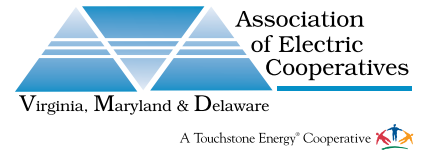


A regular update for leaders, members and friends of
the VA-MD-DE Association of Electric Cooperatives

from Richard G. Johnstone Jr. | President & CEO



ELECTION 2020

A Quick Recap of Tuesday's Results on VMD Region

As of early Thursday morning, while the race for president was still up in the air, former Vice President Joe Biden's path to victory appeared easier than President Trump's. The election now appears to hinge on 68 electoral votes in five states that are still too close to call: Pennsylvania (20 electoral votes), Georgia (16), North Carolina (15), Arizona (11) and Nevada (6). In many of these states the vote differentials are small and some results appear headed for a recount after canvassing. It is possible that a winner may not be declared this week — or potentially for a much longer period. Some political observers have said that this campaign may make Florida 2000 look like a cakewalk.

While there is much we don't know — there is still plenty we do know, with regard to the other federal elections for House and Senate. It is likely that Republicans will retain control of the Senate, and have also narrowed the Democrats' advantage in House seats, though the Democrats will retain control of the House of Representatives.



And here are the results of the elections in our three-state region:

In Delaware, Gov. John Carney (D), Sen. Chris Coons (D) and Rep. Lisa Rochester (D) were all reelected. In the State Senate, Delaware elected 8 Democrats and 3 Republicans, and their State House saw 26 Democrats and 14 Republicans win office.

In Maryland, the entire House delegation was reelected (7 Democrats, 1 Republican).

In Virginia, Sen. Mark Warner was reelected. No House seats changed control, with Republican Bob Good — elected from the 5th Congressional District — being the only new face. Virginia's House delegation remains 7 Democrats, 4 Republicans. Republican Bill Wiley was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in the 29th District — the seat vacated by former Del. Chris Collins. Virginians also overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure to enact bipartisan redistricting reform.

— Report by Andrew M. Vehorn, VMD Association VP of Governmental Affairs.

COOPERATIVE TOP PERFORMERS

Virginia Electric Cooperatives Make NCB Co-op 100 List

Two Virginia electric cooperatives have made the National Cooperative Bank's 2019 Co-op 100 list, which ranks America's top 100 cooperatives by revenue.

Included on this year's list are Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), based in Glen Allen, and Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC), based in Manassas.

ODEC ranked 64th with 2019 revenues of \$933 million.

"I think the NCB Co-op 100 is a very good highlight in general of the work that all co-ops do across the nation," said ODEC Director of Communications and Public Relations Shena Crittendon.

Shena said ODEC has made the NCB Co-op 100 for at least seven years in a row. "It's likely even longer," she adds.

NOVEC also made the 2019 list, ranking 97th with 2019 revenues of \$577 million.

"NOVEC's spot on the NCB's list of largest 100 U.S. cooperatives is a direct result of the growth that NOVEC has experienced in its six-county service territory," said NOVEC CEO Stan Feuerberg. "Not only have metro-area, well-paying jobs attracted people from all over the U.S., the NOVEC service territory has been the beneficiary of the explosive growth in the computer data center industry. Earning a spot on the Top 100 list reflects that influx of new customers and the associated revenue."



This is the second year in a row that NOVEC has been included in the Top 100 list.

"As we add more data centers to the system, our ranking is likely to move up the list next year and beyond," Stan predicted.

The NCB Co-op 100 remains the only annual report of its kind to track the successes of cooperative businesses in the United States. The list is released annually each October, which is National Cooperative Month.

"Cooperatives are unique because they operate for the benefit of their member-owners and communities. Having a vested interest in the co-op fosters a natural closeness and accountability between owners/members and management. We know this is a successful and sustainable business practice, since co-ops have been doing it for 175-plus years," said Charles E. Snyder, president and CEO of National Cooperative Bank.

— Report by Gregg MacDonald, Senior Writer-Editor, Cooperative Living.

