropical Storm Isaias passed through the co-op territory on Aug. 4.

Pamela Davis, vice president of finance, reported the co-op had an operating margin in 2019 of nearly \$251,000 on revenues of \$39.6 million. The cooperative has assets of \$98 million, she noted.

Greg noted that the co-op has asked the State Corporation Commission for a rate increase of about 3.9% starting next year to deal with higher-than-expected expenses as a result of the pandemic and soaring right-of-way costs. "This will put the cooperative in a position where it needs to be to meet its financial obligations," Greg said. He noted he didn't make the change lightly, but said it was better to do it sooner, rather than later. However, he said he expects the power supplied by Old Dominion Electric Cooperative to offset some of the increase.

In his final president's address, Greg thanked the employees, board and members of NNEC for the opportunity to be president and CEO for 15 years. He pointed to construction of a new operations facility as one of the co-op's greatest accomplishments in recent years. "We now have facilities and land to serve our members for decades to come. That's vision — board vision," Greg said.

New President and CEO Bradley H. Hicks told the meeting he



Greg White (right) receives a resolution for his years of service from NNEC Board Chairman Hunter Greenlaw at the co-op's annual meeting.

looks forward to building on Greg's legacy. Brad said safety will always be a top priority with him, and noted NNEC had zero lost-time accidents in 2019. He also provided updates on a number of projects that NNEC is developing and also thanked retiring NNEC employees. "Most importantly, we want to be your trusted service adviser and a good community partner," Brad said.

Hunter also presented Greg, accompanied by wife Carolyn, with a resolution from the NNEC board, commending Greg for his years of service and outstanding leadership.

During the business part of the meeting but before the board election, Secretary Ralph Sutton noted that just under 17,000 members receive service from the cooperative. Reelected to the NNEC board were Hunter Greenlaw, from Stafford County, and James Wise, from Westmoreland County.

Congratulations to NNEC on weathering Isaias, and to Greg for a highly successful career.

— Report by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living.

DEC Goes Virtual in Successful Annual Meeting

At 7 p.m. on Aug. 11, Delaware Electric Cooperative members tuned in to be a part of the cooperative's first virtual annual meeting. In order to ensure the safety of its members and employees, DEC held its 84th annual meeting online through Zoom.

Some 1,779 members registered to attend the virtual event, which featured four directors running unopposed and being successfully reelected. Those directors were Bruce R. Walton, representing District 2; William P. Haughey Jr., representing District 8; Blaine M. Daisey Sr., director at-large; and Bruce A. Henry, representing District 5.

DEC President and CEO Bill Andrew greeted meeting guests with a report on the state of the cooperative's affairs, noting the cooperative's solid financial standing. He also addressed the recent storm damage from with Tropical Storm Isaias.

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Delaware Electric Cooperative utilized professional sound and video services to deliver this year's annual meeting online. The co-op used multiple rooms and cameras to maintain proper social distancing.

“Last Tuesday and Wednesday were tough days with regards to trying to keep the lights on. All told, more than half of our members were without power at one point or another during the storm,” Bill reported.

But, explained Bill, due to the efficient and productive work of DEC’s employees, members had power back within less than 48 hours.

Bill thanked the membership for their ongoing support and for staying engaged with their electric cooperative. “We’re very proud of you for supporting your co-op the way you do,” he said.

He also addressed other issues, such as landfill gas and solar energy. “For the next 10 years, I don’t anticipate that we will be building anything but clean, renewable energy facilities to supply power for you.”

Two years ago, Bill pointed out that DEC was among the highest-scoring utilities in the American Customer Satisfaction Index with a customer score of 88. “Last year,” he proudly said, “we were able to score a 90.”

After a Q&A session involving Bill and Rob Book, DEC’s vice president of marketing and member services, Bill praised the cooperative’s employees. “They’re the best in the nation,” he



A behind-the-scenes look at a second area used to deliver messages to members during the DEC virtual annual meeting.

said. “They work extremely hard every day to be safe, productive and efficient and to make sure you get the quality services you need.”

After the winner of the \$500 bill credit was announced, DEC’s first virtual annual meeting was adjourned.

Congratulations to DEC for a successful meeting!

— Report by Laura Emery, Field Editor, Cooperative Living.

Choptank Honors Distinguished Friends of Co-ops

Choptank Electric Cooperative’s annual meeting last week may have been the co-op’s 82nd, but due to the unprecedented events of 2020, the evening contained several firsts.

