

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ONSLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939

JANUARY 2022

Your 2022 Annual Meeting

JOEMC will once again hold the annual meeting virtually. Due to the lingering impacts and unknowns of COVID-19 and the positive feedback received after the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, the co-op Board of Directors decided to move forward in a virtual format in 2022.

You, our members, spoke, and we listened...close to 60% of those who completed the annual meeting survey said they enjoyed the convenience of the virtual annual meeting. The new format allowed many members to attend a JOEMC Annual Meeting for the first time. And while we are disappointed not to be hosting the traditional in-person event like in previous years, we are excited about the opportunity to bring the co-op's business directly to you in your home or business on Friday, March 25, at 10am, or any time after that (a video of the

meeting will be posted on our website for viewing whenever is convenient).

The JOEMC Annual Meeting is a special time—members get to hear from the co-op leadership and learn more about JOEMC's business, its financial position, as well as what your cooperative has planned for the future. While we will not be gathering in person, this virtual environment will allow the same opportunity to get together virtually and will potentially allow more members to participate by viewing the event.

More details about the 2022 Annual Meeting will be coming in next month's newsletter, the JOEMC website, and social media channels. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we proceed once again with the virtual annual meeting, and we hope to see you online.



Bright Ideas Grants Bring Innovative Classroom Projects to Life



Pictured are three winners from Maysville Elementary.

Jones-Onslow EMC recently awarded 70 Bright Ideas Grants totaling \$75,000 to local educators. These grants fund unique classroom learning projects that will benefit close to 28,000 students at 51 schools in Jones and Onslow Counties and the Topsail Area of Pender County.

Bright Ideas grant applications are submitted each year starting in August, and an independent panel of judges select winning proposals through a competitive evaluation process.

For a list of this year's Bright Ideas Grant recipients visit joemc.com and click *Your Cooperative* tab, then *Community Programs*.



Summary of Bylaws Pertaining to the Annual Meeting

Any natural person, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership or body politic shall be eligible to become a member of, and, at one or more premises owned or directly occupied or used by him, to receive service from Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation. No person shall hold more than one membership in the cooperative.

An Annual Meeting of the members, for the purpose of electing directors, hearing and passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, shall be held on the last Friday of the month of March of each year. Provided, that for good cause, the Board of Directors may fix a different date for such Annual Meeting not more than thirty (30) days prior or subsequent to the date established for such meeting in this Section.

Attendance in person of at least two percent (2%) of the then total members of the cooperative shall be required for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members. If less than a quorum is present at a meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting to another time and date.

The election of directors shall be completed at each legal meeting by the members. The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a Board of ten (10) Directors, which shall exercise all the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law or by the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation, or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

The Board of Directors shall consist of ten (10) Directors. One (1) of the cooperative's Directors shall be elected on an "At-Large" basis and may reside anywhere within the Cooperative service territory. The other nine (9) directors shall be nominated and elected so that at least three (3) but not more than four (4) shall be residents of each of the Cooperative's three (3) Directorate Districts, which are as follows: District Number One—those areas served by the Cooperative in Pender, Onslow, Carteret and Craven counties and which lie on the eastern side of U.S. Highway No. 17; District Number Two—those areas served by

the Cooperative in Duplin County and in Pender and Onslow counties on the western side of U.S. Highway No. 17; and District Number Three—those areas served by the Cooperative in Lenoir County and Jones County, and the western side of U.S. Highway No. 17 in Craven County. The one (1) "At-Large" Director shall be elected on an "At-Large" basis and may be a resident of any of the foregoing three geographic Directorate Districts, even if the result is to give one District more than four Directors.