BARC Recognized by Virginia School Board Association

BARC Electric Cooperative was recently recognized by the Virginia School Board Association in its Business Honor Roll Program as a supporter of educational efforts in Rockbridge County Public Schools.

BARC was nominated by Rockbridge County Public Schools as a local business helping to shape community attitudes about public schools and for being a key contributor supporting school programs and internship opportunities.

Each spring, the VSBA Honor Roll Program provides a means for local school divisions across the Commonwealth to recognize their local businesses for their support.

Dr. Philip Thompson, superintendent of Rockbridge County Schools, said, "Rockbridge County Public Schools has been extremely fortunate to enjoy a long-standing partnership

with BARC. Year after year, our students have benefited from BARC's partnership and generosity through internship opportunities, enriched educational experiences, scholarships, and funding assistance. Thanks to BARC, students are gaining valuable experiences in the field of energy that would not have been otherwise possible and we look forward to continuing our community partnership."

In accepting the award, BARC CEO Mike Keyser said, "We are extremely proud to be recognized by the VSBA for our efforts. As a local cooperative, we have a 'grow our own' workforce philosophy, which starts with actively supporting public school education. Whether it is a donation, paid internship, solar tour or classroom visit, we are focused on creating opportunities in energy and broadband and expanding awareness of the cooperative business model."

– Report by Tish Blackwell, Communications Specialist, BARC Electric Cooperative.

COOPERATIVE HEROISM



"I did what anyone would do in that situation, or at least I pray that's what anyone else would do."

– Sheron Sturgis

DEC Lineman Rescues Trapped Driver

Every day, Delaware Electric Cooperative linemen work in dangerous conditions. Crews operate high-voltage equipment and repair energized power lines in high-stress situations. Lineworker Sheron Sturgis credits his co-op training and his time serving in the Navy for preparing him to help save the life of a trapped motorist.

On Oct.14, Sheron had just returned home from visiting his mother when he heard a loud bang — a semi-trailer had collided with a car down the street from his house near Georgetown, Del.

Wanting to help, Sheron went outside and began walking toward the accident. As he got closer to the crash, he noticed smoke coming from the engine block of the car and realized the passenger was unconscious and trapped.

As he started running toward the trapped driver, several bystanders began spraying the flames with fire extinguishers. The doors on the car were jammed and couldn't be opened. As the fire quickly spread, Sheron used a spent fire extinguisher to knock out the back and a side window to let some of the smoke out.

He then quickly knocked out the driver's side window. With the help of another Good Samaritan, he pulled the driver out of the car.

Sheron's heroic actions came just in time — he said the entire car burst into flames 30 seconds after the driver was rescued. "I'm really glad we were able to get him out," he said. "We were in the right place at the right time, and we did

what we had to do to help the driver out."

Firefighters and paramedics arrived on the scene a few minutes after the rescue and were able to extinguish the fire and provide the injured driver with treatment.

The driver survived and Sheron suffered just a few small cuts.

According to DEC President and CEO Bill Andrew, "I tell people all the time that DEC has the best employees. They care about each other and care about the communities they serve. I'm extremely proud of Sheron and the bravery he showed in pulling the driver from the burning car. He's an exceptional employee and a man is alive today because of Sheron's selfless actions."

After rescuing the trapped driver, Sheron headed to the co-op's headquarters in Greenwood for his shift to keep the lights on for members. Despite his noble actions, Sheron is humble and said he's just glad the driver survived.

"I did what anyone would do in that situation, or at least I pray that's what anyone else would do. It could have been so much worse, and we worked as a team to save the driver," he said.

– Report by Jeremy Tucker, Manager of Marketing and Communications, Delaware Electric Cooperative.



Sheron Sturgis

NRECA News also wrote about the heroic lineworker and you can read it here:

<https://www.electric.coop/delaware-co-op-lineworker-rescues-motorist-trapped-inside-burning-car/>

COOPERATIVE LEADERS

Powell Valley's Kindle to Serve on VMDAEC Board

The Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors recently appointed David Kindle to serve on the VMD Board of Directors and serve as the cooperative's voting delegate.