Adjourned from April until Aug. 13, the meeting was the first with a mostly virtual stream, as attendance was limited and social distancing practiced at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury. The proceedings were streamed via Facebook Live to its members on the Eastern Shore.

A second “first” — State Sen. Stephen S. Hershey Jr. and Delegate Sheree L. Sample-Hughes became the first Marylanders to receive the Distinguished Friend of Electric Cooperatives Award, sponsored by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Hershey, who represents Senate District 36, and Sample-Hughes, who represents House District 37A, were cited for the leadership in passage of landmark legislation that will enable Choptank to deliver broadband to members on the Eastern Shore.

CEC President and CEO Mike Malandro presented the prestigious awards to Sample-Hughes; Hershey received his in absentia.

The Distinguished Friend of Electric Cooperatives Award honors legislators, regulators and others in public service who have strongly supported the best interests of electric cooperative member-owners. It has been given out just 11 times since it was created in 2004.

“We had serious work to do on this bill and we have a long way to go. But I know it is possible because we’ve come this



A socially distanced layout was implemented this year at the Choptank Electric Cooperative annual meeting.

far and we’re going to achieve what we need to achieve,” said Sample-Hughes.

The third and final “first” was the overwhelming vote at a special meeting of the members to pursue self-regulation of the co-op in order to pursue broadband. Following the announcement of the decision to self-regulate, Chairman Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr. said the Choptank board of directors will take that as “clear and conclusive guidance” in starting to establish a fiber-to-the-home deployment and notify state regulators of the decision.

In his president’s report, Mike called it “a special night” for the cooperative because of the progress on a broadband initiative. “The basis of our strategy was community involvement. This was the same strategy employed over 80 years ago when the cooperatives first started,” Mike said.

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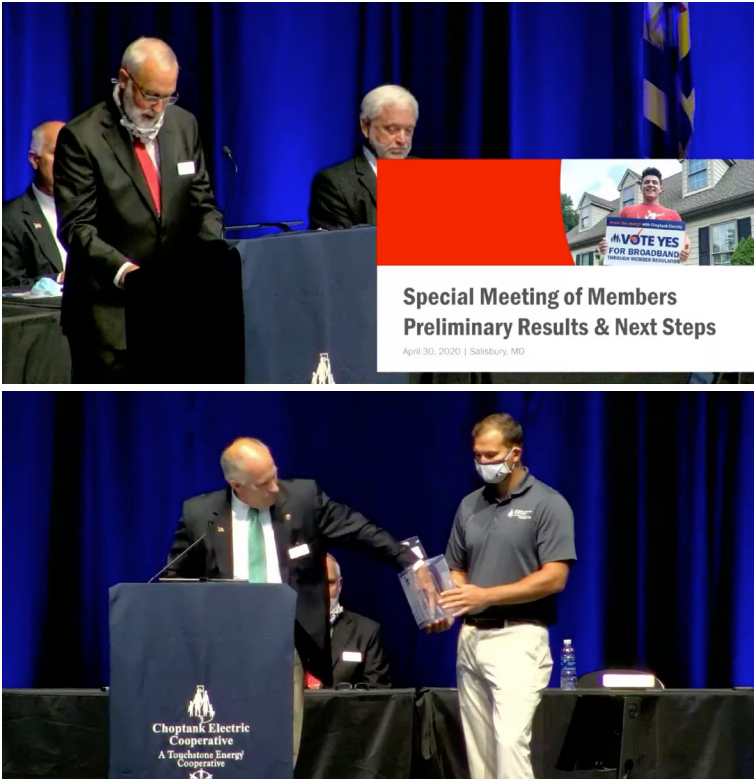
The current pandemic has only increased the need to telework and distance learn, Mike added. Choptank has maintained stable operations during the health crisis, and has given \$15,000 to local food banks with many employees and board members volunteering to load and distribute food. “This is another example of how cooperatives are anchored inside our rural communities,” Mike said.

Reelected to the board were Rathell, representing Talbot County; John J. Burke Jr., representing Cecil County; Robert B. Thompson, representing the Ocean Pines District; and Craig N. Mathies Sr., representing Somerset County.

The meeting, as usual, included the award of several “Luck of the Draw” scholarships to students pursuing higher education. Choptank presented ten \$1,000 education scholarships. An additional \$2,000 scholarship was awarded in honor of retired Somerset County Director Carl Widdowson. Several members also won bill credits as the meeting wrapped up.

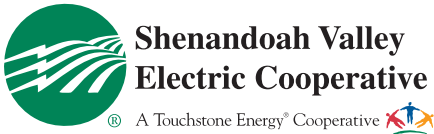
Congratulations to Choptank on a huge step forward for its members!