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than fifty (50) nor more than one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Nominating Committee, consisting of three (3) members from each of the Cooperative's three (3) directorate districts, and who (a) are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for directors; and (b) are not close relatives or members of the same household of any such person. The Nominating Committee shall serve three (3) year terms and shall not be permitted to serve consecutive terms. Members may be reappointed to the Nominating Committee so long as they do not serve two (2) consecutive terms. This Committee shall be appointed so that three (3) members are appointed and consist of one (1) member from each of the Cooperative's three (3) directorate districts and the following year three (3) members are appointed consisting of one (1) member per directorate district and so on. In the event that a member of the Nominating Committee is unable or unwilling to serve a full three (3) year term then the Board shall appoint a replacement to fulfill the unexpired term created by the vacancy. In such cases the new appointee shall be eligible for re-election at the conclusion of the unexpired term. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal and all district offices of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each directorate district from which a director must or may, pursuant to this article, be elected at the meeting. The committee may include more nominees than there are to be elected, but it shall

show clearly which nominees are opposed with respect to the same directorate district, or as between two or more districts; provided, it shall not make a nomination until it shall have first determined that the nominee is qualified to serve in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02 and, if elected, will serve.

Any three percent (3%) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signature, listing their nominee(s) in like manner and filing the same with the Cooperative not less than thirty-five (35) days prior to the meeting of members. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors to be elected. Should there be two or more candidates for the same Directorate seat then elections will be held by mail ballot. The ballots will be mailed in the Official Notice.

A Credentials and Election Committee of at least five (5), and no more than thirteen (13), shall be appointed by the Board at least ten (10) days before any meeting of members. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to the registration of members in person, to count all ballots cast in any election, unless delegated by the Board to an independent auditor, or in any other ballot vote taken, and to rule upon the effect of any ballots irregularly marked. The Committee's decisions on all such matters shall be final.

Each member who is not in a state of suspension, shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. A member, which is an association, corporation, business trust or body politic may be present in person and vote at such meeting by and through a duly designated representative, qualified as such upon registering for the meeting. At all meetings of the members, at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a majority of the members voting thereon, in person, except as otherwise provided by law or by the cooperative's Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws. ♦

2022 Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee has been selected for the purpose of nominating individuals for election to the position of Director in District One, District Two, District Three and At-Large. This committee is scheduled to meet on February 24, 2022. The committee's names and addresses are as follows:

DISTRICT I: Roger Eden, 109 Swan Point Road, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
Gary Johnson, 267 Grandview Drive, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
Wendy Robinson, 134 Leslie Drive, Hubert, NC 28539

DISTRICT II: Leland Brown, 731 Jim Blake Road, Jacksonville, NC 28540
Ronald Pittman, 1079 Gregory Forks Road, Richlands, NC 28574
Susan Thomas, PO Box 222, Richlands, NC 28574

DISTRICT III: Franklin Andrews, 437 Stroud Road, Trenton, NC 28585
Tyler Griffin, 1102 Island Creek Road, Pollocksville, NC 28573
Deanna MacIntosh, 2585 Oak Grove Road, Trenton, NC 28585



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Calling All High School Juniors

There's a unique leadership opportunity waiting for you—a week this June in the nation's capital with students from across North Carolina and the United States!

JOEMC sponsors four rising high school seniors on the Rural Electric Youth Tour each year. The program, which helps young people learn about cooperatives and the co-op way of doing business, allows the youth to grow in ways we hope will benefit our community. Many past participants have used their experiences

to provide leadership when returning to their schools and communities.

Want to apply or have a student in your family that is interested? A representative from JOEMC will be sending out information to local high schools this month to promote the contest. You may also call **Paula Redick, JOEMC Youth Tour coordinator, at (910) 353-1940** for more information or visit **joemc.com**.



Skillet Bacon Cornbread

Ingredients

- 1 pound bacon
- 2½ cups self-rising flour
- 1½ cups self-rising cornmeal
- 2 eggs
- 1⅓ cups milk
- ⅔ cups vegetable oil
- ¼ cup granulated sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Fry bacon until crisp but not brittle; drain on paper towels.
2. Grease large black skillet or use a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan.
3. In a large bowl, combine the sifted flour, cornmeal and sugar.
4. In a small bowl, stir together beaten eggs, milk and vegetable oil. Pour this mixture into flour mixture, stirring with fork until it is just moistened. Fold in half of crumbled bacon.
5. Quickly turn batter into baking pan or skillet. Spread evenly, then sprinkle rest of crumbled bacon on top. Bake 35 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve with pats of butter and drizzles of honey.