David Kindle

A retired teacher of 33 years, David taught graphic imaging technology at the Wise County Career and Technical Center, Wise, Va., and served as the school's SKILLS USA Director. In addition, he served as president of District Nine Virginia Association of Trade and Industrial Education. Today, David continues to farm and raise Black Angus cattle.

- Vice president of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors;
- Vice president of the Scott County Farm Bureau Board;
- Served on Scott County School Board from 1994-2007 with seven years as chairman;
- Prior service on the Local Board of Mountain Empire Community College; and
- Served 8 years on the Virginia State Council of Career and Technical Education. First appointed by Gov. Mark Warner and reappointed by Gov. Tim Kaine.

David resides with his wife Debbie in Blackwater, Va.

– Report by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

"I am very pleased for the opportunity to work with the board," says David, whose board service includes the following:

Choptank's Olin Davis, Delaware's Michael Brown Join NRECA Board

Choptank Electric Cooperative's Olin Davis has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Recognized as one of the most effective trade organizations in Washington, D.C., NRECA represents more than 870 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives across the United States.

As a new member of the national Board, Olin will share his insight from more than two decades of experience representing electric cooperative members on Maryland's Eastern Shore. "Our rural members have a unique set of needs that are often overlooked in the halls of Congress," said Mike Malandro, Choptank president and CEO. "Olin will make sure our voices are heard whenever energy policies — and now broadband initiatives — are discussed in Washington."

While Maryland falls into one of the largest metropolitan regions in the country, rural areas on the Eastern Shore and in southern Maryland are still served by member-owned electric cooperatives.

"Co-op members make up less than 10% of electric consumers in Maryland," Olin explained. "It's important to have a voice at the national level to set us apart from the investor-owned utilities that serve the vast majority of Marylanders."

NRECA oversees cooperative employee benefit plans; carries out federal government relations activities like lobbying; conducts management and director training; and spearheads communications, advocacy and public relations initiatives.

Olin has lived on Choptank Electric Co-op lines his whole life. He and his brother own and operate Rich Levels Grain, Inc. and Rich Levels Poultry LLC, growing grain and poultry on the family farm in Kent County. He holds a B.S. in agriculture from the University of Maryland and has been certified in NRECA Board Leadership.

As a member of the NRECA Board, Olin represents both Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative and Choptank Electric Cooperative. Because he is a fully trained and credentialed Choptank Electric board member, Olin was eligible for the 2-year, 5-term seat shared by Maryland's electric cooperatives. Choptank was last represented on the NRECA Board more than 10 years ago by Somerset County's Carl Widdowson.

"I consider it a privilege to serve the members of Choptank Electric Cooperative on the local Board and now at the

national level," Olin said. "I will do my very best to guide Choptank and NRECA in the years ahead."

Additionally, Delaware Electric Cooperative's Michael Brown was appointed to represent DEC on the NRECA Board. Michael has been on the DEC Board since 2011. He is a resident of Hartly, Del., and a veteran of state service, working for both the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, serving in management positions at both agencies. He is also the executive director for the National Association of State Conservation Agencies.

Michael has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Wilmington University and a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University.

According to DEC President and CEO Bill Andrew, "Mike Brown has done an incredible job representing DEC members on the co-op's board of directors. Mike has a strong understanding of the cooperative business model and recognizes the needs of our members. I'm certain he will be a strong advocate for electric cooperatives across the nation while serving on the NRECA Board."

– Report by Elizabeth Hallett, Manager of Marketing & Communications, Choptank Electric Cooperative; and Lauren Irby, Manager of Public Relations & Community Outreach, Delaware Electric Cooperative.



Olin Davis



Michael Brown

REC's Deondra Jackson Leads Louisa Chamber's Workforce Discussion

One way Rappahannock Electric Cooperative connects with businesses across Virginia is through local chambers of commerce.

On Oct. 21, the Louisa Chamber of Commerce Business Women's Round Table hosted the "Building a Workforce People Want to Be a Part of" event. As part of the event, Deondra Jackson, REC's human resource talent coordinator, led a panel discussion.