— Report by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living.



Board reports and important updates were provided during the virtual meeting, as well as prize drawings.

SVEC Successfully Holds 84th Annual Meeting



Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative members voted in unprecedented numbers en route to reelecting two people to the board of directors, as announced at the 84th annual membership meeting via telephone on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 13.

SVEC’s board of directors and select staff gathered with masks on and proper social distancing in a large meeting room at the headquarters in Rockingham. More than 130 members registered to participate in the phone event. Over 5,100 members returned proxy cards or voted online for director elections to help the cooperative meet quorum requirements.

“The event was a safe, effective alternative to an in-person gathering,” SVEC Board Chair Larry Howdyshell said. “We are thrilled with the participation level of our members in the voting process. I am happy that over 93% of members surveyed in relation to the new process indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the voting process.”

To increase participation in director elections, the board last year voted to introduce new ways for members to cast ballots by adding online and mail-in options. When COVID-19 led to the shift from an in-person meeting, that meant the new methods were especially timely additions to annual meeting practices.

Members voted like they never have before with 7,197 ballots cast, representing over 9% of the total membership. Fewer than 400 members voted in each of the previous two elections, when the only method to cast a ballot was to attend an in-person annual meeting. It is worth noting that the SVEC Board of Directors is not able to vote proxies in relation to the election of its directors. The election results are tallied from individual member selections of a given candidate.



SVEC directors and employees gather in a large meeting room at the co-op’s Rockingham headquarters to conduct their 84th annual meeting by phone.

SVEC Corporate Attorney Dale Davenport announced at the meeting that members reelected to the board Vice Chair Suzanne S. Obenshain and Stephen W. Burkholder.

The rest of the meeting provided members with customary business updates with reports from Larry Howdyshell and President and CEO Greg Rogers, a question-and-answer session and the ever-popular announcement of 12 winners for \$250 bill credits.

In his remarks, Larry emphasized the local connection of an electric cooperative. “It’s important to remember that board members, just like [SVEC’s] employees, are your neighbors. We’re all a part of the cooperative and the Valley, just like you,” he said. “We will continue to support you and the communities we serve.”

Greg highlighted four areas: SVEC’s financial standing, its response to COVID-19, broadband status and solar energy

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progress. On the topic of finances, Greg pointed out that the board recently took the unprecedented step of retiring more than \$3.6 million in capital credits for members who had service in 2019, which was a shift from the typical retirement in which years are combined.

“By taking this approach to retiring capital credits, our board ensured that more members would get more money back, and sooner, in the wake of this difficult financial time for all,” he said.

While the State Corporation Commission’s order banning disconnection of electric service remains in effect, Greg urged members to pay what they can on their bills, to avoid a larger balance due later. For broadband, he announced that SVEC’s board will be further reviewing its options during a strategic planning session later this month.

“We have been researching how installing fiber for our electric needs may or may not intersect with playing a role in distributing broadband to our members who need it,” Greg said. “We have completed a broadband feasibility study and are waiting to finish a second one, to provide a comparison on costs to implement a broadband project on our system.”

As for solar energy, he said the cooperative is excited about a second set of arrays installed at its headquarters. These solar installations will serve as educational tools for the co-op and members. “We look forward to inviting you to come see and learn about these arrays, once we are able to again safely get together,” Greg said.

An audio recording of the event is available at svec.coop.
 — Report by Preston Knight, Public Relations Coordinator, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

The Time Has Come ...

After a great deal of thought, numerous discussions with my wife Blair, and with a firm confidence that the Association is fully prepared for its next exciting chapter, I recently announced to the VMD Association Board my plans to retire in spring 2021. I will turn 65 in January, and am planning for my last day in the office to be April 9, which will also mark the date of my 36th anniversary with the Association.

I have been honored to serve as Executive VP/CEO for 21 years this month, and am only the 5th statewide association manager in our 76-year history. Throughout my long cooperative career, I have been blessed with wonderful colleagues, and I’ve been blessed as well with support and encouragement from an outstanding board of directors, as well as literally hundreds of other VMD staff and board members.

I’ve been fortunate to serve during a dynamic time in our history, and the collaboration between our staff and our member systems has made possible many milestones, including starting a scholarship foundation that’s helped hundreds of deserving young people; building a state-of-the-art Training Center; expanding our Lineworker’s Rodeo into one of the largest in the nation; completing our first international aid project; passing numerous pieces of important legislation at the



Richard is pictured here in late April, congratulating Bill Sherrod on receiving the VMD Association’s Distinguished Service Award. Sadly, Bill passed away on June 1 after a long illness.