MEMBERSERVICES

Go Paperless and Get a One-Time \$5 Bill Credit

If you're already checking your inbox more than your mailbox or if you're paying your bill online, sign up today for paperless billing. Once you do, we'll email a bill notification to you each month. You can even set up your notification dates. It's convenient, and you'll receive a one-time \$5 bill credit if you sign up between now and the Feb. 7 deadline!

Why are we offering this?

You're busy! That's why your cooperative offers services that make your life easier. Going paperless saves you time and allows you to keep your private financial information out of your snail-mailbox. This environmentally friendly billing option keeps paper out of the landfill and saves you money on stamps.

It reduces paper and mailing costs for your cooperative, too. As a not-for-profit cooperative, reducing our costs benefits everyone.

How does it work?

Once you enroll in paperless billing, you'll receive a monthly email that lets you know your statement is available to view online at JOEMC.com.

Multiple layers of online security will protect your personal information.

How do I sign up?

Visit **JOEMC.com/PaperlessBilling**.

- You'll find details and a sign-up form.
- Complete and submit the form. We'll take care of the rest.
- Once enrolled, you'll be able to set up a reminder for bill due dates.

If you should need help, call us Monday through Friday between 8 AM-5 PM at (910) 353-1940 or (800) 682-1515, and one of us will walk you through the process.

If you have any questions, you can also email us at joemc@joemc.com.

Shedding A Little Light On Solar

When you flip that light switch, turn on the TV, charge your electronic devices, adjust the thermostat or dry your clothes, the electricity powering your life comes from a reliable and diverse mix of generation resources.



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffery T. Clark

I recently spoke to a JOEMC member who had inquired about the resources that generated his power. I thought that would be a good topic to review this month, along with some information and considerations for solar generation.

Currently, 61 percent of the energy we deliver to our members comes from carbon-free resources. This is a big deal and a great story to tell. This carbon-free generation is made of 54 percent nuclear, 5 percent renewables and 2 percent hydroelectric power. The remainder of our generation resources is comprised of 23 percent natural gas, 12 percent from market purchases and only 4 percent from coal.

Our coal generation mix has continued its downward trend for the last several years. Renewable generation, mainly solar, continues to grow as part of our generation portfolio. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), North Carolina ranked third for total solar capacity installed through the first quarter of 2021. This means only California and Texas are ahead of us in total solar capacity.

JOEMC has 195 solar interconnections on the system, including 4 large utility-scale solar installations interconnected to our grid and 191 solar installations on homes and businesses. And it isn't slowing down—there are currently close to 50 home and business installations in various stages of the process.

As more members consider installing solar generation and solar with battery storage on their homes, we encourage you to fully investigate the proposals from

solar developers before signing for the projects. Unfortunately, we are hearing from a growing number of members who are disappointed after their project installation because their investment returns are much different from what they were promised. Please understand that there are qualified solar developers who deliver exactly what they promise. However, it is always wise to understand all the implications of this significant and long-term investment before signing any contracts.

As I have noted many times before, JOEMC does not expect members who do not install solar generation on their homes to subsidize those who do. As the old saying goes, "Everything's affordable as long as someone else is paying for it." This is not how we handle solar at Jones-Onslow. Through our rate policies, our goal is to be fair and recognize the true value of solar on our system for those who install it and those who do not.

To assist members in researching a proposal from a solar developer, we have developed some resources to assist you in your analysis. Visit joemc.com and go to the Energy Center section. From there, click on the Technology and Renewables Icon and then Solar from the menu on the left side of the page.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about installing solar on your homes. We never want to see members taken advantage of. As your trusted energy partner, we want you to receive what you expected and paid for.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of
Energy



*Our offices will be closed
MONDAY, JANUARY 17
to honor the legacy of
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



www.joemc.com