The panel, which included representatives from Louisa County Public Schools, provided attendees with resources that can help them achieve their employee recruitment and retention goals, tips and best practices that they can implement in their business and how to build a community within their business.

As panel moderator, Ms. Jackson led the discussion, asked the panelists questions and used her expertise in employee recruitment and retention to offer participants insights. The panelists were Amanda Hester, assistant superintendent for instruction and Jaclyn Jacobson, counselor at Louisa County Middle School.

Additional guest speakers were Ginni Mastin with Matern Staffing, who spoke about how a staffing agency can support local businesses, and Barbara Gustavson, who motivated participants on finding joy amid the chaos.



Deondra Jackson

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held in-person at Bandit's Ridge with all social distancing guidelines followed, and virtually for participants who preferred to participate off-site.

– Report by Casey Hollins, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



SVEC Expands One-of-a-Kind Arboretum

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative is excited to announce major progress in its renewable resource arboretum outside of headquarters in Rockingham County.

SVEC's vegetation management team successfully secured donations from rights-of-way contractors to fund the planting of various trees and installation of a pollinator garden, bringing no expense to members. These partners are Aerial Solutions, Xylem Tree Experts, Weed Control and Reading Landscapes of Winchester.

Funding also supported the Virginia Department of Forestry to plant acorns to promote the Augusta Forestry Center, an SVEC member in Crimora, and SVEC's Right Tree, Right Place program.

The arboretum is believed to be the first of its kind at an electric cooperative given that it focuses heavily on renewable energy. It will serve as member education to include explaining how existing solar arrays on the property operate. Additional educational components will be information boards highlighting smart tree growth around powerlines and promoting a natural habitat with native grasses and pollinator plants for monarch butterflies.

Monarch butterfly populations and those of many other helpful pollinators have dramatically declined over the past few



Joshua McLaughlin, assistant forestry center manager from the Virginia Department of Forestry's nursery in Crimora, plants acorns on SVEC property.

years because of habitat loss and a myriad of other factors, according to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The trees that grow from the forestry department's space will be used for SVEC's Right Tree, Right Place program, in which low-growing trees replace larger trees that threaten lines on member property.

"This arboretum shows that the cooperative is committed to caring for the environment. It will have lasting impact on the Valley as we showcase renewable resources," says Scott Sorrels, SVEC's vegetation management supervisor. "We cannot wait to have people stop by to learn more."

SVEC is hopeful to have a celebration on Arbor Day in the spring of 2021 and then invite members to tour the space upon appointment.

– Report by Preston Knight, Public Relations Coordinator, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative.

REC, EPRI Partner on Research to Improve Reliability

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative recently partnered with the Electric Power Research Institute on a progressive project that could improve the reliability of electric service, not only for REC’s member-owners but for utilities across the globe.

“This has the potential to help REC greatly reduce the number of tree-related outages and significantly improve reliability for our member-owners,” said Cindy Musick, REC’s director of vegetation management. “Ultimately, if this can be accurate, it would be groundbreaking for the utility industry around the world, and REC is proud to partner with EPRI to be at the cutting edge of this research.”

Trees are the No. 1 cause of power outages. Today, REC’s Vegetation Management Team uses a proactive maintenance strategy to compile ground-level data to identify hazard trees within the system.

EPRI, the lead researcher on the new project, reached out to REC after collecting satellite data on trees in a right of way in REC’s

service territory. The satellite data used hyperspectral analysis to determine the amount of chlorophyll on a leaf’s surface. A healthy tree will have a lot, while a tree in decline will have far less. A tree that’s dead won’t register. EPRI shared the data with REC, whose foresters then went to the right of way to visually inspect the trees. They then compared the ground-level data with the information gathered from the satellites.

Additional research and analysis continue, but Ms. Musick said this technology could dramatically help REC identify hazard trees before they fall and cause a power outage.