Virginia General Assembly; growing our magazine’s circulation to almost 600,000; and celebrating both a gala, old-fashioned 75th annual meeting in Colonial Williamsburg last year and a live, technology-driven virtual annual meeting this year.

It’s been a gratifying, enjoyable career, and I can’t think of a better cause to have made as my life’s work than supporting the mission of our 15 member cooperatives as they work hard every day to improve the lives of their member-consumers. I look forward to continuing to serve the VMD Association over the next 8 months, and afterwards to cheering from the stands as the Association scales new heights of service to our member cooperatives and their member-consumers.

With gratitude and respect, Richard Johnstone.

COOPERATIVE LIVING SOCIAL MEDIA

Fans of *Cooperative Living* on social media have remained engaged since the beginning of the pandemic. We appreciate them so much!



Four-year-old Jax was worn out after an exhausting day on the farm! *Cooperative Living* magazine reader Angela Neal, of Hallwood, Va., sent us this udderly adorable photo.



Joni Butler of Smithfield, a member of Community Electric Cooperative, shared this photo of her bulldog, Gracie, modeling her rain gear before the arrival of Tropical Storm Isaias.

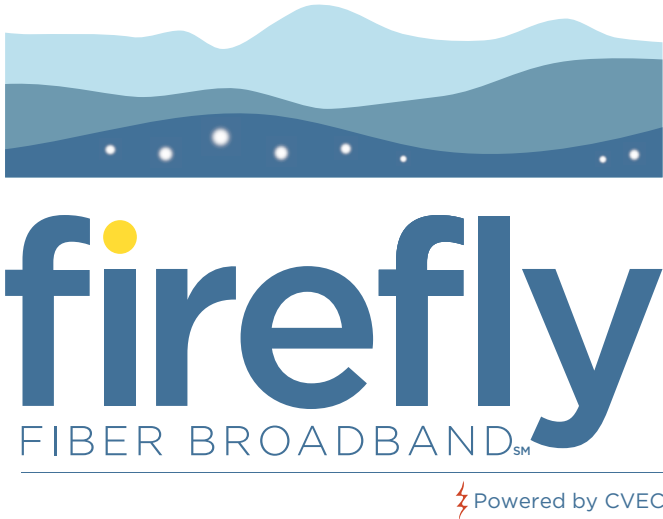
CO-OP BROADBAND EXPANSION

Firefly Speeds Connections, Partners with Nelson County to Expand Rural Broadband

Firefly Fiber Broadband, a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, has committed to speeding up its internet connections across central Virginia. In recognition of the urgent need to get members connected, the CVEC board of directors authorized a plan to increase the pace of construction across the co-op’s system with a goal of completing the fiber backbone construction by July 2022, shortening the buildout schedule by a year. The intent is to have Firefly provide internet connections for all CVEC members who choose service by fall of 2022. CVEC is on pace for the next two years to build 1,000 miles of line each year and make service available at more than 10,000 new CVEC locations each year.

In addition to the system-wide CVEC fiber build, Firefly is partnering with Nelson County to make use of the funds available for non-CVEC areas in the county. This one-time opportunity to quickly expand broadband availability is in response to COVID-19 issues. The CARES Act funds require projects be completed within calendar year 2020. Firefly developed a plan to build small expansions in several areas to help address needs for distance learning and remote work. The six small projects will include construction of 16 miles of fiber optic cable and make service available to more than 400 accounts.

Gary Wood, CEO for Firefly and CVEC commented, “Firefly is excited to expand our partnership with Nelson County to help address the lack of broadband. These projects will connect homes and businesses, plus allow for additional free Wi-Fi hotspots to help school children and remote workers in several areas across the county. They will fit into our schedule without diverting attention from the system-wide CVEC fiber build, which is speeding up to get as many people access to broadband as fast as possible.”



One project will accelerate construction at the CVEC Gladstone substation to begin connections of CVEC members from there in 2020. Two projects will provide broadband on the north side of the railroad tracks in Shipman and Arrington. One project in Piney River will cover an area from the county line on Route 151 north to the intersection of Route 56 and Route 151, plus a short extension up Lowesville Road. Several small subdivisions near Colleen will also have service extended.

Gary added, “We are excited about these new projects that continue our partnership with a forward-looking board of supervisors and county staff who are working hard to make broadband access a reality for every home and business in Nelson County.”

— Report by Melissa Gay, Communications and Member Services Manager, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.

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Virginia, Maryland & Delaware

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