“Ensuring our member-owners have safe and reliable electricity is our priority,” Ms. Musick added. “We look forward to continuing to work with EPRI and hopefully helping to launch this technology across the industry.”

– Report by Rachel E. Conrad, Communications Specialist, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

IN MEMORIAM

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative Family Suffers Huge Loss

Debbie Blue Winn, an employee of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative for 37 years, lost her battle with cancer and passed away on Oct. 28 in the comforts of her home in Chase City, Virginia. As the member and public relations specialist, Debbie’s duties included writing and editing MEC’s *Cooperative Living* pages, the annual report, all press releases and the employee newsletter. She was a talented photographer and loved delving into the stories of the membership. As the longest-serving employee, Debbie was a pillar of the cooperative family.

In her spare time, Debbie enjoyed gardening, cooking, spending time with her chickens, playing board games, watching Andy Griffith, biking, hiking, fishing and music. She played the piano, psaltery and the dulcimer. Most of all, Debbie loved doing for others. From sending get-well cards and sunshine bags to the sick to visiting with the elderly and taking them groceries, Debbie brightened the lives of all she came in contact with.

Surviving are her daughter, Angela Blue (husband Patrick Garrison); grandchildren, Annabelle and Arlo; husband, Larry Scott Winn; stepsons, Dayna Winn (wife Nancy Kaye); and Jeremy Winn (wife Chrystal); grandchildren, Dustin Winn (wife Kara) and Rebeka Winn; and great-grandchildren Decker, Heidi and Liam. She was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis Blue; her mother, Marion Jones Duckworth; and her father, Wagner Bennet Duckworth.



Debbie Blue Winn

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mecklenburg County Cancer Association (MCCA, P.O. Box 311, Chase City, VA 23924; mecklenburgcancer.org) or The Gideons International (Gideons International, c/o Clarksville Gideon Camp P.O. Box 934, Clarksville, VA 23927; Gideons.org). Condolences may be sent to:

Scott Winn & Family	AND/OR	Angela Blue
2472 Country Club Drive		1625 Lafayette Blvd.
Chase City, VA 23924		Norfolk, VA 23509

– Report by Priscilla Lawson Whirley, Communications Specialist, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.

In Memoriam: Paula Wilbourne

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is saddened to report that retired employee, Paula Wilbourne, former district services representative, passed away on Oct. 30. Paula held positions in both the Chase City headquarters and in the Gretna District office. Paula retired in November 2017 after 30 years of service with the cooperative.

STORM RESPONSE

Co-op Crews Respond Quickly to Zeta

Crews from several electric cooperatives in the VMD Association were on the mark once again in October, restoring power and cleaning up damage caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Zeta.

Lineworkers helped both in-state and out-of-state cooperatives after Tropical Storm Zeta passed through Virginia on Oct. 29 with nearly 3 inches of rain and winds of up to 60 mph.

Southside Electric Cooperative was hit hard, with more than 6,300 members in the dark as of the afternoon of Oct. 29. Widespread damage due to high winds and heavy rains caused downed trees, snapped power lines and 12 broken utility poles, SEC said.

In addition to 22 SEC crews, a total of eight crews came from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative and Central Virginia Electric Cooperative. With the mutual-aid assistance, almost all power was restored within 48 hours.

Meanwhile, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative dispatched lineworkers to EnergyUnited in Lexington, N.C. EnergyUnited had 44,000 members out of power at the peak, and employed crews from 16 states to help turn the lights on by Nov. 2. VMD teams worked in North Carolina for several days, according to Phil Jarvis, the VMD Association manager of safety



Shenandoah Valley crews restore power to EnergyUnited members in North Carolina following Tropical Storm Zeta.

services. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative also sent lineworkers to help EnergyUnited after restoring service to about 3,500 MEC homes and businesses affected by the storm.

Zeta was the sixth hurricane to make landfall in the United States this year and the 11th named storm, which sets a record.

– Report by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MONTH.



Providing scholarships for post-secondary education to deserving but financially challenged students from our member electric cooperative territories.

More information about the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation and an application can be found at vmdaec.com/scholarship.